**1958 – 1968. 40 years on**

**1958.** There were 127 WIs and 6,446 members. A new Rural Domestic Economy Centre at **Brackenhurst** was opened by Lady Dryer from NFWI. The County Rally was held there in June. Nine group craft exhibitions were organised around the county. **1959.** A craft exhibition entitled **‘A Country Year’** was a great success with over one thousand entries**.** The Music and Drama Committees joined forces to organise a 4 day Festival of drama with 23 WIs taking part. A County Tea Towel was designed – there is a sample in the archives. A County tablecloth was embroidered by the Craft Guild and is still the central panel of cloth we use at Federation meetings. A Resolution urged garment makers to adopt a standard method of sizing.

**1960**. The County office moved to 44 Parliament Street, Nottingham. **Mrs Margaret Brook JP**, was elected as Federation Chairman. A Resolution asked for a woman police surgeon to examine victims of sexual assault – this was achieved twenty-five years later in 1985.

**1961**.The highlight of the year was a **‘Feast & Festivals’** competition. The County Fair was again at Brackenhurst. The Produce Guild provided courses on planning a garden, herb=growing, continental cookery and Japanese flower arranging. A County Holiday went to Paris.

**1962. 129 WIs 6831 members.** A lot of work was done on mandates; speech in schools, obscene publications and fireworks. A freedom from hunger Campaign conference had a record attendance.Two Members Days took place at Retford and Nottingham**. The 1st WI Market Stall at Newark Show** was held which resulted in the formation of weekly markets at Newark, Nottingham and Worksop., the following year.

**1963**. **Mrs Kathleen Mitchell** became the Federation Chairman. An Art Group was formed and an exhibition was staged in Nottingham. Resolution work on disused colliery tips, district nurses and midwives was followed up. Attention was drawn to Government leaflets advising people on their protection if there was a nuclear attack.

**1964**. The **County Fair** at Brackenhurst attracted **7,000 thousand members** and friends. The WI Marquee at Newark Show was an important feature for the County. The office moved again to 37, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. A Round Table conference for the Executive and Sub-committee members took place. The Produce Guild organised a French day, Cordon Bleu cookery and a Nutrition & Beauty course.

**1965**. **NFWI Golden Jubilee**. County held a Drama festival at Ollerton. ‘Pleasure through Leisure’ day at Bottesford. 61 members spent a week at Denman college. A Golden Jubilee Festival took place with fifty crafts, old and new showing a variety of skills obtainable through the WI. A collage competition with the theme ‘Our County Heritage’ was won by Southwell WI, our oldest WI. New WIs formed now making **143 WIs**. The rule changed regarding the 4000-population enabling WIs in towns.

Many WIs entered the NFWI scrap book competition and the three best: **Bramcote, Laxton and Tollerton** were sent to London. Laxton WI still have theirs, it was last displayed at the Federation’s 90th Anniversary. One member from every WI attended a **Buckingham Palace Garden Party.**

**1966** was a quiet year. However, nine area craft exhibitions took place culminating in a County exhibition in November, opened by the Duchess of Portland. 144 WIs and 7874 members.

**1967**. County celebrated their Golden Jubilee at Thoresby. There was a marquee of birthday cakes 133 in all. The winning entry was Thurgarton WI. A celebration dinner at the University took place attended by 350 members and guests. Members were offered emergency training in case of nuclear war. **Produce Show at Retford**

**1968**. County Music Festival. **Lady Sibell Argles died**, she had been County President from 1931 to 1955. It had been fitting that her family home had been used for the Golden Jubilee. There was a Foot and Mouth outbreak causing the cancellation of many WI meetings.