Jackton Institute Celebrates 80 Wonderful Years!

On 17th September 1946 at 7.15 pm, Jackton SWRI met for the first time.

I asked Jackton's longest-standing member, Marrette Craig, about the early days.

She told me that after World War II, women who had come together for the war effort thought, "What will we do now?" With the help of Auldhouse Institute, their Mothering Rural, Jackton Institute was launched.

Although a huge demand for membership prevented Marrette's mother from joining that evening, she was one of the earliest members.

Marrette attended the Hallowe'en parties that Jackton organised for local children. "Every child was dressed in home-made things. Janet was *Mary had a Little Lamb*, and brought a real lamb!"

Marrette joined when she left school at 15.

From 1946, the meetings were held in the two-room Jackton School with the women squeezed in behind the children's double desks. The strict headmistress, Mrs Neil, insisted the room was left as they found it – and no stiletto heels.

Jackton's first president, Mrs Pinkerton, held the post for 25 years: "A real toff … out the big house at Jackton". (Her husband, John Cassels Pinkerton, MC JP CBE, was Glasgow Corporation's City Assessor.) "People were not so educated then … and they were so pleased that she did it. She was ideal. She just mucked in with everyone else."

"Mrs Pinkerton had a wee Baby Belling cooker. If there was a baking or cooking demonstration, she would come in her Mini Traveller, reverse it up to the door and carry in this Baby Belling."

Marrette reflects that although life has changed completely, the ethos is still the same:

"Get people involved, get people to mix and be a happy group"

This is, undoubtedly, the recipe for Jackton's 80 successful years and for many more to come.