

Notes on talk given at W.I. Meeting 14.1.93  
(Alice Mason and Margaret Lock)  
History of W.I. in Ringmore

Before Margaret started, Stan Brunskill, showed a selection of slides, which covered people and events associated with the W.I..

Ringmore and Kingston W.I. was formed in 1922, with its main activities being crafts, including glovemaking lessons.  
In 1924 there was an amicable separation of W.I.'s, with Ringmores meetings being held in the Church Hall.  
Many dances, but this caused friction with Randolph Hingeston, particularly when a chair was broken and the W.I. was blamed.

"They falled out with the Parson" and as a result clubbed together to buy land and build their own hall. Members lent money to the W.I. on an interest free basis and at the end of each year, each member was paid back a percentage of what they were owed from the W.I. accounts.  
Whist drives and dances etc held, to raise the £175 borrowed. Some money was donated. Music nights were charged at 6d. It took 10 years to clear the debt.

There was also a Piano fund, with people giving between 1d and 6d/week. It succeeded, but the piano did not last.

There were very good Christmas parties, complete with games and mince pies, Margaret remembers one particular occasion when she took along her Christmas present of a clockwork mouse. Mrs Burdell was President at the time and saw the mouse running across the floor and tried to tread on it, but fell over in the attempt.

About fifteen years ago Alice found a hornets nest (see picture), Mrs Ivy Cullum wrote a poem (see copy).

Alice's Dad was the local undertaker, and once during a dance, whilst Alice played on the organ and a man played drums, a woman died. The woman was put on the stage and a coffin made. Afterwards Alice played the organ, whilst the coffin makers drank cider around the coffin.

Pantomimes were common - the men helped, on one occasion rubbing wet corks on medicine bottles to imitate bird noises!

In 1940 Electricity came to Ringmore, with water following in 1947!

A member, Mrs Rider, used to take her produce to Plymouth Market (at Drake Circus) on the bus, to save time she had her breakfast the night before! She would catch the bus at St Ann's Chapel, and pluck the fowls (chickens) on the way throwing the feathers out of the door.

Alice ended with a poem written by herself.

Mike Wynne-Powell

Thomas - Daniel.  
John - Fawc.