

The Loders Women's Institute

Based on reports in the local newspapers the Loders Women's Institute was active between 1919 and 1940 as well as post World War II.

Bridport News 14 November 1919

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE SOCIAL.— To augment the fund for purchasing a piano for the Institute, a social was recently held. A good programme of songs, &c., was gone through, after which the room was cleared for dancing.

Extract from the Western Gazette 9 September 1932

The annual Flower Show arranged by the Loders Women's Institute was a great improvement on last year as it included, in most classes, entries from the whole village, other than gardeners and market gardeners. The Show was held in the Ex-Service Men's Club, kindly lent for the occasion, and all classes were well filled, especially those for flowering plants, ferns and jam.

The prizes were presented to the successful exhibitors by Mrs Le Breton, who was thanked by the President of the Loders W.I. who also expressed gratitude to all exhibitors, Committee, the Loders Ex-Service Men's Club for the use of the Club, the judges and last, but not least, the Hon. Secretaries.



Loders WI at Loders Court c1935. Centre-front is Lady Le Breton. All but three of the ladies are in smart hats and look rather grand. The picture was taken by the Bridport photographer, Percy Smith.



Loders Women's Institute at Loders Court in about 1940 as guests of Lady Le Breton. (Seated in the front row from the left) Kate Bourne, Miss Shaw and Lady Le Breton. (Second row standing) -?-, Pearl Symes, Jean Budden, Mrs Lenthall, Sylvia Hyde, Granny Crabb, Adele Hyde, Cis Gale and Mrs Lesser. (Behind the second row) Netta Taylor, Olive Legg, -?- , Edith Hinks, Marjorie Randall, Gladys Budden and Lady Le Breton's sister.

Bridport News 27 September 1940

The Women's Institute met at the Parish Room on Thursday, Mrs Lesser presiding. Sympathetic reference was made by Mrs Le Breton to the death of Mrs Greening, the oldest member, and all stood in silence. A letter was read from the County Treasurer gratefully acknowledging the Institute's donation of £2 6s to the Red Cross ambulance. Mr Lesser, A.R.P. warden, gave an interesting talk on A.R.P. work, with some valuable advice on what to do in an air raid or in a possible attack by gas. It was unanimously decided that after the October meeting (at which a war-time cookery demonstration will be given by Miss White) the general meeting should be suspended during the winter months and resumed again in the spring.

Meetings ceased some time during the Second World War. With the suspension agreed at the 27 September 1940 meeting, reported above, it is a fair assumption that the break extended to 1947 when the WI became active once again. Its 'new' 10th birthday was reported in the July 1957 edition of the Reverend Willmott's Parish Notes. The August 1957 edition contained the correction as quoted below.

Extract from the August 1947 Parish Notes

The comment of our most distinguished reader on the paragraph last month about the W.I. celebrating their tenth birthday was: "Tenth birthday my foot! Feminine Vanity! They must be at least forty". And so, we suppose, they are, if they be dated from when they begun. The ladies prefer to date themselves from when they revived.