

It is with great pleasure that the Members' Committee present to you extracts from the minutes of your Institute.

Ladies members of Westfield W. I.
This is your life-

NARI On the 10th April 1934 a meeting was called in the Miners Welfare Hall at Westfield. 26 ladies attended this meeting when it was proposed by Mrs. Sims and seconded by Mrs. Singerton that a branch of the Womens Institute should be formed. These meetings would be held on the 1st Wednesday in each month

NARI End May 1934. The first institute meeting - Mrs. H.E. Dunford was duly elected President. The W.I. Rules were signed and sent to Federation. Each member was asked to bring a cup, saucer and spoon to place in the box in the hall. All the institute money should be deposited with the Westminster Bank.

TREASURE

The hire of the hall would be 2s 6d per meeting.

June 1934 A garden party was organised at Norton Hill House to raise funds to purchase a piano. By the following June meeting the Institute were proud owners of a piano costing £13.00

COM Augst 34. Drama classes and Handicraft classes were formed.

TREASURE

The affiliation fees for the first year amounted to £1. 1. 6d

NARI May. 1935 1st birthday party - celebrated by the cutting of a cake made by a Mrs. Jones. At this party the competition was a cake made from a "Borwicks" recipe which drew 19 entries - We wonder if anyone still has the recipe.

COM June 1935 A Charabanc was hired to take member to Ston Easton for a Pageant of London Cr. rs.

COM JUNE 35 Basketry classes were formed with the help of a County Grant

COM Nov 35. Westfield W. I. won the Challenge Cup for Drama at Taunton for selections of "As you like it"

Competition. Best lunch for a school child costing not more than 4d.

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COM MARCH 36 Members joined Country dancing classes, and quilting classes

NAR 1 June: 1936 Mrs. Dunford the President was the first delegate from Westfield W.I. to go to the A.G.M.

COM July. 36 Fruit bottling glasses were held in Radstock

COM Nov. 36 The Handicraft section entered a bedspread into the Handicraft Exhibition in Bath. The Handicraft Secretary then asked for offers to make the bedspread. 8 ladies volunteered and were well rewarded for their efforts by winning a gold star. This bedspread was then raffled to boost the institute funds and they raised the princely sum of £3.6.0. Sadly no one minuted the lucky lady who won.

TREASURER July 37 The Institute requested Norton Hill Flower Show to include a class for basketry in their show. They offered the sum of 5/- towards the prizes from the funds.

NAR SEPT 37 The question of a pavement on the main road in Westfield was raised and a letter was forwarded to the Local Authorities requesting that it should be considered - in 1939 after numerous letters to and from the Council, they confirmed that the long awaited pavement would be laid at Westfield.

21st July 1937 was the 21st birthday of the W.I. Movement and a wireless message was broadcast to members by the W.I. ^{Federation} Chairman.

October 1937 Lady Denman wrote asking all W.I. members to press their M.P.s to support the new Bill for cheap milk for babies under 5 and expectant mothers.

TREASURER

January 1938 Regular attendants to the institute were invited at the Institute's expense to spend an evening at the cinema in Midsomer Norton.

COM April 1938 The potato competition was launched - each member was given a potato - the lady who grew the most from this one potato won - Mrs. Starr won this first year - with 10lbs of potatoes - All the potatoes were collected and sent to the Somerset Mission for the Deaf and Dumb

COM July 39 Classes for dressmaking and smocking.

TREASURER Oct. 38 Plans for a visit to the Pantomime - seats at 3/- charabanc 2/-

Nov 38 Westfield W.I. moved house to the Church hall at a rent of 3s.0d per meeting

NAR 1 January 1939 The first sad signs of War - First Aid classes and County letters asking for homes for evacuees.

NAR Oct 1939 An official request by National to continue with the W.I. movement despite War time.

Nov 39 The speaker had to cancel her talk owing the blackout and petrol rationing. Members were informed that the Sugar had arrived and at least 3lbs of jam per member could be made.

May 1940 ; No birthday cake for the duration of the war- and meetings were held during the early 40's in the afternoon.
Competition: a Meatless dish.

COM June 1940 The social half hour was stopped because of an air-raid warning.

COM Oct. ¹⁹⁴⁰ Potatoes Competition Mrs. Rigrove 10lbs.

COM March 1941. The competition : Most for one penny. (FIRST)
FIRST - Dried apple rings, (Second) ingredience for vegetable soup (3rd) a bar of salt

NAR June 1941. County Secretary wrote asking for W.I. members to join the A.T.S.

Sept 1941. The whole institute went blackberry picking.

68lbs of blackberries was their harvest These were then sold to the Jam Centre (and the money handed to the Wool Fund.
To that date the members of Westfield W. I. had made 235 lbs of jam.

COM Feb. 1942 : Soft toy classes

NAR March 1942 Members were busy knitting for the forces and packets of seeds from Canada were distributed at the meeting
Mrs. G. Sims gave an account of her visit to London where she was presented with a certificate by the Queen.

COM October 1942 - Potato competition Winner Mrs. Cook 16 lbs. !!

COM Dec. 1942 Competition Best supper dish from potatoes

NAR April. 1942 A speaker from the Red Cross showed members the articles that were sent in the boxes to the Prisoners of War each week and she asked for redoubled efforts for supplies of dried herbs and felt hats - in fact anything that could be spared.

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TREASURER

July 1943 The subs went up from 2/- to 2s. 6d.

During these years an enormous amount of money was raised and gifts given to every conceivable fund, from the Bath Air Raid Relief Fund, Red Cross, ^{China Fund} Russian Appeal, and gifts of money were frequently sent to Lady Hylton for the Prisoners of War.

NAR. 1943 Long and careful discussion also took place over the water and sewage supply in Westfield, and members were adamant that something should be done about the sewage system at the Westfield Infant School.

COM March 1944. Competition the best hand patched articles.

NAR April 1944 Much discussion took place with regard to the arrangements for the selling centres for "Salute the Soldier Week"

Feb. 1945 Mrs. Singerton presented a Mrs. J. Sims with savings stamps and congratulations on the birth of her baby daughter. In this month the Choir was formed with Mrs. Inkpen as their conductor.

COM May 1945 Roll Call: Sing a song or pay a penny -

NAR Sept 1945. Celebrating the end of the War a letter was read from the Queen - thanking the movement for the all the work that had been done over the past 5½ years.

The institute decided to celebrate by giving the elderly folk of Westfield a tea - with entertainment.

May 1946 Members went on a trip to Exmoor Valley

COM Jun. 1946 Speaker demonstrating how to make meat go further.

COM October 1946 A Rev Morley gave a talk on the Nuremburg Trials

(5) COM

directly but did not at the drama group presented "a play called "Unexpected Entertainment"

NAR

Jan 1948 Over 100 ladies plus visitors were present at the W.I. party. the following day they gave a party for 50 of the members children.

During December 1947 the Institute received the first gift of 10 dollars from a Mr. Hamilton. who had emigrated to Canada. These gifts were sent to the Institute and the Happy

Circle thanking members for their kindness to his parents

May 1948 The Choir were warmly congratulated for their success at the Music Festival in Clifton

TREASURER

June 1948 Outing to Windsor "1.4p. 6d. per member

Subs went up to 3/6d

Calendars 6 1s. 8d. each.

NAR Mrs. Fuglsey was presented with a gift for her new baby daughter

Members of the produce Guild were now in full swing.

February 1949. Names were taken of members present at the meeting then 8 names were drawn out of a hat and each of the lucky 8 ladies was presented with a tin from the Overseas gift parcel from Australia.

COM Jan 1950. Glove making classes and Country dancing classes.

NAR March 1950 The Urban District Council invited the W.I. to a meeting to help with arrangements for the towns celebrations for the Festival of Britain

April 1950 Several members offered precious icing sugar towards the decoration of the birthday cake. Social Half Hour - knitting on two matchsticks. The winner knitted 14 rows

June 1950 The Country dance team gave a display on Carnival Day. Seven members offered to have City children into their homes for a holiday during the summer

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COM 1950 Sept Visit to Frys and Clevedon.

NAR 1 Dec. 1950 "Please may we have some sweet coupons for the party"

COM Feb 19 51 Visit ^{to} the Ideal home Exhibition.

NAR 1 March 1951. A new member Mrs. L. Emm offered to help with members night.

July 1951 Visit to Monkton Combe Pottery

March 1952 Mrs. Brown was thanked for her work in embroidering the W.I. Badge on the President's table cloth. A raffle for a pair of nylons - what luxury - was won by Mrs. Bendle

May 1952 A member who wished to remain anonymous presented the institute with a scroll bearing the words of Jerusalem

COM June 52 Visit to Glastonbury - energetic ladies climbed the tor.

COM July 52 Pageant of "British Queens and Historical Woman" was presented by the Institute - produced by Mrs. Singerton

COM 1953 February - demonstration by Hoover of their washing machines members supplying clothes to be washed.

COM Sept. 1954 The Choir won a challenge cup at the Bournemouth Festival

TREASURER Decem ber. 1954 The Home and Country cost 4/3d per year.

The institute began lampshade classes and Elderdown covering classes.

NAR April 1955. Linen was purchased from the proceeds of a jumble sale and a dozen linen table cloths were made by Mrs. G. Sims.

May 1955 The 20th birthday party - celebrated by cutting a three tier cake made by Mrs. Beavis and Mrs. Morse.

December 1955 The Institute received Christmas Greetings from an Institute in Australia.

Members answered a questionnaire - suggesting the need of a bus shelter and public convenience and belittling beacons in Westfield.

January 1956. The Institute held a Brains Trust - the members of the panel were Mr & Mrs. Neat, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Hallam. with Mrs. Wills as the Question Master.

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COM Sept 1956 Owing to dreadful weather conditions the Speaker didn't turn up and members spent the evening bandaging a patients arm and elbow - members awarding Mrs. Howell first prize.

NAR Nov. 1956 A Group Carol service as held at Radstock Parish Church and a request was received from the Happy Circle for W.I. Members to help on their Committee.

12th

Sept 1956 Mr. Hamilton visited Westfield leaving his customary gift for use for the parties.

COM October 1956 The Institute entered two classes in the Shepton Show. The First a Teatable for two - which they were awarded a silver star and a Store cupboard - which sadly didn't please the judges because members had included preserves with lids of jars bearing proprietary names - which could have made the Institute liable for a libel suit.

Nov. ⁵⁶ Arrangements for a Group Concert - Westfield's item was the Skiffle Group.

Visit to the Variety Show in London.

NAR Nov 56 GIFTS were to be given to the old folk in Westfield who were to get out of doors.

unable

COM Jan. 1958

Mrs. Brown who has attended

showed members her Christmas Cake which she had iced during the course, and she was warmly thanked for keeping her cake uncut for the whole of the Christmas in order to show members at the January party

NAR

Feb. 1958 Mrs. Barker of the Civil Defence gave a talk on Nuclear Warfare and Home Protection

COM Sept. 1959 Kip Fit Classes.

TREASURER

March 1959 the W.I. purchased 4 dozen teaspoons and 6 trays.

COM

May 1959 25th birthday party attended by many founded members.

September Handicraft classes in full swing.

Feb. Visit to "Goodnight Vienna" and visit to the Victoria Flour Mills.

NAR

April 1960. A Fashion Parade by Miss Targett of "Marys" - one of the models being Mrs. Pugsley.

May. 1960. Members requested the Secretary to write to the Telephone office suggesting that a telephone kiosk should be placed in Wesley Avenue.

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14th COM JUNE 1960. Social Half Hour. "My most prized Kitchen gadget" - one lady said "my husband" which won the contest outright

TREASURER Nov. 1960. a donation of £20.0.0 raised by the Autumn Fayre was sent to Cancer Relief.

COM Social half hour - entertainment by the Kentucky Minstrals.

TREASURER Dec. ¹⁹⁶⁰ Members went Carol Singing and raised £.5.10. for the local Flood relief

NAR Feb. 1961. A Questionaire was completed on T.V. and radio broadcasting.

That year birthday cards would be sent to the children who boarded at Fosseyway School.

March. ¹⁹⁶¹ A Mrs. Warren spoke on her life's work as a prison officer at Holloway Prison which put members off crime for good.

TREASURER April. 1961. The institute gave a concert for the elderly fol in Westfield and gave away 260 parcels. the total cost amounted to £39.00

15th COM June 1961. Visit to the Royal Mint
Nov. ⁶¹ the blankets that had been knitted by members were sent to a childrens home

Social half hour. A game called "Banned books" -

December. ⁶¹ A nativity play produced by Mrs. Phillips, ^{was} acted by members children

June 62. Competition - garden in a lid of a polish tin

July ⁶² ^{my wife, out the video of} Voice production classes

January 1963. 12 brave or foolish members struggled through the snow drifts to a party which didn't take place

March 63. New crockery was purchased - cups at 6s. 6d. a dozen

TREASURER April 1963 Visit to Coventry Cathedral with members of Kilmersdon W.I. the sewing circle in full swing preparing for the autumn Fayre

NAR April 1964 Resolutions for the Spring Council Meeting that trading stamps should be abolished - whole heartedly supported

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COM May 1964 - Cutting to Wilton Carpet Factory

TREASURER

July 1964 The Institute purchased a Jubilee Handbook and Jubilee Goblet

NARI

Dec 1964 The Children of Fossey School entertained members with dancing and carol singing

Feb 1965 A draw took place at the meeting for the coveted ticket to the Royal Garden Party and Mrs. Clark won

March 1965 Seventeen members braved the arctic conditions to attend the meeting

COM April 1965 Party - entertained by Westfield Glow women

June 1965 Visit to Camington Farm Institute

COM

Feb 1966 Visit to Merry Widow -

March 1966

Six members invited to Peasedown's 21st Birthday party

NARI

May 1966

Party - presentation of the "Ballet" by two much loved prima ballerina's

June 1966

Visit to Harvey's at Bristol.

Request for a pedestrian crossing at Westfield

Sept 1966

4 members visited Danman College

Jan 1967

Planned visit to the Joyce Grenfell Concert

(10)

COM June 1967 The Choir won Cups at the Cheltenham Festival

WI. Visit to Norway

NAR July 1967 Members gave an afternoon tea-party to Old Age Pensioners belonging to the Bristol Old People's Association.

Oct. 1967 Members volunteered to help with the teas at Greenacres.

TREASURER

Dec. 1967. Trading shillings so successful that ~~£30.00~~ £30.00 was sent to National.

NAR December 1967. Notice from National that if Foot & Mouth disease should reach Somerset all W.I. meetings must be cancelled immediately.

TREASURER

Sept. subs up to 10/-

COM January 1968. Visit to Sauna

NAR April. 1968. Radstock Handicraft Exhibition. Westfield awarded 34 gold stars 41 silver and 25 green stars - 100 entries from Westfield.

July. Competition. Hat depicting a Song Title.

Sept. 1968 Tramp Supper

TREASURER

Oct. 1968 Gift of money sent to Westfield School and Fosseyway School towards their appeal fund to cover the swimming pool

December 1968. Home & Country 10/- per year.

NAR I

Jun 1969. A gift of flowers were sent to Mr. Hamilton from the Institute and the Happy Circle.

TREASURER

May 1970. Trading stamps collected and sent to Wilton Lodge

COM Sept. 1970 Entry in the Floral Art Section of the Shepton Show. Awarded 3rd Prize for a Christening Table arrangement.

The Misses Brodribb gave a talk on their holiday in Nepal - together with their usual excellent colour slides

October 1970. Halloween Party 16 Withhes present - in costume - 3 witches acted a scene from Macbeth -

January 1971. Members attended the decimal currency classes as Radstock.

Mrs. Howell entered a drawn threadwork sampler in a County Competition and was awarded first prize - the silver salver and medalion - and the sampler was on show at the A.G.M.

NAR I

June. Handkerchief of wall at Greenacres

July. The choir chosen to sing at the World Ploughing Festival Concert in Taunton

Oct 1971. a Dinner and concert was arranged for elderly guests of members of the institute.

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COM Feb 1972 The Handicraft Secretary gave details of
County Rainbow Fair - Westfield to make gifts in all shades
of olive green to lime green - The fair raised the enormous
sum of £4,700 completely paying off the mortgage on the
Somerset County Headquarters

NAC2 May Party 1972 Wellow Singers gave excerpts of Gilbert &
Sullivan

The W.I. Federation Huxley Cup was won by Somerset
Mrs. Thomas.

Oct 72 Letter from National asking members to give homes
to Ugandan Asians .

Family train to London

Dec 72 Nativity Play performed by the drama group

Feb 1973 W.I. Members visit Malta

March 1973 Whist drives begin again - in members homes

April 1973 Census on Heavy Traffic in Westfield undertaken
by Mrs. Phillips

COM May Members visit Switzerland

SEPT 1973 Visit to Showerings

NAC Nov. The Doris Taylor Memorial Cup presented by the Westfield
Choir to the Taunton Music Festival

May 1974 40th Birthday Party held at the Lamb Inn Cladown

June 74 Barbecue - bowls and croquet

July 74 Letter received from Somerset giving new boundaries
and Westfield would become an institute in the new Avon County

COM July 74 Handicraft exhibition in Radstock. Gold and silver star
awards being judged again, in Wells, to be displayed at the
Bishops Palace and considered for the Tomorrow's Heirlooms
Exhibition in London

Nov. 1974 Visit to London to the Tomorrow's Heirlooms Exhibition

Dec. 74 Subscriptions raised to £1.00.

TREASURER

COM

The choir chosen to represent Norton/Radstock in a TV Game

NAR 2 Sept 1975 1st Avon Council Meeting Mrs. Dando attended as the delegate

COM Oct. Harvest Supper with Auction

January 1976. A Perpetual Cup was presented for the first time to the winner of the competitions throughout the year

NAR 2 March 1976 The Institute took ~~place~~^{part} in a Questionnaire for the National Health Service

April 1976 Classes were organised for members to learn to swim and by the Autumn 25 members were proud owners of swimming certificates.

June 1976 The Institute was saddened by the death of Mr. Cullen
Dec. The formation of a new institute in Midsomer Norton

COM Feb. Visit to Bourmouth to Richesse Furs

NAR March The Institute Choir decided that they wished to become an independent choir and have continued under the guidance of their new conductor Mrs. Coode

April 1977 The President asked for volunteers to "Tidy up" Westfield for the Jubilee

TREASURER

July Handicraft Exhibition in St. Peter's Church Hall the proceeds given to Paulton Day Centre and the remainder to plant a tree in the Church Grounds. The members were presented with Jubilee Crowns as mementos of the Queen's Jubilee Year.

NAR September 77 Members help at the Slow and Dirty Festival

October, 1977 The Institute was asked to find out the opinions of people living in Westfield as to whether they wished to have a Dr's

Surgery in Westfield. The general opinion was "Yes" and the Institute received notification that a Surgery would become a priority for Westfield.

COM June 1978 The Institute spent the weekend at the Sports & Leisure Exhibition - Members ^{dis}playing their crafts & embroidery for the general public to admire.

TREASURER

Plans were in hand for a new table cloth to be embroidered with the Avon Sea Stag.

NAR Nov. 1978. Mrs. Battle the President retired Mrs. Elford was elected Present.

To you ladies - and to many much loved members of the institute over the past 44 years - thank you for your work and dedication