



Middlesex News

February 2015

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

ACM – 30th March 2015

Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip

Have you got your tickets? Please contact your WI Secretary for details.

CENTENARY BATON CUSHION COMPETITION

Just a reminder that the closing date for items to be received in the West Drayton Office is Friday 13th February. Further details available from your WI Secretary or

Lorraineareed@gmail.com

Reminder: Information for Baton Cushion competition entries:
The Baton size itself is 30cm in length and 3 cm wide.

CENTENARY 'QUEEN' COMPETITION

Again, a reminder that the closing date for this competition is Friday 31st July 2015. Any craft medium, any design depicting an image of the Queen – details available as above.

NEW PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Fantastic News!!!!

We look forward to working with our new Public Affairs Sub Committee in 2015.

We do need members for this new committee which will "meet" in a combination of internet conferencing with occasional face to face meetings at a venue central to committee members.

The remit for Public Affairs is very wide and very interesting. If members are interested; please get in touch with County Office by Email or telephone.

Best wishes, Frances Zarifis

MFWI - BRA RECYCLING PROJECT

By Lorraine Reed

What a success!! I have three very large back bags (not your average bins bags) that are winging their way to the project company who will let me know the total weight and success of all your efforts. We had in excess of 500!! Keep them coming please, we will keep the collecting bin in HQ at West Drayton and see if we can't fill another three bags or possibly four in 2015.



Craft Booking Details: To save space on the events list, I have noted booking details for Dabble Days and Workshops below all of which are held at County Office:

Dabble Days are 10.30-4.00pm and the fee is £5.00 (unless otherwise advised), payable on the day- **booking is essential.**

Workshops are as priced and payable in advance by cheque to secure your place (cc's will be cashed when confirmation of event is taking place).

Bank transfer can be arranged, please ask Lorraine for details.

All bookings to go to Lorraineareed@gmail.com

or 01895 676105 or call/ text 07976 398533

UPCOMING EVENTS

(see separate note on dabble day info)

Saturday February 7 2015

Secretary's Workshop at County Office

February 19 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Quilling &
Serviette Folding – cost £5.00

March 7 2015

Treasurer's Workshop
County Office 10:00- 12:00

March 12 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Dream Catchers &
Iris (paper) Folding – cost £5.00

March 28 2015

Wet Felting Dabble Day
Cost - £10.00

March 30 2015

MFWI Annual Council Meeting
Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip
(see your Secretary for ticket details)

April 2 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Suffolk Puff
Toy/Yo Yo's – cost £5.00

Saturday April 11 2015

Craft Dabble Day Fabric Book Cover
cost tba

May 12 2015

The Centenary Baton Handover from
Hertfordshire Federation

May 14 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Braiding & tba -
cost £5.00

May 18 2015

The Centenary Baton Handover to
Surrey Federation

June 4 2015

National AGM at Albert Hall
10:30 – 17:00 (see your Secretary for details)

June 4 2015

(for those not going to AGM/Feltham in
the South of the County)
Craft Dabble Day – Cathedral Window
Patchwork – cost £5.00

Saturday June 13 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Silk Painting for
Beginners – cost tba

June 21 2015 - pm

Mikron Theatre - performing
Raising Agents (play about a WI) in
Perivale Woods – details tba

Saturday June 27 2015

Craft Dabble Day – Beading for
Beginners – cost £12.00

Contact details

COUNTY OFFICE:

Unit 3 - No 7, The Green,
West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7PL
Tel: 01895 440161 **Email:** office@mfwi.co.uk

OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(Answer phone is in operation outside office hours)

FEDERATION CHAIRMAN: Vivien Beckett

FEDERATION SECRETARY: Sarah Wilson
office@mfwi.co.uk

PUBLICATIONS - OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER: Lorraine Reed

editor.middlesexnews@hotmail.co.uk or
lorraineareed@gmail.com

HANDWRITTEN AND EMAILED AROUND THE WIs REPORTS (50-80 words) TO:

Mrs L Reed, 126 Dartmouth Road, Ruislip,
Middlesex HA4 0DG

You can also find us on

www.twitter.com/mfwi
www.facebook.com/pages/Middlesex-Federation-WI/573087366051331
www.facebook.com/groups/388213284632558/

Please keep your articles and photos coming in and if you have any ideas of what you would like to see in your newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Magazine Deadlines

To get into the next issue in March, please make sure your copy gets to the Editor Email address or in any format to Lorraine Reed before the deadline date of Wednesday 28th January 2014.

Please note that articles received after this date will unlikely be included due to production time and printing deadlines.

The cost of the newsletter for 2015 is 75p per printed copy, please speak to your Secretary for details. Every WI is sent an email version to pass onto their members at no charge.

Emailed copies are free of charge and available through your Secretary.

TREASURERS REPORT by Susan Whitworth

By now all treasurers should have received a copy of the new form that was sent out detailing the fees due during 2015. If not, then please contact me. This form is also available by email. If you would like a copy then, again, please contact me. I would also be interested to hear any comments that you may have about the form, especially if you can think of any way it could be improved.

We are holding a treasurers workshop on March 7th at the West Drayton office of MFWI. It would be really good to see as many as possible of you there as it is a chance to exchange views and experiences and help each other with ideas as to how best to carry out our responsibilities.

If you need to contact me for any reason then I am available at treasurer.mfwi@gmail.com or on 01932 784937 or 07887648542.

200+ CLUB WINNERS – Drawn in January

1 st	No 30	£24.00	Stanwell WI
2 nd	No 199	£16.00	Sylvia Gaida, Ruislip Eve'g WI
3 rd	No 15	£12.00	Brenda Sadler, Chiswick WI

(Please speak to your WI Treasurer for more information on the 200 plus club which is available annually in October each year.)

Look out in 2015 for

Saturday Craft Dabble Days at County Office

Due to its success and using the same format as the existing Thursday craft days, we will run some on Saturdays to accommodate those people that have to work during the week and are unable to attend so far. See the events calendar and mailing flyers for more detail.

Dabble Days Coming to You

There is no reason why a craft dabble day cannot come to you, so long as the venue is either already paid for or free of charge (I have no budget!) and I have the date available in my diary, I can park my car very close to the venue, then I am happy to come out to WIs and run a craft dabble session for your WI.

A list of crafts will be made available in a mailing so that you see the type of thing that is available to you. This is not a restricted list, suggestions are welcomed and if economical and practical all will be considered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for January to:

Sunbury Village – 2012
Harrow on the Hill – 2013



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for February to:

Hillingdon – 1919
Iver Evening – 1962
London West End – 2006
Thorney Starlets – 2012
Holly Lodge - 2014



HAYES TOWN WI
By Gill Wildman

Wednesday afternoon enjoying a scrummy afternoon Xmas tea at Harlington Hospice.

The 2 tables laid out beautifully with red Xmas candles and lovely bone china cups with saucers. Tea tastes so much nicer that way don't you think!! We had a lovely selection of sandwiches, warm scones with cream and jam, homemade lemon cake, carrot cake all followed by mince pies "phew full to the brim". All this and joined by the parrots at the feeder in the garden of the Hospice.



SUNBURY ON THAMES WI By Bobbie Goodman

Susan Whitworth, our new President was greeted with applause when she rose to chair her first meeting. She was also thanked for holding a very successful ploughman's lunch in November, because we all enjoy such occasions which allow us to socialise in smaller groups.

Members were congratulated on their good response to the Samaritan's Purse appeal this year - 27 shoeboxes containing small gifts for needy children around the world were donated. Carol Sullivan, bravely filling an unexpected vacancy at very short notice, then gave us a colourful demonstration of making attractive Christmas decorations using a wonderful mixture of natural materials combined with a few plastic additions. She produced some gorgeous displays using a variety of greenery, cones, little apples, dried oranges, bark. Poinsettia leaves, red roses and gerberas. These were skilfully combined in containers sprayed with gold or silver paint and filled with oasis. After they had been placed on a table for inspection they were kindly donated to the afternoon's raffle - making it a truly bumper lottery!



HALLIFORD WI By Val Paxton

When I read in the MFWI newsletter that Alexandra WI had made hats and blankets for their local hospital, she really wanted to do the same for her local premature baby unit at St Peters in Chertsey. A friend from neighbouring Surrey federation told her that their group had previously knitted for the hospital and they were always grateful for any contribution.

Knitters from both Sunbury on Thames and Halliford WIs joined forces and needles began clicking. The project, is still ongoing, but as the weather is getting colder, Val asked her grandson's mum, who works in another part of the hospital, to take 36 hats, 24 cardigans and 8 blankets to the unit as a starter.



LALEHAM EVENING WI

by Judith McFarlane

Our photograph shows new members Eve Evans and Sheila Harris cutting our 79th birthday cake. We celebrated this year at the Riverside Cafe in Staines, a new venue for us and which we would recommend. We enjoyed a delicious meal and the lively company of Vivien and Alan Beckett. At the end Vivien spoke of the friendship and support of the WI with which we all agreed.

At the AGM all of the committee were re-elected apart from Helen Hurst who has now taken over the post of Vice-President. Sarah Ellis, one of our members, told us about her work in recycling. Their motto is 'Reduce, re-use, recycle' and she emphasised it is very important that anything plastic is not put in our recycling collection. Old light bulbs should go to a special point at Sainsbury's and spent batteries into a legal collection box. Food waste from our kitchens is liquidised for fertiliser on the land and furniture can always be re-used. It was refreshing to hear a positive spin on a very tricky problem.

In December Anne Furst gave us a demonstration of a large floral Christmas table decoration. Based on a mixture of plain and variegated fresh evergreens she then used dried oranges and red artificial poinsettias, and we watched admiringly as a beautiful table arrangement grew before our eyes. Anne also donated a wreath for us to put in the raffle and Ida Kay was delighted to receive this. We were warmed up by a Christmas drink generously supplied by Carol who brought along some wine.

Daybreak is the charity at St Peters church which we are supporting this year. This provides daily respite care for the disabled and others needing constant care.

Our next meeting will be on 27th January, 2015, at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome.



SOUTHBOURNE WI

By Brenda Francis

Southbourne members met at Fayre & Square, the Golf club and restaurant, near West Ruislip Station on Tuesday 2nd December at 6.45pm. We were supposed to be dining upstairs in a private room, but unfortunately they had a flood, so we were seated in the conservatory on our own. Five tables had been dressed and a complimentary bottle of wine placed on each. Starters were served, everyone tucked in but the usual chatter could still be heard. It was not long before the mains arrived, roast turkey or tinsel pie, roast beef or plaice. Everyone was very happy with their meals but with such good portions, most found it difficult to finish. Desserts then came along, so scrumptious that every plate was clean. I myself had organised the evening so kept a close eye on everyone.

I approached Ann Sykes to get her "entertainers" together for their famous WI song. I gathered all the staff together, then they began. Their faces were a picture I don't think they could believe their eyes or ears. They thanked us as we did them, for such a lovely evening, they all worked so hard. Members started moving to go home whilst some stayed for a little more chat. Lots of Merry Christmas' could be heard.
Then there was silence.

GRANGE PARK WI
By Chris Wharmby

This year we decided to organise a Christmas lunch at the Harvester in Grange Park. On 12th December twenty three ladies gathered for a three course festive meal. As we had to order our food preferences in advance, Val kindly presented everyone with a card on which their individual choices were listed. This saved a lot of us the embarrassment of trying to remember what we had ordered a few weeks before. We hope to be able to repeat the event in 2015 and that the photos will persuade you to join us.



Grange Park WI
By Chris Wharmby

On Saturday 13th December, Elizabeth Lodge, the dementia care home, held its annual Christmas Bazaar. We were asked for our support in helping to run the tea and coffee stall together with a food stall. Six members of the Committee attended, donating a variety of cakes for the food stall and some sweet treats for younger visitors.

The event ran from 2.30pm to 4.30pm and we were certainly kept busy providing liquid refreshments for the visitors. There were other activities as well including a raffle, a bric a brac stall and a book stall. As usual our stall was very attractive and we sold most of our cakes. Thanks to Marjorie, Sally, Jean, Val, and Maggie for their assistance in producing the cakes and for decorating the tables.

Please pause for a moment to view the action photos and marvel at the festive head gear sported by Sally and Jean!



TWICKENHAM WI **By Eleanor Thomas**

In December members have been enjoying various seasonal pleasures.

Several ladies attended a special coffee morning in Sunbury, to support Cancer Research.

We had our 26th birthday and we invited friends from Norwood Green and Ealing to join us. Light refreshments were served followed by birthday cake, made each year for us by Margaret Williams. Unfortunately our entertainer cancelled at short notice but a couple of our members read some very entertaining stories pertaining to Christmas and everyone enjoyed more time to chat.

A week later, another celebration.....Christmas dinner in Merits, another nice occasion.

We look forward to the New Year and send warm greetings to our WI friends.



PINNER WI **By Mary Peach**

At the December meeting, Pinner members honoured two annual traditions. Firstly they exchanged 'Secret Santa' parcels and then they signed one big Christmas card and each donated £1.00 to ACWW – a useful fundraiser.

Following another Pinner tradition, a party of members went to Trafalgar Square to see the Norwegian Christmas Tree lights turned on and to join in with the carols.

Our December speaker presented some unconventional views about Christmas and its celebrations.



RUISLIP EVENING WI

In December members of REWI were very proud to be able to present a cheque for £1376.11 to Michael Sobell Hospice as a result of members fundraising.

We continued the evening with a Tombola, entertainment by Eclipse - an acapella group followed by food and refreshments donated by members and committee.



Another success was in filling boxes for the Samaritans Purse, we sent 16 boxes this year which is a brilliant effort for the number of members that we have in our group – well done everyone!

Best wishes for 2015 to all WIs wherever you are.

A cup of coffee with Anne Stamper
GUEST SPEAKER AT THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
30th MARCH 2015

Anne Stamper is a WI historian and Archivist.

Anne joined Ringmer WI in East Sussex in the 1960s and is still a member there. She was Federation Chairman in the 1970s, a member of NFWI Board of Trustees and a Vice Chairman in the 1980s, and the Education Advisor to Denman College in the 1990s. It was in this capacity that she was commissioned to write the book *Rooms off the Corridor* to mark Denman's 50th anniversary. Subsequent to this Anne helped to get the NFWI and Denman archives sorted, catalogued and in 2002 they were deposited at *The Women's Library* where she continued as the liaison person with NFWI until their moved in 2013 to LSE.

Anne has written and given talks about aspects of the WI to many conferences.

Question 1. Who would you most like to have a cup of coffee/tea with?

Grace Hadow – NFWI Vice Chairman from 1919 until her death in 1940. Lady Denman referred to her as 'the brains of the movement'. She was a brilliant woman, an Oxford graduate (she read English at Somerville College and gained first-class honours in 1903), a supporter of women's suffrage, an academic and later Principal of St Anne's College. Alongside this work she had a life-long commitment to adult education particularly in rural areas, and was not only Vice Chair of NFWI but was also the founder of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the first body of its kind in Britain.

Her portrait at Denman shows her in academic dress, with pince nez and looking very serious, but I gather that she was gentle and funny. There is a memorial to her in the University church in Oxford which I visited this summer – I would love to have met and talked with her.

2. What inspired you to join the WI?

About three weeks after arriving in the village, where we came to live because of my husband's new job, a white-haired woman rang the doorbell and said "the committee have asked me to call and invite you to the WI meeting". I was expecting our first child but was feeling quite lonely and I was very touched by the invitation so I accepted – 50 years later I am still a member!

3. What women inspired you?

The women in the WI inspired me; because I could see that beyond the friendship and kindness they were a group of women who could get things done – I was impressed by their wider interests and the discussion of the resolutions. They encouraged me to get involved – and I did!

5. The person who influenced you most

My Father. In the days when many parents were saying "why educate a girl she will only get married" my Father encouraged me to go to University, the first in my family to do so.

6. The worst job you have ever done?

Cleaning out the drain – and even after that we still had to get the professionals in!

8. The event that altered your life?

Agreeing to marry John – we have now been married 54 years!

10. The best biscuit to dunk in tea/coffee?

I don't dunk; it spoils the biscuit and gets the drink all crumbly!

13. How do you relax?

I draw and paint

