

AFTERNOON W.I.

A letter from Miss Grazebrook, President in the 20s and 30s states that "A good W.I. is a most valuable asset to Parish life." She goes on to speak of the way that it brought members together in friendship and encouraged and developed hidden talents. All this at a time when it wasn't "politically correct!" What is more it continues to offer such opportunities at local, county and national levels.

In 1942 our W.I. celebrated its 21st Birthday. Each committee member was asked to donate, from rations, hoarded stores or possibly from the black market, ingredients for a cake. No fewer than 70 of the members attended a garden party in June and consumed a sliver of that cake.

Hagley W.I. has always wished to serve the community. During the war its efforts produced funds as well as practical help. In 1940 for example the food preservation ground, at Hall Barn, produced 544 lbs of Jam and 153 lbs of Pickles in response to the appeal made by the Ministry of Food. In the 60s it turned its attention to help in raising the funds to build the Community Centre and held its first meeting in the new building in January 1968. Such efforts continue and today we are working on, and funding, a Millennium Hanging, to display in the Community Centre.

County functions have enabled us to hear speakers such as Kate Adie, Sir Roy Strong and Norman Willis and to participate in County craft and cooking competitions. We have the opportunity to take up a variety of sports, skittles, bowling, gliding etc., and to take part in music, art and drama at many levels. This and much, much more is available to members. The description of the W.I. as "Jam and Jerusalem" is as outdated as the people who say it.

Irene Oliver