**1976 – 1986. 60 years on**

**1976.** The Marquee at Newark Show had 12,000 visitors in 2 days. The Trustees were busy entertaining WIs visiting the new County House with guided tours and coffee. Fund raising was still required to pay for the loans that had been needed with many ideas and funds coming in from WIs. A Round table conference began to plan events for the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee.

**1977.** **Our Diamond Jubilee**. A week of entertainment by members at the Palace Theatre, Newark. A different show was performed each night. The Chairman’s sister, a WI member from Toronto, was so impressed she presented the **Canada Cup** to be competed for every year with a humorous theme. A Cookery Book **‘ Nottinghamshire Taste’ was launched.** The year ended with a service at Southwell Minster.

**1978.** **Mrs Jean Varnam** became the County Chairman. Sports were very popular and we began to sell t-shirts not t-towels! Newark Show took Country Style as its theme. 60 members went to Rome. Public Affairs were looking at Rural Transport, Obscenity and Retail Trading. Continued support was given to the refuges for battered wives. Sporting activities included badminton, swimming, rounders, darts, bowls, golf and tennis.

**1979.** The ACWW flag was carried around the county and **£2500** was raised for the Child Care Centre in Botswana. A series of village tours took place. Other activities included a Byron Day and Implications of the Silicon Chip. A **Music Festival** took place. A new committee was formed to deal with more national and county publications being produced and they attended the **Game Fair at Welbeck**.

**1980**. **“Scene 80”** was the focus of attention starting with a County drama festival at Radcliffe on Trent. County took over the WI marquee at Moor Green Show. Trent Bridge House was redecorated and the Denman Bedroom refurbished. 2 Grove members appeared at NFWI Tennis Tournament at the Queens’ Club. Members visited Greece on the holiday. Mrs Mary Whitehouse and Sir Alec Rose were the speakers at the Council Meetings.

**1981**. A Music Festival and Drama workshop was held in the Albert Hall, Nottingham.

**1982**. **Mrs Cecily Atkins** became the County Chairman. A **Decade of Water** began with a **County Water Rally**. Members transported a litre of water from WI to WI using different forms of transport. It raised £3092 for ACWW. The **Hornblower had a new Editor, Cynthia Gaythorpe who gave it a new brighter look.**

**1983**. Members visited Rome, Florence and Venice. A Drama Day and scrabble was added to the sporting list.

**1984**. Year of promotion. A new national logo. **Women in the Community bus** toured the country. New WIs were formed as a result. **A Summer Spectacular** was held at Thoresby park but the attendance was disappointing. Resolution work on Acid Rain. A Brackenhurst weekend was devoted to music, dance and drama**. Jane Manchester** became the Hornblower Editor.

**1985**. Membership was now **6,000**. Ten years at County House, an Open Week with displays and a ‘**Crafts Alive in 85’** exhibition at Newark Town Hall. 25 years at Newark Show, the theme was **‘Let’s Celebrate’**. £2580 was raised for ACWW for women in the Maldives. The **Carol Concert** with a Victorian theme was held in Newark Parish church for the first time. Our sportwomen returned from a NFWI event with **four firsts and two runners up out of six events. What a triumph!**

**1986**. **Mrs Jacky Toplis** became the County Chairman.Denman needed £1 million to repair the building and a consultation of members decided it must be kept – fund raising began. Newark Shows theme was ‘Summertime’ but summer was late arriving that year. A Resolution called for the free supply of disposable syringes, needles for Insulin patients. Plans were already being made for the **70th Anniversary** in 1987. We had **155 WIs**. Many other clubs and societies were then available for women to join as is the case today. Although the scope of our activities has widened since 1917, theWIs strength is in the cookery and craft classes and who else could keep alive all the skills that could so easily be lost and still have the basic commitment to the community? We are **still opening new WIs.**