



The NFWI  
Board of Trustees  
sends its  
congratulations  
and best wishes  
to the  
Abbotskerswell  
Women's Institute  
Devon  
on its  
50th Anniversary

*Fay Manser* Chair



# ABBOTSKERSWELL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1959 - 2017



AN ABBPAST PRODUCTION

**A HISTORY OF ABBOTSKERSWELL  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: 1959 – 2017**

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HISTORY OF  
ABBOTSKERSWELL  
WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTE  
1959 – 2017**

Produced by AbbPast in 2018 to record the 58 year history of the village branch of the Women's Institute

The Women's Institute was formed in Canada in 1897 but by 1915 it had arrived in Great Britain. At that time it had two aims: to revitalise rural communities, and to encourage women to help in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and it is now the largest women's voluntary organisation in Britain, with 7000 branches.

**1959 – 1969**

The W.I., as it is always known, did not have an Abbotskerswell branch until 1959, mainly because of the strength of other organisations in the village. The Village Club (later known as St Mary's Social Club), the Girl's Friendly Society and St Mary's Guild all attracted the village's women when they had a little spare time. However, on 24 August 1959 a **Formation Meeting** was held in Church House, with the W.I. Voluntary County Organisers on hand to help the creation of the village branch. Mrs Arnold proposed that a group be formed, which Mrs Jutsum seconded; unsurprisingly the motion was carried. The structure of the branch, which was to join the Haldon Group, was outlined, with a monthly meeting, a committee of 12 members and an annual payment of 3s 6d. After games and activities the meeting ended with the singing of "God Save the Queen", to mark the recent announcement of the Queen's pregnancy.

**THE FIRST MEETING ON 8 SEPTEMBER 1959**

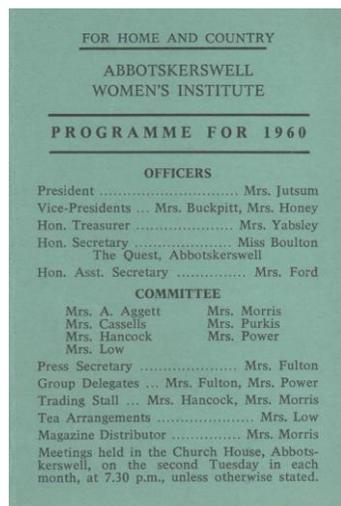
As would become usual, Church House was the venue, with "Jerusalem"\* sung to open the meeting. A ballot was held to elect the committee, all formally done with Ashburton W.I. providing the tellers. The first committee is shown below:

Mrs A Aggett	Mrs Buckpitt	Mrs B Cassells	Mrs Bond
Mrs B Hancock	Mrs G Honey	Mrs E Jutsum	Mrs Low
Mrs Morris	Mrs Purkis	Mrs A Power	Mrs Yabsley

In her absence Mrs Purkis was elected as President, however, she later declined the role. Next was Social Time, and at this meeting it was a cookery

demonstration by Miss Westall from SWEB (South West Electricity Board). She produced five party dishes which were eventually auctioned, raising 14 shillings which was given to the W.I. funds. Three younger members acted as hostesses, providing the tea and biscuits; these were Miss Karen Honey, Miss Rosemary Wright and Mrs Power. A successful first meeting concluded with the members writing down their ideas for future meetings.

The **First Committee Meeting** was held on 17 September at the Tradesman's Arms, whose landlady, Mrs Hancock, was on the committee. Two issues had to be resolved, the Presidency and the fact that Miss Boulton's name had been omitted from the ballot paper. Mrs Jutsum was elected as President by the Committee and Miss Boulton accepted the offer of being co-opted on to the Committee. Two Vice Presidents were elected, Mrs Honey and Mrs Buckpitt, with Miss Boulton becoming the Secretary, and Mrs Yabsley the Treasurer. Miss Honey became the Registrar, Mrs Fulton the Press Secretary and Mrs Morris the Magazine Distributor, who took the orders for the W.I. magazine 'Home & Country'. It was agreed that three members would be tea hostesses each meeting, with members paying 3d each; a programme for the three meetings that year was also agreed. At later meetings in 1959 it was resolved to open a Midland Bank account and to charge visitors 6d per meeting (but they could only attend two in a year).



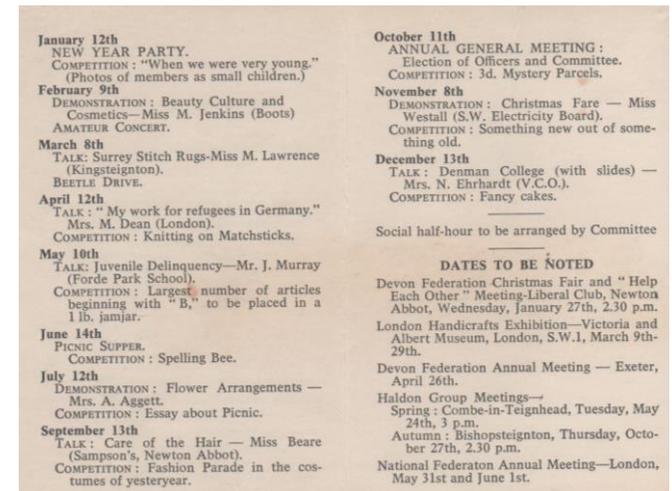
The minutes of the first meeting did not note the number of members present, although the October meeting noted that there were 26 present. The meeting featured a talk on a Swiss Holiday, with colour slides, and Old Time Dancing lead by Mrs Hancock in Social Time. Slowly the branch became organised with membership cards, a Trading Stall and a Bookstall, although it was necessary for the President to ask all members "to stay until 9 30 at each monthly meeting if possible, so that the meeting could be appropriately concluded with "God Save the Queen".<sup>1</sup>

The branch's first full year, 1960, began with a New Year Party for the 28

members and their 27 guests. The report in the Mid Devon Advertiser noted "a three-course dinner was served at tables bright with linen, sparkling candles and crackers. An excellent fruit punch was served from a large silver bowl."<sup>2</sup> The Guests of Honour were Mr D A Carter, Chairman of Newton Abbot British Legion and Mrs Carter. After team games, competitions and dancing, the members voted it 'The best party held in Abbotskerswell'.

The 1960 Membership card shown on page 3 lists the Officers and Committee, all very formally referred to by their title. The minutes followed this fashion, unless the person was unmarried and then their first name was used.

On the reverse of the card was the year's activities, which reflect both the time and the interests of women then. It should be remembered that at that time most married women with children did not work, therefore the W.I. was an occasion to get out and enjoy



the company of friends away from the house. This was particularly true of the annual coach outing. However, the skills of the housewife were very much to the fore, with cooking demonstrations and competitions using these skills; but there was also an intention to allow women to develop new interests as well. These are shown with the annual Haldon Group Meeting competition, which had three elements: a tray set for a bed patient on a normal light diet, an action song in costume for two singers and an original water colour painting.

At the April meeting, the talk on refugees and their "difficult and often appalling living conditions"<sup>3</sup>, had a great affect, with the branch voting to 'adopt' a Polish family by the name of Lack. A collection at the meeting rasied £3 15s and it was agreed to collect clothes and groceries, and to knit squares for blankets. By July the branch had sent their first parcel and Mrs Lack had replied thanking them.

They later sent birthday cards for the children and a Christmas parcel for the Lack's camp at Munster in Germany.

Events such as the annual meetings of the Devon Federation at Exeter and the National Federation in London were certainly occasions for villagers to spread their wings. In 1960 the branch secretary, Miss Boulton, attended the former and President Mrs Jutsum, journeyed to London. The highlight of the year was the 'Mystery Drive' organised by Mrs Honey in June; the destination proved to be Haldon Belvedere Tower for a picnic supper, returning via Dawlish and Torquay, with a stop for refreshments. The successful first year ended with Mrs Yabsley having been elected President for 1961, a dress making class at the Village School beginning and the first mention of a handbell team; more on this will follow in the years to come. *Appendix 1* is a list of all the known members from that early period of the village's W.I.

During the 1960s the membership continued to grow with around 30 members attending each meeting, with the annual party and outing proving very popular. In 1963 the outing was to Bicton Gardens, and 52 members and friends attended the New Year Party. There were also Whist Drives organised, always popular in the village and a good way to raise funds: one in 1961 raised a third of their annual funds. Another fund raising, but social activity, was organising coffee evenings, which usually featured a 'Bring & Buy Sale'.

A popular activity at the meetings were the tales from members' holidays and visits. Miss Boulton told of her holiday on Majorica, Mrs Langford of the Golden Jubilee Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, Mrs Mills described a visit to the London Guildhall, and the annual trip to the National Federation Meeting was always popular.



This is the oldest known photograph of the village W.I., taken at a meeting in 1965.

Another feature of the early years was the collaboration with other W.I. branches. The election tellers were always from other branches, but there were always invitations to Christmas Parties at Denbury or Ipplepen, with their members being invited back in other years. Speakers from other branches were common, and in July 1965 Abbotskerswell defeated Bovey Tracey in a general knowledge quiz.

Competitions were always part of a W.I. meeting, these included: six cup cakes, flower of the month, prettiest necklace, an unusual ornament, the oldest coin, and a handmade embroidered article.

One village tradition that the W.I. will always be associated with is the ringing of the handbells#. In 1966 the hand bells were not being used, therefore the W.I. took over the care of them, created a group of ringers and organised an evening class to teach ringing; villager Charles Tubb was the teacher. Having come fourth at the South West Music festival at Paignton, they featured at the 1968 County Show, when seven W.I. ringers did five half hour stints in three days. The handbells would be a feature for many years to come.

*The ringing team at the County Show were, left to right:*

*Mrs M Stanley (who transposed the music)*

*Mrs Frances Mills*

*Mrs Jessie Latter*

*Mrs Nancy Minto*

*Mrs Ann Aggett*

*Mrs Phyllis Ford*



As the first ten years of the Abbotskerswell branch came to a close, it was a vibrant group, with the membership larger than ever, with regular attendances over 40. New activities were being added, especially outings to venues, such as Torrington Glass Works and Plymouth Bakery. After six years of Presidency Mrs Francis Mills, from Aller Manor Farm, had been replaced by Miss Marion Beer.

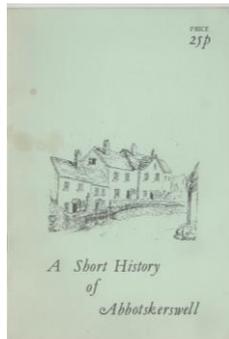
### **1970 – 1979**

The '70s began with fundraising underway to buy more handbells, with more small bells being needed. The ringers had been asked to perform once again

at the County Show, and in 1971 they finished second at the Paignton Festival. Whist drives and coffee evenings continued to be popular social events, and always raised good money for the W.I. funds. The need to re-furbish the bells meant more fundraising was needed, and new methods such as bingo and gymkhanas began. At the 1974 Paignton Festival the team were third, and graded as A+. The ringers were in great demand by other W.I. branches and shows, as well as the County Show. During the 1975-76 year the ringers had a remarkable 51 engagements.

However, the success of the handbell ringers prompted the suggestion that they should break away from the W.I., but after discussions regarding funding it was decided to stay within the organisation but that "... other outsiders can also belong to the Abbotskerswell W.I. Handbell Team."<sup>4</sup>

There was a definite move towards developing handicraft skills within the group, with requests to the Devon Education Committee for courses to be run in the village, which were generally successful. Courses such as millinery, crochet, corn dolly making and dress making were soon running. Another development at the meetings was a wider interest in village issues such as footpaths, trees and the Village Hall. However, the traditions of talks, bring and buy sales, and competitions both in meetings and in other branches' shows were maintained.



At the September 1977 meeting the Record Book notes that "Members were asked to let Miss Vickers have any information they could collect on old Abbotskerswell"<sup>5</sup>; this simple line would have fascinating consequences. Miss Eve Vickers soon approached John Somers Cox who agreed to help them write a village history. Member Miss Molly Cheesewright drew pictures to add to Miss Vickers text. Denbury Press quoted a price of £90 for a print run of 500, allowing the booklets to be sold for 25p each.

On 20 November 1978 the booklets had been printed and an open evening was held to launch the village history; John Somers Cocks was invited, to thank him for his help. In April 1979 The Herald Express wrote a large piece on this commendable achievement, Mrs Mathias told the paper that "we had the idea about a year ago and got a little sub-committee up. We asked members to contribute things they knew. The response was fantastic".<sup>6</sup> All 500 booklets

were soon sold and a re-print completed in September.



The handbell ringers continued to be in great demand, with The Priory being a regular venue; the nuns really enjoyed the ringing. By July 1979 the majority of the money that was needed to pay for the handbells to be retuned had been raised, and Mr Rowe took them to London for the work to be done. The final bill was £557, of which £145 was pro-

vided by the trustees of the Handbell Trust. For five years the village W.I. had worked hard to raise the necessary funds with ringing events, coffee mornings and whist drives; the final bill was met thanks to a £100 loan from Mrs Latter and Mrs Mills, which was soon repaid.

### 1980 – 1989

The numbers of members attending was still very healthy at the beginning of the decade, with well over 30 attending each meeting. A typical meeting of the time began with the last meeting's minutes being read, then future events being organised (such as jumble sales, outings and tea parties), the reports on activities (this might include the handbells, drama group, choir and county meetings), home economics, the speaker and competitions.

At the Paignton Music festival of 1981 the Abbotskerswell W.I. at last got their hands on the trophy they had sought for years, the coveted Senior Handbell Trophy. The team is shown here with the shield, the team members are:

*L to R: Back Row: Judith Aggett, Jessie Latter, Jean Matthias, Martin ?, Ann Aggett, Phyllis Ford, Len Rowe, Lois Walker, Marjorie Everett. Front Row: Cheryl Ford, Nancy Minto, Francis Mills.*



The large Christmas parties of the 1960s had declined, with the Members Evening, when members often dressed up, becoming popular; in 1981 it was 'The 1920s'. One such evening is shown on page 9. Another changing social trend occurred in May 1982 when "due to lack of support, it was proposed by



Mrs Mitchinson and seconded by Mrs Messar that the May Whist Drive should be the last"<sup>7</sup>; these had been a hugely popular village events for decades, but times were changing. There was an attempt to revive them in 1988 but this failed.

In October 1984 the Abbotskerswell W.I. celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with a special evening event, which is shown below. The tables were beautifully decorated, a birthday cake was cut by the President and two founder members; the branch choir and handbell ringers provided the entertainment.



The W.I. were enthusiastic footpath walkers at this time, reporting paths that were blocked. They also supported the Beating of the Bounds in May 1985, providing teas for the 80 walkers. Another village venture that the W.I. always supported was AbbTalk. When it was launched in March 1985 they had an article on page 3, in which they remembered a former President who had recently died, Miss Beer "...who for so many years brightened our meetings with her lively personality and wide knowledge of the movement."<sup>8</sup> The branch also made an annual contribution to the running costs of AbbTalk.

As the decade came to a close Abbotskerswell W.I. was still vibrant, with the choir being particularly active, as were the outings and the 'Sick Visitor' (a member who visited members who were ill). One of the last acts of the 1980s was to celebrate the branches 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in September 1989, with a special evening, featuring the cake shown below. However, the handbells had become an issue and it was finally decided, in a secret ballot, that all of the bells, including the 13 owned by the W.I. should be returned to the trustees.



### 1990 – 1999

The popularity of the village W.I. showed no signs of waning into the next decade, with 41 members present at the first meeting of the year under the Presidency of Mrs Kath Painter. Some innovations

were introduced around this time, including birthday posies and two decorative bowls for competition winners in memory of Miss Dunn.

In the next few years the Abbotskerswell branch contributed to resources produced by the Devon Federation of Women's Institutes. In 1990 there was an Abbotskerswell page in "The Devon Village Book", which gives a good resume of the village's history. It notes the church, wells, the cider factory, but also the demise of the farms and the building of new houses. In the early 1990s a Devon wall hanging was created, Abbotskerswell's is shown on the cover of this history. In 1993 there is a reference to quarrying in the parish in "Devon Within Living Memory"; this showed that village men worked at Decoy clay pits and Stoneycombe, walking the mile and a half to get there.

In 1995 original member Edie Low died and to commemorate her contribution a tray was commissioned, made by the boys at Court Grange; it had a metal inscription tag fitted stating "In Memory of Mrs Edie Low, a Founder Member of Abbotskerswell W.I." In the same year the Devon Federation of the W.I.



celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by commissioning a new banner that was passed from branch to branch throughout the county. Each branch choose its own method of delivery, and as shown, Abbotskerswell opted for the use of a tandem ridden by Marian Sayers and Christine Lewis when it was taken to Kingskerswell.

A study of the branch Record Book makes it very clear that the members enjoyed both the meetings and each other's company. There were numerous cream teas, Coffee Evenings, meals, quizzes, jumble sales, open days (the 1993 day is shown right), outings and activities; they also made certain that the deaths of members or former members were properly observed with silences and memorials. In 1996 the death of Mrs Nancy Minto was recorded with a memorial; Nancy had been President for five years and a vital part of the handbell team. The memorial was a hassock tapestry, which was designed



and made by the members.

During the 1990s it was the W.I. Choir that was the main group focus, with the handbell ringers having become more of a village organisation. The Choir often sang at village and area events, with the members also attending singing days at other venues. In 1999 they sang at the Exeter Carol Service, with Mrs Chris Shaw their leader.

Members also attended many courses at Denham College, the W.I.'s centre for learning; these included cookery, music and craft sessions.

## 2000 – 2009

The new millennium began with the membership still very healthy with most meetings attracting over 30 members. In AbbTalk the monthly column was going strong, with Christine Lewis the branch author. 2000 was greeted with a reminder for annual subscriptions, then £15 50, teddies for children involved in accidents had been knitted, 12 members volunteered to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the W.I. at Exeter Cathedral, and auctioneer Mr Whitton was the year's first speaker.

Life memberships were bestowed upon two long standing members; Mrs Bet Cassells, who was an original 1959 member, and Mrs Olive Skinner. However, one long standing activity was lost in September 2000 when the W.I. Choir, which had been a hugely popular W.I. activity for over a decade, disbanded because the numbers involved had decreased to such an extent that they could not continue. Members still took part in singing events and the branch still enjoyed a good sing-song.

One long standing W.I. fundraising activity was still popular in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Pancake Day; it was advertised across the village and supported enthusiastically. There was still the hard work done at fetes, soup lunches, 50/50 stalls and raffles. The competitions each month were still popular, with 21<sup>st</sup> century examples being: the smallest leather item, a pretty coffee cup and saucer, the best wine glass and a wooden figure. The Annual Bowl for best competition points score was won by Beatrice Brooking in 2003.

The subscription had risen to £20 by 2003, although there was some dissatisfaction in 2006 when a new magazine, 'W.I. Life', was introduced and sent to each member, with the annual fee being raised £3 to pay for it.

In 2004 the Abbotskerswell branch celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> birthday and was featured in the Herald Express; in their photograph, shown above, are Ann Wild, Doreen Neu, Bet Castle, Dot Brimecombe and the 45<sup>th</sup> birthday cake. When the President, Doreen Neu, was asked why they are so involved in village life she commented: "we do so because we are part of the village, indeed one of the component parts which make up the whole."<sup>9</sup>

## Celebrations for flourishing WI

ON Tuesday September 14, Abbotskerswell Women's Institute celebrated its 45th birthday.

Doreen Neu, the president, told me they now have 46 members, including six new members this year.

Doreen is in her second term of office, which normally lasts three years. She also said that the WI there is coming out of a trough and picking up, as it is a friendly village, and ladies are wanting to join.



also helped the community here by donating a table and an urn to Church House for the use of all and further afield by making story sacks for the library at Newton Abbot.

"We have donated teddy bears for children unfortunate enough to be involved in road accidents and we have knitted blankets for the Special Baby Care unit at Turley Hospital."

"We also find time to visit places of interest, the theatre and annually the Carol Concert at Exeter Cathedral. We also do the more traditional WI activities by organising cream teas, soup

The Abbotskerswell branch had always been very supportive of the Haldon Group events, taking part in the Group Quiz and Group Meeting; in 2005 the branch won the Quiz Cup for the fourth year in a row.

As the decade came to an end there was one huge event to celebrate in 2009, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the branch. It was fitting that the President for the year should be Ann Wild, a founding member. On 8 September a great party was held in Church House, with room decked out in green and gold, and with tables beautifully laid out. The President read the minutes from the first meeting on 8 September 1959, and reminded the members that three of the original members were still members. Then the Town Crier, in full regalia, rang his bell and delivered his message of congratulations, before "everyone enjoyed a splendid meal, prepared by caterers and served by the daughters of two W.I. members."<sup>10</sup>



*Ann Wilson, the Chairman of the Devon Federation, cut the anniversary the cake with Ann Wild.*

## 2010 – 2017

Into the branches sixth decade membership had begun to decline; despite numbers in the teens there were still the usual activities and coffee mornings. However, in 2013 the need for a new treasurer showed the difficulties of the low membership when it came to the officers, and for the first time the issue of survival was raised. In 2015 there were just 16 members; it is interesting to note that the largest recorded meeting was in November 1969 when 47 members attended.

In 2017 the branch was still organising successful cream teas, the Denham Raffle (to fund the W.I. training centre there), an outing to Saltram House, and speakers on subjects such as being a lighthouse keeper, the problems of owning a farm and Japanese braiding. The annual Mayday stall was manned and a fish and chip supper planned. The last W.I. branch entry in AbbTalk was in October 2017, when all seemed normal with the usual description of the September meeting and looking forward to November Coffee Morning. However, behind the scenes problems were developing, particularly with discontent at the increased £41 a year membership fee; when the treasurer resigned none of the members were willing to take on the role, but W.I rules dictated that all the officers' positions had to be filled. At this point the President had no choice but to call for a suspension of the branch; the only vote against the motion was from one of the original 1959 members.

Consequently on 5 December the last Committee Meeting was held, when issues regarding the branch's assets were resolved. On 12 December 2017 the last meeting of the Abbotskerswell W.I. was held with a supper, and President, Pat Heath, brought to an end 58 years of a village institution when she announced the final suspension of the branch.

## IN CONCLUSION

But it is only a suspension and it does not mean that it cannot be re-born at a later date. The branch archives are to be held at the Devon Federation W.I. HQ for three years, and who knows what might happen in that time. It is from these archives that AbbPast has been able to research this history and tell the story of those 58 years, and we must thank all those members who have helped our research, especially Ann Wild, who was a member from the beginning, and Pat Heath, the last President.

## APPENDIX 1 THE FIRST MEMBERS; 1959–60

Research into the first year of the Abbotskerswell branch has produced this list of members; however it should be noted that the meeting records did not always make it clear who were members and who were visitors.

Mrs A Aggett	Miss K Honey
Mrs E Andrews	Mrs E Jutsom
Mrs B Arnold	Mrs Langford
Mrs D Bearne	Mrs E Low
Mrs E Beavis	Mrs F Mills
Miss A Blackmore	Mrs N Minto
Miss I Boulton	Mrs M Morris
Mrs D Brimecombe	Mrs Perkins
Mrs M Buckpitt	Mrs E Purkis
Mrs L Bond	Mrs A Power
Mrs B Cassells	Mrs J Power
Mrs D Cummings	Mrs M Shears
Mrs Domoney	Mrs H Thomson
Mrs E Franks	Mrs Thornton
Mrs P Ford	Mrs M Unwin
Mrs E Fulton	Miss R Wright
Mrs B Hancock	Mrs S Wright
Mrs G Honey	Mrs V Yabsley



*The 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting on 14 September 2004*

## APPENDIX 2 THE ABBOTSKERSWELL BRANCH PRESIDENTS

Tradition stated that a President should serve for three years.

1959-60	Mrs E Jutsum	1989-90	Mrs K Painter
1960-61	Mrs V Yabsley	1990-91	Mrs K Painter
1961-62	Mrs V Yabsley	1991-92	Mrs M Hargreaves
1962-63	Mrs F Mills	1992-93	Mrs M Hargreaves
1963-64	Mrs F Mills	1993-94	Mrs M Hargreaves
1964-65	Mrs F Mills	1994-95	Mrs M Sayers
1965-66	Mrs F Mills	1995-96	Mrs M Sayers
1966-67	Mrs F Mills	1996-97	Mrs D Neu
1967-68	Mrs F Mills	1997-98	Mrs D Neu
1968-69	Miss M Beer	1998-99	Mrs D Neu
1969-70	Miss M Beer	1999-2000	Mrs C Watts
1970-71	Miss M Beer	2000-2001	Mrs C Watts
1971-72	Mrs N Minto	2001-2002	Mrs C Watts
1972-73	Mrs N Minto	2002-2003	Mrs D Neu
1973-74	Mrs N Minto	2003-2004	Mrs D Neu
1974-75	Mrs N Minto	2004-2005	Mrs D Neu
1975-76	Mrs N Minto	2005-2006	Mrs A Wild
1976-77	Mrs J Mathias	2006-2007	Mrs A Wild
1977-78	Mrs J Mathias	2007-2008	Mrs A Wild
1978-79	Mrs J Mathias	2008-2009	Mrs A Wild
1979-80	Mrs J Mathias	2009-2010	Mrs B Brooking
1980-81	Mrs J Mathias	2010-2011	Mrs B Brooking
1981-82	Mrs J Mathias	2011-2012	Mrs B Brooking
1982-83	Miss M Beer	2012-2013*	Mrs B Brooking
1983-84	Miss M Beer	2013-2014	Mrs B Brooking
1984-85	Mrs F Williams	2014-2015	Mrs B Brooking
1985-86	Mrs F Williams	2015-2016	Mrs B Brooking
1986-87	Mrs F Williams	2016-2017	Mrs B Brooking
1987-88	Mrs L Greenaway /Mrs K Painter	2017-2018	Mrs P Heath
1988-89	Mrs K Painter		

\*AGM moved from October to April

## REFERENCES

\*During the 1920s, many W.I.s started choirs, and Sir Walford Davies was asked to write an arrangement of 'Jerusalem' for these choirs. This hymn, with its association with the fight for women's suffrage, was appropriate for the newly emerging W.I. movement which was encouraging women to take their part in public life. It was performed at the W.I.'s AGM in 1924, and was so successful that it has been sung at the opening of the AGM to this day, and at the opening of many W.I. meetings

<sup>1</sup> Abbotskerswell W.I. Minutes 8.12.1959

<sup>2</sup> Mid Devon Advertiser 16.01.1960

<sup>3</sup> Abbotskerswell W.I. Minutes 12.04.1960

#The handbells had been bought by Mrs Hare in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. They are owned by a village trust who have cared for them ever since, and were kept in Church House in a box made by Mr Partridge. In 1921 the bells were in need of attention, and Guy Henley from Mallands donated much of the money needed to repair them

<sup>4</sup> Abbotskerswell W.I. Record Minutes 11.01.1977

<sup>5</sup> Abbotskerswell W.I. Record Minutes 13.09.1977

<sup>6</sup> Herald Express April 1977

<sup>7</sup> Abbotskerswell W.I. Record Minutes 11.05.1982

<sup>8</sup> AbbTalk No 1

<sup>9</sup> Herald Express 6.10.2004

<sup>10</sup> AbbTalk No 262

*A Members Night Meeting in 1992*

