**Name of WI : …Newton in the Isle……………………………………………………..**

**Names of Researchers and Contact Details :**

**Anne Barnes**

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| **Category** | **Date/Month/Year** | **Entry** | **Additional Notes** |
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| **Campaigning for Improved Living Conditions and Education** | Nov 1929  Dec 1930  Dec 1933  Feb 1934  Mar 1936  Dec 1944  Nov 1945  Dec 1951  Apr 1954  Apr 1960 | Mrs Newling proposed with the help of the members & Tydd St Giles to move a resolution to try to get the Marham water brought to these villages.  A resolution has been sent . . . to the Wisbech Water Works for supplies of water to Tydd & Newton but unfortunately has not met with success.  Mrs Newling spoke on the water supply . . . letters had been written, but nothing could be done. Mrs Newling proposed that a letter should be sent to the District Council regarding the urgency from the WI.  A letter was read from … East Elloe Rural District Council . . . at present nothing could be done re the water supply to Newton.  Correspondence: from RDC acknowledging letter re water.  We are looking forward to the time when a good supply of water will be brought to this village.  £3..5..0 to the RDC for laying the water up to our boundary.  We feel we have made some success regarding the erection of a bus shelter in the Old Market, Wisbech.  Correspondence included a letter from the NUAW inviting the WI to support their applications for a telephone kiosk & a bus service for the Newton Housing Estate. The Secretary was instructed to write and support these applications.  Mrs Clark is to attend a meeting at Wisbech on Apr 26 regarding bus services in the village. | From the Committee’s Annual Report  Probably the boundary of the WI Hall |
| **Celebrations** |  |  | A Christmas or New  Year social was held  every year  before the war, for  members and friends. |
| **Charitable Donations** | Jun 1924  Feb 1929  May 1929  Oct 1927  Dec 1933  Dec 1934  Jul 1935  Dec 1935  Jun 1936  Oct 1936  Nov 1937  Jun 1941  Aug 1942  Sep 1953  Sep 1957  Nov 1965  Oct 1967  Jan 1985  May 1991 | It was decided to have a collection for the hospital on Aug 28th.  . . . decided to have a jumble sale and social at a later date, proceeds to go to the Distressed Miners' Fund.  £2..5s was sent to the Distressed Miners’ Fund.  Thur Nov 3rd: musical evening beginning with a jumble sale, proceeds to go towards the Newton Relief Fund.  Pensioners to be sent 1cwt of coal instead of a special invitation to the [Christmas] social.  The number of dolls to be dressed for the Xmas tree at the North Cambs Hospital has been nearly doubled.  Letters of thanks were read from the Cancer Campaign, for collection amounting to £1..7..3d, and from the Hospital Committee for the proceeds of the tennis tournament.  It was decided that 20 dolls should go to the new children’s wing at the North Cambs Hospital & that 5 should go to the Isolation Hospital.  £4..17s was collected at the showing of Newton WI’s dolls in Glass’s window; this had been spent on 2 fire guards, a wall clock and 4 armchairs for night nurses for the new children’s block.  The Secretary obtained a list of members wishing to attend at the Colvile School for 2 classes to make soft toys for the hospital.  It was decided that the Old Age Pensioners should be given 1cwt of coal at Christmas as usual.  Collected for the British Sailors’ Society £2..15s  Letter of thanks . . . from Mrs Churchill . . . £5 for the Aid to Russia Fund.  A door to door collection on behalf of the Lord Roberts Appeal amounted to £3..6..9s.  The two charities to be supported this year will be the Wisbech & District society for Mentally Handicapped Children and the Cancer Research Organisation.  It was decided to send Christmas parcels to over 65s again this year.  Decided to support the Isle of Ely Society for the Blind again.  Several members offered to knit vests for the children of Losotho.  Decision to have a Knit In for Cheshire Homes. | From the Committee’s  Annual Report  North Cambs Hospital |
| **Childbirth, Childhood, Marriage, Death** | Jan 1924  Jan 1926  Aug 1933  Sep 1934  Oct 1935  Oct 1936  Feb 1952  Feb 1954  May 1976 | Mrs Smith proposed that Mrs Shippey should order 8 dozen toys – rattles, trumpets etc  The Secretary was asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs Brown from the members of the WI.  Mrs Shippey presented our late secretary with a bookcase, from the members on the occasion of her wedding.  The President asked the members to stand for 1 minute in silence to the memory of Mrs Cook . . . who died recently.  A short reference was made to the passing of Mrs Gee, who had been a member for many years. The Vice President promised to send a letter of condolence to the family.  . . . an appeal to members to impress on children the need for care on the road.  The members & visitors stood in silence in memory of the late King George VI  . . . proposed . . . that floral tributes for deceased members do not cost more than 25/-.  Members observed a minute’s silence in memory of Mrs Sharp, a founder member of the Institute. | For a party for  the children  of the village  Death of Mr Brown,  Rector |
| **Clothes, Fashion** | Sep 1927  May 1928  Oct 1934  Oct 1937  Jun 1938  Nov 1979  Nov 1976  Nov 1983 | Miss Smith gave a very nice and interesting demonstration on home dressmaking.  Miss Smith (Fleetway House) gave a demonstration on making a coat with Kut Eezi patterns.  Mrs Vincent gave a talk and demonstration on The Care of the Hair.  Dressmaking classes commence on Nov 4th, a good number of members promised to attend, the fee being 3/- for 10 lessons.  Miss Butler, of Wisbech, demonstrated on the cutting out of underwear.  We enjoyed a fashion display by Dorothy Perkins.  This meeting was held at the Isle College, Wisbech. 15 members enjoyed a demonstration on hairdressing.  After refreshments we had a fashion show. |  |
| **Competitions** | Jun 1923  Mar 1927  Jun 1927  Oct 1927  Jun 1930  Nov 1930  Dec 1930  Jun 1932  Jun 1933  Oct 1933  Sep 1934  Sep 1935  May 1936  Nov 1936  Apr 1938  Jun 1939  Apr 1940  May 1941  Nov 1946  Nov 1951  Nov 1971  Aug 1976 | The buttonhole competition had 10 entries  Competition was for the best home-made overall, paraded by maker.  There were several entries for the tooled handbag competition  Competition was for the best peeled potato blindfolded.  There were many quaint exhibits for “The oldest thing I have”, including a picture 204 years old  Mrs Pollard kindly judged the pork pies  Our choir went to Ely and were very fortunate in winning the banner.  Mrs Burton judged the competition, best dress not to cost more than 3/-  Social consisted of an Eating Competition, married versus single. The single ones winning.  Competition was for the best dressed fowl for the table.  Mrs Vincent judged the competition for the best pair of knitted socks.  Competition was for the best ironed shirt.  A Woolworths competition was held.  The ankle competition was judged by the Rector  Competition: best knitting on matchsticks with 6 stitches and a yard of wool.  Competition for the best nightdress costing not more than 2/6d.  Competition for the best doll made with pipe cleaners and crepe paper.  Competition was for the best set of underclothes.  Competition: the best essay on Newton parish.  Competition for My Oldest Dress had 3 entrants.  Monthly competition for a necklace made of berries.  Monthly competition: a jar of soap. | ?  An earlier meeting  had a demonstration  on the cutting out  of underwear |
| **Cost of Living** | Aug 1923  Nov 1923  Jul 1931  Jul 1934  May 1938  Oct 1938  Nov 1938  Nov 1939  Dec 1949  Nov 1951  Jun 1952  May 1954  Jan 1973  Feb 1975 | Plain tea including  Teapot tea  Home made butter  Home made cakes  1/3d  The Treasurer reported that she had seen Mrs Baker & settled with her as caretaker of the room for WI meetings, who was satisfied with 10/-, this amount covered up to the end of 1923.  The bus for the outing cost £9.  Mrs Shippey explained that the supplement in Home and Country was proving too expensive . . .  Mr J W Cook gave a talk on the cheaper cuts of meat, and useful hints on cooking.  Mrs Kitchen gave a very helpful talk on inexpensive Xmas presents, & showed a number of useful articles.  Cost of bus to Wisbech Group Meeting10/-.  . . . the sugar for preserving was now available, the price 4/9d a stone.  Decided that the hiring fee of the Hall should be raised to 15/-.  Rates due, also £1 stamp duty on WI Hall  Treasurer announced £5..12..1d paid for coal and coke, also 5/- water rates.  It was agreed to accept Mr Burton’s estimate of about £70 to decorate the interior of the Hall and kitchen.  Agreed that we hold a dinner in the WI Hall, the meal to be provided by outside caterers, costing £1 per head.  Accounts paid included door curtains, rings & hooks £12.23, electricity £6.03, coal £11.80. | This was the Parish Room  Destination was Felixstowe  To celebrate the WI’s 50th birthday in  March (1973) |
| **Craft Skills** | May 1923  Jun 1923  Jan 1926  Feb 1926  Jun 1926  Feb 1929  May 1929  Jan 1930  Feb 1930  Dec 1930  May 1931  Nov 1931  Jun 1932  Jun 1933  Sep 1934  May 1936  Nov 1952  Sep 1972 | Miss Chivers gave an excellent demonstration on stenciling  The Secretary was asked to write to Dryad Handicraft Centre & procure raffia for demonstration purposes.  Miss Taylor gave a very instructive demonstration on sealing-wax beads.  Mrs Ream gave a demonstration on sealing-wax vases and bowls .  The President reminded members that the next meeting was to be a class for cane-seating chairs, also a class for sealing-wax work.  Mrs Kitchen gave a demonstration on French polishing, which proved very interesting. Several members have decided to carry on.  Mrs Palmer, Wisbech, was introduced & a very interesting demonstration on cane work was given.  How to make seagrass stools was shown by Mrs Ashford.  Mrs Kitchen gave a . . . demonstration on thrift stools.  We were successful in winning the Handicraft Shield.  Miss Shepperson gave a very interesting demonstration on smocking.  Mrs Conway gave a . . . demonstration on glove making. Several members took patterns.  The demonstration was pewter work, by Mrs Pollard.  It was decided that classes in weaving and Florentine embroidery should be held at The Orchards.  28 certificates were awarded out of 28 entries at the Chatteris Handicraft Exhibition.  Mrs Bowcock gave a most interesting demonstration on making flowers from crepe paper.  5 members are to attend a One Day School on collage and fabric pictures. | Many of the craft skills demonstrated  were later incorporated into the monthly  Competition.  From the Committee’s  Annual Report  Newton won the  Handicraft Shield for  the third year in  succession, and were  allowed to keep  it permanently.  Home of the President,  Mrs Shippey. |
| **Diet/Food** | Oct 1926  Mar 1931  Mar 1935  May 1939  Sep 1941  Apr 1942  Apr 1945  Jan 1973  May 1975 | Miss Petty gave a very interesting talk on Invalid Cookery, dwelling very much on cabbage water . . .  Birthday supper was served which consisted of sausages and bread, some mince pies and coffee.  Members sat down to an excellent supper of sausages and mashed potato with gravy, followed by cakes, tea and coffee.  Miss Dickin, from the Milk Marketing Board, gave a talk on food values.  Talk on wartime cookery by Mrs Hartley of Upwell.  Miss Allen gave an interesting talk on meatless dishes.  Miss McCowan gave an excellent talk on ‘What to eat for health’.  Planned menu for forthcoming 50th birthday: golden vegetable soup, gammon & pineapple, roasted & creamed potatoes, fresh cream gateaux, cheese & biscuits, coffee. Cost £1 per head.  We visited the Isle of Ely College for a curry-making demonstration. | Miss Petty was also known as  ‘The Pudding Lady’.  Birthday meal again.  Produced in premises  with no water  or electricity.  Caterers: Parish of March |
| **Education/School** | Sep 1970 | The evening began with a talk on the new comprehensive education. |  |
| **Entertainment** | Jan 1930  Nov 1930  Jan 1934  Jan 1935  Jan 1938  Mar 1956  Mar 1959  Mar 1970 | Children’s party arranged for Jan 10th – Mr Ream to bring his baby cinema.  The Social Half Hour consisted of Musical Chairs.  . . . followed by some interesting slides on ‘The Romance of Soap-making’, provided by Lever Bros of Port Sunlight. The lantern was ably managed by Mr Firth of Wisbech.  Christmas Social: The evening commenced with a fancy dress parade. Thirty members took part. Fifteen tables of Military Whist were then held, also a ludo drive.  New Year Party. Games played were whist, dominoes, ludo and bagatelle.  The evening opened with the showing of the Pageant film by Mr Ream.  The evening commenced with a film show given by the manufacturers of Crown Wallpaper.  The President welcomed . . . the Walsoken Skiffle Group, who entertained us very successfully all evening. |  |
| **Events : Local, National, International** | Jul 1929  Sep 1929  Jun 1932  Aug 1934  Apr 1937  Nov 1952  Mar 1952 | August Garden Party: Mr & Mrs Hoyles have kindly lent us their grounds.  County Fete at Chatteris. There were 80 entries from Newton & we obtained 12 first prizes & 32 certificates.  Garden Party on Aug 4th at 6.30pm, to be held at The Orchards. There would be a cricket match, WI members versus the schoolboys.  This meeting took the form of an exhibition of produce & flowers.  Members were invited to give their names for tickets to view the Coronation procession.  The President gave notice of a meeting to discuss Coronation celebrations.  . . . some of the members enjoyed a happy day in London visiting the Handicraft Exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum. |  |
| **Farming** | Jul 1967 | We do not have a meeting during the strawberry season. |  |
| **Finance** | Mar 1923  Jan 1924  Feb 1931  Feb 1936  Oct 1936  Jul 1954  Sep 1956  Nov 1956  Jun 1958  Sep 1960  Oct 1965  Oct 1966  Feb 1972  Oct 1972 | It was agreed that, as the rules of exemption from entertainment tax were rather difficult to keep, the Secretary should be asked to provide a receipt book & entertainment tax stamps . . . to be brought to each taxable meeting.  The Treasurer presented her account for 1923 showing a balance of £6. The Treasurer reminded members that such a good balance could not be expected each year.  Balance from the whist drive for the Wisbech Building Fund £5..5/-. This has been sent.  Correspondence: from Mrs Newling, warning us that gramophone records should not be played at meetings unless a fee is paid.  The Secretary was asked to get in touch with Miss Shepperson re grant from County Council.  £10 received for hire of Hall for school meals service.  Charges for the hire of the Hall are to be increased . . . an extra charge of 5/- for the use of piano at parties to be made.  The caretaker is to receive £6 a year in future, & 6/- for lettings.  Tuning of piano 12/6d.  Secretary’s half-yearly expenses 9/4d.  Gardener: half year £5..12..9.  It was decided to pay the gardener a fixed wage of £10 for the whole year in future.  It was agreed that her [the caretaker] salary be increased to £8 per annum.  As the only way we can obtain a grant to do the necessary repairs to the Hall is by handing it over to a village committee, it was decided to hold on to it and get the repairs done , little by little, as finances will allow. | Fund to build a WI  Hall in Wisbech,  which would provide  a rest room for  all local WI members  on market days. |
| **Health/Medicine** | Jul 1931  May 1926  May 1927  May 1934  Apr 1946  Sep 1991 | Mrs Parkin gave a very nice talk on Infant Welfare.  Dr Wilson gave a talk on First Aid & various ailments.  Dr Wilson gave a very . . . instructive demonstration on bandaging.  Paid out to Sister Higgins for sick nursing demonstration 5/-.  Miss Vincent gave a talk on the care of the feet.  Mrs Evans demonstrated emergency treatment to be given when people  collapse. |  |
| **Household Management** | Oct 1932  Nov 1945 | Mrs Pryor gave a demonstration on poultry dressed for the table, also for market.  Mrs Kitchen gave hints on Household Jobbery, and showed how locks can be repaired, taps be put in order & fuses for electric light etc be mended. |  |
| **Immigrants/new people moving to village** | Sep 1939 | The President welcomed quite a number of visitors, who came from the evacuated areas, & expressed a hope that they were happy in their new homes. |  |
| **Living Conditions** | Sep 1929  Jan 1930  Mar 1939  Oct 1945  Jul 1947  Jun 1948  Dec 1949  Nov 1950  Feb 1951  Dec 1952  May 1954  Aug 1954 | Owing to the shortness of water we were unable to have the refreshments.  Resolution re the Marham water – the village paper had been signed by all residents.  Our petition re the Marham water . . . is to be put to a special meeting of the Waterworks Company.  There were 512 signatures on it.  Mr Brown gave a talk on rural housing, after explaining the layout of the Swedish wooden houses, some of which are being erected in this district.  Members were of the opinion that country customers should consider those shops which remain open during the lunch hour when re-registering.  Members were of the opinion that another letter should be sent to the Chamber of Commerce . . . asking that shops should remain open [at lunchtime].  Efforts are being made to raise money . . . to redecorate the Hall, & to install a lighting system as soon as we are able.  A demonstration in the use of Calor gas was given.  Treasurer announced payment of £34..6..6d for installing electric light fittings in Hall.  A very special year, as we now have electric lighting both inside & outside the Hall.  Members decided that central heating in the Hall would be too expensive. It was proposed that a new type stove be purchased, costing about £20.  All members agreed that a Romesse No 3 stove be purchased for the Hall. | Referring to an appeal from the  Chamber of Commerce for  staggered lunch hours.  Shops in Wisbech.  Committee’s Annual Report. |
| **Outings/Visits** | Jun 1930  Jul 1934  May 1936  May 1938  Jun 1939  Jun 1940  Apr 1946  Oct 1948  Jul 1955  Apr 1956  Apr 1957  May 1957  Apr 1966  Aug 1967  Sep 1971  Jul 1972  Feb 1973  Jun 1976  Apr 1986 | Bus tickets for the outing to Skegness were sold.  Mrs Newling gave a report on the outing to Windsor.  It was decided to go to Yarmouth on June 17th by bus.  It was decided that the summer outing should be to Chatsworth House & Nottingham.  The members decided to travel to Clacton by bus for the annual outing. To start from the Parish Room at 7am.  As it is impossible under present conditions to have the summer outing, it was decided by members to have an open air meeting in July.  The summer outing will be to London.  Arrangements were made for a visit to Orchard Products factory.  The bus for Windsor is to leave Newton at 6am.  Next month’s meeting is to be held at Peckover House, after tour of Metal Box factory.  15 members went to the Ideal Homes Exhibition in March.  Our outing is to be to Leamington Spa & Stoneleigh Abbey.  Secretary was asked to book bus for Chelsea Flower Show, also bus for visit to Hovenden House.  Instead of the usual meeting we journeyed to Wisbech by bus & visited the wine cellars & stores of Messrs Peatling and Cawdron.  The Secretary is to obtain a minibus to take members to Marks & Spencer.  We visited the Country Centre at Cambridge.  Our meeting this month took place at the Veterinary Centre, King’s Lynn.  This meeting was held at The Castle, Wisbech.  A visit to Pulham Vineyard was a nice evening. |  |
| **Past Customs** | Mar 1926  May 1926 | The Social Committee wanted to begin practices for the maypole as soon as possible.  The children [of members] were asked to dance the maypole at Oxburgh Hall on June 30th for the Wisbech WI Building Fund. | Oxburgh Hall,  Emneth, home  of Mrs Image,  prominent  member of  Wisbech WI. |
| **Refugees** |  |  |  |
| **Travel/Transport** | Jun 1923  Aug 1923  Jan 1924  Mar 1924  Jun 1926  May 1932  May 1947  Oct 1949  Jul 1953  Jun 1954  Sep 1966  Oct 1967 | It was decided to engage one charabanc and one bus.  Mr Johnson’s offer of a 28 seater charabanc & a 14 seater bus for £7..10..0d was accepted.  The road taken to Sandringham would be via Wisbech as the road via Sutton Bridge was not suitable for heavy traffic. This was not much appreciated by the Tydd & district members who thought of their long walk back.  Mrs Newling offered to fetch her [the speaker] from GER Wisbech & entertain for the night.  A demonstration . . . was given first. This was because Miss Wells found it difficult to catch any other train but the 7.40 to March.  Mrs Image undertook the bus arrangements . . . to Oxburgh Hall.  It was decided to visit Cadbury’s, Bournville. The fare is 6/- & the train departs Wisbech 10.52am & returns from Birmingham at 9pm. Lunch . . . on the train for 2/6d. A bus has been booked to convey members from Newton to Wisbech & return.  It was decided to hire an Eastern Counties bus for the journey.  A most interesting talk was given by Mrs Larham on her visit to America.  Mrs Larham gave her talk on her visit to Denmark.  Mrs West gave a most interesting talk on her visit to Northern Italy.  We are most grateful to Mrs Angood for providing transport for Miss Fundrey.  Mrs Rose gave an interesting talk on her trip to Australia, | For outing to Sandringham.  Outing to Whipsnade.  Speaker from  Wisbech. |
| **Village Facilities** | Dec 1954  Jul 1956 | Members decided to allow the Nursing Association to hire the WI Hall once a month as a Welfare Centre.  The Secretary is to write to Buswatch, a consumer body, interested in keeping our local bus service in the village. |  |
| **World Wars** | Sep 1939  Oct 1939  Oct 1939  Nov 1939  Dec 1939  Feb 1949  Apr 1940  Aug 1940  Sep 1940  Oct 1940  Feb 1941  Apr 1941  Nov 1941  Oct 1942  May 1943  Oct 1944 | Owing to the lighting restrictions the meeting was a short one. No refreshments were served.  A notice was given out that preserving sugar was available to WI members, providing 1cwt could be ordered.  The President reminded members to bring their own sugar for refreshments when rationing starts.  8/- was collected from members, to buy cigarettes for troops.  Correspondence: a letter of thanks from a soldier in France, who had received a share of cigarettes sent from this Institute.  Result of Wool Fund whist drive £3..15..5d.  Mrs Blackwell announced that a box shall be on the table at every meeting, & those who wished could contribute to the Wool Fund.  £2..10/- has been sent to the WVS, and a quantity of wool is now available for knitting.  Cost of blackout for Parish Room 6/8d.  Mrs Blackwell appealed for hospitality for the local Searchlight Unit.  Letters of appreciation were received from men in the forces to whom parcels had been sent.  A collection of peas, beans, onions & carrots sent from America were shared among members who offered to grow them. Mrs Newling spoke of the Fruit Preserving Scheme & urged everyone to help, as it was work of national importance.  Mrs Blackwell appealed for offers of beds & bedding, towels, hot water bottles, old linen etc for use in the Parish Room in the event of an invasion by the enemy.  Institutes are asked to send rabbit skins for lining garments for Russians, and gifts of rug wool & hessian for our soldier prisoners of war.  Mrs Green of Gorefield told of her experiences in France during the last war.  A talk was given by Mrs Blackwell, a former President, on her work in the ATS. | Schoolmaster’s wife. |
| **Other** | Dec 1923  Mar 1924  Mar 1932  Sep 1932  Nov 1936  Jul 1942  Aug 1944  Sep 1949  Dec 1954  Apr 1956  Jan 1987  Mar 1987  Jun 1991 | The Secretary was asked to order:  4lb lump sugar  1lb tea  1 large bottle coffee  1 gallon of oil  Mrs Shippey announced that only 2 entries had been received for the jumper competition. This was disappointing, and all members were reminded that the Institute was not formed for pleasure only.  We had a debate ‘Married or Single, which is the happier lot?’  Miss Shippey has very kindly undertaken to lend her gramophone.  The Travelling Jumble Sale to be held at Newton on May 15th.  Mrs Blackwell . . . mentioned the purchase of the old school by the WI committee for our future WI Hall.  A gift of dried fruit from Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada, was equally shared among members.  All members agreed that a gift of cigarettes be presented to Mr Blackwell in appreciation of his services to the WI.  Lady Balance then gave a talk on ‘Being Presented at Court’.  No meeting due to intensely cold weather & no water in the hall.  6 members will compete in the Darts Final.  Mrs Josephine Simpson demonstrated her gift for water divining. | For a social evening.  Oil for lamps?  Single won.  For folk-dancing  class.  1st recorded meeting  In WI Hall |