

Hellifield Women's Institute (WI)

There is a common belief that the main activities of women involved in the WI are to make jam, bake cakes and sing Jerusalem. It is true that many members do have these skills, but we do much more – cheese and wine evenings; discussions of topical issues; speakers covering a range of subjects; and outings e.g. theatre trips.

The WI is open to women covering a range of backgrounds, ages and interests. The greater the diversity, the more we learn from each other. Why not come along to one of our meetings and find out what it's all about?

Annual membership subscriptions are £43.00. Visitors who come along for a taster or to enjoy the month's speaker/presentation are asked to make a donation.

Look at the year's programme, which is displayed on the village notice board and inside the village hall, to see if there is anything that may interest you, or come along with new ideas that we can perhaps take on board - we want to develop and grow.

Meetings are held every third Thursday, starting at 7.15 pm in Hellifield Institute.

If you would like to find out further information contact the current President, Karen Dunwoodie – Tel: 01729 851070 or e mail: kalydun@btinternet.com.

Historical Information

The Women's Institute (WI) originated in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada in 1897. It was in 1915 when WIs first appeared in Britain with original roots in rural and agricultural communities. The intention was to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the movement has grown to become the largest voluntary women's organisation in the United Kingdom. During the centenary year of 2015 there were 212,000 members in over 6,300 WIs.

Hellifield WI began in 1949 – so recently celebrating our 70th anniversary. Much has changed during that time, but the principles remain of fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice. Members are able to develop new skills, take part in a wide variety of activities and campaign on issues that matter locally. In general Hellifield WI members have fun.