1968 -1975 Women of Property

**1968**. Twenty members went on a study tour of Ireland despite the restrictions for Foot & Mouth disease. Their luggage was ransacked for pies and sandwiches and their feet were sprayed with disinfectant! Holidays abroad became an established annual fixture. A conference entitled **“Tomorrow’s Countryside**” took place. **Mrs Nora Moore** became County Chairman.

**1969**.149 WIs. We sent sewing materials to Grenada, the island adopted by Nottinghamshire regarding the NFWI Windward clothing scheme. A **Fosseway Fair** was held at **Flintham Hall**. **Living Whist** was featured; the first time for 38 years. Originally devised by Miss Gertrude Fox, our 2nd County Chairman who had made the costumes stored at East Bridgford WI.

**1970**. A performance of **The Brilliant and the Dark by Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire at the Albert Hall, Nottingham**. This had been written for the WI. A Caravan Rally at Manton Forest Farm including a cheese & wine party, a square dance and BBQ. A car maintenance course was popular. 75 members went to the Italian Lakes. A class was organised on decimal currency. A badge for the County Chairman, was presented at the Autumn Council Meeting. It could be worn, either as a brooch or on a neck ribbon with a new bar for each Chairmen added. Resolutions were concerning teaching dyslexic children, land drainage and pollution. We ended the year with 149 WIs and 7000 members.

**1971**. **Mrs Margaret Stubbs** became the County Chairman. A **Midsummer Fair at Brackenhurst**. The first golf tournament at Newark. The ‘Home & Country’ magazine discontinued the county supplement which meant no direct communication from the County with members. It was decided we must have our own monthly newsletter and **The Hornblower was born**! The launch coincided with a postal strike so not an easy birth but still thriving today.

**1972**. 151 WIs. A county outing to London. A survey of eyesores and derelict areas was sent to the county planners. A Headquarters appeal was launched. We were urged to **‘Plant a tree for 73’** with many WIs taking part. Sports became very popular.

**1973**. An International Conference at Newark on the ‘Equal opportunities for women’ A Fun(d) Fair at Newark with a cricket match. The office closed early because of the electricity crisis. Nottinghamshire hosted a national ‘Meet the Executive’ conference at the University. A resolution was passed at the Spring Council Meeting to purchase a building for the headquarters. The fund already stood at £3,000 with many WIs sending in money from fundraising events.

**1974.** A search began with tours of property – most seemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons. Normal activities continued and 400 members enjoyed an outing to York. A county catering team was formed and raised a lot of money for the new HQ. A **‘Tomorrow’s Heirlooms** exhibition took place with 700 visitors. Eleven items were chosen to go forward to a national exhibition in 1975. Residential weekend at Brackenhurst took place. **Mrs Pat Lambert** became County Chairman and a survey of members came up with the first choice of Newark for the HQ. Efforts were redoubled and **Mrs Gladys Radcliffe**, who was an Executive member brought **Trent Bridge House** to the notice of the committee. There were few who could not see it’s possibilities. The owner offered it to the county before it even went on the market as his wife had been an early VCO. The purchase price was agreed at **£16,000** and the Federation became **Women of Property**. Much more fund raising took place after that!

**1975**. Work on the house took place after the signing of the conveyance on **14 February**. The official opening was in September with another special open day later when **seven hundred and fifty – five members** queued across the bridge in pouring rain! You can download a history of Trent Bridge House from our website. Souvenirs of the house were produced and we have them in our archives. Many more alterations have taken place since then, according to the fashion of the time and, of course, the addition of computers to the office – **but it remains your house. Come for a visit and have a look around.**