All things SWI

Good things are made to last. SWI – Scottish Women's Institute – was formed 109 years ago. It was set up for women to come together and have fun, friendship and education. Still a motto for today.

Although things have changed greatly over the years, no more demos on how to pluck, singe and truss a chicken, the essence is still the same. Likeminded people, gathering together to share skills, debates, competitions and make friends locally and further afield.

Local branches meet monthly over the winter for travel talks, information on local charities, demonstrations of new and old crafts, cookery demonstrations with tasting sessions, talks from firms, sports achievers and social clubs. Always a highlight is a visit from another WI branch with a programme of quizzes, stories, craft work and often songs and recipes. During the summer, we visit businesses, gardens, go for walks and meals together.

In our federation, we have three yearly shows; bulbs, handicrafts and baking. This leads to fierce competition, especially for the community entry – branches enter on a given theme, most recently Easter. It is great to get together and see other members' work. They also hold classes on various crafts.

At Scottish Women's Institute level, they hold many competitions members can enter, rural Olympics, spoken word competitions, written word, baking and handicrafts. There are also golf, bowling and curling events. There is a biannual gathering with talks, demos, crafts and visits. A four-day residential summer school is greatly enjoyed with a variety of classes. A sense of achievement at learning a new skill and meeting other members from different regions.

No matter what your interests are, there is something for everyone, so please feel free to come along and join the fun. A warm welcome awaits you.