



# *The Women's Institute Minety*

The Minety branch of the Women's Institute was set up in the 1930's. It is still in existence and thriving today. A few of the newspaper reports of the activities from 1935 to 1940 follow.

By the kindness of Mrs Kirby the monthly meeting was held in the gardens of Minety House. A cake competition was won by Mrs Harry Read, with Mrs H J Lewis second. The children of members and others who performed a fairy play were entertained to tea. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs Kirby for the use of her grounds.

*Western Daily Press 24 August 1935*

About 50 members attended the monthly meeting. A competition for the making of chocolate fingers was won by Mrs J Westmacott. Miss Hislop gave a demonstration on fancy cake making. An entertainment by children (arranged by Mrs Heyden) followed. Mrs Burnley was the accompanist.

*Western Daily Press 12 October 1935*

Lady Gamble presided at a meeting of Minety Women's Institute, when about 40 members attended. A chocolate finger competition was won by Mrs J Westmacott, Miss Pike, Miss N Westmacott, Miss Prior and Mrs H Lewis. In a garment costing no more than 1s competition, Mrs J Westmacott and Mrs Fred Reade were the winners.

Lady Gamble was elected president; Miss Kirby, Miss D Ludlow Hewitt, Mrs Glazebrook, Mrs Ziegler, vice-presidents; Mrs Raines, secretary; Miss Ludlow Hewitt, treasurer; Mrs E E Taylor, assistant secretary; and Mrs A Townsend, assistant treasurer. The committee appointed were Mrs Meakin, Mrs A S Clarke, Mrs H V Cook, Mrs J Westmacott, Mrs H Lewis, Mrs C S Stratford, Mrs E Baker, Nurse Newman, Mrs Vizor, Mrs Tom Read, Miss Pike and Miss Prior.

There were two bargain stalls and dancing followed.

*Western Daily Press 18 November 1935*

Among those attending the annual party of the Minety Women's Institute was Lady Gamble, the president; Miss A Ludlow Hewitt, the hon. secretary; and Mrs E E Taylor, the hon. treasurer. Miss Ludlow Hewitt was MC for games, and the winners of the competition were: Musical chairs, Mr and Mrs Fred Newport; musical arms, Mrs Sidney Skuse and Mr T Waite; cushion game, Mrs Don Cole; musical pairs, Mr Ronald Westmacott and Miss Monica Hart; jelly eating, Mr W Biddington and Mr Fred Newman. Dancing followed, music being supplied by the Wootton Bassett Orchestra. Miss A Ludlow Hewitt made the arrangements.

*Western Daily Press 16 January 1936*

Lady Gamble presided at the monthly meeting. A demonstration of wool rug-making was given by Mrs A E Townsend. The meeting closed with dancing.

Western Daily Press 25 February 1936

Lady Gamble presided at a meeting of the Minety Women's Institute. Miss Wigram, of Latton, gave a travel talk and Mrs Miles spoke on the work of the institute. Mrs E Hart won the first prize in the bulb competition and Miss Margaret Prior the second prize. A sketch "Mother's 'At Home' Day" was enacted by Mrs A Daniels, Misses Hilda Manners and Margaret Prior. Bargain stalls were supervised by Mrs A E Townsend, assistant hon. secretary, and Mrs C E Meakin. Tea was served by the committee.

Western Daily Press 25 March 1936

A demonstration on hairdressing was given by Mrs D Payne (of Malmesbury) at the monthly meeting. In a competition for tulips Mrs Daniels, senr., was awarded first and Mrs Taylor second prize. Other competitions were won by Mrs J Westmacott and Mrs Phillip Miles. A bargain stall was managed by Mrs C E Meaken and Mrs A E Townsend.

Western Daily Press 14 April 1936

The prizes at the miniature flower show at Minety for the best display went to Mrs J Westmacott, Mrs C Meakin and Miss Pike. Mrs Hodges gave an interesting demonstration of the uses of feathers at the monthly meeting. The entertainment committee presented a charade.

Western Daily Press 11 September 1936

At a meeting of Minety Women's Institute, Mrs E E Taylor, the treasurer, presented the accounts, which showed a credit balance of just over £13. Mrs A J Scott led community singing. Arranged by Mrs Read, a cake competition was won by Mrs Hinder, Mrs A Daniels and Mrs F Vizor. Mrs Higham was judge. Two new members were enrolled and it was decided to send a letter of condolence to Lady Gamble on the death of her mother. Dancing followed. Miss Wigram, who was to have given an address on the Holy Land, was unable to be present.

Western Daily Press 13 February 1937

Lady Gamble presided at a meeting of the Minety Women's Institute held in the Village Hall when Dr R L Hodge of Malmesbury gave an address on first aid. In a bulb competition, Miss Pike took first prize in both classes. Mrs C S Stratford and Miss Prior obtained second places. A play was given by Mrs O Sutton, Mrs E Baker, Mrs Harry Read, Misses Hilda Manners, Monica Hart, Turk and Read. Arrangements were made for the Coronation outing and the Ideal Home Exhibition. Mr Daniels was the judge of the bulb competition.

Western Daily Press 19 April 1937

Women's Institute members had an outing to Windsor, and after a tour of the Castle they had tea and viewed the London Coronation decorations. Mrs S W Emberson, hon. secretary, made the arrangements.

Western Daily Press 31 May 1937

Minety Women's Institute held a miniature flower show at their monthly meeting in the village hall. The members also presented a play.

The judges for the show were Ms Daniels, Sir David Gamble, Miss M Hislop, Mrs Hancock and Mrs E Townsend. Their awards were as follows: Roses, Mrs Meakin; sweet peas, Mrs Baker; cut flowers, Mrs Meakin and Mrs E E Taylor; pot plants, Mrs Meakin; dahlias, Mrs Price.

Fruit, Mrs Meakin and Mrs Hussey; apples, Mrs A Daniels, Mrs Hussey and Miss Pike; pears, Mrs Pike, Miss L Manners and Miss Prior.

Handicraft – Fancy needlework, Mrs A Gunter, Miss Sharp, Mrs H Head; knitted socks, Mrs E E Taylor and Miss Moulding; knitted jumper, Miss G Read and Miss D Vizor; patch or mending, Miss Evans and Miss G Read; best patch, Miss G Read; home-made cake, Mrs H Lewis, Miss Prior, Mrs Stratford; jam tart, Mrs J Read, Mrs H Read and Mrs Meakin; jam, Mrs S Price, Mrs Meakin, Mrs Stratford; home-made wine, Miss Prior, Nurse Newman, Mrs H Read; boiled potatoes, Lady Gamble and Mrs Sutton; white eggs, Miss G Read and Mrs Hussey; brown eggs, Mrs Hussey and Mrs Moulding.

Western Daily Press 11 September 1937

Lady Gamble presided at a meeting of the Minety Women's Institute held in the village hall. Mrs S Price spoke on the motto, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and Miss M Hislop, of Eastcourt, demonstrated cake icing. The winners of the competition for the best pastry and iced cakes were as follows: 1, Mrs T Read; 2, Mrs A Daniels; 3, Miss M Pike. Officers elected were: President, Lady Gamble; vice-presidents, Mrs A P Glazebrook, Mrs E E Taylor, and Mrs C E Meakin; hon. secretary, Mrs S W Emberson; hon. treasurer, Miss Prior; hon. assistant secretary, Mrs A S Clarke; hon. assistant treasurer, Mrs Tom Read. A committee of 23 were also elected.

Western Daily Press 23 December 1937

A home exhibition was arranged by Minety Women's Institute at their monthly meeting. Stalls were provided by four traders from Cirencester, Swindon, Cricklade and Minety. The following members of the institute also took stalls: Mrs C E Meakin, Mrs E E Taylor, Mrs H J Lewis, Mrs A S Clarke and Mrs J Westmacott. The Institute stall was in charge of Mrs C E Stratford, Mrs H O Cook, and Mrs A E Townsend.

A demonstration on fruit bottling was given in the afternoon, followed by a washing machine demonstration. A play, "My Turn Next" was presented in the evening. Those taking part were Mrs S Price, Mrs E Baker, Misses D Turk, M Mart, P Manners, M Cook, and Gwen Read, with Mrs A Daniels as producer.

Western Daily Press 17 May 1938

Lady Gamble presided at the December meeting. The chief business was the election of the committee for 1939. Sir David Gamble acted as teller, the voting resulting in the following being elected; Lady Gamble, Mrs S W Emberson, Mrs Glazebrook, Mrs C E Meakin, Mrs E E Taylor and 14 others. Mrs Douglas West was appointed as a new member. The monthly competition was for the best dish costing not more than 1s 6d, Mrs Stanley Price being the winner. Mrs D West judged the exhibits. Tea was served by Mrs T Read, with helpers.

Western Daily Press 3 January 1939

A large number of members and friends attended the annual New Year's party held in the village hall. Lady Gamble was unavoidably absent, and those included in the company were Mrs S W Emberson (hon. secretary), Miss M Prior (hon. treasurer) and Mrs Douglas West. The programme took the form of a social, and the winners of the various competitions were: Statue dance, Miss Ruth Newman and Mr Eric Newman; musical pairs, Mrs Don Cole and Miss Gladys Wheadon; passing the cushion, Mrs E Sharpes; musical knee, Mrs Don Cole and Mr Archie Newport. The Minety Orchestra supplied the music for the dance, Mrs S W Emberson being MC. Refreshments were served during the evening.

Western Daily Press 12 January 1939

At the monthly meeting it was decided to adopt two of HM ships, and in this connection a a whist drive was arranged to provide funds to purchase games, wool, etc, to be equally divided between the two ships. The two adopted ships are HMS Cairo and HMS Kingston Topaz. The members of the Institute are busy writing to the men and making comforts for them.

Western Daily Press 17 February 1940

The children's party arranged by the Institute was held in the Village Hall, when children of members and evacuees were entertained to tea. Games were enjoyed.

Western Daily Press 31 August 1940