Honor Oak Women's Institute

Hi I'm Grainne the president of the Honor Oak Women's Institute; the kind people at SE Magazine have given us a wonderful opportunity to let you know a little about us and what we are all about.

Let me first quote an extract from Val Hennessy's review of Jane Robinson's "A force To Be Reckoned With""Let us now praise a famous feisty bunch of wonderful women!" Which of course we at the Honor oak branch of the Women's Institute indeed are. Gone is the image of the "twinset and pearls" "frumpy matrons congregating in village halls"; instead are a group of lively fun intelligent women of all ages and backgrounds sharing a common interest; wanting to have fun and to learn.

We feel privileged to follow in the footsteps of members who have gone before. Did you know that the WI was extremely important in both the World Wars? In WWI, when German submarines blocked imports into Britain there was a real risk of malnutrition and every ounce of food that could be grown had to be grown; they ploughed the land, bottled and canned fruit, knitted, taught First Aid and literally fed the country.

We at the Honor Oak WI are mere spring chickens in comparison to other WI's having only been established since November of last year; but in that time we have, amongst other things, quilted, felted, stained glass, learned the joys of composting, discovered our "colours", wine tasted as well as fund raising at local events.

We meet on the first Monday of every month from 7.30 at the Community Cafe, Stanstead lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, SE23 1DD. Entrance to the cafe is on Northwood Road. Come along and see what are about, the next meeting is Monday 5th December and all are welcome.

As Tony Blair found to his detriment after being heckled by the WI AGM in 2000 "you mess with them at your peril".

Summary

For more information on the Honor Oak WI email honoroakwi@gmail.com or for general information see www.thewi.org.uk

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