



Middlesex News

March 2017



Above: photograph courtesy of Thorney Starlets WI

Below: photograph courtesy of The Alexandra WI



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 CHAIR: Liz Morrell

FEDERATION VICE CHAIR: Lorraine Reed/Sarah Endersby

FEDERATION SECRETARY: Sarah Wilson

FEDERATION EVENTS: mfwievents@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS – Office Hours - Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER: Lorraine Reed

middlesexnewseditor@gmail.com or lorraineareed@gmail.com

HANDWRITTEN WI REPORTS (80-100 words) GO TO:

Lorraine 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/

UPCOMING EVENTS

(See separate note on Dabble Day info)

Thursday March 9 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Block Printing
County Office, cost £5.00

Saturday March 11 2017

Craft Dabble Day – making
Linus Bags to donate
County Office, cost £0.00

Saturday April 8 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Charity Knits
County Office, cost £0.00

Thursday April 13 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Cross Stitch for
Beginners
County Office, cost £5.00

Annual Council Meeting

24th April 2017
Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip

Thursday May 11 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Hand Sewing tba
County Office, cost £5.00

Saturday May 13 2017

Middlesex Craft Drop In
County Office 10:00-15:00

Saturday June 10 2017

Beginners Patchwork
County Office, cost tba

Thursday June 15 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Charity Makes
County Office, cost £5.00

Saturday July 1 2017

Papercraft
County Office, cost £5.00

Thursday July 6 2017

Craft Dabble Day – Silk Painting
County Office, cost £5.00

Tuesday July 11 2017

Hayes & Uxbridge Group Meeting



Craft Booking Details:

Dabble Days and Craft Workshops are held at County Office unless otherwise stated: **Dabble Days** are from 10.30-4.00pm and the fee is payable on the day.

Booking is essential for all craft days.

Workshops are as priced and payable in advance by cheque to secure your place (Cheques will be cashed when confirmation of event is taking place). Bank transfer can be arranged, please ask for details.

All bookings to go via mfwicountycraft@gmail.com or lorraineareed@gmail.com or 01895 676105 or call/text 07976 398533

All cheques to be sent to County Office and made payable to **MFWI (Craft Committee) CIO** unless stated otherwise

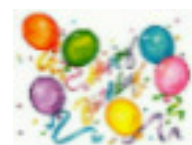
*** REMINDER ***

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 24th April 2017

Winston Churchill Theatre
Pinn Way, Ruislip
HA4 7QL
10:15 – 15:30 doors open 09:30

Tickets available - £5.00 pp

Tickets available via your WI Secretary
or MFWI Office



**HAPPY MARCH
BIRTHDAY TO:**

Harlington	22/03/1932
Norwood Green Afternoon	25/03/1985
Ruislip Evening	04/03/2011
Teddington	09/03/2011
Gothic Valley	08/03/2012
Field Dames	09/03/2015

BEDFONT BELLES WI by Jenny Hanrahan

It's not until you look at photographs that you realise how busy the past months have been for Bedfont Belles.

It began with a visit to Bronzefield women's prison, where their WI invited other WI's to view and buy their crafts and to share cakes and a hot drink.



Our meeting in November saw us being very crafty. Tables were set up for members to 'have a go' at making decorations and cards for Christmas. Also in November we held a Table-top sale which was well attended including a visit from Santa.



Several of our members attended the Remembrance Day parade and service held at Bedfont War Memorial. Our wreath was made by one of our members. Our local secondary school, Rivers Academy, held their first Christmas Fair where we sold our Christmas Crafts.



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At the beginning of December we ventured by coach to Salisbury Christmas Market. We very much enjoyed sampling the gin, cheese, chutney and other offerings at the market and took the opportunity to see the historic cathedral and Christmas tree festival.



To really get into the Christmas spirit some of us joined other Bedfont residents in singing Christmas Carols in Bedfont High Street. Refreshments were provided by our discount shop and a local business man, and accompaniment was provided by St. Mary's Church organist and choir.

Our December meeting provided an excuse for Christmas nibbling, drinking, and a Snatch raffle, where members seemed to be drawn to specific coloured parcels, not even knowing what was inside, but they just had to have them.



January was brought in in style at our first meeting of the year.

We had a demonstration of Belly Dancing and had a chance to dress up and join in.

No ill effects were felt the following day - not from the dancing anyway!

HAYES TOWN WI by Gill Wildman

On Tuesday 17th a bright sunny afternoon, 12 people met for lunch at Rural Activities Garden Centre in Hillingdon, it provides employment & training opportunities for people with learning disabilities. What a keen, enthusiastic group of guys & gals they are.

So eager to serve and please you with very tasty menu of toasties, salads etc finishing with a lovely array of cakes, so we all left with full tummies for a walk around the gardens.

On our first meeting of 2017, on a very cold afternoon, we had surprisingly a good turnout, with one new member, to hear our speaker Irving Boxer a qualified Osteopath of over 30yrs, giving an enlightening talk on Preventing Back Pain & Stress!

He had us all standing up and went through an exercise routine we should do every morning on rising to work off stiffness and release tension. All to keep supple along with positive, visualising thoughts to keep happy and love oneself. When one is stressed that's when back & health problems harm your body. Unfortunately he couldn't stop for tea as he had a client waiting back at his practice.

After the raffle, we were reminded by our President Joan that the next lunchtime outing was Feb 15th at the Ugly Duckling Toby Carvery, Denham.



LALEHAM WI by Sarah Ellis

January is the traditional time for quiet reflection on your year and everything you've achieved. Here at Laleham our January meeting was our Christmas meal where we loudly celebrated everything we've done since our 80th birthday at the end of 2015. Members made cakes for the village Queen's 90th birthday celebrations raising £180, the tombola at the Laleham Summer Fair added another £200 and members took part in the Alzheimer's Society memory walk at Painshill Park raising over £350.

At the end of the year our members contribution for their chosen charity, the White Lodge Centre was £130 and 30 trauma teddies.

Alongside these activities we ran our programme of talks and even managed to find time to host a Swish and make

Christmas wreaths and Christingle oranges! Almost forgot – we now have a Facebook page too! We're not going to stop there though, look out for what we do in 2017...



IVER WI by Margaret Smith

In November we took part in the 'Turning on of Lights' event at the village hall and in December we took part in the Christmas tree Festival in St Peters Church.



President Margaret Smith welcomed members and guests to the meeting, then introduced "Aca-Holics" – a female Barber-Shop singing group. Over two sessions, they kept us well entertained with a variety of traditional and Christmas songs, arranged in uniquely barber-shop style, and towards the end had us joining in with seasonal medleys. Our competition In December was prettiest parcel.



DENMAN TRIP SOUTHBOURNE WI by Brenda Francis

Meeting at Eastcote Station, fourteen of us waited patiently for our mini bus. Then the phone call "stuck on M40 due to accident will let you know when traffic starts moving". So into the coffee shop for a warm and an hour wait. Young cheerful driver arrives with luxury mini bus and off we go making good time.

Greeted by Sheila West we were ushered to waiting coffee and homemade shortbread. Paul Bellchambers was our chef today who took us through making Dorset Apple Cake, Cauliflower Cheese with Butternut Squash & a twist plus Clementine, Feta & Leaf Salad. Lots of questions and different ideas rang around the hall, it was a totally relaxed and friendly atmosphere and as the food was cooking we were all getting decidedly hungry.

Lunch was then served in the conservatory, a varied selection of hot & cold then pudding followed by tea or coffee. Sheila then took us on a tour of the House with some lovely stories of donations, history and artwork. Then on to the work rooms, the Kitchen with different cooking facilities, the Sewing room with a thousand threads, the Fabric room all so interesting with art work tastefully displayed.

Next on to the House, for overnight and longer stays, some light & airy, some cosy and some not so. The room for the disabled we all agreed was excellent, roomy and accessible. Now would you believe it was time for afternoon tea. On our way we were given the option to pick up magazines on embroidery - a bonus, then it was homemade scones, jam & cream, tea or coffee.

Off to the shop, quickly to the ladies, farewell to Sheila and a smooth journey home.
What a lovely day.



Southbourne WI Contd... – St Vincents Crafting

Patricia Coney, Barbara Betterton & Sue Cobb helping residents of St.Vincents nursing home making greetings cards, another of Southbournes activities.



STANWELL WI by Dianne Butler

On Tuesday 6th December we held our Christmas Party at the Village Hall. We enjoyed an excellent meal cooked by our member Mary Jeffery, assisted by Jill Lord. We were entertained again by the lovely singing voice of Nicky Blake. We all enjoyed a sing song and dance.

The Doe Ray Mees (committee members) performed a 4 minute pocket panto of Cinderella, it was hilarious they then went on to sing their version of Do-Re-Me from the Sound of Music.

Our members were once again very generous in bringing donations for the Manna Food Bank.



We set off on Wednesday 7th December for Windsor Castle to see the exhibition; Fashioning a Reign. The exhibition marks the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen through a display of dresses from The Queen's childhood to the present day.

PINNER WI by Mary Peach

January 2017 saw a Herbalist from the local Health Food store come to talk about 'Our Winter Immune System and the use of herbs as an alternative medicine'.

Members are looking forward to the spring when 'walks' will resume and also work at the gardens at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Jersey Festival of Words and Jersey Federation of Women's Institutes

Are you a reader, a bookworm, a bibliophile, then the Jersey Federation has the perfect short break for you. From Thursday 28th September to Sunday 1st October 2017, Jersey will be holding its third Festival of Words book festival.

The programme is being put together at the moment but past authors who have appeared at our first two festivals include Carol Ann Duffy, Victoria Hislop, Alison Weir, Michael Morpurgo, Louis de Bernieres, Simon Scarrow and Jeremy Paxman to name but a few. It is anticipated this high standard will be maintained if not exceeded at the 2017 Festival.

You will be based in St. Helier at the well-appointed 3 star Mayfair Hotel and we will be walking between venues. The cost will be £240.00 p.p. b&b - this cost does not include travel to the island.

The price will include 1 event on both Thursday and Friday evenings and 2 each on Saturday and Sunday. There will be of course numerous other choices to enjoy in your free time. For those of you who have been on or heard of our Liberation Week holiday will know that you have the warmth, care and attention of the WI at all times.

For further information please contact Anne Pasturel on 01534 730409 or email apasturel@live.co.uk

A CUP OF TEA/COFFEE WITH RICHARD CLAYDON Hillingdon Borough Commander, LFB (Retd)

A speaker at the April 2017 Annual Council Meeting



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

My dad, just to catch up.

2. What inspired you to join the Fire Brigade?

A book called Red Watch by Gordon Honeycomb. It details the events leading up to and the actions during a major fire at the Worsley Hotel in Maida Vale in the early hours of Friday 13 December 1974 which led to the unfortunate death of a probationary firefighter Harry Petit.

3. Who has inspired you and why?

My dad. The hardest working, most uncomplaining, wise and gentle man I have ever had the privilege to know and my wife with limitless energy and resolve. My wisest counsel who never gives up.

4. What is your most treasured possession?

My health!! And a 1965 Hillman Imp Works Rally Car!

5. The person who influenced you most

No single person. I feel that as you get older and more mature your influences change. I'm prone to doing lots of research and if I'm impressed or influenced by a public figure I always look deeper into their background. It's amazing what you can discover.

6. The worst job you have ever done?

Scraping bird poo off of the outside of the National Gallery!!

7. The happiest moment you will cherish forever?

I'm fortunate to have many. The birth of my children. Marrying Karen. My youngest son becoming a Firefighter.

8. The event that altered your life?

Recently retiring from the LFB and buying my own business. Now I have to work for a living!!

9. The temptation you wish you could resist?

Anything sweet!!

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

Bourbon biscuits

11. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child?

Give everything time, don't rush in or make rash decisions.

13. How do you relax?

Read, watch TV, walk the dogs, play with my old cars and motorbikes.

14. How my hobby became an obsession?

Star Wars!! I've always been a fan but in 2015 I was introduced to the UK Garrison of the 501st Legion. These are a costuming group that raise money for charity whilst dressing up as their favourite Star Wars characters. They also visit sick children in Hospital and undertake other charitable events. I now own a complete set of Stormtrooper armour and attended my first event last summer.



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

There are many famous people I could choose but I treasure my friends and because of that I would have to say my oldest and dearest friend Anne. We have known each other since our mums' were at mother & toddler group. We don't see each other as often as we would like due to our busy lives. When we do get together its like we have never been apart, giggling girlyies over coffee and cake - you can't beat that.

2. What inspired you to join the WI?

I have always been inspired by the values of the WI and looking back now have displayed them in my home life. This was not intentional but learned through my own family values when I was growing up. I only plucked up the courage to join WI fairly recently, 3 years ago. I was not really sure whether I was able to join. I wrongly assumed it was not for someone of my age and I probably wouldn't fit in. How wrong could I be! One of my friends had joined and she persuaded me to go to a meeting. I have been attending since and have found the experience very enriching, fun and most definitely for women of ALL ages as we are all young at heart your actual age is NOT at all even thought about. I have made some really good friends and long may it continue. My only regret is I should have joined sooner!

3. What women inspired you?

In the course of my career and also in my previous involvement in Girl guiding I have worked alongside numerous influential, inspiring women. All of whom displayed fantastic values and life skills. Their experiences and willingness to help others and through their mentorship I have learnt and developed to be the person I am today. These are just ordinary women who do the extraordinary by doing their best for the community they live and work in.

4. What is your most treasured possession?

My husband and I are big supporters of a local Charity - Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare, based in Hersham. We have adopted three Greyhounds, Ollie, Pia and Coco. They are amazing pets and very special to us and I love and treasure them dearly.

5. The person who influenced you most.

Of all the people who have influenced and also inspired me in my formative years it has be my Nan, Elsie. She was the most caring, homely and loving person. She showed me the basics in cooking and baking which I still use today. She lived around the corner from us and I would run round whenever I had the chance. Saturday mornings at Nan's was always making a Victoria Sponge, Sausage Rolls and Meringues. Sundays after church was back to Nan's for Sunday lunch, but not before I had helped her with the dusting while she listened to the Archers!! She was a member of Halliford WI and I always remember her entering baking competitions and after she died my Mum gave me her WI certificates and comments cards along with her cookery books. I still have them, use them and of course treasure them. Thanks Nan xx

6. The worst job you have ever done?

I am a Police Officer and through my years of experience I have dealt with many things both horrible and good, seeing the best and worst of human nature. In 2005 I was sent to Thailand as part of the UK response to assist the Thai authorities in the identification and repatriation of British victims of the tsunami. The task was enormous, set in a paradise country which was facing the worst natural disaster and loss of human life. It was in part the worst job I have undertaken, however being able to assist, and support the families was humbling. Being part of the British coronial investigation was purposeful, challenging and rewarding.

7. The happiest moment you will cherish forever?

Life throws at us many ups and downs, but unquestionably the happiest moment was my wedding day. We had a wonderful day, ceremony at Marylebone Town Hall followed by dinner at The Savoy.

8. The event that altered your life?

Marrying my husband. He is my soul mate and best friend and making our vows to each other was magical.

9. The temptation you wish you could resist?

Chip shop chips, (with salt & vinegar of course) in wrapped paper and a large glass of fizz.

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

With Tea it has to be an Oat Crumble and with Coffee one of those little lotus biscuits that tastes of caramel.

11. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child?

Treat people as you would like to be treated yourself, kindness costs nothing.

12. The unending quest that drives you on?

To do the best I can at whatever I do.

13. How do you relax?

When I get the chance its time at home with the family, walking the dogs, baking a cake or just tinkering around with some flowers..... Simple stuff but so relaxing

14. How my hobby became an obsession?

I don't know really. I love flower arranging and probably should have been a florist not a detective! My Nan and my Mum both worked with plants and flowers so from an early age there were always flowers at home and around me. I just love them. Sometimes I will just buy a couple of bunches from the market and put together an idea I have. I have also been lucky enough to do the flowers for some of my friend's wedding days - the pride and honour I feel being part of their special day and creating what they want. It's worth every stressful second I have beforehand. Entering the Huxley Cup was also a real privilege, I have never entered a flower competition before. I was a bit worried and very nervous but it was a really enjoyable experience. I learnt so much.