

NOTICES

90 YEARS OF W.I. IN OUR VILLAGE

The W.I.in Hagley was founded in 1921 under the presidency of the then lady Cobham. Meetings were mostly held at the Hall Barn, which served as a venue for many activities at the time.

In 1927 the W.I. held a Flower and Vegetable Show and it was suggested that a section for cottage gardens should be added, the precursor to our own Village Show.

In spite of the fact that it was wartime, it was decided that it was good for morale to celebrate our 21st birthday in 1942. Out of meagre rations the Committee decided that they must make a cake. The list of donations was as follows:

Mrs Broad... 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb sugar

Miss Harrison...brandy

Mrs Jones... flour, eggs

Mrs Walker... mixed fruit

Mrs Dunne... cherries, eggs

Mrs Boyles... 1/4lb sultanas, icing sugar

Mrs Gidden... 2 eggs, 1/2 lb sultanas

Mrs Fisher... 1 egg, candied peel

Mrs Barden... 2 eggs, 1/4lb currants, cherries

Mrs England... raisins, 1/2 lb sultanas, 1/2 lb margarine, 1/2lb currants.

The two absentees from the meeting, Miss Mellor and Mrs Green no doubt made their contributions too.

I feel great sympathy for the responsibility undertaken by the cook, Mrs Jones, especially as I know of a lady who was entrusted by members at a church social with their tea and coffee (precious rations), who, in a moment of aberration, put both into the urn. Quick thinking came to the rescue; she poured the same drink from two separate pots as tea and coffee and no-one expressed any doubts about the beverages served! At the celebration garden party, Mrs Jones was thanked for the beautiful cake, but the 70 members present cannot have had more than a sliver each.

Over many years W.I. has made many contributions to the community. In WWII they produced 544lbs of jam and 153lbs of pickles in response to an appeal by the Ministry of Food and contributed £642 in 1940 to the war effort. They supported money-raising efforts to build our Community Centre and played the leading role in the making of the village Millennium wall hanging, unveiled by Lord Cobham in 2000 and still displayed in the Community Centre. This year, to mark our anniversary, Hagley Afternoon W.I. is donating a seat to be placed near the Library and Community Centre, where a lack of provision has been noted.

As Miss Glazebrook, President in the 1920s and 30s wrote, a good W.I. is a most valuable asset in the community. She mentioned the way that it brought members together in friendship and encouraged and developed hidden talents. Our members are proud of their past record and have much to live up to in the future.

Irene Oliver

