



What is a TIG and how do we set one up?

OUR MISSION

Proudly building on our suffragist foundations, Townswomen's Guild's mission is to continue empowering all women to make their own lives, and those of others, better.

What is TG?

Townswomen's Guilds (TG) is a women's organisation which was born from the Suffragists who

fought legally and peacefully for women's rights and equality.

TG was set up when all women gained the right to vote in 1929, to educate women in how to use their vote wisely, be good citizens and fight to have the same opportunities as men.

TG continues to have a voice on all matters that affect women's lives and is for women* of all ages, all races, all religions, or none. We are still a campaigning organisation.

TG members have, until recently met in person, in Guilds. 'Guild' means an association for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal. Our common goal is

to make women's lives better, whoever and wherever they are.

Guilds are separately constituted organisations which act under the umbrella of TG, they charge their own subscriptions and pay an element of this to TG nationally

TIGs are Townswomen's internet groups who provide the same support, encouragement and social opportunity to women as traditional TG's do, but on-line and without the worry of finding meeting places or handling money. We believe that being a member will provide a sense of achievement, increased self-confidence, and happiness and if you have a CV, it will not look bad on that either!

Make a TIG your TG

Groups are run by members, for members. There are no hard and fast rules for running your Group, as long as you stick to the basic principles of TG (read on). You can plan your meetings to suit yourselves and we provide a challenge to get you started.

You can name your TIG whatever you like as long as TIG is incorporated in the title. Have a look at the TIG information on our website.

TIG members are associate members of TG who pay an annual subscription, to our Headquarters after their second visit to a TIG meeting. This gives you full access to the TG website, a copy of our regular magazine and the opportunity to take part in national events and interest groups. You can join online through our shop. The annual subscription is currently £17 for a full year but reduces as the year progresses. Sara is happy to help you join us and she will offer your TIG individual support. (sara@the-tg.com)

When you have settled in as a TIG and joined TG you can:

- Set up a TIG Facebook page and twitter account to let people know who your Group is and what you plan to do
- Recruit distant friends to join you
- Get to know your TG Trustee (Beryl Hales beryl.tg@outlook.com)
- Keep in touch and join in with what's happening with TG

It's OK if some people come to two meetings before becoming a member.

It's OK for more people to join after you have started.

TIG Basic Principles

- TIG is open to all women over the age of 16 regardless of their background or beliefs, the one thing TIG members must have in common is access to an internet enabled device.
- We are not Party Political or affiliated to a particular religion or denomination. However, the meaning of small "p" political is to seek to influence for change and we can do that.
- The objects of TG as a movement include supporting women through: advancing education, development of individual capabilities, competences and skills; educating in citizenship and the promotion of civic responsibilities and volunteering; and providing facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, including creative and performance arts and crafts. We sum this up as making women's lives better.
- We may also fundraise for charitable causes that make women's lives better but that is our choice.
- We respect one another, and enjoy our differences and our similarities. We maintain confidences and support and encourage each other in good times and not so good times.
- **ABOVE ALL WE HAVE FUN DOING ALL THE ABOVE**

*For our purposes, a woman is defined as someone who lives as a woman, is accepted in the community as a woman and defines themselves as a woman. Our definition is not defined by a person's biology at birth.

Townswomen's Guilds

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