

#### GRINDLEFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Grindleford W.I. has, for several years, hosted a "Link Evening" for the members of the Derbyshire based Derbyshire Group of W.Is.

Each year we choose a different country, and the cuisine, entertainment, and decor for the evening reflects that country.

This year, it being our centenary year, the country chosen was of course Canada, since Stoney Creek in Ontario saw the birth of the W.I. in 1897.

We made contact with the Ontario Federation of Women's Institutes, with the Stoney Creek W.I. and with the curator of the Erland Lee museum, housed in the home in Stoney Creek where the W.I. constitution was written.

Their contributions added colour to what proved to be a delightful evening. The hall was decorated with Canadian flags, pennants and pictures, and at each table setting was a small pile of "goodies" sent by the museum. The colourful menu cards on each table were in the shape of Indian wigwams and showed the delights of a Canadian meal to come. After the lighting of a candle to celebrate our "birthday", members of the Grindleford Institute told our guests a little of the start of our organisation. Our President read the Grace which was the one used throughout Ontario at their centenary celebrations and we raised our glasses to toast "W.I. members the world over" - all six million of them!

The meal of Quebec Pea Soup, Chicken with "Ma's Scalloped Potatoes" and finishing with Canadian Blueberry Dessert was served by Indian Squaws - a reminder of our nick-name of "Wild Indians"!

And so on to the entertainment. Four W.I. members gave a most competent demonstration of line dancing - I'm sure as popular in Canada as it is here - and this was followed by a sing-along of Canadian songs, finishing with hearty renderings of "This Land is Your Land" and the Centennial Song - courtesy of Stoney Creek W.I.

Our thanks to everyone, particularly our Canadian friends who helped to make our evening such a success.

Grindleford Women's Institute  
c/o Kay Beeston, Secretary  
Grindleford, Derbyshire, England  
(Sent: Update of their "Link Evening")