**Name of WI : …Gorefield……………………………………………………………..**

**Names of Researchers and Contact Details :**

**…Anne Barnes………………………………………………………………………..**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Date/Month/Year** | **Entry** | **Additional Notes** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Campaigning for Improved Living Conditions and Education** | Mar 1978  Mar 1980  Oct 1982  Nov 1984 | Regarding the possible closing of local hospitals, it was agreed that letters should be sent from the WI to Mr Ennals, the Norwich Health Authority & King’s Lynn Community Health Committee.  Mrs Howat then read the letter which has been sent to Mrs Thatcher and the Chairman of the Education Committee, protesting strongly about the proposed school bus charges.  It was proposed that a letter should be sent to the Post Office regarding the late deliveries of mail in the area.  The President brought up the subject of the possible closure of the Casualty Unit at Wisbech and suggested we might get up a petition to try to keep it open. | Presumably David Ennals, Minister of Health.  Members spent part of the following meeting writing individual letters of protest. |
| **Celebrations** | Nov 1944  Nov 1945  Jan 1971  Dec 1976  Jul 1982  Jan 1985  Jan 1987 | This was the 17th birthday of Gorefield WI, which was held in the Parish Room. A crazy whist drive caused much fun.  The eighteenth birthday party was held in the Parish Room on Nov 29th, when Old Age Pensioners, Widows & Widowers were invited & altogether over 70 sat down to a beautiful tea provided by the Committee and members.  It was proposed that we no longer present members with a hankie. Members unanimously voted to sing Happy Birthday instead.  They agreed to erect a seat on Richmond Green, and to give one bursary for Denman College.  Wine was served for a toast to the Royal family, Mrs Powers on her birthday and Mrs Parling on the birth of a daughter.  It was agreed that members are to be presented with birthday hankies.  The meeting agreed to the purchase of a seat to commemorate our Diamond Jubilee, and members were asked to consider the best position outside the church. | To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Gorefield WI. |
| **Charitable Donations** | Apr 1945  Apr 1946  Jul 1947  May 1949  Aug 1973  Jan 1976  Jul 1982  May 1985  Apr 1989  Feb 1990  Jun 1990 | An appeal for eggs for the North Cambs Hospital was read, the collection to be taken at the May meeting.  Mrs Newling announced that Mr Reeve of St Dunstans had approached her with regard to a collection in the village for the blind, and appealed for help. Offers to collect were quickly given.  A letter of thanks was read from the Hospital for the eggs collected in May.  Members brought eggs for the hospital and the total was 150.  The President suggested that members might like to hold a ‘special effort’ and donate the proceeds to the Parish Hall Fund. Members readily agreed to this.  . . . the Bullen Appeal. This is a fund that was opened in the village for the Bullen family, who lost their home and possessions as a result of the recent gales. The WI, together with other village organizations, have donated £10 to this appeal.  A collection for the South Atlantic Fund amounted to £17.48.  There was then a collection and £20 was raised.  The Dr Barnardo’s house to house collection amounted to £107.90.  It was agreed we should give a donation of £25 towards the new curtains for the village hall.  The Vice-President asked if we should purchase a new pedal-bin and washing-up bowl for the village hall – it was agreed. | After a talk on the NSPCC. |
| **Childbirth, Childhood, Marriage, Death** | Oct 1944  Jul 1945  Jun 1971  Aug 1971  Nov 1977  Feb 1984 | During the evening a collection towards the wreath for the late Mrs Mudd was taken.  The President asked members to stand in silence as a token of respect for the late member Mrs Stringer, & it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the family.  Mrs Williams read some appropriate verses in memory of Mrs Wales and Mrs Powers.  Mrs Williams reported sending a card to Mrs Fagan Jnr congratulating her on the birth of a daughter.  Our Secretary had given birth to a second daughter, and congratulations, together with fruit had been sent her.  Tribute by way of a minute’s silence was paid in respect of the death of Mrs Robinson, a founder member. |  |
| **Clothes, Fashion** | Feb 1945  Mar 1989 | Miss Nelson of Wisbech gave a very interesting talk on Care of the Hair and Hair Styles.  All the Fashion Show tickets had been sold. |  |
| **Competitions** | May 1948  Mar 1949  Jun 1971  Feb 1972  Apr 1975  Oct 1975  May 1988  Jan 1989 | Next meeting the competition to be a 1lb jar of strawberry jam.  Competition for the most buttons sewn on a postcard.  Competition: longest weed in the garden.  Competition: toilet roll cover.  Monthly competition was for the prettiest scarf, judged by the bus driver.  The monthly competition was for the oldest Bible.  Competition for a home made tea cosy.  Competition for the most words from ‘Jerusalem’. | On an outing to Wisbech Museum. |
| **Cost of Living** | Mar 1945  Sep 1949  Jan 1971  May 1974  Apr 1975  Nov 1988  Dec 1988  Oct 1990 | . . . increase of Parish Hall to 6/- night instead of 5/- after the April meeting.  Proposed that 2d be charged for a cup of tea.  On normal meeting nights tea and biscuits would be served at a charge of 6d.  The President read out a letter from NFWI, which we are requested to forward to our MP, regarding VAT on our subscription.  Due to increased costs it was agreed that members should pay 5p for their tea and biscuits at meetings.  It was agreed that the charge for tea and biscuits should be increased to 20p.  Hire of village hall £60.  Correspondence: a letter from the village hall committee explaining that, as from 1st October 1990, the charge for meetings would be £7.50. |  |
| **Craft Skills** | Apr 1946  Jan 1971  Jun 1973  Nov 1983  Jan 1984  Apr 1986  Jan 1990 | Wedge heels were then given out and slipper patterns cut.  Mrs Sleight wished to attend the Crochet School at March.  Mrs Sleight showed us her Baler Twine Mats, and gave the members a brief demonstration on making them.  Mrs Chilcott demonstrated macramé and members had a go and all enjoyed it.  Mrs Howlett from Wisbech demonstrated Liquid Embroidery and members had a go.  Mrs Bachelor gave a very interesting demonstration of wired flowers dipped in paint.  Mrs Eldridge gave a very interesting demonstration of ‘Wool Dyeing in the Microwave’. | Following a demonstration the previous month on wedge heeled slippers. |
| **Diet/Food** | Jan 1945 | Miss McCowan gave a very interesting talk on Diet & Nutrition, & a demonstration on green salad. | Green salad – in January – in wartime? |
| **Education/School** | May 1978 | It was agreed that the President should write to the Headmaster of Gorefield School congratulating the school on gaining its centenary. |  |
| **Entertainment** | Jul 1945  Nov 1945  Apr 1947  Jul 1979  Sep 1980  Mar 1984 | All kinds of games were then enjoyed by the members.  During the evening entertainment was provided by the “Simpson Sisters” of Wisbech. Also dancing and community singing.  The Outwell WI then gave a play entitled “Family Occasion”.  The March Mixers proceeded to give an entertaining display of square dancing.  The evening continued with entertainment by the Townswomen’s Guild choir.  Ladies from Mildenhall and Lakenheath entertained by way of songs from well-known shows such as *Oklahoma, Sound of Music, Mary Poppins* etc. | 18th birthday party |
| **Events : Local, National, International** | Jan 1948 | Miss Murphy gave a very interesting talk on the National Insurance Act. All the members were keenly interested as it will affect everyone. |  |
| **Farming** | Jun 1975 | A Safety Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture showed members an excellent documentary film entitled ‘Dangerous Playground which showed the many dangers present in the farmyard and farm buildings. He also spoke on the hazards of chemicals and farm machinery. |  |
| **Finance** | Dec 1944  Jan 1948  May 1948  Jan 1971  May 1971  Aug 1974  Nov 1986  Dec 1993 | The financial statement showed a balance in the bank of £13.13.7.  Mrs Newling announced that a whist drive had been arranged for 4th Feb to raise money to buy a canning machine.  Mrs Anderson announced that the Jumble Sale made £15.16.7d.  Money raising ideas were discussed and members agreed to hold an Easter Fair in April.  We now have £60.56p in hand.  The Gala Day stall made a profit of £52.79.  The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £277.27.  After some discussion it was agreed that about £100 of the Savings Account should be used for the year’s running of the WI to take the pressure off fund-raising. |  |
| **Health/Medicine** | May 1945  Aug 1945 | Dr Jenkins gave a very interesting talk on Good Health in Wartime.  Dr Johnson of Downham gave a talk on Health for Women, which was enjoyed by all members. |  |
| **Household Management** | Mar 1947  Oct 1948  Jan 1976 | The secretary was authorised to order 3 gross of cans & ask for loan of canning machine.  A tomato canning was arranged for Thursday 4th Nov.  Members agreed to try and sell the canning machine that we own. |  |
| **Living Conditions** | Sep 1945  Jul 1946  Sep 1946  Oct 1946  May 1947  Apr 1948  May 1948  Aug 1948  Aug 1949  Apr 1972  Dec 1973  Mar 1975  Oct 1975 | Two tins of marmalade given by the Queensland Country Women’s Association, Australia, were drawn for.  Mrs Anderson proposed that refreshments be dispensed with until  rationing is finished. Everyone was in favour.  It was proposed that the delegate support Guyhirn’s proposal for more coal for rural areas. All members were in favour.  Mrs Newling, with Mrs Anderson and Mrs Keeble had distributed gifts of food to all old age pensioners in the village. These came from Australia and were sent to the Rural District Council, who approached the WI to deliver them.  The request for a centre for Welfare Foods was announced & these can be obtained at the School House.  A parcel of food received from Canada was drawn for.  The Roll Call was Coupon Savers.  The demonstration was electric washing and cooking.  Mrs Anderson to apply for tea, sugar and possibly biscuits for our monthly meetings.  There was no meeting in March, we had to cancel due to the power restrictions in force owing to the miners’ strike.  The meeting was held at the Gote Inn; this was due to the power restrictions.  A third letter was from Littlewoods, stating that they no longer held ‘At Homes’ for the public, because of the present fuel and power situation.  Members helped fill in a questionnaire relating to the changes in population and housing of the village during the last 20 years. |  |
| **Outings/Visits** | May 1947  Aug 1971  Apr 1973  Oct 1974  Sep 1982  Jul 1986  May 1988  Mar 1990  Aug 1991  Apr 1992  Apr 1993 | Mrs Anderson announced that the outing to Clacton was on August 27th.  Thirty two people wished to go to Norwich and the bus would leave the Gote at 8.30am.  The outing to the Royal Crown Derby factory would leave at 9am.  28 members made the trip to White Friars Glass in Harrow, and it proved to be an enjoyable and interesting outing.  Arrangements were made and names taken for the visits to Boots and Hereward Radio.  The next outing would be on July 10th, to Rutland Music Museum.  The next outing would be to Wisbech Fire Station followed by a meal at the Red Lion.  The outing to Main Road Garage had proved very interesting; members had enjoyed using the computer.  Mrs Moules had organized a visit to Wisbech Police Station.  The recent visit to Gorefield School had been very enjoyable.  The recent visits to Lunn Poly & the Mag istrates’ Court had been very interesting. |  |
| **Travel/Transport** | Oct 1944  Jun 1972 | A letter was read from Mrs Wilson, West Walton, stating she was unable to visit Gorefield during the winter months.  A letter was received from the solicitors of Messrs W H Fowler & Sons, who wish to apply for a subsidy to help run their country bus service, and are asking for our support. The members agreed to support their request. |  |
| **Village Facilities** | Jun 1972  Jun 1973  Apr 1974  Nov 1989 | The Secretary was asked to write to the Parish Council regarding the state of the bus shelter.  The monthly meeting was held at the school, as the Parish Hall was being modernized.  The evergreen oak, donated by the Institute as part of Plant a Tree Year, has now been planted in the Playing Field.  Members were asked if they would like to donate something towards the village hall and this was agreed. | The hall was in need of re-decoration. |
| **World Wars** | Feb 1945 | Miss Nelson kindly gave back her fee of 7/6d for the local Comforts for Troops. | Fee for a talk she had given. |
| **Other** | Aug 1945  Oct 1947  Sep 1971  Feb 1980  Apr 1988  Aug 1988  May 1990  Apr 1993 | A letter from the Queen was read thanking fellow members for the message sent from the AGM.  An offer to insure members for accidents was received from the Ocean Insurance Co. All were in favour of insuring our institute.  Mrs Williams reported on the opening of the new WI hall in Wisbech, which she attended.  The Speaker gave a very interesting talk on liqueur making, and members enjoyed sampling the results of the demonstration.  It was agreed that a request from the Gorefield Show Committee regarding the organization of the refreshments should be refused.  The President mentioned that some speakers had been exceeding the allocated time of 35-45 minutes and in future they would be asked to try to keep within this time to allow for a social half hour.  The meeting was held at the school as the village hall had been invaded by a swarm of bees.  Mrs A Rowell was presented with an Easter egg in appreciation of her help in distributing the leaflets for our membership campaign. |  |