

# The Womens' Institute

*Much more than tea and cake!*

**Whitchurch Hill Womens' Institute** is an active group for ladies in Whitchurch, Whitchurch Hill and our local area. It is a great opportunity for residents of both villages to come together to socialise, learn, and contribute to the community and beyond.

What some readers may not be aware of is why we exist as a group in the first place. Hence this short article - an attempt to provide some of the lesser-known facts about us as integral part of the British way of life.

## History

The very first WI meeting in the UK took place on 16 September 1915 in North Wales. A century later the world may have changed but the WI is a constant presence.

From humble beginnings the organisation boosted food supplies during both World Wars and actively argued for the supply of adequate sanitary housing. Subsequent campaigns have encompassed such critical issues as Equal Pay, Aids Awareness, Cervical Screening, and Plastic Pollution - to name but a few. In fact, the National Federation of Women's Institute (NFWI) has a history of undertaking educational work and campaigning on a diverse range of issues. It was established to ensure that women are able to take an effective part in their community, to learn together, and together to influence local, national and international affairs on matters most important to members.

## Our group

Whitchurch Hill WI reflects all of the above. Whether it is through our programme of educational talks, exploring and then voting on issues to be campaigned for at national level, or serving you that most welcome cup of tea at the village fete - everything we do has a purpose.

One of the key attributes of our group is the support and friendship we offer to each other. Whilst we have social events throughout the year (some were held in Whitchurch during the summer of 2021) we also have time at all our gatherings to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Additionally, this year will see us help decorate the Whitchurch Hill Village to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You may not always see us, but we are always around and about.

**If you would like know more, please contact Frances Strange on 0118 984 2162.**

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