



What happens in the
WI Year at Kinnerley?

Joining Kinnerley WI

Kinnerley WI prides itself on its reputation to offer a friendly welcome to visitors. We appreciate that attending one meeting as a visitor can only provide a small glimpse of a year's programme. These notes have been written to provide some background information to some of the many activities and systems that you will come across during the WI year in Kinnerley. If after your visit tonight you would like to visit us again before making a decision about membership, the National Federation rules allow for 3 visits before a membership fee is due.

At Kinnerley we make no charge for these 3 visits.

Membership

The subscription year runs from January 1st to December 31st and currently costs £29.50

- £12.85 goes to Kinnerley WI funds
- £6.30 goes to Shropshire Federation of WI's
- £10.35 goes to the National Federation of WI's

Your subscription includes 8 issues of WI Life, the national magazine that is delivered to your home address. We pay for the monthly County Newsletter that keeps you in touch with courses, visits and a range of activities.

If you join from October onwards in any financial year you pay the next year's subscription that runs until 31st December of the following year. This means you receive up to 15 months subscription for the price of 12 months.

The Programme

Meetings are held monthly (excluding August) in Kinnerley Parish Hall on the second Thursday. They begin at 7.30pm and end between 9.30pm and 10.00pm.

The June meeting takes the form of an outing combined with a meal. Some of our recent visits have been to Glansevern Gar-

dens, Much Wenlock Pottery and a trip on the Llangollen Canal.

An Annual Meal is held in the latter part of January. The recent venue has been The Sweeney Hall Hotel where a private function room, round tables and easy parking has proved very popular. A car sharing scheme is usually organized so that people don't travel alone, unless they prefer to do so.

The September meeting provides the opportunity for members to showcase their creative and practical talents in the Annual Art, Craft and Produce Show. Schedules are published by March to give plenty of notice of individual classes.

A Quiz is held on the last Friday of March in Kinnerley Parish Hall. It is our major fund raising event that supports general running expenses and most importantly our ability to pay the fees of good quality speakers.

Invitations are sent to teams of 4 from local organizations and to other WI's in the area. It is always well supported with 25 - 30 teams entering. It is a good social evening that aims to put the 'fun' into fund raising.

One off visitors to WI meetings are asked to pay £1 as a small contribution to the running costs of the meeting.

Additional activities

There are often opportunities for additional activities or trips to be arranged. In recent years we have enjoyed evening rambles with a pub snack afterwards, a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a visit to the WI residential college, Denman, in Oxfordshire.

Monthly Competitions

These are printed on your programme and generally fit in, with the theme of the guest speaker.

Places are awarded for the first, second and third best entries

The guest speaker is invited to judge.

Points are awarded and the scores totalled at the end of the year with a small prize presented in January to the member with the highest number of points.

The points are awarded on the following basis:

- One point for every entry
- Two points for third place
- Three points for second place
- Four points for first place

Sales Table

These are held each month and currently manned by Sheila Bruce. Members are encouraged to bring items priced ready for sale. A 10% commission for any items sold is donated to WI funds. Demand determines the nature of goods offered for sale. Home made cakes, preserves, garden produce and hand made cards currently make up the items on sale but there is no reason why other ideas should not be introduced.

We also need people ready to buy!

Members Communication System (MCS)

This is the National Database of the WI. It contains the names and addresses of all members and is used to distribute the National magazine 'WI Life' directly to members at their home address. At Kinnerley a member of the committee acts as the Membership Secretary and part of their role is to keep members details up to date and ensure that WI life reaches members efficiently and effectively. To access the database requires a confidential and personal code that is authorised by County Office. Pauline Brown (01691 682035) is our current Membership Secretary and she will have chatted to you this evening.

Exhibiting at County Shows

County Office organizes competitions at a number of Agricultural Shows across the county each year. Kinnerley usually enters The West Midland Show (held in June) and Oswestry Show

(held on the first Saturday in August) under the coordination of one of our members. Kathryn Mottram is the current co-ordinator. We have achieved regular prize placements at both shows and look to continue the tradition.

You do not have to excel at crafts and cookery to take part. It is just as important to have ideas flowing on the interpretation of the themes at the all important planning stages. Informal meetings are held at appropriate times throughout the year and are announced at meetings.

When I join how can I get involved in my WI?

Kinnerley is your WI. Any WI is only as good as the contribution and involvement of its members collectively. Whatever your talents there are always contributions that can be made. You do not have to be on the committee but we always encourage new members to accept nomination for the committee each October/ November; four of the current committee have been members for less than 5 years.

Other opportunities to be involved include:

- Making visitors and new members welcome;
- Be willing to act as a reserve on rotas
- Be a Tea Hostess
- Getting involved in our County Show entries
- Entering our own annual Art, Craft and Produce Show in September
- Giving a vote of thanks;
- Being prepared to do the raffle
- Being willing to help on the Sales table;
- Being happy to help out generally in laying out the hall and packing away after each meeting.
- Being a delegate at Annual Council
- Attending County events

The Group

To encourage local WI's to meet with each other and share ideas and activities Shropshire places WI's into Groups.

Our group is called Ruyton XI Towns and includes Baschurch, Bomere Heath, Fitz and Yeaton, Kinnerley, Knockin, Nesscliffe, Ruyton XI Towns, Shrawardine and Montford and Weston Lullingfields.

Some groups appoint a convener who leads the group. Others choose to nominate a WI to act as the convener for one year on a rotation basis. Kinnerley was the convener in 2008 and Knockin has just taken over from Baschurch

In January /February the Presidents and Secretaries of each of the WI's meet to review the previous year's programme and to plan the next.

The two main events are a group meeting, hosted by the convening WI, and held on the last Monday in September. The larger attendance enables a more expensive speaker to be invited and also provides a good opportunity to meet socially with a wider group of WI members. Light refreshments are usually served and the current cost is £4.

A Carol Service is held on the first Sunday in December where each WI is invited to read one of the lessons.

A Group outing is sometimes arranged in June. In 2008 a trip to Oswaldtwistle Mill was very successful with a full coach and a waiting list in operation.

Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes (SFWI)

The Shropshire Federation is run by its Executive Committee. They are selected annually by Shropshire members. The County Office is on Claremont Bank in Shrewsbury

Annual Council Meeting

This is the annual meeting of the Shropshire County Federation that is held in April each year. The business part of the meeting is covered in the morning with a high profile guest speaker for the afternoon. Last year, Nick Owen from BBC Midlands Today was the guest speaker and this year Debra Griffiths

from the TV programme 'Coal House' is the guest speaker.

The meeting is held at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

Each WI sends one delegate and one visitor and we encourage a rotation of attendance so that as many members as possible get an opportunity to attend.

Claremont Club

This is a lottery to raise funds for County Office with monthly prizes of £100, £30, 2x £10 and £5

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI)

The National Federation has its HQ in London. The representatives are ordinary WI members elected bi-annually to lead and coordinate national events and initiatives.

The National AGM

The Annual General Meeting of NFWI is held in June each year. It is held alternately at the Royal Albert Hall in London and in one of the major cities.

National Resolutions

Each year one or two resolutions are selected to be discussed and voted upon at the AGM. Those carried forward form the campaigning platform for the forthcoming year. With 205,000 informed and active members, the WI is widely recognised as a powerful force for positive change. The resolution selection process is fundamental to the continued campaigning success of the WI. Every individual member and WI is able to propose resolutions. There are usually five or six resolutions selected from all of those submitted; they are published in WI Life and each member has the opportunity to vote individually for the resolution of their choice. Completed voting forms are handed to the Secretary at the January meeting and sent to County Office for collation.

Shropshire Delegates to the AGM

The County sends 33 delegates and puts on a coach that travels down to London the day before and returns after the meeting. They pay for the coach and hotel accommodation but not for any meals.

If a delegate travels by car or train to the AGM she is allowed to claim the cheap rate train fare from her nearest station. The travel costs are met by NFWI through 'Pooling of Fares'. This is a category that appears on the Treasurer's Financial Statement sheet each year.

There is one delegate to represent 4 WI's in Shropshire. Kinnerley is teamed with Ruyton XI Towns, Baschurch and Knockin. It was our turn to represent the link groups in 2009 when the meeting was in London.

The delegate's expenses are shared by these 4 WI's; at present each WI's share is £30. The delegates receive a cheque for £30 for out of pocket expenses from the County Federation; this is a contribution towards the delegate's expenses to and from the bus pick up and her meals.

The delegate votes on behalf of each of the 4 WI's and is invited to give a verbal or written report to the 3 neighbouring WI's as well as her own.

Gill Poole was Kinnerley's representative in 2009.

We hope this booklet has helped you to make a decision to join Kinnerley WI and we look forward to presenting you with a New Members Welcome Pack. Please do not hesitate to ask someone if you are unclear about anything.

Janet Boulton
President