

1929. A preliminary meeting was held on Oct. 15 to discuss the formation of a W.I. in Inkpen. It was decided to hold a Jumble Sale to raise working funds; this took place later in the month. The first real W.I. Meeting was held on November 19. Committee meetings were held at 11 a.m. Membership was permitted to girls of 15 and over. Children in arms were admitted to monthly meetings, free. From 2 to 5, each child paid a visitor's fee of one penny per meeting, and tea was charged extra. Milk was available at 1d. a cup. Chauffeurs were given a free tea!! Monthly profit on teas averaged 4/-.
- Ham and West Woodhay women were admitted to membership. Programmes at first were for six months only. 75 were printed - cost not to exceed 10/-.
- Average attendance was 42 -45. The Hall was paid 4/- for each meeting.
1930. In April, as the meeting fell in Holy Week, the Ankle Show and Games were cancelled. It was decided to ask Mr. Lawrence for permission to use a nearby field later in the Summer, for a short programme of sports. Some form of work for the village was discussed, such as the formation of an Anti - Litter League. A communal quilt was begun - 24 linen squares embroidered in blue, to be joined later. Lady Murray presented the W.I. with a Tea Trolley.
1931. In January the President said "We really must put our backs into the Community Singing, as this is to be judged in May". The finished quilt was raffled, and won by Miss Alice Lawrence. Attendance was now over 50. There were four entries for a Banner design. Stage curtains were discussed. It was decided to give a wedding present of a seagrass stool, cost not to exceed 5/-, as a wedding present to any member; and should a member die, flowers at the same price were to be sent from the Institute. The grass proved to be much too wet for the outdoor games planned, and members played Musical Chairs indoors instead. Yes, and we won a Certificate for that Community Singing.
1932. Formation of a Choir was discussed, with Mr. A. Edwards as a possible conductor. By this time, Kintbury had a W.I. (1930) and so had Hungerford (1931); A Hungerford Group was formed, and the first meeting was held in October, at Kintbury. The Stage Curtains were finished. They could be used by other organisations at 2/- a time. The W.I. now decided to present the Village with a "respectable curtain rod". Our entries in a Cheese competition were "severely criticised by Miss Matthews".



- 1932 (con.) Breadboards, suitably inscribed, were given as wedding presents to Mrs. P. Carter and Mrs. L. Druce.
1933. The Berkshire Carpet Stitch was demonstrated.  
The curtain rod was going to cost five guineas instead of £3. 17s.  
Our pooling of fares quota was 15/6!  
We won a Drama Certificate.  
At the Produce Exhibition at Reading, our entry (a co-operative one arranged by Mrs. Goodhart) was placed Top of the County.
1934. There was a talk on Practical Goat-keeping.  
It was decided to send a bunch of Rosemary, tied with the W.I. colours, instead of flowers when a member died.  
In preparation for a Borwick's Cookery Competition, 77 cookery books were supplied.  
Over 20 members took part in a Potato competition; each was given 6 potatoes to grow, and in the Autumn Newbury and Savernake Hospitals each received  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. as a result.  
Mr. Waite was given 2/6 for bringing water to the Hall for part of the year.  
On giving up her Presidency, Mrs. Marriott gave <sup>each</sup> member an acorn glass and acorn.
1935. An excellent Social was held, which made a profit of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Mrs. Marriott gave the W.I. a blackboard.  
In June those outdoor sports materialised; races were run in Mr. Lawrence's meadow, Mrs. Goodhart giving the prizes.  
In September, Mrs. Edwards, Miss A. Lawrence and Miss Buckridge received Certificates for their produce which had been selected for inclusion in the Co-operative County Exhibit at the Royal Show at Newcastle - when Berkshire came second in all England. Mrs. Edwards's damsons and Miss Lawrence's cherry jam were afterwards bought by H.R.H. the Duke of Kent.  
Lady Clarke Jervoise appealed for help with the Personal Service League, which endeavoured to assist unemployed and hard-hit cases. Knitted squares (9") were mentioned for the first time.  
The Village was badly-off too, and asked the W.I. to pay a flat rate of 6/- monthly, instead of the previous 4/6 and 1/-.
1936. The January meeting was cancelled because of the death of King George V.
1937. In March, the best-ever Competitions were staged - two in one month. 21 hyacinths, grown from bulbs supplied, were shown. And 38 Cherry cakes, made from Homepride Flour.  
There was a picnic meeting on Combe Hill in the summer.
1938. In May, Mrs. Goodhart offered to make a sketch for a Banner, as one would be needed for the County Rally in July.  
The Koala Bear arrived from our Link Institute, Hopton.



1938. Members continued to do well in County events. Miss Buckeridge was 2nd., out of 261 entries, in the Madeira Cake class; and Miss K. Lovelock was "commended", out of 292 Fruit Cakes.
1939. Outbreak of War. Working Parties were formed for the Red Cross, and help given to various war efforts. In October, the Institute knitted squares again. (6")
1940. Soft slippers were made for the Red Cross. The community quilt, patchwork, was finished and raffled; it was won by Miss M. Lawrence. The April meeting ended with "Madrigal Singing and Games". Institutes were asked to give 2/- each towards a W.I. Ambulance. A Canning machine was hired; the Home Front became important. Savings Stamps were given as Competition Prizes. This year there were two small Birthday Cakes, made by Miss Edwards; one had eleven candles, and the other bore the words and music of "There'll always be an England".
1941. Inkpen wanted a Group Meeting again, and offered to do a Scene from "Romeo and Juliet" as their share in the programme. There was an appeal for members to grow at least 2 cwt. of onions, in addition to those needed for their own use. (Seed, 9d. a packet, from the County Office.) A Fruit Preservation Scheme was organised, with Mrs. Bradshaw as Supervisor and Mrs. Druce as "Chief Helper", and the W.I. Officials also in charge. Some small war-time tragedies - 2 cups were broken at that Group meeting, and a further one at the War Weapons Week Dance. Also, the Store Room at the Hall was broken into and 10 lbs. of jam stolen. (The Police were notified.) Herb collections were made - dried nettle leaves and dandelions. Hussifs were made and sent to each Inkpen man in the Services. A Communal Screen, decorated with Christmas cards, etc., was won by Miss Lawrence!
1942. War work continued. A Knitting Party was formed for the Merchant Navy; one "standard sack" of wool was ordered (oiled), to make 30 articles. We already had 4 lbs. to knit for the Red Cross.
1943. "Occupational" parcels were assembled for Prisoners of War; materials for book binding and soft slippers were asked for. At the July meeting, only 12 members were present; but the secretary reported, "Undaunted though the numbers were small, they sang Jerusalem with gusto before the minutes were read and signed".
1944. In October, owing to bad weather, only 6 members were present.
1945. Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Bennett returned to London, after working hard for village causes during their evacuation.
1946. It was agreed that in future a report of the monthly meeting should be sent to the N.W.N.



- 1946 (con.) Owing to the difficult food situation, only cups of tea would be provided at monthly meetings. The Village Hall was again broken into, and a bottle of Lemon Squash stolen from the W.I. cupboard. A Communal Quilt was lent to the Embroiderers' Guild Exhibition, but is still up for sale (possibly by auction). The Parish Council asked for a member to stand for election to fill a vacancy, but Mrs. Druce lost by one vote. An appeal was made for funds for the projected W.I. College.
1947. The heating of the Hall was damaged by frost, and meetings were held in members' homes. Group Meetings really re-commenced; "each Institute to contribute 12 B.U.s for refreshments". Mrs. Goodhart was elected to serve on the County Executive Committee. Mrs. Cruse was chosen to represent Berkshire at the A.C.W.W. Conference in Holland. There was a W.I. Week held in Reading. Our Patchwork Quilt was sold at a stall there, and made 12 guineas, less commission. Mrs. Cruse became our Press Correspondent.
1948. We received the first letter from our New Zealand Link, Kaitaia. For the Group Meeting in March, each Inkpen member was asked to bring at least one teaspoonful of TEA. The W.I. Sub. went up to 3/6.
1949. West Woodhay became a separate W.I. Entries were asked for, for the Inkpen article in the new Berkshire Book. They were slow to arrive.
1952. It was still necessary to go to the Food Office for permits for margarine and sugar, for party provisions.
1953. The great jam-jar collection - over 1000.
- 1955,6,7. Petrol shortage made booking of speakers very difficult. Quotation for printing 40 programmes in 1957 was £1.19s. We decided to type our own; and this we still do. Mrs. Cruse's resolution on Pure Food was sent to the National Federation.
1960. World Refugee Year - we raised over £100.
1961. Mrs. Cruse became Chairman of V. Hall Committee. New Heating was planned, to cost £155.
1962. W.I. members made the curtains for the V. Hall windows. We dressed 24 dolls for the Westminster Children's Hospital.



1964. Mrs. Bawtree gave the Produce Guild a "shot in the arm", and we had a series of good meetings in members' Kitchens and gardens.
1965. The Jubilee Year.  
Scrapbook for 1965.  
The Royal Garden Party.  
Our Jubilee Year Project - cleaning the Village Pond.  
Members of Over Morton W.I. visited us.  
Ockenden Venture - we made a blanket, helmets and socks.  
Autumn Group Meeting. Our Tableau of Dame Laura Knight's picture of Ballet Dancers won first place. Mrs. Bent and Mrs. Fenemore were our models.  
A Notice Board, at the Post Office, was suggested for our own Jubilee effort; but permission could not be obtained in time for it to be made this year. It was erected early in 1966, and thanks to Mr. Bastable it cost us very little.
1966. Two weeping willows were planted at the Pond.  
A collection was made for Italian flood relief, following an appeal by Mrs. Bawtree, now living in Italy. Two peasant families received livestock and seeds to re-stock their small-holdings. Mrs. Goodhart held a Coffee Morning for the same fund, and made £90, which Mrs. Bawtree and her family also used to help people personally known and in special need. Knitted blankets were also sent.

A few competitions from the forty years -

- Best use of One Rabbit.
- Best-ironed shirt or blouse.
- Best use of Old Newspaper.
- Map of Inkpen.
- Best-dressed 6d. doll.
- Handmade pillow-case.
- Comical pincushion.
- Pig cut out of a potato. (Mrs. M. Rolfe's really looked like one, and was voted the best.)
- Plain Rice Pudding.

Three recurring topics over the years -

- Arrangements for TEA.
- The Bus Service.
- How to get more members.

*Pres. for 11 years, in 2 periods.*

The name which crops up repeatedly over the years is that of Mrs. Goodhart. She has been connected with our W.I. from the very beginning, and has been a very whole-hearted member, helping with all ~~17~~ kinds of projects in all kinds of ways. Then there is also Mrs. Edwards, who was our Treasurer for 35 Of our 40 years; a very distinguished record. We thank them, and other founder members, for



1964. Mrs. Bawtree gave the Produce Guild a "shot in the arm" for giving such a wonderful example of devotion; without such folks there would not be a W.I. here today, celebrating its 40th birthday.

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The Jubilee Year. Scrapbook for 1963. The Royal Garden Party. Our Jubilee Year Project - cleaning the Village Pond. Members of Over Norton W.I. visited us. Ockenburgh Venture - we made a blanket, helmets and socks. Autumn Group Meeting. Our Tables of Dame Laura Knight's picture of Ballet Dancers won first place. Mrs. Bent and Mrs. Penmore were our models. A Notice Board, at the Post Office, was suggested for our own Jubilee effort; but permission could not be obtained in time for it to be made this year. It was erected early in 1966, and thanks to Mr. Bastable it cost us very little.

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Handmade pillow-case.  
Comical pin cushion.  
Pie cut out of a potato. (Mrs. M. Rolfe's really looked like one, and was voted the best.)  
Plain Rice Pudding.

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Arrangements for T.M.A.  
The Bus Service.  
How to get more members.

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Pres. M.  
11/10/64  
Mrs. Goodhart