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BOWLS CLUB NEEDS NEW LADY MEMBERS

By Tom Sloan

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TWO village clubs have experienced differing fortunes in their battles to stay alive.

Tutbury Women's Institute (WI), was nearly finished by slumping membership until a group of enthusiastic young women stepped in to



safeguard the future.

However, the ladies' section of Tutbury Bowls Club will soon fold unless volunteers come forward and offer their services.

Barry Compson, chairman of the bowls club, which celebrates its centenary this year, said: "We are desperate for new members. We've never had a lot of lady members but need three or four more. They play on a Tuesday between Easter and September."

Jackie West, new president of the WI, said: "I care about the village and its future — Tutbury has already lost so many local businesses.

"So the thought that after 76 years the WI could also disappear made myself and a small group of friends take action."

The WI has planned a programme of events to garner interest in its activities, starting with a cheese and wine evening at Tutbury Village Hall, in Monk Street, on Thursday, March 9, to celebrate the 76th birthday.

Mrs West said: "It's a bit daunting but the WI is not all jam and Jerusalem, it stands for a lot of things I feel are important — home, family and friendship.

"The WI aims not only to enlighten and inspire but most of all to meet, share, learn and laugh. At Tutbury WI we promise all of that and a very warm welcome."

The WI, which currently has around 30 members, meets each month for a wide range of activities .

Other forthcoming events include a night entitled "An Arabian Experience" in June, but the WI is also going to stay close to its roots of jam and cake making and arts and crafts.

Mrs West said: "Traditions will still be there. We don't want to change everything but we do want to take it into the 21st century for the village."

Anyone interested in joining Tutbury WI should telephone Mrs West on

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01283 814446 while any bowlers who could save the ladies' club should attend an AGM at Tutbury Institute on Wednesday at 7.30pm or telephone 01283 813028.



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