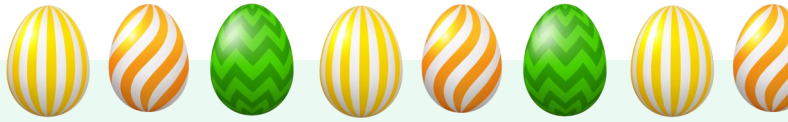




Middlesex News

March 2024

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello –

I hope that you are all well and enjoying the new season. The daffodils seem to be really early this year but aren't they a

beautiful sight!

I imagine you are all back to business as usual at your meetings – Christmas parties are well behind us now – with Easter to look forward to.

Do let us know if your WI is doing anything for Easter - Coffee Mornings, Easter Egg hunts etc - and don't forget the photos!

The Board of Trustees is still busy planning our Annual Council Meeting.

Following your positive feedback, we are back at Questors Theatre this year; I hope you found this venue easy to get to.

We have two excellent speakers lined up and there are lots of cafes and restaurants nearby, as well as a lovely park just across the road.

I do hope that we will see lots of you there. It's an excellent chance to catch up with friends from other WIs and see what's going on around the Federation.

Tickets are £8 and are available from your secretary or from Georgina at Federation Office.

**MFWI ANNUAL COUNCIL
MEETING
Monday 25th March 2024
10:00–15:30**

The Questors Theatre,
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Speakers: Danielle Brown, Paralympian and Sally Kettle,
Adventurer
Bursaries and raffle
Tea or coffee on arrival

Tickets £8 from MFWI office



The deadline for resolution votes has now passed and the results for the Middlesex Federation WIs have been sent to National Office.

The results for Middlesex were:

Dental Health Matters 224

Impacts of poor Housing conditions 232

Say 'no' to gambling advertising 166

Improving outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice system 85

TOTAL VOTES 707

Thank you to all WIs who took the time to discuss the resolutions and send in their votes - but it was a bit disappointing that this was only approximately half of our membership.

However, I am sure that we are all looking forward to finding out which resolution has been chosen to be voted on at the Annual Meeting – we should hear the results very soon.

As you all probably know, the new WI Learning Hub is now up and running, with lots of free courses available on demand, as well as by 'catch up'. [Live Courses - WI Learning Hub \(thewi.org.uk\)](https://thewi.org.uk)

It would be interesting to know how you are finding the new system.

If you have attended a course, why not let us know and tell us all about it.

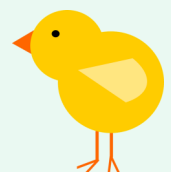
Going forward, there will be the possibility of Federation grants, to help us to provide learning opportunities to our members.

Exciting times!

Take care and keep in touch.

Kind regards

Angela



Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



A very Happy Birthday to the WIs
celebrating in March

Ruislip Evening	04 March 2011
Gothic Valley	08 March 2012
Field Dames	09 March 2015
Teddington	09 March 2011
Hampton Tudor Rose	14 March 2017
Harlington	22 March 1932
Norwood Green	25 March 1985

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Federation, a big thank you to all the members who have stepped up and joined their committee especially those members who have accepted an officer role, you will soon discover just how rewarding it can be.

We all have talents and strengths to share.

The WIAs are here to support you and the MyWI website has all the vital information on running your WI, but please do contact any of the WIA Team if you need any help.

Find us on the MFWI website, under the About us, Meet the Team tab. We are a friendly group and easy to contact

Just type our name followed by
@mfwi.org.uk

Best Wishes lizmorrell@mfwi.org.uk



200+ CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of our recent 200+ Club draws:

February 2024

1st prize - £40
Janetta Blake, Clay Hill

2nd prize - £30
Lorna Gale, Halliford

3rd prize - £20
Elizabeth Owen, West Drayton

4th prize - £10
Carol Sullivan, Stanwell



GET IN TOUCH

COUNTY OFFICE

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Email: secretary@mfwi.org.uk

The MFWI office is open 9am-1pm Mondays and Wednesdays

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WEBSITE Emma Watson.....	website@mfwi.org.uk

Newsletter Info

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos (largest size possible, as separate attachments, please) to newsletter@mfwi.org.uk. Articles received after the deadline are unlikely to be included due to production deadlines. Sometimes space limitations mean we may hold articles over to the following issue.

Deadlines

- * Apr 2024 issue: 22 Mar
- * May 2024 issue: 19 Apr
- * June 2024 issue: 17 May

A PDF copy is sent to all officers and members with an email address at no charge.

The newsletter is also available on the **MFWI website** as a PDF file. You are free to print and distribute copies to your members/community as you wish. In addition, selected stories are occasionally featured on the [news page](#) of our website.

Hayes Town

Helen Doherty



At our January meeting we had a very entertaining talk by Sarah Slater about the ghosts that haunt Hampton Court Palace. Spooky and interesting, Sarah had us all on tender hooks. The history behind the hauntings was delivered in a very engaging manner. More talks from this speaker please.

Also, during this meeting, representatives of 'Friends of Harlington Hospice' attended to receive a cheque for £60 raised throughout the year of 2023 from donations to our competition table.



During our 'Laughs and Crafts' class with Wendy, we all made three valentine cards. As well as fun, cakes, and coffee. We all increased our card making repertoire. Wendy who runs our monthly craft group makes learning fun and gives us plenty of encouragement. Laughs and companionship, along with learning new skills.

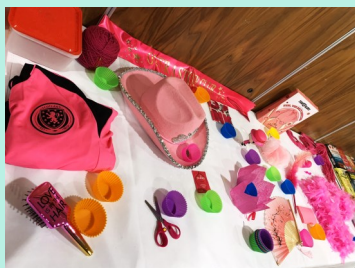
This was followed by our 'WI Social Lunch' at our local Beefeater. Good food, good service, and good company. We all chatted and relaxed, a very enjoyable afternoon, with plenty of friendship, connection, and support. Time seemed to fly by and passed all too quickly. Can't wait till the next one.

Ruislip

Sandy Channon

After the festivities of Christmas, our January meeting was a relaxed evening where our committee provided fruit for members, voted on the resolutions, played bingo and our pennies theme brought lots of Barbie pink things from cupboards, won by Mary with a lovely pink boa.

February was "Show the love of our Oceans" to highlight the pollution in our rivers and seas, where we made various fish and sea creatures from felt which will be displayed on a blue background for use at future meetings. A collection of food from our members was made for the Hillingdon Foodbank, a quiz and discussion about climate change was enlightening. Various items were brought in for our pennies theme "Something Transformed," which



included a Blue Peter Father's Day gift, a desk tidy made from a toilet roll and shoe box still being used 20 years later! A lady's jacket made from a quilt cover - but the winner was Viv, with an amazing memory Bear which had been made from a precious kilt. We voted for our charity for 2024 and the Hayes and Harlington/Michael Sobell Hospice was chosen. Books were swapped and our book club were reading a thought-provoking novel about A. I. in the future "The Perfect Wife".



Halliford

Elizabeth Davies

As we look forward to another fun packed year of outings, walks, picnics, and interesting speakers we reminisce on our Christmas celebrations.

We were lucky to have three events which were very much enjoyed by everyone who attended. We all sat down at a local pub for a delicious Christmas lunch.

A coach trip to a local fish and chip shop, then we transported to central London where we were shown a magical display of London Christmas lights and a very interesting and informative talk on the cities famous landmarks by a charismatic driver.

Lastly in our December meeting we were entertained by a local duo Paul and Kevin who encouraged us to join in a Christmas singalong and then Father Christmas joined us and distributed gifts.

We all enjoy our time together with lots of friendships made and our numbers are increasing so onwards and upwards for the coming year.



Ashford Evening

Deborah Martin

After concluding their discussion of the resolutions and casting votes at the February meeting, members of Ashford WI settled down to the business of having fun as they became contestants on their own versions of popular TV game shows. Even without actual cash prizes, the suspense built as boxes on 'Deal or No Deal' were opened, but luck was against Sheila as her picks eliminated the big money.

More members were selected for teams in 'Family Fortunes'. The pressure for quick answers to questions like 'name something made of wool' led to hilarity for both contestants and audience. True to the show's format, there were spot prizes and rewards for the winners to add to the big smiles all around.

The crafters made bookmarks as part of the 'Show the Love' green heart campaign. The group will be sending one each to King Charles and the Princess of Wales with our wishes for a speedy recovery.



Southbourne

Jackie Head

This month our guest speaker was Becky Haggar OBE, councillor, and previous Mayor of Hillingdon. Becky co-founded the Hillingdon Brain Tumour & Injury Group in 2009 because of her husband's diagnosis with a life-threatening brain tumour; it was this that she talked to us about. Becky was so interesting, honest, and spoke with a vitality and passion that was inspiring.

This month's theme was B and was won by Alison Sweeney with a bear bride.





Middlesex Federation

Annual Council Meeting

25th March 2024

10:00 -15:30



Danielle Brown

Paralympian and Author



Sally Kettle

Inspirational speaker and
Adventurer

Only £8 a ticket

Purchase them from County Office

Bursaries and raffle

Tea or Coffee on arrival

**The Questors Theatre, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing,
W5 5BQ**

Stroud Green

Christine Gregory

Thin and thick lines, flourishes and twirls in shiny black ink flowed across writing pads as members tried out the calligraphy skills demonstrated by local artist Anthea of Crouch End Calligraphy. Hard pressure created thicker down strokes and less pressure thinner lines on upstrokes to create stylish lettering for cards, letters, menus, and place cards.

Members heard that there are different pen nibs for different effects, that the nibs were coated with oil when sold and this needs to be removed by sticking the nib into a potato before use, that the quick drying ink they were using could dry on the nib in five minutes. Much diligent writing followed as members practised their up and down strokes trying to apply an even pressure.

Everyone took away their own ink, pen, and letter guides to practice their writing at home.

Thanks to all who could donate to our usual collection for the Holy Trinity



Foodbank. And as befits a SGWI meeting, while working members enjoyed a very gingery and sticky vegan gingerbread (recipe courtesy of Nigella) made by Yvette for Veganuary.



Sunbury Village

Debbie Levy

Oh, what a night.....

12 years since Sunbury Village WI was formed and it is still going strong. The group celebrated with a bring-a-dish supper, tombola and pass the parcel.



Sunbury on Thames

Jackie Mayell

We met on a very rainy afternoon, but a good number of members came along. Although our speaker had to cancel through illness at late notice, we typically for WI adapted accordingly, and had a very enjoyable and social afternoon. A quiz was supplied at short notice by our treasurer, Sarah Endersby. Good interaction occurred, the tables seating 4 or 5 members. The winning table received beautiful pots of primulas. Our theatre group and 2 reading groups continue to thrive and our up-and-coming trip to see "Sister Act" is well anticipated. It is planned later in the year to go and see the production of "The Devil Wears Prada".



Teddington

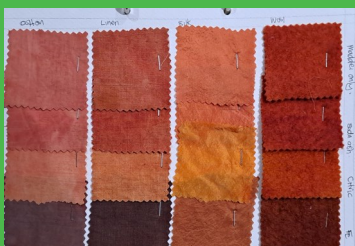
Shelagh Laing

We're quite a green fingered bunch in Teddington, and have brought in preserves from home grown produce, to share at members meetings. We occasionally swap recipes.

At our February meeting, we had a talk from Tracy Ballard who has an allotment for textiles. She cultivates plants for textiles and dyes.

We learned of botanical printing, preparing fabric with mordant, pressing flowers and leaves on, tightly rolling, tying, and steaming. A fish kettle is useful here. Then wash and dry in sunshine. Rust printing is simpler – dampen fabric with water and vinegar, plonk rusty objects onto fabric, and leave for a few days. Then admire your creativity!

This was an intriguing talk, with some inspiration for small projects. Though I expect we'll be sticking to blackcurrant jam and gooseberry chutney this year at least.



Harrow on the Hill

Eileen O'Conner

Harrow-on-the-Hill WI held its annual Christmas Quiz and Charity Raffle event on 9 December. Planning began in September by our main Committee and Sub-Committee. Great effort was put into the event and the venue, Harrow School Works Bar, was decked in Christmas decorations that night. Members booked quiz tables, brought along friends and family, and contributed suitable prizes to make up food and beauty hampers or crafted items such as cushions and tote bags.

Our quizmaster James provided a fun and challenging quiz and our Raffle Sub-Committee sourced fantastic raffle prize donations from local establishments who generously support us year-on-year. Also, our member Kath sourced a coveted Anya Hindmarch tote bag prize. Raffle ticket sales raised £1,422 for Harrow Carers. The money will be a huge benefit to their ongoing support provision to carers in the Harrow Community. A cheque presentation event was arranged at Harrow Carer premises on 9 February.

Stanwell

Marilyn Rix

Our first croquet lunch of the year was held at the Rising Sun, they made us very welcome and provided a generous size lunch, not a good start to the year for those of us wanting to lose a few pounds. We all enjoyed a good catch up after our Christmas holidays.

The speaker for our February meeting was excellent, Tom Way, a wildlife photographer who showed amazing photos of wild animals from his travels around Africa, looking forward to booking him again after his travels later in the year.

17th February was the first fundraiser of the year Spelthorne in Bloom quiz night.

Carrie Leggett prepared and delivered the quiz, fish and chips from the local chippie was provided followed by a raffle, where local businesses donated prizes.

We raised £917 which will go a long way to purchasing hanging baskets throughout the village and plants for the upkeep of the war memorial.

Big thank you for all the committee and members for their support and hard work to make this event a success.

The walking group met 20th February for an interesting walk in Sunbury ending with coffee at the Walled Garden.

Book club still going strong although our last book Great Expectation was a hard read. We enjoy meeting once a month at Notcutts for a coffee whilst we discuss the book chosen for the month.



Answers within

Each answer is found in the name GEORGINA GLYNN

E.g What food can be scrambled, poached or fried?

Answer = Egg (GEORGINA GLYNN)

1. What colour does the Netherlands traditionally play in at sporting events?
2. What is the name of Henry VIII's 3rd and 5th wives?
3. Which French city is dominated by two hills: Fourvière to the west and Croix-Rousse to the east?
4. Which chemical element has the symbol Fe?
5. What is the name of a narrow valley deep in the mountains?

Crack the code

Use the code cracker to reveal a quote from a famous women

A	B	C	D	E	F
←	↑	→	↓	↔	↕
G	H	I	J	K	L
↖	↗	↘	↙	↕	∂
M	N	O	P	Q	R
Δ	Π	Σ	√	∞	⊥
S	T	U	V	W	X
∩	∫	≈	≠	≡	△
Y	Z				
≥	≤				

Guess the film

Use the emojis to guess the film.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

$\nabla \Sigma \Pi \partial \geq \downarrow \perp \nabla \Pi \uparrow$
 $\rightarrow \nearrow \leftarrow \Delta \sqrt{\leftarrow} \nwarrow \Pi \leftrightarrow \Sigma \Pi$
 $\int \equiv \Sigma \Sigma \rightarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \cap \nabla \Sigma \Pi \cap$
 $\equiv \nearrow \leftrightarrow \Pi \nabla \leftarrow \Delta \nabla \Pi$
 $\partial \Sigma \neq \leftrightarrow \leftarrow \Pi \downarrow \equiv \nearrow \leftrightarrow \Pi$
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Answers from last issue

Confused Confectionary:

1. After eights
2. Penguin
3. Wispa
4. Wine gums
5. Drum stick
6. Lion Bar
7. Kit Kat
8. Milk Tray

Brain teasers:

1. When they are flipped upside down they are still the same
2. S (Sequence)
3. A candle

Dingbat:

1. The invisible man
2. Ping Pong
3. Happy hour

Answers to all the puzzles will be in the next issue or email Georgina at newsletter@mfwl.org.uk if you cannot wait that long!

Sarah Endersby



WI Credentials

I joined the WI in October 2012 and am currently a member at Sunbury on Thames.

I am Treasurer for Sunbury on Thames, Treasurer for Middlesex Federation, WI Adviser, Independent Financial Examiner. I have been on the MFWI Board of Trustees since March 2016

1. What inspired you to join the WI?

In two words – early retirement.

I have always had a busy life with full time work and felt that I should do something for me when I retired. I joined Sunbury on Thames WI having seen an article in the local press. Once I joined it didn't take long before I was secretary and then treasurer. I like to keep active and I really enjoy the social interaction the WI provides

2. Which woman inspires you the most?

I think I would have to say two teachers that I had at very different times of my life. 11 years old my form and English teacher, Mrs Hall, was amazing. She taught me to be brave and stand up for myself through the power of reading. Something I have taken through my life. Secondly, and again a form/English teacher Mrs Fox. I was 17 by now, and this extraordinary lady opened up my life to a wide range of literature, Shakespearian plays and more importantly about how strong women are in this world. I learnt a lot of life skills from Mrs Fox, the lost important one - if you want something out of life go out and get it and enjoy.

3. What are your hobbies/ interests?

I have a few hobbies – cross stitch, quilting, swimming and aqua aerobics.

My interests include cooking, I have recently really become interested in using the slow cooker I have had in the cupboard collecting dust, I love going to the theatre, travelling – this year includes a cruise, a rail holiday to Switzerland and spending time with my two grandchildren

4. What was the last book you read?

Waiting for Wednesday by Nicci French. It's book three in the Frieda Klein series, a psychotherapist who works with the police. I enjoy a good murder, mystery hoping I solve the puzzle before the last page. It's relaxing to immerse yourself in a fictional story, I am not a great fan of autobiographies or historical novels

5. What is your favourite film?

I have several – Lord of The Rings, High Society and Rollerball

6. Music choices ?

Very eclectic mix – Jools Holland, Madame Butterfly, Eric Clapton, Carousel and Michael Buble.

7. What is your most memorable holiday?

New Zealand – what an amazing country. From Snow fields, glaciers, Rain forests, beautiful beaches and incredible food

8. Best biscuit to dunk in tea/ coffee?

Not really a dunker but Ginger nuts



9. Where would you love to visit but haven't yet?

The East coast of Canada – I have travelled around the West Coast, and done the Rockies and Alaska. It's time to do the east coast preferably by rail

10. Marmite?

YUK

Craft Inn

A weekly craft get-together, hosted by members of the MFWI Craft Committee.

19:30, every Monday

Zoom link

Meeting ID: 852 8335 4467

Passcode: 358099



Dabble Days

MFWI Office, West Drayton

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

28th March

Decopatch Bottle

£8

25th April

Encaustic Art

£10

30th May

Heat Embossing Cards

£8

Members only. Fee payable in advance or on the day

Booking is essential for all craft sessions.

Fee includes any materials for the crafts listed, plus tea and coffee. Cheques payable to Middlesex Federation of Womens Institutes.

Bank transfers: Please contact Federation Secretary.

We ask you to book to help us plan.

Queries and bookings

To book, mail craft@mfwi.org.uk or call Lorraine on 01895 676 105 or call/text on 07976 398 533.



Public Affairs

Show the love

Fiona Kirkwood

I love getting involved with Show the Love. Prioritizing love, compassion, and respect for Mother Earth means, to me, the same as caring for each other as sisters. I feel this deeply because the Earth is the only reason we exist; the reason we live to laugh, share conversations, and express love to each other in the first place. All living beings require a stable climate, balanced ecosystems, healthy soils, fresh water, and clean air to be healthy.

The timeline for changing our actions will continue to tick away until it becomes too

late. That time is not yet, though, so it is extremely important that we continue to petition our MPs to take the crises seriously. To hold them to account on their environmental policies. This year let's aim to increase our efforts with crafting green hearts, writing letters, and showing the love to our wider communities.

