1948 – 1958 Post War onwards.

**1949** There were **105 WIs and 6,444** members. The Agricultural committee project was **“Operation Produce**”. Classes at newly opened Brackenhurst on cheese making, canning, jam and pickle making were held as Rationing was still in force. WIs responded well to an appeal to grow extra produce and most Group meetings had a stall. The Sub-committees were very busy and the Federation was represented on a list of bodies such as the RCC, Old People’s Welfare, Rural Industries, Adult Education, Citizen’s Advice and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The WIs were growing, one from **26 to 108** in the year! 400 members attended a two - day **Drama Festival.** A survey entitled **‘Our Village’** of the conditions and needs of 116 villages were sent to NFWI.

**1950** and 7 new WIs bringing the total to **112 with 6,796** members. A **County Rally** was held at Welbeck Abbey. 13 Choirs took part in a **Music Festival.**

**1951**.The WI celebrated the **Festival of Britain** with a feast of crafts and marked by many WIs who gave seats, clocks, flagpoles and name boards. Money was raised to furnish the first Nottinghamshire bedroom at Denman. The Education committee tackled road safety, safety in the home, rheumatism and waiting in Out Patients at hospitals.

**1952.** **County Outing** to London to the National Handicraft Exhibition and 400 members went by special train.

**1953** was Coronation year with **120 WIs**. The craft committee were busy making soft furnishings for the Denman bedroom. A drama festival took place.

**1954** with **121 WIs** but actual membership was falling – the novelty of television was blamed! WIs were urged to make their programmes more interesting. Members gave a wonderful response to appeal for gifts to be sent to the flood victims in Australia.

**1955**. The office of the President/Chairman which Lady Sibell Argles had held since 1931 was now divided. Lady Sibell remained the President and **Mrs. E Wilson** now became the County Chairman. The **Royal Show** was held in Nottingham and as host county we made a large contribution to the NFWI pavilion, providing stewards and a variety of entertainments. These took the form of a mediaeval goose fair complete with jester, dancers, ponies and geese. A new typewriter was purchased for the office replacing the second hand one!

**1956 and 124 WIs.** 13 Choirs competed in a Choir Festival.

**1957**. A **Drama Festival** at Carlton-le-willows with 18 entries, Hoveringham and Welbeck Abbey WIs were chosen to go the national finals.

The constant economies practised by the WI over the years, without affecting activities of the movement was a source of great pride. The war years had intensified thriftiness and those who had lived through them never lost the habit. Looking back, I’m sure you can remember your mothers and grandmothers saving string, brown paper and numerous items, reusing lots of things - not wasting anything. In fact, just like we are trying to do in 2017.