

LANCASHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

What's It all about?

What every new WI member
wants to know

The WI is non-party-political,
non-sectarian and democratic, following
principles of truth, tolerance, fellowship and
justice.

Objects

The main purposes of the Women's Institute organisation are to enable women who are interested in issues associated with rural life, including arts, crafts and sciences, to improve and develop conditions of rural life, to advance their education in citizenship, in public questions both national and international, in music, drama and other cultural subjects and in all branches of agriculture, handicrafts, home economics, health and social welfare. It seeks to give to women the opportunity of working together through the Women's Institute organisation, and of putting into practice those ideals for which it stands.

Beginnings

It began when Adelaide Hoodless addressed a meeting of women at Stoney Creek in Canada in 1897. It came to Britain on 16th September 1915 with the first WI meeting at Llanfairpwll, Anglesey.

Structure

The WI has a threefold structure - the National Federation (NFWI), 70 County and Island Federations, and individual WIs of which there are about 6800 with over 200,000 members. In our Lancashire Federation (LFWI) there are about 140 WIs. The membership subscription is divided 3 ways - your WI keeps 43.5%, the LFWI receives 21% and 35% goes to the NFWI

Activities

Besides the regular monthly meetings, members may also get together for additional activities such as craft sessions, drama group, choir, book club or walks. They can also get involved in community events and projects. And there's more! The Federation organises a wide range of events. Details are with your secretary every month.

Campaigning

Over the years the WI has campaigned on a wide range of issues that matter to women and their communities, including Equal Pay in 1942, Breast Cancer Screening in 1975, Aids in 1986, Farmgate Milk Prices in 2005 and excessive Food Packaging in 2006. Recent campaigns include Climate Change, Ending Violence against Women, Renewable Energy and Community Hospitals. Campaigns are initiated as a result of resolutions passed at the national AGM.

