

## National Federation of Women's Institutes

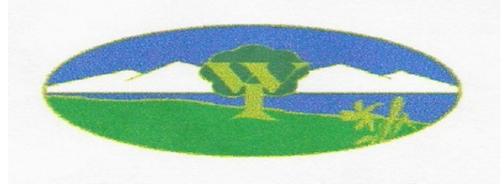
- Holds an AGM attended by delegates from every local group in the country. Resolutions, previously discussed at Institute level, are voted on and these are the issues which the organisation will endeavour to promote in the coming year.
- Is the 'Public Voice' of the organisation ~ attracts press coverage, makes representations to Government and other relevant bodies on issues of concern to members. With almost a quarter of a million members our ability to influence both public and official opinion is quite considerable.
- Annually issues membership cards and a book of coupons for savings on everything from sugar to a stairlift ~ you might need the latter if you over indulge in the former!
- Produces a very attractive range of diaries, address books, notelets, etc, etc. which are available for sale at group meetings and shows. Calendars and Diaries may also be ordered through your Treasurer.
- Runs Denman College, a national resource for courses as varied as China Restoration, Painting and Landscape Appreciation. All courses are residential, bursaries are available to help with the cost and your Secretary has a copy of the super brochure.
- Publishes an informative magazine, 'WI Life' which is sent directly to your home each month.

## JERUSALEM

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the Countenance Divine  
Shine forth upon those clouded hills  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark satanic mills.

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! oh clouds unfold;  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake



## Rusland & District WI Founded 4<sup>th</sup> July 1944

*Coming along to a meeting with lots of women you don't know, joining an association with all kinds of history and traditions of which you are completely unaware, can seem very intimidating ~ but you've done the hard part, you're here!*  
We are non-political, non-sectarian and non-denominational but definitely *live 'n kicking*.....  
Welcome to the fun and friendship we know you'll find in our group.

We hope this leaflet will provide an introduction to the WI generally and to this Institute in particular, which new members will find useful.

### Do's & Don'ts .....

- Do**• remember that everyone was new once upon a time and felt just the same.
- Do**• relax and enjoy our time together.
- Do**• speak up ~ we value your opinion.
- Do**• remember it's now your W.I. and we need your input and ideas to flourish.
- Do**• learn the words to 'Jerusalem' it's much easier than miming it for the next 20 years!
- Don't**• be shy.
- Don't**• hesitate to ask if there is anything you need explaining.
- Don't**• criticise the committee ~ they're all volunteers and remember it could be your turn next year!
- Don't**• forget constructive criticism is a great way to improve things for everyone and is very welcome.

### The Organisational Structure of the WI



## Rusland & District Women's Institute

- We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm alternating our meetings between Rusland Reading Room and Satterthwaite Parish Room. The meeting usually commences with the business ~ minutes, announcements, decisions ~ then we are able to enjoy the evenings speaker, judge the competitions (please enter or we can't do this) have a welcome cup of tea and bite to eat before disappearing into the sunset (or rain !)
- Each year a programme is produced ~ this is your bible! It lists not only the speaker for the evening but the location, the competition subject, the names of the hostesses, the details for the current Committee, whether it is an 'open' meeting, a 'group' meeting, 'annual' meeting or 'members night'. Confused yet?
- There are monthly competitions, one for 'Flower of the Month' - something from the garden, and another linked with the subject for the evening, following a talk about Everest Base Camp the competition may be for the best photograph of a mountain, so please bring along any photograph which you think may be appropriate ~ maybe nobody else has a photograph of a Toblerone ~ you could win a few points and points mean prizes.....
- Supper hostesses are drawn on a rota from all Members. They provide 'finger food' such as cake or scones, tea, coffee, milk, sugar, tea towels and washing up liquid.  
Tip: extra pairs of hands are always welcome at washing up time and it's a good way to learn where everything is kept in the kitchen, so it will be easy to be 'the hostess with the mostess' when it's your turn.  
If you're due to do your duty but are unable to attend (and it happens to us all) please find a substitute.
- An 'open' meeting means that **everyone** is welcome (chaps too!) if they are interested in hearing the speaker. There is no charge.
- If you wish to bring a guest to a regular meeting, £3 is payable to the Treasurer on the night. Your membership ensures a welcome at meetings of other Institutes too, they may make a small charge.
- Our 'annual' meeting in November is the time for the old (not literally) committee to be thanked and the new committee to be elected.
- Members Night gives us a chance to discuss and vote on resolutions which are to be put forward at the National AGM later in the year. We often have 'home grown' entertainment on that evening too.
- Occasionally we have a Sales Table, you are invited to bring along anything you wish to sell ~ jams, handicrafts, excess produce and the like are preferred to children or rusty cars! The proceeds help to fund the running of our Institute.

- If you are unable to attend a meeting it is usual that you let another member know so that your apologies for absence may be recorded in the minutes and we can talk about you safe in the knowledge that you won't come through the door!
- The WI has links with the Associated Country Women of the World and at our Spring meetings each year we collect 'Pennies For Friendship'. The money raised helps women all around the world to create a better life for themselves and their families.
- Subscriptions are due at the January meeting as the treasurer usually goes to the Bahamas in February.....
- **Annual events include:**

A Carol Evening in Satterthwaite Church, a really lovely event held in aid of our chosen local charity ~ if you can sing (even faintly) you'll be most welcome in the choir and if you can't, what about giving a reading, arranging the flowers or serving refreshments?

A Summer Social ~ an evening of fun & food for all the members and their 'significant others'.

We also enter shows and floral exhibitions, arrange trips to places of interest, visits to the theatre, have lunches and afternoon teas, host hands-on craft and cooking days and generally have a giggle.

- The names and contact details for all the current Committee Members can be found in your annual programme ~ but you'll probably need a new address book for the numbers of all your new friends from the WI.....

## Welcome!

### Furness Area WI's

- Our local group consists of WI's from Bouth, Spark Bridge & Lowick, Egton-Cum-Newland, Hawkshead and, of course, us.
- An annual group meeting is hosted by each Institute in the group in turn. The evening starts with a speaker, continues with a 'special' supper and concludes with an 'entertainment' and maybe a sketch, reading or music ~ given by the hosts (your talent needed here).  
The local hostesses organise the content and serving of the supper but every member brings a dish, don't panic you will only be asked to contribute something simple ~ unless you are named Delia. There's a small charge for tickets to the event from which the cost of ingredients is reimbursed to members, any profit goes to County funds.
- There are various quizzes and reading aloud competitions, hotly contested on a regular basis.