



Newsletter, December 2021

Volume 64, Issue 4

General Meeting Monday, December 6

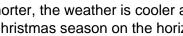
In person

7-9 p.m. **Cedar Park United Church**

204 Lakeview Ave.

Pointe-Claire

Cost \$20.00 See details under **PROGRAM**



PRESIDENT'S LETTER As I write this, it is mid-November - the clocks have gone back one

hour, the days are shorter, the weather is cooler and wetter, and we can clearly see the Christmas season on the horizon. After about 20 months of following COVID-19 rules and regulations – including six months of curfew, the MLUWC - like much of Quebec society – is slowly reawakening. Many of our interest groups that have

been dormant are now meeting in person. We are excited that our Christmas Party December 6th at Cedar Park United Church and our Potluck event in January will be in person for those who feel comfortable being amongst others.

Our Christmas Charity this year is the organization Friends of Mental Health. Knowing that so many West Islanders have encountered mental health issues during the pandemic, we want to support the efforts of this Beaconsfield-based organization that has a remarkable forty-year history in our community.

The Advocacy Committee has been busy organizing collections of winter coats for Resilience, gift cards for CARE Jeunesse and contacting municipalities asking them to light up city hall in orange or to mention the UN Campaign to end Violence against Women on their billboards.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas, my best wishes for a healthy, happy, holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all in February.

Jane Cowell. President









PROGRAM

Monday, December 6, 2021 General Meeting

IN PERSON

There is still time to purchase your ticket for the Holiday Party

(Deadline November 30)

Invitation to our December 6 Christmas General Meeting

As announced at the November meeting, we will be having an in-person Holiday Party on December 6th from 7-9 p.m. at Cedar Park United Church, 204 Lakeview Ave, Pointe-Claire!

This will be an excellent opportunity to get together with your friends in a festive and safe environment.

For this event, we will be seated at tables of 4. Since buffets are still verboten, we will have individual food boxes of sweet and savory finger foods from **Les Biscuits Marookies** for each attendee. Amazing door prizes! **Cost: \$20**.

We want everyone to feel safe, so full COVID-19 regulations will be in effect: Vaccine passports, signing in for contact tracing, masks when not seated, hand sanitation, etc.

Our Christmas Charity

As you are aware, the MLUWC chooses a local charity to support each Christmas. Until last Christmas, the money for these charities was raised by raffling off gift baskets put together by the various interest groups. As many interest groups are still not meeting in person, collecting money from each interest group member would prove difficult.

So, the Executive has decided once again, to call on your generosity and to ask for donations. You can submit donations via PayPal on the MLUWC website, or by sending in a cheque to our P.O. Box number. Please note that like money spent on raffle tickets, charitable receipts

will not be issued for these donations. We will announce the amount raised at our Holiday Party on December 6th.

Concerned by the impact of the pandemic on mental health, the charity we have chosen for this year is **Friends For Mental Health**. For those who were present at the November meeting when Victoria Kucynzski gave a wonderful presentation, you will know about the remarkable work being done in the West Island by this organization based in Beaconsfield.

Friends for Mental Health is a bilingual non-profit organization in the West Island of Montreal. Their mission is to help individuals and families better cope with their loved one's mental illness or mental health disorder. The services that they offer include psycho-educational counseling, training, support groups, art therapy, respite activities, mindfulness, conferences and more. Their goal is to listen, counsel and provide information based on the most current research and best practices, enabling families to better cope with their loved one's mental health issues. The organization prides itself on being able to quickly respond to the ever-changing needs of the community.



Amis de la santé mentale / Friends for mental health – Amis de la santé mentale / Friends for mental health (asmfmh.org)

1. Write a cheque made out to the MLUWC and mail it to our post office box:

P.O. Box 383 Pointe- Claire, QC H9R 4P3

2. Send an Interac Transfer via your Online Banking

For this operation, you will need to set up the MLUWC Treasurer as a payee. The email address to be used is mluwc.treasurer17@gmail.com Please use **MentalHealth** as the password

3. Use our PayPal

link: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=XKPXU7W95PW42
Since we pay a small amount to process PayPal payments, we kindly ask that you only use this method for donations of \$20 or more.



Gift Cards for CARE Jeunesse

Our Advocacy group will once again be collecting Gift cards for young people aging out of foster care. The cards can be from stores such as Dollarama, Walmart, Tim Hortons, Jean Coutu, etc. Last year many of you included handwritten notes with the gift cards, which were very much appreciated. **Some of you may want to write them again this year - even if you do not make a gift card donation.**

New this year: Please include the purchase receipt with your gift cards. That way should the cards not work properly, they can be exchanged at the store where they were purchased.

You can mail in Gift Cards <u>prior to November 30th</u> to the P.O. Box address above. They can also be dropped off at Nancy Acemian's secure mailbox: 37 Cedar Crescent, Beaconsfield. Also, Advocacy will have a table at the Holiday Party where you can hand in gift cards. You can also send us a cheque that should be made payable to MLUWC, and gift cards can be purchased on your behalf. If sending a cheque, please write **GIFT CARDS on the memo line.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Jane Cowell

Please include the sales receipt for the gift card in the envelope.





ADVOCACY

For Resilience we will be **collecting men's and women's clothing**, especially larger sizes, as well as baked goods. This year we will also **collect toiletries in small sizes** for their women's shelter.

There are three **drop off places**: Nancy Acemian and Linda Sestock in Beaconsfield and Mary Vlahos in DDO. Last day to deliver the goods will be **Dec. 7**th.

For the C.A.R.E jeunesse gift cards, we are looking for \$25 cards from stores such as Dollarama, Walmart, McDonald's, Tim Horton's. If you cannot go out to purchase them, you can send the money to Nancy Acemian and we will be happy to do the shopping for you. **Christmas cards with personal messages** would also be very much appreciated. All these items will be distributed to their destinations by mid-December.

Come the New Year, the Committee will undertake new projects and will keep you updated.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous and COVID free New Year.

We welcome new members in our group.

Patricia DuVal & Mary Vlahos



CFUW NEWS

Congratulations to CFUW Past President Doris Mae Olton on being appointed as a member of the Order of Manitoba!

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Every year, from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (World Human Rights Day), Canadians observe the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. It is an opportunity to come together to call out, speak up and renew our commitment to end gender-based violence. MLUWC has asked local municipalities to light up their city halls in recognition.

How can you participate?

- Join the conversation on social media.
- Start a conversation with our social media shareables on your networks and channels
- Use the hashtag #16Days to share the immediate actions you will take to help prevent and address gender-based violence
- Follow and share the 16 Days campaign posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Wear purple on November 25 to raise awareness about gender-based violence, take a photo and share it on social media using the hashtag #16Days.
- Attend a virtual event on November 25 to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Visit the Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre to learn more about genderbased violence and access current statistics, reports, tools and more
- December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
- Attend a virtual vigil on December 6 to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
- Observe a moment of silence at 11:00 am to honour the 14 women who lost their lives at Polytechnique Montréal
- Wear a white ribbon, to honour the victims of the Polytechnique Montréal tragedy, by adding a white ribbon frame to your social media profiles, ordering one online or making one at home

Be an ally!

- Listen: be open to learning from the experiences of others
- Speak out: add your voice to call out violence
- Intervene: find a safe way to help when you see acts of gender-based violence
- Volunteer: give your time to organizations working to end violence

Graduate Women International

from Gail Neff, Past President



One of the many activities of GWI is producing Tool Kits which are free for members to use. They provide facts, statistics, and ideas which help Clubs design projects to further the mission of supporting ongoing education for women and girls. GWI then publishes results of these projects which serves to let others know what is being done, as well as draw attention to internationally observed named days. For example, the 2021 IDOG tool kit was timed to highlight the International Day of the Girl which was October 11.

The report that caught my eye in a GWI Update Newsletter this month, was by TAUW (Turkish Association of University Women). In Turkey, 29% of the population consists of girls, and many of them are forced into marriage and become mothers, some as young as 13. Since they are deprived of their right to education, they start life unequipped and often become victims of violence.

The TAUW Istanbul branch expanded its *Friendship Bridge* project which over the last 10 years has supported more than 1000 successful female university

students and this year provided over 350 scholarships. Also this year, they gave special training to 233 of their university students who, during summer vacation in their hometowns, worked with children between the ages of 10-13. Their aim was to be a role model for adolescent girls and to encourage them to set goals and make plans for higher education. They read books to them and talked about the importance of gender equality, protecting nature and animals, and most importantly having a profession. In the process, they built "bridges of hope" for 959 children in 166 mostly rural villages and

towns!
Read more about
the girls in Turkey
(and other topics)
inside the October
13 *Update*Newsletter by
clicking here:
Update Newsletter



Turkish Students - Update Newsletter - Oct 13

This is the video presented at the last general meeting entitled: Girls not Brides

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSn0cFM1ebU&t=10s

Mariam Ishak: GWI representative

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Fund 2021-2022

The thermometer on the right shows that we have already raised \$6,131 from June 1, 2021, to October 31, 2021.

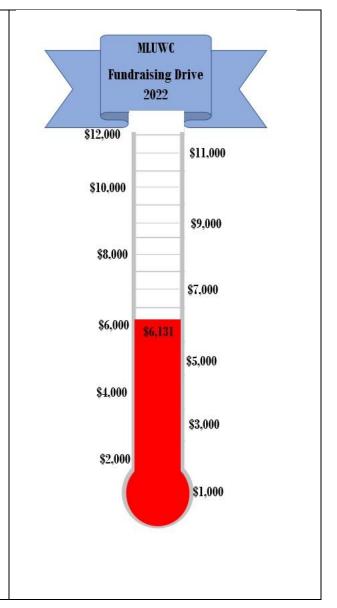
Thank you for approving our request for additional bursaries for female students from the two adult learning centres we support: Centre Jeanne Sauvé and Place Cartier. Women studying at these centres struggle to make ends meet and our two bursaries will provide much needed help to those who decide to continue their education at the CEGEP level.

Thanks also for allowing us to provide an extra bursary of \$1000 to a student at John Abbott College in memory of Diana Nevins. As I mentioned at our general meeting in November, the remaining money we received in her memory will be kept in the Scholarship Fund.

Don't forget to donate to the Scholarship Fund Drive if you haven't already done so.

I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and all the best for 2022!

Gilda Martinello Chair, Scholarship Fund





FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

As there is no major fundraising event this fall, the **Scholarship Fundraising Drive**, which began in **September**, will continue until March 2022.

MLUWC members have been very supportive in the past, donating to the **Scholarship Fund**, often in memory of a loved one, in honour of someone special in their lives or in place of the fundraising event that they would have attended. If we could count on your support once again, it would be most welcome. Our hope is to try and meet this year's Scholarship Fund objective of \$12,000.00.

Credit card donations are accepted online through www.canadahelps.org or with a cheque payable to; MLUWC Scholarship Fund and sent to P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 4P3. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$25 or more.

We wish to remind you that there will be a Spring Fundraiser with the return of the ever-popular **Games Day,** to be held on **Friday, April 22, 2022.** Details will follow closer to the date.

Members of this year's Fundraising Committee are Anne Brohan, Sally Gurekian, Carole Newberry and Mary Vlahos. Should any MLUWC member wish to join our committee, you would be most welcome.

Victoria Pinnell

Fundraising Chair (vpinnell@gmail.com)

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Donation Form								
MLUWC Scholarship Fund								
Charity Registration Number 85457 5289 RR0001								
Personal donation Company donation In Memory/In Honour I enclose my donation of \$	For: In Memory or In Honour Please complete the following: Honouree Name:							
	Notification Information:							
Please make cheque payable to MLUWC Scholarship Fund . Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$25.00 and more.	Name:							
Donor Name:	Address:							
Address:	City/ProvPostal Code							
City/ProvPostal Code	Send to:							
Email:	MLUWC Scholarship Fund							
	P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 4P3							
You can also make secure online donations using your credit card through CanadaHelps.org.								
Visit <u>mluwc.com</u> and click on: Donate to the Scholarship Fund.	Thank you for your support!							

POTLUCK SUPPERS

On Monday Jan 17, 2022, we will be holding our annual Potluck Event Day, which over the years has been a very popular activity for MLUWC members.

By that date we are hoping that the numbers of new cases of Covid -19 will be sufficiently stable so that we can safely offer you some in person pot-luck venues.

So, with this in mind we are asking for Hostesses who would be willing to receive guests in their homes.

We are suggesting the number of people at an event could be around 6-8 with a maximum of 10 for someone with a very spacious home.

(That is the current number allowed by Santé Québec as of 11-11-21)

Everyone attending in-person events will need to have obtained her Covid -19 vaccine passport!

Here are the categories of in-person events we suggest: Brunch, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Cocktail Hour, Dinner or Dinatoire.

For those of you who are not ready to meet in-person, online events for lunch and dinner will be programmed for you.

We would appreciate a reply from Hostesses as soon as possible so that we can send out information to our members about signing up for an event.

Please reply by email to; carolevin2013@gmail.com Tel: 514 697-3380

We hope to see you all soon!

Carole A Newberry Susanne Chaussé



NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT

We welcome new members: Candice Quinn, Maryse Hudson, Patricia Connolly, Phyllis Holtz, Anna Maiolo, Dianea Phillips.

A special evening was held to welcome our new members in style!







We extend our condolences to Sabra Ledent and family on the loss of her son Tristan. There can be no greater sorrow than losing a child.

https://montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/tristan-ledent-1083701215

We were saddened to learn of the death of Eleanor Abbey one of the founding members of our club. We extend our condolences to her family.



Eleanor Abbey (nee Shepherd) | Obituary | Montreal Gazette (remembering.ca)

INTEREST GROUPS

Games Interest Group (New)

A few club members have expressed an interest in forming a Games group that could meet in the afternoon in members' homes. If you are interested in playing Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit, cards, etc. once a month, and are comfortable - from a COVID perspective - socializing with other fully-vaccinated members, please contact Franca Ferrara at your earliest convenience: franca.ferraram@gmail.com

BON APPÉTIT DINING CLUB

Bon Appétit is back!

Our dining club is a dynamic group of members, who enjoy good company, laughter and sharing the gastronomy of restaurants in and around the West Island.

We meet the **fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm for the dinners and 12:00 pm for the luncheons.** Each outing requires two ladies to organize. They will inform the participants of the date, time and location of that month's restaurant and request confirmation of their presence. They will also call and reserve the restaurant, arrange preferred seating, method of payment and review the menu.

Our first "in-person" dinner took place on **Thursday November 25**th **at AYA**, the new Lebanese restaurant in Kirkland. As a nice way to launch the season and for November only, we joined the ladies from the Club's Exploring World Cultures dinner group. Our dates happen to coincide, and we have ladies who participate in both dinner groups. Our thanks to Linda Sestock for organizing this outing.

As a reminder when dining out, all COVID-19 regulations must be respected. Participants must be double vaccinated, confirmed with their vaccine passport upon entry to the restaurant. Masks are to be worn at all times when not seated.

Our next outing will be a luncheon **Thursday January 27**th, **2022.** The restaurant has yet to be decided. I will require two members of the group to plan the gathering. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

New members are most welcome.

Group leader: Victoria Pinnell (vpinnell@gmail.com)

BOOK DISCUSSION I

<u>"The Age of Creativity"</u> by Emily Urquhart is our book choice for December 8th, 1:00 pm on Zoom. Renata will be leading the discussion. This nonfiction book explores the author's relationship with her artist father, Tony Urquhart, and the theme of creativity, especially in later life.

We hope to see you all on Zoom in December . Judy will send you the link.

Marg Nicoll- Griffith and Judy Kelley

BOOK DISCUSSION II

Book Club II will meet on Zoom, December 9 at 1 p.m. Maureen Rowe will review In the <u>"Garden of Beasts"</u>, Eric Larson's exciting story about an American ambassador's family in early 1930s Berlin.

Susan Pick Vadivel

COFFEE TIME

Welcome to **Coffee Time** on Wednesdays at 10:30am via Zoom. No reservations required. This is a group that formed last year when we were in lockdown to keep in touch on a weekly basis. I must admit I didn't expect it to still be going on. So, we decided to make it an official Interest Group for the coming year. A topic of conversation is suggested for each week in the invite sent out on the Monday or Tuesday before. It is a chit chat group where we share laughs and opinions from the comfort of our homes. Hope to see some new faces. All are welcomed!

Nancy Acemian, Coffee Time Coordinator and MC

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION I

Our book club meeting will be held on Tuesday evening December 7 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. We will be discussing the book "<u>Save Me the Plums</u>" by Ruth Reichl. We look forward to full participation of our group to close out 2021.

Linda Ricketts

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES

<u>UPDATE</u>: Beginning January 2022, the EWC Interest Group will meet the <u>3rd</u> <u>Thursday of each month</u> at 7:30pm when using an on-line format.

As restaurant outings evolve, the time will be adjusted as needed.

We will not have a meeting in December; however, we are looking forward to January 20, 2022, 7:30pm when **Jennifer Ferguson** will present on **"Quebec's North Shore"** via **ZOOM**

For February 17, 2022, plans are to meet in a restaurant at 6:30pm unless COVID dictates otherwise.

Sally Gurekian/Linda Sestock

FRENCH CONVERSATION

French Conversation is meeting on Zoom on Friday December 17 at 9:30 am.

Janet Anderson

KNIT & CHAT

Knit & Chat group usually meets around 1:00 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. If someone would like to join the group, they will be considered "spares" & join only if we are a few for that Saturday. With the cold weather fast approaching though we may start meeting at each others home but with a limited number.

Tina Tessari

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Continuing our trip around the world, the Mystery Book Club will be reading "**Behind God's Back**", written by Finnish author Harri Nykänen. Marianna Newkirk will be reviewing the book on Wednesday, December 15 at 1:00. We are still meeting on Zoom.

Gilda Martinello

WEST ISLAND WALKS - MONDAY MORNINGS

Throughout October and November, the walking group has continued to get together rain or shine across the West Island. We have walked through Ste Genevieve Village, Angel Woods, along the Lakeshore between Stewart Hall and Pointe Claire Village, and from the Whiteside Taylor Centre in Baie D'Urfé to Ste Anne de Bellevue, among others. We have also enjoyed wonderful conversation. New members are most welcome. Please send me a note to get added to the list: jjane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca

The walking group plans to walk all winter and will only cancel in the event of extreme cold and/or icy sidewalks.

Jane Cowell

If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow.



On this page, we announce activities that are going on in the community, e.g., breakfasts, concerts, etc. as well as other topics that may be of interest to our members but are not directly associated with our Club, e.g., commissioner of oaths. If you have any items you would like published on this page, please email the information to m (mluwc.newsletter3@qmail.com).



To commemorate Remembrance Day, the MCW welcomed three young women who are members of the Black Watch RHR of Canada to share their experiences as members of the military. Sargeant Sara Postans is currently deployed on Operation Impact in Jordan, training and mentoring female soldiers of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Corporal Florence Regimbald-Roy took part in Operation Laser which provided assistance in long-term care facilities during the first wave of COVID-19. Mira Abedi is a member of the Cadet Corps of the Black Watch.

These three inspiring women provide a glimpse into the life of women in the military. I encourage you to watch the recording of this event and other past events at https://montrealcouncilofwomen.ca/en/events/past-events.html

On December 10th at noon, in commemoration of the Polytechnique Massacre, Montreal Council of Women will welcome Ms. Reem Alsalem to discuss current global challenges to women's rights and the elimination of violence against women. For more information and to register click <u>here</u>.

Heather Hamilton

Petition for Provision of Health Services and Social Services in the English Language

As an English-speaking minority, you are painfully aware of how we are being held in legal limbo and as hostages to numerous government Bills that are eroding our rights (Bill 96, Bill 21, Bill 40, etc.).

There is another critical National Assembly petition (designed by MNA David Birnbaum) for everyone to sign, and that needs to be promoted. Here are the details:

The petition calls on the CAQ government to restore the full role of the Provincial Committee for the **Provision of Health Services and Social Services in the English Language**. The identification and maintenance of those vital services are threatened by recent actions taken and statements made by this government. Access to health and social services in English is a fundamental right that has been respected for over 35 years by successive Quebec Premiers and their governments. Let's ensure that it remains so.

Petition text

WHEREAS access to health and social services is a fundamental right;

WHEREAS this right to such services in English, as identified in access programs reviewed by the Provincial Committee and approved by the minister, is assured by the Act respecting Health and Social Services (the Act) and includes the recognition of bilingual institutions under the Charter of the French Language.

WHEREAS, for the last 35 years, eight Premiers of Quebec have safeguarded this social contract to ensure access to services in English, as well as the Provincial Committee, mandated to monitor and make recommendations for modifications to assure this access.

WHEREAS the government is disbanding this committee, undermining independent community input and oversight — contrary to access assured by section 348 of the Act and section 76 of Bill 10 — without consultation and without consideration of the Provincial Committee's recommendations regarding the access programs submitted to update the 10-year-old pre-Bill 10 programs;

WHEREAS the committee regulation amendments undermine the committee's independence, community connection and credibility – and replace its members by others identified and selected by government bureaucrats, while obstructing community consultation and communication; We, the undersigned, demand that the Government of Quebec re-affirm immediately the mandate, independence, connection to the community, and modalities of the Provincial Committee on the dispensing of health and social services in the English language to secure the right to health and social services in English and thus, respect the social contract

Please consider signing the following petition and forwarding it to any interested friends or colleagues. (before December 6th).

https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-9347/index.html

Maria Peluso, Vice President Government Affairs Montreal Council of Women Virtual Roundtable on Femicide in Québec with Women AWARE + Partner | Table ronde virtuelle sur Femicide au Québec avec Femmes AVERTIES + Partenaires





COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Do you know the role of a Commissioner of Oaths?

It is an individual who is empowered to certify the oath or "solemn affirmation" of a person upon documents such as diplomas, birth certificates and other records.

If you need this service, please contact **Victoria Pinnell** (vpinnell@gmail.com), or **Jennifer Ferguson** (514-697-7663 between 9am and 5pm)



Please go to www.facebook.com/MLUWC

We have over 500 likes and over 600 followers! Remember to like our page and share it with your friends!

Many of our new members mention Facebook when asked how they heard about the MLUWC



We're also on Instagram



AIR CANADA AEROPLAN PROGRAM

Back in 2012 MLUWC got an Aeroplan number that would give the opportunity to our members to donate their Aeroplan points if they so wished. The minimum donation is 1000 points. Until this year we had accumulated 57,846 points.

Please contact either Connie Ellis or Mary Vlahos for more information.

Advertising space available

Please contact: mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com









December

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	Monday Morning Walks Holiday Party Cedar Park Church 7-9pm	7 Evening Book Club1 7:30pm Zoom	8 Coffee Time 10:30 Zoom Book Club 1, 1:00pm Zoom	9 Book Club II 1;00pm ZOOM	10	11
12	13 Monday Morning Walks	14	Coffee time 10:30, Zoom Mystery Book Club 1:00pm Zoom	16	January Newsletter deadline. French Conversation 9:30am Zoom	18
19	20 Monday Morning Walks	21	Coffee time 10:30, Zoom	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27 Monday Morning Walks	28	29	30	31	Happy New Year 2022!

Newsletter Editor: Maria De Wolfe mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com

I take full responsibility for all errors, omissions or spelling mishaps and incorrect punctuation. If you would like me to correct an error in the next newsletter, please email me at:

mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com.

If you would like to contact someone mentioned in the newsletter but you don't have their email address, please send a message to the email above and I will forward it.

Proofreaders: Janet Ankcorn and Jane Edwards (Many thanks)

January Newsletter Deadline: December 17

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

