**1997 – 2006 Into the Millennium**

**1997.** **137 WIs**. **Notts 80th Anniversary Family Day** at Rufford. Demonstrations of crafts, games and the Dukeries Band were playing. **White Water Rafting** at Holme Pierpont. **Outing** to **Liverpool** and a **holiday to Brussels** on the Eurostar.

**1998.** **MMA** began (Millennium Million Breast Care Unit Appeal) at Nottingham City Hospital. It began with the **“boob tubes**”. Small plastic tubes that were filled with 20p pieces. **Linda Davey became the Federation Chairman**.**1st Welcome Walk** by Sports & Leisure. Computers came to the Office**. Craft Spectacular** at Patchings Farm. Newark Show competition was ‘Children at Play’. Millennium projects began.

**1999**. **135 WIs**. **Story Sack Project**, WIs were asked to make one for a child. Zena Skinner speaker at 2 County Lunches**. A Cornucopia of Crafts Exhibition at Rainworth**. Millennium Group Banners project begins. **Calendar Girls** create an interest in the WI.

**2000**. County House had a **Silver Jubilee Celebration**, the Federation organised a **Mediaeval Fair** at Patchings Farm and the **Group Banners,** made especially for the millennium were on display. Members took part in a **National** **Peacock Butterfly Survey**. Sports & Leisure went to Ascot, and to Newark for Gliding. Notts Police Aid convoys asked for help with the Kosovo Refugee Crisis. ACWW project was ‘Water for All’. The Newark Show competition was **‘Women of Influence’. Tony Blair was heckled at the NFWI AGM in London.**

**2001**. By February the **MMA appeal** had raised **£19,547** through the boob tubes alone! Another appeal asked for members help to knit - **Teddies for Tragedies.** **Rummikub, Archery and ‘Going to the Dogs’** was taken up by the Sports committee**. Newark Show was cancelled due to ‘Foot & Mouth’** but we took the country to town and everything that was to be in the Marquee went in the Ballroom of the Newark Town Hall. **Jenny Bailey** became the **Hornblower Editor**. The **Duck Race** was still an Annual event. We visited Kirton Brickworks and the Globe Theatre in London.

**2002**. **133 WIs.** **MMA it was estimated that WI members had raised £49,268! Jenny Pitman,** our speaker at the **Annual Meeting. County Holiday** went to **Cornwall.** **Resolutions** for the National IGM was **Local Abattoirs and the Importation of Foodstuffs. Welcome Walks** returned after the **Foot and Mouth. The County Quiz** was going strong at 7 venues! **Turf-Cutting Ceremony at the City Hospital for the Breast Care Unit. Literature Evening and a Come and Sing Day. Over 4,500 Teddies** had been knitted. Outing to **Bletchley Park. Long Alley Skittles** and a **Whist Drive** on the calendar**. Cookery and Craft Courses.** The **Queens Golden Jubilee** was celebratedwith a **Concert, Jennie Bond was the speaker.** Fund raising for new hand rails at County House. **Federation Weekend at Denman.**

**2003**. **Community Challenge** projects commenced. **Well - Well - Well** was a series of events relating to Women’s Heath. **Vera Carter** became **Federation Chairman**. **‘This England’** was the Newark Show Competition. An appeal for members to knit hats and gloves for **Samaritans Purse**. **New plaque and railings erected at County House**. Holiday to Nova Scotia and New England. **Nottinghamshire WI** keep the **Apple Day** going with competitions and stalls at the Methodist Hall, Southwell. **Calendar Girls film was made**. **Croquet, Calligraphy, Scrabble** and **Watercolour** painting on the calendar.

**2004.** **National Needlework Archive** project. **County Holiday to Northumbria**. **Gyles Brandreth** was the Annual Meeting speaker. **‘A Year of Science’** with visits to **Power Stations**. **“The Day the Rains came Down”**, storm damage to County House. **County Banner** was made. **Tai Chi, Ladies Day, Garden Day, Quilling and a** **Salsa Evening**. **Nottinghamshire came 1st in the NFWI Huxley Cup Competition. Butterfly Survey completed. The Membership Communication System (MCS) was launched.**

**2005.** **90 years of the WI**! We celebrated with an **Evening with Roger Royle** and the Lace City Singers. Many WIs also celebrated with a diversity of events. **30 years** at **County House** – it had a **New Door Mat!** Federation Weekend at Denman. The Annual Meeting speaker was **Simon Weston**. Holiday to **Bournemouth.** **Denman Dip** commenced. Talk by the County Coroner. Oversees holiday to **Vietnam and Cambodia**. A monthly **Ladies at Lunch** at County House as fund-raisers. **£4800** had been raised by Nottinghamshire for an **ACWW project in the Cameroon**. **Tinsel & Turkey, Aqua Fit, Ten Pin Bowling, Table Tennis & Patchwork.**

**2006. 127 WIs**. In the decade we had lost 10 WIs.  **“Burundi Bears”** nearly took over County House. ‘**Executive went on Tour’** to five venues and took part in the **Water Rafting** at Walesby Scout Camp! **Treasures of Newark with afternoon tea**. Resolutions were ‘**Renewable Energy’** and ‘**Sport for a healthy population’**. The **Bulb Scheme, 50/50 club, the Annual events of County Lunches, Duck Race, Newark Show and Apple Day** also continued. During the later months of 2006 the Federation was preparing events for 2007 as it would be our 90th Year. When I look back over the years there is so much more I could tell you but I have no more space. Yes, we were busy, but what I remember most is the friendship and the fun as well – **seeing the line of bare bottoms at Walesby does spring to mind! (there wasn’t a changing room just the forest! The last ten years to come next month.**