**Name of WI: TYDD ST GILES**

**Names of Researchers: Val Ware**

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| **Category** | **Date/Month/Year** | **Entry** | **Additional Notes** |
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| **Campaigning for Improved Living Conditions and Education** |  |  |  |
| **Celebrations** | 2.6.42 | June 2nd was members’ night and our birthday…thanks go out to Mrs Carter for the lovely tea and Mrs Page for the birthday cake it was delicious. | Mrs Carter was instrumental in forming the WI in the village and was lady of the manor. She was President for many years |
| **Charitable Donations** | 8.8.41  2,12.41 | A letter was read from Queen Charlotte’s maternity hospital appealing for help. A collection was made which brought in 25/- and a cheques for £1  Committee members made a house to house collectionfor the boys’ Christmas parcels. It realized £42-1-0 in all..This was allotted as follows: boys serving in England 1 pullover,pr gloves or mittens,3 prs socks, 1 scarf, 1 tube shaving cream and toothpaste, indelible pencil,writing pad, 2 pkts envelopes, 2/6 book of stamps, PO 5/10, 85 cigarettes. The girls have toilet soap instead of shaving cream.. It was decided to put away money equivalent to the parcels for the boys serving overseas and to be given to them whenever they come home. |  |
| **Childbirth, Childhood, Marriage, Death** |  |  |  |
| **Clothes, Fashion** |  |  |  |
| **Communications** | 5.12.44  1.5.45 | In future all members who become brides will receive a telegram from the institute  Members were asked who would like to have a pen friend from overseas |  |
| **Competitions** | 7.10.41 | There was a guessing competition from NFWI. This was answered and sealed in the presence of all and has been sent away. |  |
| **Cost of Living** | 3.11.42 | It was decided to close the general meetings at 8.30pm for the winter. Also we cannot get tea and it will save paraffin if we cut out the cups of tea |  |
| **Craft Skills** | 6.2.40  2.4.40  4.3.41  1/9/42  6.10.42  4.5.43 | Demo on making a stool from used tins  Demo on candlewick embroidery  Making thrift rugs and slippers  Mrs Hunter Rowe gave a demonstration on glove making. She made it very clear and it appears quite easy.  Demonstration of passé partout  A very interesting demonstration on how to make dolls faces |  |
| **Diet/Food** | 2.4.40  2.7.40  6.8.40  3.11.40  1.4.41  1.7.41  4.5.43  4.4.44 | Orders taken for jam sugar after being told by NFWI HQ how to do it  Talk on preserving vegetables and valuable foods to eat in wartime.  Draw for pot of jam made with only half the usual amount of sugar  Using the sugar we could get not only for WI members but for all the village we have so far made 2,448 lbs jam  Demo on preparing and stuffing a breast of mutton  We made in all 2 tons of jam for the village  Demo of war time cookery ‘It’s surprising how many recipes can be made from vegetables’.  Refreshments were served. We are sorry we cannot get the biscuits now.  Demo on making jam from bottled fruit.  Mrs Carter gave a talk and explained about the Produce Guild being formed in the Isle of Ely. Several members joined it at the end of the evening Seeds sent from Mrs Roosevelt were distributed to those members  Names were asked for who would like milk and cocoa where there are boys and girls from 14 – 18 years |  |
| **Education/School** | 7.11.44 | Miss Barr from HQ gave a very interesting talk on drama, the speaker voiced a wish for a school of drama a few members said they were willing to start. Miss Barr said she would send suiatable plays and sketches |  |
| **Employment/Work** | 2.9.41  2.11.43 | ..she had arranged a programme but the performers did not come owing to work being late  The meetings have been well attended apart from August when so many members are out at work late it wasn’t to be wondered at |  |
| **Entertainment** | 3.12.40  6.5.41  5.12.44  1.5.45  17.6.45 | Refreshments were served and dancing followed  Social time was a spelling bee which was very amusing  Social half hour consisted of darkie songs which were much enjoyed  Members were entertained by the Leverington drama party.  The Wisbech drama and choir teams were visitors to tea….we were then entertained |  |
| **Events : Local, National, International** | 1.10.40  7.1.41 | The meeting changed to 6pm on account of the blackout  The President spoke of the work of the past year and implored everyone to try and carry on through difficult times. We were doing what we had done in the past – lots of work of national importance. Christmas parcels had been sent to all our boys stationed in England and postal orders to those overseas. |  |
| **Farming** |  |  |  |
| **Finance** | 2.7.40  2.12.41  7.7.42  6.1.43 | A letter was read from HQ asking each Institute if they would contribute towards the cost of providing and equipping an ambulance which would bear the name ‘ Women’s Institute Ambulance’. 2 shillings was sent.  The draw organized each month in 1941 has raised £3 for the building fund. It was decided to continue with a draw each month  The draw realized 5/6  Mrs Carter explained that the subscription had not risen to 3/- but to 2/6. | TSG raised money to build their own hall, opened 1935 but had to continue to raise money for maintenance |
| **Health/Medicine** |  |  |  |
| **Household Management** | 18.2.41 | Lecture on fire fighting in the home and the use of a stirrup pump |  |
| **Immigrants/new people moving to village** |  |  |  |
| **Living Conditions** | 7.3.44  3.7.45 | The question of sewerage and piped water in the village were verified, when our paper arrives at HQ and the authorities see the large nos our President has put to most of the questions it should go a long way towards Tydd St Giles getting the piped water  Members were asked if they were willing for water to be laid on to the hall and all were in favour |  |
| **Media** |  |  |  |
| **Outings/Visits** | 6.6.43  4.9.45 | Mrs Carter gave a very interesting report about the Annual Meeting in London which she attended as delegate  An outing was discussed but was turned down as only 10 members were interested |  |
| **Past Customs** |  |  |  |
| **Refugees** | 6.10.42 | Mrs Carter asked for old toys for the Maltese children evacuated to this country |  |
| **Travel/Transport** | 2.11.43 | The transport is very difficult and we are unable to to get visitors to help us. We hope that this will be the last annual meeting with war upon us. |  |
| **Village Facilities** | 2.9.41 | Mr Woodgate gave a very interesting talk on the origin and formation of Institutes they even dated back as far as 1300 and even in Tydd St Giles at that. |  |
| **World Wars** | 6.2.40  5.3.40  2.4.40  7.5.40  7.1.41  6.5.41  7.7.42  6.2.45  3.4.45  4.9.45 | Names and addresses taken of those from our village serving in the forces so that parcels may be sent  Proceeds from a concert spent on wool socks for the boys. 14 parcels sent.  £4 for comforts for the troops was donated by the Young People’s Dance Committee  Letters of thanks for the parcels were read  A rota was made for cleaning the war memorial and ladies with spare flowers were asked to give them ‘it is an act to keep the boys’ memory fresh’  It was decided that in view of rationing we could not have cake and tea for the birthday night.  Talk on keeping save in wartime and using your gas mask.  It was agreed to give the evacuee children a party. We have £1-8-0 from the Council to help with expenses.  A packet of seeds, peas, beans etc was sent by Mrs Roosevelt, wife of the American President. They were divided out to each member.  Madam Darl of Wisbech spoke to us about the Free French Movement and how some of the French people were faring now.  Mrs Carter suggested that we should have a garden fete in August to raise money for parcels for the boys.  Mrs Carter appealed for household goods for the village of Hornechurch which had been bombed  Mrs Carter gave an inspiring talk about her visit to Hornechurch and explained how the gifts we had collected from the Isle of Ely were appreciated  Members were asked if they would like to see the Belsen films but no one was willing. |  |
| **Other** | 3.11.40  7.9.43 | 15 names were given in to serve on the committee. There will not be voting as it is not worth paying for ballot papers.  ..this meeting was really a produce exhibition. Mrs Carter hoped it would be an annual event. She hoped all members would contribute another year. ..Mrs Roney gained the most gold stars and was therefore the winner and holder of the challenge cup, presented to the WI by Mrs Carter | *The challenge cup was used for the annual produce show until 2009 when it was replaced by a shield in memory of Mrs Cranmer – one of the founder members who won the Challenge cup on a number of occasions* |