



'Jam Sessions'



'Dig for Victory' might have been the cry on wartime hoardings, but the ladies of Chipping Womens Institute went one better - they began to make jam!

It all began in 1942, and was organised locally by the Lancashire Federation. This is the report of the meeting which started it all, as recorded by Miss Edna Sefton.

"A meeting was held in the Oddfellows Hall, Chipping on June the 6th when it was decided to form a Co-operative fruit preserving Centre. Mrs Rich was appointed Chairman, with Mrs Woods as Treasurer and Miss E Sefton as Secretary. Mrs Towers was appointed to take charge of the fruit and Mrs Tweedy as chief helper. The following ladies are to serve on the committee:- Mesdames Wells, Jackson, Kenyon, Ellison, Wall, Rhodes, Wallbank, Craig, Parker, Smithies, Leece, Seed and Miss N Sefton. It was decided to apply for 3cwt of sugar, for preserving the soft fruit. A further meeting was arranged for June 19th and the committee decided to commence preservation on Tuesday July the 1st. We decided to advertise for gooseberries and members of the committee to bring a small quantity of rhubarb. The following details were settled: loan of pans, primus stoves and jars etc. Several members agreed to come at 2pm and others at 7pm."



The jam making got under way. Records were kept. All jam was inspected, and particular emphasis was placed on the sugar content. A selection of the expenses incurred included:-
3cwts sugar - £8.0.0; 600 Jam covers - 7s 6d(37p approx);
2 gals paraffin - 2s 3d(11p approx.); Rent of Centre - 5s 0d (25p).



Most of the jam was sold locally, and some prices given were:-
Plum jam at 10s 10d (54p) per dozen jars.
Damson jam at 10s (50p) per dozen jars.
Jelly at 11s 3d (56p) per dozen jars.

Buyers included --

Mrs Hoyle, Mr Bamber, Mr Fairhurst, Mr Smithies, Mr Blackburn, Longridge Co-op, and Mr Nutter of Clitheroe who bought 51 lbs of sub-standard jam at 8s per dozen jars.



The report for the 1942 season contains details of the preserving done by 33 Lancashire WIs, among which these local reports were included.

CHIPPING 6 cwt 20 lbs standard jam. 51 lbs sub-standard.
"Very good quality and set; finish excellent. Records kept in sufficient detail."

GOOSNARGE 5 cwt 5 lbs standard jam.
"Generally work excellent. During harvest chief helper was unable to be present, and some difficulty was found in obtaining the 60% sugar content. This was eventually overcome and afterwards excellent results were the rule. Quality and finish generally excellent. Records improved."

LITTLE MITTON 2 cwt 102½ lbs standard jam. 38 lbs sub-standard.
"Made from ripe gooseberries which did not set well though the sugar content was satisfactory. Very good quality, flavour, set and finish."



BARTON made the most jam with a staggering 33 cwt 30 lb standard jam.
"Splendid work. Started and finished within 4 weeks"