



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

December 2020
VOLUME LIX No. 4

2020, what a year!

Looking back to last December, it has been a time that will long be remembered.

Right now, as we start to be more hopeful that a vaccine will be available for us to protect ourselves from the ravages of this new virus, it might be good to take a look back.

To those who are a generation or younger than many of our members, this is something they have never experienced before. To many the blizzard of '78 and Hurricane Bob, would stand out as major difficult moments. In Massachusetts, there is often a preparation when a major storm is forecast.

But most of us can remember not only the difficult times of our own generation, but also the stories shared with others who had earlier milestones. We remember listening to tales of WW2, and the Great Depression. On the positive side, those same stories were told side by side with the brave members of our families who emigrated to the United States for a better life.

Looking back at the Ladies Choice issues for this year, there has seemed to be a theme. The various original groups have found creative ways to connect, get things done and find new fundraisers to support our scholarship program. We built on what was normal activities and did them with a tweak. Instead of "Taste of the Town" under a tent, we supported the local restaurants weekly. Members were encouraged to purchase at the restaurant of the week. Money for the club was not expected in return, but many restaurants donated to our scholarships. The pie sale, a Harbor Days event, became Virtual, our daffodils around the town became a bulb sale that was so well supported, we had to reorder bulbs. The group who worked on the notecards and postcards has expanded and continues to create new versions.

The last of our fundraisers is advertised in this issue of Ladies Choice.

This was to have been a Garden Tour Year. Instead our talented members will be doing a Holiday Pop Up sale.

Monthly meetings were held at Ned's Point and instead of a tea, we gathered to socially distance and brought our own lunches.

It is also important to note that we have added new members even during 2020, and they have also stepped up to join our projects.

So when you look back to 2020, may you see all the ways we, the members of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club, took positive steps, helped each other and continued to give back to the town that we all love.

~ Marie Rottler



*2020 holiday decorations in Mattapoissett
provided by the MWC!*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Club Members,

The holidays are approaching and once more we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory. In the past, we would be looking forward to our holiday luncheon at The Inn and pictures with Santa. So when I heard the following quote at the monthly COA Book Group gathering, I knew I just had to share it with all of you. It is from the writer Susan Vreeland in "Clara and Mr. Tiffany,"



"Allowing beauty a place in the soul is a powerful antidote to the stress and strain of mortal life. "

All of us have beauty we can carry in our souls, from the beauty of this place we call home, to the friendships and support we find in this club, to the simple joy of hearing those bells ring, to the beauty of the daffodils and planters all around town and and most of all to our families. We know we will do this.

Keep all your spirits up and there will be a collective time for joy soon.

Carole Clifford
President, MWC

MEMBER TO MEMBER

We care about how everyone is doing in this difficult time, so the Executive Board is asking that each group (Garden, Knitting, Literature, Bridge) check on their members and see if anyone needs assistance. Even if people don't, a phone call is always welcome.

Thanks for caring to do this!
Executive Board



Open Letters from Members:

Mary O'Keefe

It was very heart warming this year to have many churches call me to tell me they would be ringing the bells on November 11 at 11:00. Our own little town rang bells from both the Congregational Church and Center School. It always puts a lump in my throat. An ever increasing number of people attended, and we listened to Robert Clifford, a Marine Vietnam Veteran, and grateful American give an interesting few words and read the oath of enlistment that every veteran makes. We learned that it was his Mother who was the Veteran in his home. I was also honored to say a few words. We should all take the time to thank both Pastor Amy Harken and Principal Rose Bowman for their continued support and commitment to honoring our Veterans and ringing their bells. I hope all the MWC membership and their families will try to show their support and appreciation to our Vets by joining us next year at 11/11 at 11. Mark your calendars for a very meaningful 15 minutes.

~ Mary O'Keefe



Peg Olney

Many of you know that I have a summer house in Mattapoisett where I enjoy the beach and a group of friends (as well as family visits) during the warm weather months. During the summer our friends always met outside. Near the end of September one of the ladies had a birthday and it was nearing time for most to return to their winter homes so we decided to go out for lunch. We went to Turk's and were seated outside but a rain shower came and we had to move to a semi-enclosed part of the building. One of the ladies had a cough and I was sitting next to her. After we got home she found out that her daughter had tested positive for the virus. She was tested the next day and also was positive. Her family was infected by a granddaughter who came for a visit from Virginia. The friend sitting on the other side also became sick but everyone else was negative. I arranged to have a test but before the appointment I started having symptoms and my test was positive. Fortunately I had a mild case. Fever up to 100, cough, stuffy head and runny nose, no chest involvement. The symptoms lasted for 5-6 days and then I felt OK. I also had a family Covid experience. My oldest cousin who was 97 lived in a retirement home in Northern Florida. He had a fall and was taken to the hospital for a short stay and then returned to the home where he rapidly deteriorated and passed away. A post mortem showed that he had Covid. His son was with him for the last days and also became very ill with the virus and his wife got it as well. I guess the moral of the story is that we need to continue to be very careful, follow the public guidelines and avoid interaction with others as much as possible even if they are friends or family and you think it will be OK.

~ Peg Olney

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club
Presents



A Holiday Greens Sale Pop-Up Event

Featuring

Decorated Fresh Wreaths

Swags & Centerpieces

Bunches of Greens & Holly

Saturday December 5th 10-2

Rain Date December 6

Bowl Mor Parking Lot

22 County Road, Route 6 Mattapoissett

*Bundle up & come join us outside! Please Wear Your Mask.
Cash, Checks & Credit Cards Accepted*

Holiday Greens Sale

The MWC holiday elves were inspired to create from many donated and collected elements. Uniquely themed fresh wreaths, swags, and holiday centerpieces are in the works at Erin Burlinson's barn.

Sandy Hering created a schedule that keeps everyone physically distanced while in the barn. Sharon Doyon and Susan Perkins, master designers, created theme kits for the elves who worked many shifts to have everything ready for the sale on Saturday, December 5th (rain date 6th).



November 12th Mattapoissett Woman's Club Executive Board Meeting Summary

Sherry Hoines, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board meets on the Second Thursday of the month to discuss fund raising events, various projects we are working on and ideas to retain as well as increase membership. As this is a very unusual year due to the pandemic and we are unable to get together as a group on a regular basis, we've decided to publish a summarized version of our meeting in "Ladies Choice" as a means of keeping the members up to date with what's going on in the club.

The Bulb Sale Fundraiser has concluded and this endeavor netted \$437.50 for our Scholarship Fund. There will be 2,750 bulbs planted locally adding to the beauty of our town. Some of the other Fund Raising Events we are working on include:

- Hathaway Painting - Brad Hathaway donated one of his wife Priscilla's paintings to our club. Priscilla was a MWC member for many years. We have formed a committee that is working on an auction to raffle the painting and any other craft items that our talented members wish to donate. The painting has been valued at \$75.

- Wreath Sale - The Garden Group has been diligently working on a Holiday Wreath Sale. The sale will be conducted on December 5th (December 6th Rain Date) at Bowlmor. Beautifully decorated wreaths, door swags and greens arrangements will be sold.

- Card Sale - A Committee has been working on a project to create Note Cards and Post Cards decorated with flowers and various scenes in and around Mattapoissett. The sale is going well and the Committee is in the process of printing more note cards and post cards. They may be purchased at Isabelle's and they will be sold at the upcoming Wreath Sale. Note Cards will be sold in packs of 4 for \$10 and Post Cards will be sold in packs of 6 for \$10.

All of the "Blue Books have been delivered and the Executive Board wishes to thank Lois Ennis and Betty Parker for their hard work in getting them printed and delivered.

Lastly, we are seeking ideas for Spring Fundraisers so if you do some brainstorming and come up with a great idea, please let the Executive Board know.

Please note: Our next Board Meeting is December 10th at 10:00am

Join our FACEBOOK Group to keep informed of all MWC news & events!



Cards + Postcards = Money for MWC Scholarships

Can we keep this project going?

If you answered yes, the Card Committee needs your help. Will you volunteer to fold and pack notecards or postcards in the safety of your own home?

If you answered yes, and you are a photographer, you are a “Wanted Person”. We need to plan ahead for all of 2021. How about photos of the decorated doorways in the village? Or images of whatever else inspires you to take a photo. We’ll need to repeat some of the village buildings in different seasons.

Thanks to Pen & Pendulum, Isabelle’s, and Blossoms, our cards are easily available and we don’t have to drive around town to deliver them.

Please note: All of our card designs will be available for purchase on December 5th at the MWC First Ever Holiday Greens Sale and Pop-Up Event. Please shop our sale even if you haven’t been a part of it, as we promise great holiday decorations for you and for you to give as gifts.

n.b. Isabelle’s and Belle’s will be relocating to some classy new digs after the 15th of the year. You’ll be able to find both shops at Windswept Village, 81 County Road, near Yard Boss.

Please send photos to Cindy Turse at:

mahina@turse.org



Don't Forget Your Flu Shot!

Now is the time to get your shot before flu season begins. Reminders to get a flu shot have bombarded most of us, and it was a topic of discussion at our Ned’s Point gathering. Antibodies develop about two weeks after getting the shot and provide protection for approximately six months. The CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October.

If you are a member of Southcoast Health, you can get the flu shot by scheduling an appointment with your primary care provider. Flu shots have also been available at Walgreen’s, CVS, and the Stop & Shop Pharmacy.

Open Letter from Member: Marie Rottler

As I get ready for Thanksgiving, I realize that we are entering a favorite time of year. This, like most of 2020 finds me nowhere near my usual traditional happenings.

It started when Colby and I had to delay our usual trip to California last November and instead went in February of 2020. We were confident that we would see our daughter in 2020 for Thanksgiving. We stayed for several weeks, returning to Massachusetts on March 13th, amid the beginnings of the Covid-19 pandemic . Upon landing, we stopped at a grocery store only to be shocked at the emptiness of the shelves. The next couple of days, we were able to find the things we needed (eggs, milk, fruits and vegetables). Back then I didn't think that almost a year later, we would be experiencing another rise in the number of cases and continue to see more people dying from the virus.

Sometime during early Spring, I became determined that I would spend my time finding things that would move me in a positive direction. So I started walking. It would be important when we next would be able to travel west. At first it was more of a short slow stroll. Since we were no longer able to go to the gym, my husband joined me. The walks got longer and time spent doing them became shorter, which meant we moved faster. We talked along the way about lots of things to do or accomplish during this time of masks (eventually needing to be coordinated with my outfits). Then we did destination walks (Cape Cod Canal, sides of the hurricane barrier in New Bedford) There were a couple of routes in our beach area that underwent seasonal changes as the time passed. We saw many of the same neighbors during our walks. If one of us was walking alone, they asked where our partner was. We noticed if someone stopped walking, worried a bit until we saw them again.

Our next door neighbor, who was a summer resident arrived in July. He spends the cold seasons in Rochester, New York. It saddened us to know he would be selling his house. Then I heard that our daughter was looking to buy a house in Mattapoisett. We were so happy to hear that she had bought the house next door and would be coming for a short visit. Instead of missing a second Thanksgiving, this year we would share the holiday here in Mattapoisett.

I grieve for all those who have experienced great sadness during this period and am so excited that there seems to be some medications on the horizon to stop the pandemic. I look forward to conversations in person with many friends and family members. But the best will be the ability to hug those I have missed.

~ Marie Rottler

A simple thought:

Be who you needed when you were young.

Steps to Take if/when Your Email is Hacked

Recently one of our members had her email hacked. When this happens here are the steps to take:

Change your password

The first thing you must do to ensure that a hacker can't get back into your account is change the password. Your new password must be complex and unrelated to previous passwords. Use 8-10 characters with a mix of upper and lower case characters as well as numbers and symbols. Here is a link to the 200 most common passwords of 2020. <https://nordpass.com/most-common-passwords-list/> I hope yours isn't in the list. If so, change it immediately.

Reach out to your email contacts immediately

The second step is to send a message to all of your email contacts as soon as possible. Let them know they should avoid opening any emails (most likely loaded with malware) that have come from you. A big part of a hacker's strategy is to grab the information in your address book then hook others as well.

Change your security question

Third, if you have security questions associated with your email account, be sure to change them too. Make them unpredictable.

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Fourth, add multi-factor authentication to your login. This adds another layer of protection. This will mean that in addition to your password, you will need a unique one-time use code to log in. This is usually sent to your mobile phone, but can also be sent to your email address.



Scan your computer for malware and viruses

Fifth, Running a scan for malware and viruses is an essential step.

Change any other accounts with the same password

Sixth, changing passwords is time-consuming but worthwhile. You must absolutely change any other accounts that use the same username and password as your compromised email. Hackers love when we use the same logins for multiple accounts. Never use any password that points directly to you, your dog, your cat, your family members, your address, or anything else personal. Passwords need to be a random mix of letters, words, and special characters.

Stay protected

Make sure your antivirus software is up to date.

The edited advice above is from McAfee. ~ Cindy Turse

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

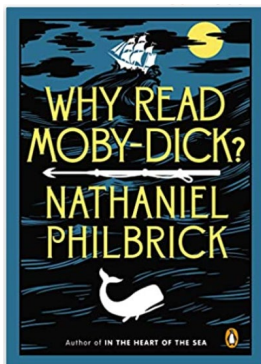
Literature Group

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 am
150 North Street (Sherry Hoines' barn)

The Literature Group will meet for our December meeting at the home of Sherry Hoines, 150 North Street. We will be meeting in the barn which has room for social distancing and ventilation. Please wear a mask and bring your own folding chair and beverage. The book we will be discussing is "Why Read Moby Dick" by Nathaniel Philbrick. All are welcome to join us.



Peg Olney
Literature Group Chair,
Ladies Choice Editor
1998 - 2018



One of the greatest American novels finds its perfect contemporary champion in Why Read Moby-Dick?, Nathaniel Philbrick's enlightening and entertaining tour through Melville's classic. As he did in his National Book Award-winning bestseller In the Heart of the Sea, Philbrick brings a sailor's eye and an adventurer's passion to unfolding the story behind an epic American journey. He skillfully navigates Melville's world and illuminates the book's humor and unforgettable characters—finding the thread that binds Ishmael and Ahab to our own time and, indeed, to all times. An ideal match between author and subject, Why Read Moby-Dick? will start conversations, inspire arguments, and make a powerful case that this classic tale waits to be discovered anew.

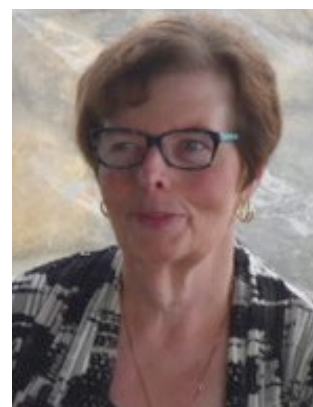
LITERATURE GROUP BOOK SCHEDULE 2020 - 2021

January	"Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson
February	"Afterlife" by Julia Alvarez
March	"First: Sandra Day O'Connor" by Evan Thomas

Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint and More!

Several members of the Knitting Group Zoomed on November 19th. As our usual 4th Thursday, we will all be eating turkey and, if zooming, will probably be connecting with family and friends. Marie will be sending out an email to the group after Thanksgiving to see if there is a possible December date that will work.

Please contact [Marie by email](#) for more information.



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair, Website

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Our big event is coming up soon! Thanks to lots of volunteers, and in keeping with safe social distancing and the need for the Woman's Club Fundraisers to continue, the Garden Group has replaced our annual soup luncheon and arrangement design with the first ever, Holiday Greens Sale Pop-Up Event! We are ready, with lots of volunteers and Erin Burlinson's barn to social distance in, to do great things for this event and raise money to continue our town decorating this next year and provide money for scholarships. It is a very good event.

So this means that we will not be meeting on December 2nd. While we all will miss this annual soup luncheon and arrangement design time, we can see one another as volunteers or shoppers at the event. Thank you all for helping with your donations, your time and finally, for your purchases. I hope that next year we can resume our traditions, maybe add a few new ones, and enjoy meeting together again.

At this point in time, it is difficult to know what we can expect next year. We most likely will not be meeting in January or February. I have offered to make a Zoom presentation for the group of "Things I have learned about Gardening since I got my degree" but most likely it will be February, not January, before I have completed it. So if any of you have ideas about what we can do for a Zoom meeting in January, PLEASE contact me with your ideas.

In the meantime, stay home, stay safe and be well. As Garden Group member Kathy Saunders says, Better to be 6' apart than 6' under!

Sandy Hering
Garden Group Co-Chair



Sandy Hering
Garden Group
Co-Chair

I am thankful for the camaraderie, companionship and friendship of the women I have come to know and appreciate from the Mattapoisett Woman's Club. Although we are not meeting each month, the women from the club who attend the Woman's Club Walks have been a joy as we walk and talk each week. The Garden Group's Zoom meetings have been cheerful and upbeat, and the volunteers for our first ever Holiday Greens Pop-Up Event help me feel I have a purpose during these crazy days of social distancing and staying home. Thank you, Ladies, stay well and Happy Holidays.

~ Sandy Hering

Poet: Brydie Walker Bain

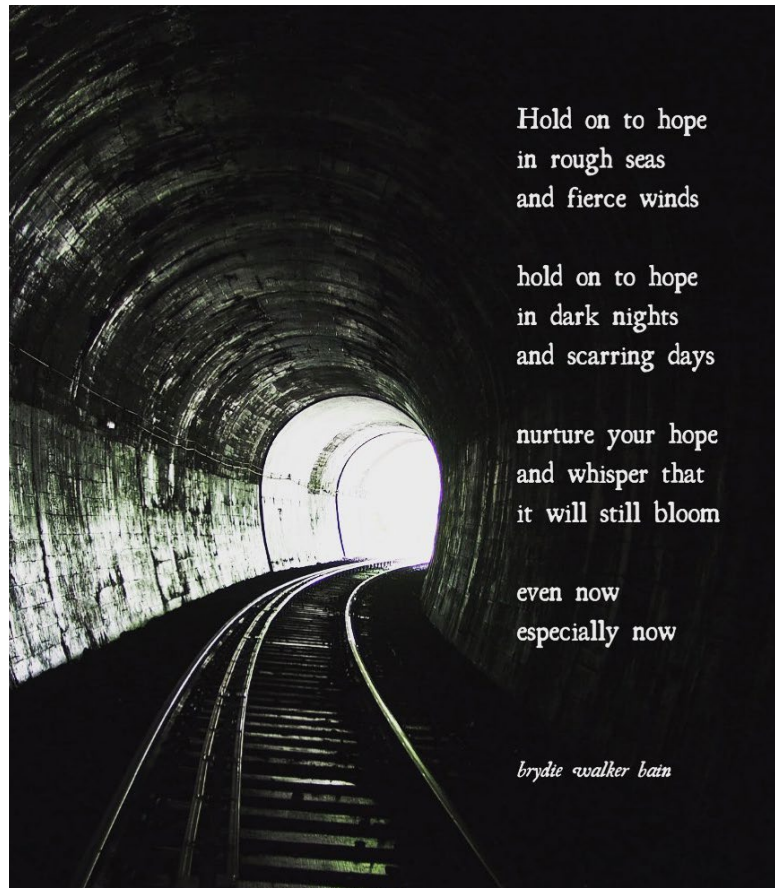
Immediately after my retirement from education for the first time, Jim and I made a five-week trip to New Zealand to visit friends and explore the country. Our friends in Hamilton took us on a day trip to Waitomo where their son and daughter-in-law were our guides for a tour of the Ruakuri Cave. Both Brydie and Corin were expert cave guides for the Legendary Black Water Rafting Company.

Brydie Walker Bain and her family still live off the grid in New Zealand, where she's "a Mum to two full noise boys", plus being an author, poet, playwright, and a newly minted entrepreneur. Corin is a professional photographer whose subjects span a range from nature to weddings.

Periodically, Brydie's poems appear in my Facebook feed, where several of her recent poems spoke to me. When I asked to use some of her poetry for Ladies Choice, she responded generously, "Go for it".

Brydie studied history, theatre, and film at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and pursued graduate studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her plays have enjoyed readings in London, rave reviews and sell out audiences in Auckland, Hamilton, and Waitomo.

~Cindy Turse



[Brydie's FB Page](#) • [Brydie's YouTubeChannel](#) • [Corin's FB page](#) • [Corin's website](#)

Member Request:

Donations of pampas grass needed!

Jen Shepley will be spending time this winter making arrangements for her niece's wedding in 2021!

Jen specifically needs Pampas grass. Beach plumes will not substitute. (She's tried them already!) If you are cutting back your Pampas Grasses, Jen will gladly pick them up or you can drop them off at her office at 55 County Road, Mattapoisett.

Jen Shepley (508) 322-3210



Story walks

Bethany Couto, one of our newest members, and her 16 month-old son read about 100 books a day as part of coping with pandemic restrictions. Leo's an early riser, so her day starts while many of us are still sleeping.

As an MWC volunteer, she's folded and packed notecards for our fundraiser and in her spare time has created a story walk along her driveway. Periodically, she laminates and posts a new book. She purchases two books and removes the spine. If you want to do this along your own drive or sidewalk, she advises purchasing an inexpensive laminator (appr. \$20) and doing your own laminating. If you're interested in the process, contact Bethany by email or phone.



Who's Behind the Mask?

Here are four MWC masked members. *Can you tell who they are?*

The answer to who these Mystery Ladies are is included on last page in this issue.



1



2



3



4

To join in the fun, put on your mask and take a selfie with your phone, (or ask someone else to take one) and send it to mjrottler@comcast.net

Woman's Club Walks



Shaw Farm Trail

On Monday, Nov 2, the MWC Walking Club enjoyed a delightful walk along the Shaw Farm Trail. This trail is reached by first entering the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation off Brandt Island Road in Mattapoissett. It then leads into the woods, crosses the Shaw Farm in a very bucolic setting, and ends at the bike path along the Fairhaven/Mattapoissett town lines. The weather was sunny and crisp and it made for an ideal fall walk. Members pictured in the field are Sandy Hering, Alice Openshaw, Erin Burlinson, Bobbie Ketchel, Marianne Hickey. Not shown, Sue Mitchell. Also, Bobbie and Sandy share a moment of comraderie along the path!

Walks are scheduled on Monday mornings at 9:00 am for an hour or two.

No RSVP is necessary - just watch your emails or the [Mattapoissett Woman's Club Facebook Group](#) for the location of the next walk.



Woman's Club Walks

Washburn Park

The MWC Walking Club "discovered" another great hike at Washburn Park in Marion. Aside from being a recreational facility with playing fields and the site of the annual July 4th Horse Show, this park also has nice walking trails. The trail pictured above winds through a wooded area, past a small pond, and then along a cranberry bog. It was been such a pleasure to find these treasures in our local community. Spending time outdoors with members has also been a great way to keep in touch during this pandemic season.



Pictured from left: Erin Burlinson, Alice Openshaw, Barb VanInwegen, Sue Mitchell, Linda Clifford, Marianne Hickey, Bobbie Ketchel. Not shown Sandy Hering.

Bridge Group



Bridge players Lou Reade, Elaine Grant, Jackie Slade and Pat Goss gathered on Jackie's porch in early November.

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Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

Elaine Grant

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Assistant Treasurer

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Membership, Dues

Lois K. Ennis

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Marianne Hickey

Mary O'Keefe

Recruitment & Retention

Christine Voss

Linda Clifford

Marianne Hickey

Mary O'Keefe

Carole Clifford

Social Activities Chairpersons

Bridge 1

Betty Parker

Bridge 2

Jackie Slade

Knitting

Marie Rottler

Literature Group

Peg Olney

Social Cocktail Group

Cindy Turse

Welcome

New Members

Judy Livolsi

Madeline Reid



MWC is looking to fill these vacancies.

Interested?
Please contact
[Carole Clifford](#)

Join our
FACEBOOK Group
to keep informed of all
MWC news & events!

 **JOIN NOW!**

The Mystery Ladies on page 8 are:

1. Joanela Deery;
2. Marie Rottler;
3. Christine Van de Kerckhof;
4. Dottie Schwarz.