Pauline’s oral history describes the Women’s Institute and Hambleton Yorkshire Country Women’s organisations. In this extract she explains why members decided to leave the Women’s Institute and join Yorkshire Country Women’s.

“Well, the Hambleton ladies used to belong to the WI and in or around 1982 the powers that be, within the WI, decided that they should split the Yorkshire region. Well, the ladies of the WI who lived in the area, they were having none of this and they thought, well, why not form our own organisation. And a prime mover in this was a lady called Mrs. Audrey Totty, and what she wanted to do was to provide an organisation that would benefit the country-living ladies of Yorkshire. I assume there are some ladies who don't necessarily live in a village, but they'll probably share within the organisation and enjoy the company and whatever it affords.

So, on 23rd March 1983, Hambleton had their inaugural meeting, which took the form of a committee meeting and the Chairman was Mrs. Phyllis Craven. She had been the last Chairman at our branch of the WI. This meeting was held in the Parish hall, and so the Yorkshire Country Women's in Hambleton was born.

Following on from this, members had been invited to Thorpe Willoughby for their first Country Women's meeting. Several eminent YCA members from head office had been invited and the cost for the evening was 55 pence. In March 1983, at our meeting, our subs were £2. Now, in 2016, the subs are £10. I think you'd probably call that inflation, Ingrid, wouldn't you?

So there was a christening party, this was at Thorpe Willoughby, in the April. A buffet supper was arranged by Hambleton for the first official YCA meeting in Hambleton, and this also took place in April. It sounds all about eating, doen't it? The first speaker in Hambleton was from Middlebrook Mushrooms, who used to be at Gateforth, when there was also a film show. The vote of thanks was given by Brenda Stripe, who's still a member, and competition winners and the raffle winner was Mrs. Elwood.

It was also decided to purchase a cloth with the YCA motif on it, which everyone could sign and then later these names were embroidered by Mrs. Ellis, who sadly is no longer with us, and Mrs. Millington took over this task. But, unfortunately, not so many new members, so not many new names.”