**Litton and Hinton Blewett WI, Our Centenary**

**1922 – 2022**

**An Awful Ode**

I was amazed to receive a request,

From the WI, to do my best,

To mark this very special event,

An awful ode I must invent.

During the reign of George the Fifth,

The Ladies of Litton decided to join with,

The National club of the WI,

And so the group began to fly.

In 1922, one hundred years ago,

Our little WI set out to grow.

In Litton Village our home was noted,

Mrs Nettlefold as President was voted.

Grandfather Middle created the hall,

Since then it has needed new items to install.

Radiators replaced the original stove,

New windows the improvements drove.

Our hall, as you see it today,

Is warm and cosy and we’re happy to stay.

Around 1962, our friends on the hill,

Joined with Litton and are welcomed still.

Many Presidents have come and gone,

In total there have been some twenty one,

Marion Dodson was the longest serving,

Now it is June Russell, we are observing.

Joyce Buxton, our longest serving member,

 Has many special days to remember.

She arrived 78 years ago, quite a feat,

Since ‘44 she’s been coming, will this be beat?

Once every year, in the summer, we’re invited,

To meet in a member’s garden, we’re really excited.

Countless outings have occurred along the way,

Stately homes and gardens, even a train I might say.

Throughout the years, we’ve weathered some times,

This has made it difficult to find good rhymes,

WW11 must have been appalling,

More recently, the Pandemic was galling,

It was in the year of twenty twenty,

That Covid 19 affected us aplenty.

The 23rd March was a special date,

Lockdown began and caused much debate.

We weren’t allowed to meet at all,

It was a difficult time, as I recall.

Eventually, on Zoom we were able to ‘meet’,

One another, there, we managed to greet.

Together we’ve celebrated over the years,

On occasion, we’ve even been known to shed tears.

For absent friends who are no longer with us,

Throughout the ages it was ever thus.

We’ve celebrated many a Jubilee,

Over the times we’ve enjoyed quite a spree.

Golden, Diamond, Platinum, Oak,

Even a Double Sapphire with memories evoked.

For our Centenary once more we meet ‘face to face’,

And celebrate our 100 years with grace.

A party we have held in twenty twenty two,

When the Queen is celebrating 70 years too!

I hope you forgive this awful ode,

In using doggerel, I’ve been quite bold.

With lines that scan with an irregular meter,

I apologise, I’ve been quite a cheater!!

*Chris Arnold*

*May 2022*