 

**Women’s Institute**

The W.I. have been meeting in the hall since Feb 1931, In March 1931 it was agreed that the WI have the use of the hall, kettles & piano (for one tune only) at the exclusive charge of 5/- for three hours. *I wonder if they were ever tempted to play an extra tune on the piano!*

In Jan 1949 this was increased to 6/- for the night. In Oct 1956 the Rochester W.I. requested a fire for the winter months this was agreed but to increase the hire charge by 1/- a night. In 1964 the hire charge increased to 10/- per night & by 1973 the cost was £10 annually.

In 1934 the W.I. offered embroidery classes hiring the hall at a hire charge of 2/6- for each class.

Oct 5th 1942 – It was agreed to let the W.I. working party have use of the reading room & free fire on Wed afternoons. In 1941 it was agreed not to make a charge for the use of the hall for jam making – W.Is played an important role in the war years, one example was having volunteers picking hedgerow fruits & W.Is producing jam for the country, there were food shortages & rationing right up to 1954.

In Dec 1977 the W.I offered a clock to the Village Hall which was much appreciated, a letter was then received from the W.I in Mar 1978 stating that a plaque would be put up beside the clock after alterations to the hall had been completed, this can still be seen on the wall near the hatch.

From the surrounding photos you can see the W.I. have enjoyed some special birthday parties. It’s a great place to learn new skills while having a laugh & a chat as well as having a nice cuppa and cake. New members are always welcome at their meetings on the first Thursday of every month.