



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION NEWS

No.22 May 1985

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ

Tel: 01-499 6040

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Mrs Barbara Shenfield - Chairman WRVS

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The Baroness Pike of Melton DBE

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Editor

Mrs Viola Price

Area Representatives are ex officio members of Committee

See back page

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
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SERVICE

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY 4th JUNE 1985

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REUNION AND AGM

will be held at

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, SW7

on

TUESDAY 4th JUNE 1985 at 10.30 am

Coffee will be served between 10.00 and 10.30 am
when meeting will commence

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
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YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES

Dear Member,

After our cold winter months you will rejoice that Spring is really here and calling all gardeners! It is amazing what sunshine and flowers can do to renew our spirits and I have just read these words: "A house with daffodils in it is a house lit up, whether or no the sun be shining outside."

Energy and enthusiasm was evident in our March Committee meeting and we have decided to provide a wider circulation of our Magazine to encourage new members. Unfortunately our Editor, Vi Price, was unable to be with us to receive our congratulations on her first issue and we so hope she will soon be fit again. If you have any items of news or good ideas, do write to her.

Annual Reunion. Preparations are well in hand and the London Areas are looking forward to meeting members from North, South, East and West. Travel by courtesy of "Persil" is one way of cutting costs and British Rail may have offers for party travel.

Transfers. If you are moving to another area, do let your Area Representative have your new address to pass on to her contact. It is always nice to know you have a "ready made" circle of friends to welcome you.

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International Youth Year. If you are not already involved, I am sure you will hear about local projects. Young people everywhere are participating in sponsored walks, swims, discos and endless ingenious ways of making money. In my area, our international project is to raise money to lay a pipeline in Joe Homan's Boys' Town, Southern India. Here unemployed young boys are trained in land use and raising stock as well as serving apprenticeships with local tradesmen. Another project will help local PHAB Clubs.

DO PLEASE SUPPORT THEM AND BAKE A CAKE IF REQUESTED.

Their successes will do much to offset the publicity being given to a small violent minority and encourage our future leaders.

Helena Foster

Chairman

Good advice:

"Never regret growing old
Many don't have the privilege"

EDITORIAL

I am writing this on Monday, 18th February in preparation for the May edition of the Association News and it is obvious, though not surprising, that this winter's horrible weather has caused the cancellation of many meetings and functions, particularly where distance and transport are ever-present problems. Never mind - cheer up - Spring is just around the corner and the brave little snowdrops are setting an example by waving their pretty heads encouraging all the other bulbs - and us - to do the same. By the time this is printed and distributed we shall be in the Merry Month of May with our gardens once more full of colour - and ourselves full of ideas and action!

The reaction to the November '84 issue of the Association News (my first) was most gratifying and I thank, very much, everyone who so kindly sent appreciative letters to me. All suggestions are being processed and will be incorporated as appropriate - with the exception of politics and religion, of course.

As an experiment I have reproduced the Area Reports in full, precisely as received, with the idea of retaining regional characteristics of style, terms and expressions which may vary from North to South - East to West - Wales to Scotland - possibly creating additional interest?

I investigated the possibility of including a picture or photograph from time to time but Major Chase tells me that each plate would cost in the region of £40 so, unfortunately, I have had to abandon the idea. This prompts me to renew our thanks to Major Chase and his staff for their continued help and support.

Many thanks to Mrs Maxwell for her interesting article on WRVS Residential Care Clubs and for the list of places where they may be found.

I am sure that the long and varied experiences of many of our members - male and female - would match anything the TV series, "This is your Life" can produce.

One such chronicle has already reached me and I would like to publish it as soon as possible as an introduction to establishing a regular feature.

Do please continue to let me have your views, opinions and suggestions on what YOU want to read in YOUR Association News.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE

(Brief extracts from some of the many letters received)

From Mrs Jill Hewett BEM of Barnet ... "I always enjoy reading the Association Journal - it is nice for us older members to keep in touch. I made many friends during my twenty-four years service."

From Mrs Hilda Millmore - in hospital in London ... "Reading the Association News is very good news so I must write a line to congratulate you." (No address, Hilda, so cannot write but 'Get Well Soon' wishes from us all).

From Cllr. Mrs Theresa Russell OBE of Newcastle ... "I was most interested to read the Association News which brought back very many happy memories. I was County Borough Organiser for the C.B. of Newcastle-upon-Tyne from 1966 to 1972 ... and now do all I can to further the WVS/WRVS Association".

From Mrs Cecile Stampa OBE, JP, Lately Chairman Wales ... "Congratulations on the excellent Association News ... As a feed-back, perhaps members would be interested in what other retired people are doing as well as other organisations such as the Women's Institute, etc. Maybe, too, an exchange hospitality between urban and rural members might be considered ...".

From Mrs Isola Wren, Association Hon. Secretary ... "Today I lunched with Eve Dally, now virtually blind, and I read 'The News' to her from cover to cover. She asked me specially to send congratulations ...".

A TREAT IN STORE!

Miss Kathleen Halpin CBE our Founder Chairman has graciously consented to undertake the mammoth task of writing a treatise on "THE HISTORY OF THE WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION" in time for publication in the November issue - and for posterity.

WRVS RESIDENTIAL CARE CLUBS

We continue to extend our programme of care for the elderly as and when we can and as the need arises.

We have Care Clubs for the elderly "in need of care and attention": that is, those who are unable to live alone any longer, throughout England - though most are situated in the south of the country. Anyone who wishes to know more about the management of the Clubs, their costs, situation and vacancies should contact the writer at WRVS Headquarters.

Most of the Clubs are older type buildings adapted to suit the needs of a Club for elderly residents; some are at the seaside, some in villages or small towns and a couple actually in the Greater London Area. Charges are modest because of the voluntary effort which is put into them and as a rule of thumb guide charges are about a half to two-thirds of what is asked for self payers in Local Authority Homes. No Club has large numbers and the idea we hold on to is to ensure that they have a "Hotel" atmosphere rather than a "Home" atmosphere though it should be emphasised that they are residential care clubs and have to come within the Residential Care Home Act 1984 in order to operate.

When last I wrote about Residential Clubs it was to say that we were opening one in Swanage. This has flourished and is most successful. Our more recent work has been in putting up extensions and in renovating and refurbishing. Perhaps our most exciting project at the moment is in Devon where we are purchasing a lovely old hotel in Sidmouth. This will be a well-equipped home and will enable us to look after several more residents.

We encourage people (men and women both) who come to bring some small items of furniture with them to keep up the home from home feeling but we do have to keep a firm hand on what is brought in otherwise too much furniture can be put into too small a space and clutter and danger can arise.

Each Club is run by a local voluntary Management Committee headed by a local voluntary Chairman who is usually a WRVS member. A resident Warden and Deputy are employed as are Care Staff, cooks, domestics and gardeners if necessary.

Before an applicant can become a resident we need to be sure they will be happy at the Club and will fit in. (This is most essential as a new resident has probably sold his/her own house and is expecting to stay at a Residential Club for as long as possible and, hopefully, for the rest of his/her life). In order to ensure this we normally have the applicant come and stay in the Club for 2-4 weeks. We need to be sure they are in reasonable health and so need a medical certificate and a couple of references as to their ability to pay and their personality. If a resident is unable to pay the full fees from their own resources, it is possible to get help from Social Security.

We are not able to give nursing care and if a resident becomes in need of this type of help, then he or she would have to go elsewhere but this is explained fully before residence is taken.

Anyone can apply to come into one of our Clubs. We do not give special facilities to WRVS members because the Clubs are for the community at large. If, however, you know of anyone who might care to have more details then please - just ask.

Beryl Maxwell

LIST OF WRVS RESIDENTIAL CARE CLUBS FOR THE ELDERLY

LONDON

Torkington House,
Creswick Road, Acton, W.3.

PINEWOOD

Southborough Road,
Bickley, Kent.

SUMMERS

224 Beulah Hill, SE19.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Sharnbrook House,
Sharnbrook, Beds.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Tickford Abbey,
Newport Pagnell, Bucks.

DEVONSHIRE

Moving to Sidmouth

DORSET

Westbury House,
6 Rempstone Road,
Swanage, Dorset.

HAMPSHIRE

The Grange,
St. Cross, Winchester.

ISLE OF WIGHT

The Briars,
The Broadway, Sandown.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Croxley House,
Croxley Green, Rickmansworth.

KENT

Mount Ephraim House,
Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge
Wells.

LANCASHIRE

Warriston, 16 Mersey Road,
Aigburth, Liverpool.

SUFFOLK

Broadlands, Barrow Road,
Oulton Broad, Lowestoft.

Thornbank, Westfield Road,
Ipswich.

SUSSEX

Oaklands, Dyke Road
Avenue, Hove.

Grosvenor House, Grosvenor
Gardens, St.Leonards-on-Sea.

Denton House, Heighton Road,
South Heighton, Nr.Newhaven.

WARWICKSHIRE

Arden House, 18-20 Clarendon
Square, Leamington Spa.

Kent House, 6 Clarendon
Place, Leamington Spa.

WILTSHIRE

Kingston House, Lansdowne
Crescent, Derry Hill, Calne.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Woodgate, 7 Albert Road
North, Malvern.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1985

MBE

- Mrs Myrtle V. Moss, County Organiser, Norfolk.
- Mrs Patricia Renouf, Bailiwick Organiser, Jersey.

BEM

- Mrs Barbara T. Flinn, District Organiser, Yeovil.
- Mrs Lucy Ibbotson, Member, Kingswood.
- Mrs Barbara A. McKeand, Met. Organiser, Liverpool.
- Mrs Irene Strong, Met. Organiser, Rotherham.
- Mrs Cecily Wensley, Local Organiser, Evesham.
- Mrs Olivia Wilson, London Borough Organiser, Lewisham.

MBE - FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

- Mrs Winifred E. Lewis, Cardiff.

Mrs Patricia June Helen Potier-Godinho was awarded the MBE for services to the British community in Lisbon on the Diplomatic Service and Overseas List. Mrs Pat Potier has given 18 years devoted service to the WRVS in Portugal in addition to her many interests in community welfare in Portugal.

BEM

- Mrs Mary K. Stone, Essex.
- Mrs M.A. Dick, Perth.
- Mrs Jill I.L. Hewett, Barnet.
- Mrs Freda M. Lord, West Yorkshire.
- Mrs Blanch Massey, South Yorkshire.

"How pleasant a thing it is to have
reason to rejoice with another."

R. D. Wilcox

YOU'RE NEW!

Having been greeted thus three times, I began to ponder! Certainly it wasn't meant unkindly nor in a critical sense - just a simple statement of fact. We were "filling in" for another driver and mate, off our normal beat, and we had to be told where she kept her purse!

The message was clear - the comfort and reassurance which comes from a familiar face is dear to us all.

"I knew you'd come", she said, looking at the snowy scene outside and at the same time looking at the tempting hot course and sweet which emerged from the foil containers. She smiled gently and said, "I'll enjoy that".

We left assuring her that her usual and obviously much treasured familiar "dinner lady" would be back next week and thought of the many other members who would be welcome visitors to all those who just sit and wait.

(Thanks to our Chairman for this little story. I'm sure many of our members have interesting tales to tell and which are worth sharing. Do, please, send them to me for us all to enjoy Editor).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our local librarian was helping an elderly gentleman to select a book for his housebound wife. "What kind does she like?", she enquired. He scratched his head and then said: "She'll read owt, she's noan agean a bit o' lust nah an' agean!".

(Nowt to do with me! Editor)

I wonder how many of us have been frustrated by the use of the following "definitions" or even to have been guilty of resorting to using them ourselves?

- A PROGRAMME - Any assignment that can't be completed by a single telephone call.
- EXPEDITE - Confound confusion with commotion.
- NOTE AND INITIAL - Let's spread the responsibility for this.
- WE ARE MAKING A SURVEY - We are trying to think of an answer.
- CO-ORDINATOR - Somebody who occupies a desk between two expeditors.
- UNDER CONSIDERATION - We have lost the file.
- UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION - We are trying to find the file.
- CONSULTANT (OR EXPERT) - Any ordinary person more than 50 miles from home.
- RE-ORIENTATION - Getting used to working ag_in.
- CONFERENCE - A place where talk is substituted for the dreariness of work and the loneliness of thought.
- PUT SOMEONE IN THE PICTURE - A long, confused and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.

WE ARE INDEED SORRY TO LEARN THAT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE DIED SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF OUR NOVEMBER 1984 ASSOCIATION NEWS.

Mrs Dorothy Hill	London, N.1.
Mrs E.M. Lane	S.E.2 - Hants.
Mrs V. George	S.E.2 - Hants.
Mrs W.M. Lynham, BEM	S.W.2 - Somerset
Mrs. J.M. Baggs	S.W.1 - Gloucester
Mrs R. Richardson, MBE	S.E.1 - Dorset
Miss S.M. Wood	S.E.2 - W. Sussex
Mrs A. Vera Bates	N.W.4 - Staffordshire
Mrs S.K. Rucks, MBE	S.E.2 - W. Sussex
Mrs J. Meekins, MBE	London, Westminster
Mrs E.D. Ward	N.E.2 - Tyne & Wear
Miss J.E. Cousens	S.E.1 - Sussex
Mrs Jean Hansen	Jersey
Miss W. Lloyd	S.E.1 - Surrey
Mrs E.M. Hughes	S.E.1 - Surrey
Mrs E.W. Deakin	HC/A1 - Cambridge
Mrs M. Wooding	S.E.1 - Surrey

"The ocean has its ebbings, so does grief."

Thomas Campbell

GOOD NEWS FOR NEW GROUPS

HELP IS AT HAND! At a recent meeting of the Association's committee it was unanimously agreed that a separate float of £20 be allocated to Area Representatives to be used specifically for extension work in starting new Groups. Your own Area Representative is your banker in this scheme, so have a word with her if you need a little help in "getting off the ground". (She's not locked in a cupboard!)

AID TO POLAND

It is good to learn that so far 16,200 garments have been collected and, even more important, to know that needy families living in villages near Warsaw received clothing before Christmas.

Velta King, HQ Clothing Organiser writes: "The response was tremendous and Ockenden Venture would like to pass on the gratitude of the various convents in Poland to WRVS and WVS/WRVS Association.

The Layettes scheme is now concluded but sewing cottons, zips and white dresses for remaking into little girls' confirmation dresses would be welcome.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Members are continuing to knit larger jerseys and make simple unisex garments for children aged 2-4 years.

The heart-rending pictures keep recurring and, indeed, the scale of human tragedy in many parts of Africa seems greater than ever. Small woollen blankets or shawl type garments are more practical than Western dress!

DO HELP WHERE YOU CAN

"A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED".

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 1985

We would like to thank all those who have sent in their subscriptions promptly and especially those Area Representatives who have arranged for subscriptions to be collected and forwarded in bulk.

It would be a great joy if, at the Annual General Meeting in June, we could announce that all subscriptions had been paid!

Margaret Binks, Hon. Treasurer

REMINDER: New members joining and paying their first subscription after the 1st July are covered, not only to the end of the current year, but also to the end of the following year. Subsequent subscriptions would, of course, be paid annually.

WVS EXHIBITS

Members will be very interested to know that two exhibits featuring WVS are now complete and are on permanent display at the BATTLE OF BRITAIN MUSEUM, ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, London, NW9 5LL.

Well worth a visit!

FORTY YEARS ON

I wonder how many groups will be getting together to swap stories and to re-live their experiences of forty years ago? Lots of Association members are still wondering how they survived the war years and cherish fond memories of those days. It is not too late to tell your favourite story to Thames Television who may be able to incorporate it in the series of seven one-hour documentaries they are preparing. (See pages 8 and 9 of the November "News").

REPORTS FROM AREASSCOTLAND

Mrs Macdonald reports: The Scottish section held a committee meeting in Edinburgh on 11th February when plans for their AGM in April were made. This year's AGM is to be held in Dundee and we are hoping for a good turnout of members. The Countess of Strathmore is to speak to the meeting after lunch; her connection with our President Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will give added fillip to her talk.

Reports from the Regions show that after a quiet spell during the winter months, most have made plans for the future.

Grampian have a new meeting place which they are enjoying. At the moment they are planning a stall for the WRVS Open Day in mid-March.

Lothian have a demonstration of floral decorations lined up for March.

Central are still adding to their membership and have their next meeting planned for mid-April.

Fife have nothing fixed as yet but are concentrating on three large urban centres. Cross country travel in the "Kingdom", as Fife is called, is awkward.

Strathclyde are boasting that they redeemed their honour by winning the return Bridge match with Scot. HQ!

Tayside. On 25th February Tayside had a buffet lunch in Dundee (replacing one which had to be cancelled in December last year). A competition was held guessing kitchen condiments/spice, etc., which was not easy - but good fun - and there was a prize for the winner! Perhaps our greatest achievement was not a collective one but an individual effort. One of our members, Mrs Margaret Paterson, of Coulter in Lanarkshire, gained a B.A. from the Open University this year. Not impressed? MRS PATERSON IS 82!

SCOTLAND (continued)

General opinion from Scotland on the Association News is very good - we all liked it.

[Editor - Thank you Scotland and sincerest congratulations to Mrs Paterson - we are certainly impressed!]

WALES

Mrs Mowat, MBE reports: I had hoped to send you a report on a get-together of the Wrexham Maelor Group of members of the Association which was arranged for Friday, 15th January, but, due to the fact that we were like so many parts of the country snowed in, it had to be cancelled. It is not likely to be re-arranged before the end of January but we hope to have something to report in the next issue.

Gifts for Poland - from Wrexham Maelor: 161 garments plus 2-dozen nappie pins. From Dyfed : £95 sent to HQ London and 20 garments sent to County.

DIVISIONS

NORTH WEST AREA 1. CUMBRIA & LANCASHIRE

No Area Representative since the sad death of Mrs Spibey.

NORTH WEST AREA 2. GREATER MANCHESTER - MRS M.P. HEAD

Congratulations on November NEWS and best wishes for 1985. Time passes very quickly or so it seems. The Bury Group led by Mrs Joan Graham had a successful November meeting in the WRVS Office. Lady Reading's film, "40 Years On" was shown, with sherry and shortbread followed by tea and cakes. 26 members turned up and she has recruited three more members, and vests were also contributed. They have three meetings per year and this is what the members seem to want; the next is to be held in March - Bring & Buy Coffee Morning followed by a soup and cheese luncheon at Mrs Graham's house. (All this even though, like myself, Joan has many family responsibilities - elderly mothers who are ill).

The Altrincham group held a Christmas party in December

and an 80th birthday party in January - two most successful events organised by the leader, Helen Warburton, and her helpers.

NORTH WEST AREA 4. CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE -
MRS M. PRESTON

In December, the Alsager Group had a Christmas lunch at a local hotel whilst the Macclesfield Group lunched at the Prestbury Restaurant. They were both happy re-unions much enjoyed by all who attended.

We are starting a Group in the Wirral and from the enthusiasm shown by the M.D. Organiser, I am sure it will prove very successful. There are already 10 members but 7 of them live in Wallasey and it is hoped that new ones can be recruited from other parts of the District.

NORTH EAST DIVISION AREA 1. NORTHUMBRIA -
MRS C.V. SMURTHWAITE MBE

Our membership remains steady at 165, divided into 8 local Groups and these are very widespread.

Our aim is to keep the Association closely integrated by Newsletters of interest to all, and collectively we have two meetings a year - summer and winter.

Each Local Group meets regularly and many and varied programmes are enjoyed by the members. Something new seems to be the aim of most Groups - Bar Lunches, Flower Festivals, visits to interesting buildings, etc., guest speakers - and above all, the companionship and caring.

Something else very important has been taking place, too. Our members and friends have achieved over 4,000 vests for Africa and a small Group worked very hard to make and sell gifts of the highest quality for Christmas resulting in £100 which was sent to the appeal before Christmas. What a wealth of talent there must be in the whole of the Association! This Group intends to continue and expand.

It was our great pleasure to have the Chairman of the Association, Mrs Helena Foster OBE, at our Carol Service in St. Nicholas Cathedral in December when over 200 members and friends from all over the Area as far away as Berwick-on-Tweed joined together for our second Carol Service.

NORTH EAST DIVISION. AREA 1 (continued)

We hope it could become to us all a Special Occasion at the end of the year. The light refreshments we are able to have in the Cathedral Hall gives the opportunity to meet friends and colleagues and exchange Christmas greetings.

SPECIAL EFFORT REPORT

In Northumbria many efforts have been made to raise money apart from over 4,000 vests sent to Ethiopia and a small group of members who met once a week before Christmas made small gifts for sale with Christmas in mind. There are local factories who generously give "off cut" materials, and many useful gifts and toys of excellent quality were made and sold in the Area at our Coffee Pot mornings, etc. This was so successful that a cheque for £100 was sent before Christmas to "The Boat Appeal Fund" from the North East to Africa. We are going to continue this Working Party and any ideas for useful gifts would always be welcome. The meetings are very much enjoyed by all where those with imagination and talent are most welcome. We are very mindful that our help will be needed for a long time to come.

NORTH EAST DIVISION AREA 2. DURHAM, CLEVELAND & NORTH YORKSHIRE

[Gleaned from a Narrative Report and we would love to hear much more about your progress and activities, please. EDITOR]

Harrogate WVS/WRVS Association is now 5 months old and we have 21 interested members. On July 14th members attended a matinee performance of "Oliver" at the Harrogate Theatre and in September we hired a coach and drove through the Dales and stopped for lunch at the "York Arms", Ramsgill. December 7th saw us having Christmas lunch at the College of Further Education.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

NORTH EAST DIVISION AREA 3. NORTH & SOUTH HUMBERSIDE & LINCOLNSHIRE - MRS P JAMES MBE.

All NE3 members who attended the AGM at Pudsey were very complimentary about the arrangements and the lunch. One member over 80 years old who had recently recovered from a slight stroke was determined to get there as it was held in the north - took a taxi to Bridlington station and caught three trains, changing at Hull and Leeds in both directions!

City of Hull members had another Pub Lunch and continued to the Area Representative's house for afternoon tea in her garden - a beautiful day - and who saw twelve elegant elderly ladies sucking cornets of Beverley's Gold Medal ice cream on the way?

North Humberside members were not so lucky when invited to the Area Representative's house for afternoon tea in the garden. They were favoured with the only wet day for weeks! Cottingham members entertained Beverley members for tea in September and all met again in October for lunch prepared by the Humberside Representative who invited a friend to speak on her work as a Magistrate. Successes, failures and the funny side. 43 members from Hull & North Humberside combined for an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Beverley Hotel and a good time was had by all.

South Humberside. The County Organiser, Mrs Nancy Wilson, gave a super luncheon party at her home to celebrate a member's 90th birthday - Mrs Waldram who was only the second County Borough Organiser of Grimsby just after the war and "reigned" for many years. She is still very bright and charming and now, of course, a member of the Association. Contact is kept with all members, some of whom are rather immobile.

Lincolnshire. Mrs Doris Cook has travelled to centres and entertained many members in her own home with the result that the membership has more than doubled during the last few months - proving that the personal appeal is best. (See her own report which follows the Area Report).

NORTH EAST DIVISION AREA 3 (continued)

The Area membership hit the jackpot of 100 before Christmas and is now past it on its way to the next 100, we hope! An article on the Association in the local press at the end of November did not bring many enquiries - was it too near Christmas or does it merely emphasise that it is only the personal approach that works?

From Humberside 230 vests and 9 blankets have been handed over to the Save the Children Fund locally and a very appreciative letter has been received from the Chairman of the Fund. To these numbers we add over 70 vests, 18 cardigans, 5 romper suits and 7 shawls from Lincolnshire.

An Area Meeting has been arranged for 1st April and we expect a good attendance. Our Chairman, Mrs Helena Foster, will be our Guest and can be assured of a very warm welcome as she is an old friend of most of our members having been our Regional Administrator for many years and, after re-organisation, our Area Organiser for 2 or 3 years more.

Mrs Doris Cook, Lincolnshire County Representative reports that on the 19th November - the day it rained leaving cars stranded and looking like the middle of the night - my husband and I set off to Market Rasen for our first WVS/WRVS Association meeting which was held in the lounge of the Organiser's home. We were welcomed with hot scones and coffee ad lib to help us all thaw out. I was astonished when ten ladies arrived, all having walked, and dripping wet! However, after a very pleasant and interesting meeting we helped to get them home and invited them all to come and spend the morning with me. Vi arrived with all her smalls (vests, etc) to show them and we got down to business. We were thrilled to have six life members in one day.

Our next journey was to Skegness on 20th December where we were welcomed like royalty into the very festive home of the Organiser along with sixteen members enjoying all the seasonal goodies and especially the goodwill

Mrs Doris Cook, Lincolnshire County (continued)

which flowed like wine. We were so thrilled to have 14 new members and 2 renewals. The Sutton-on-Sea "Old Girls" have been busy knitting for Poland and a parcel is due to go off any day. We hope to get a further Group together as the weather improves. I am so lucky to have Vi Price nearby on my doorstep - she is such good support. I do congratulate her on the new format of our Association News.

NORTH EAST DIVISION AREA 4. SOUTH & WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES - MRS L. ZIEGLER MBE.

We have had one resignation because the member could not get to the meetings. September 2nd, we had a Sunday lunch at Lorne House, Bramhall Avenue, Wakefield in aid of the Save the Children Fund and Aid for Poland and had £320 after paying out expenses. We sent nappies to the value of £120 and managed to get them on the last transport in time for Christmas. Then we sent £150 to the Save the Children Fund so now we have £50 in the bank in case there is any need in the future. On December 14th we had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds - 14 members attended a meeting first, at the Area Office.

MIDLANDS DIVISION AREA 1. WEST MIDLANDS COUNTIES - MRS W. PENGILLEY

I have been fortunate to have been invited to talk about the Association of three of the County meetings of District Organisers and County Staffs in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Hereford/Worcester. We hope to interest retired members to form Groups at District level as well as County. Warwickshire and Hereford/Worcester already have thriving County Groups and we hope to arrange meetings in Shropshire and Staffordshire to keep up the interest already shown.

MIDLANDS DIVISION AREA 2. EAST MIDLANDS
COUNTIES - MRS A. TYLOR

Nottinghamshire - Miss Marjorie Lovett reports that on Tuesday, 30th October the new Secretary of the Broxtowe Branch of the Association, Mrs B. Fletcher, held a coffee morning in her own home. Thirty-seven were present and we enrolled a further eighteen members.

The Bassetlaw District Organiser, Mrs Jean Moore, held an initial tea party for those in her District interested in forming a Branch. We enrolled thirteen members on the spot plus a new Secretary.

On 27th November the Gedling District Organiser, Mrs Doreen Peaty-Price JP, held a coffee morning for those interested in forming a Gedling Branch. Thirty-three new members applied for membership and a Chairman, Secretary and Committee were formed.

We already had eleven members at the above three meetings - Mrs Tyler, the Area Representative and I as County Secretary spoke of the aims of the Association. On Wednesday, 28th November the Rushcliffe Branch of the Association held its bi-monthly coffee morning at the Edwalton Golf Club. The guest speaker was Mrs Freddie Gaunt from Radio Nottingham who entertained members with a lively account of the contacts made in her work.

MIDLANDS DIVISION AREA 3. WEST MIDLANDS
METROPOLITAN COUNTY - MRS E. KENRICK

Since 1978 I have been the Organiser of our local Association. It comprises seven Metropolitan District, only two of which operate - Birmingham and Solihull. In Birmingham our numbers have about halved through illness, death or moving away and I feel that someone more lately in touch with retiring members should take over from me in the hopes of bringing in new blood. So I shall retire, if possible, in March. Meanwhile Solihull has a Coffee Meeting coming up at which they will plan the next programme. We have a lunch and visit to the School of Music Opera planned to take place shortly, and a Coffee Meeting to discuss summer plans to replace a meeting to which only five were able to turn up on account of the weather earlier this month (January).

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA DIVISION AREA 1 - HOME COUNTIES. From MRS AUDREY PERKINS MBE -
Organiser Northamptonshire Association

Thank you for sending the Association News which I enjoyed reading very much as did all our members. We feel the format is much improved. I understand you would like some information as to what different Branches of the Association are doing.

I started one of Northamptonshire County (which, of course, comes under Home Counties/Anglia Division) in June 1983 with 13 members, when we had our first coffee morning. Mrs Woods, the Area Organiser of Bedford, also attended to give us information about the Association. We have since grown in numbers and our Membership up to the end of 1984 totals 33, consisting mostly from the Rushden Area of which I was the original Organiser.

We have had two coffee mornings, two Christmas luncheons and one summer luncheon in a neighbouring village and members knitted vests for the Save the Children Fund.

A tea was organised by Bedford Area for Association members to meet regarding Aid to Poland and 17 of our members attended and enjoyed, along with the other members, an interesting account of "Life in Poland Today" as a result of which we have now collected three boxes of baby clothes, etc., which we are waiting for the weather to improve so that they can be taken to Bedford for despatch

We are now in the process of having "Get Togethers" in small groups for coffee to ensure that members keep in contact. We have been invited to visit Cambridge Association members and this we are hoping to do in the Spring. All our members are most appreciative of the opportunity of keeping in touch with old friends and also making new ones. Also, I hope some of our members will be able to attend the AGM in London.

I would be pleased if you could attend one of our luncheons to see exactly what we are doing, maybe a date sometime in the summer, but will let you know later on.

(Thank you. I would love to. Editor)

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA DIVISION AREA 2 -
BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE

Berkshire. A "pink" from Mrs B.S. Cromwell, Berkshire Association Organiser to the WRVS County Organiser, reports that the first meeting of 1985 was Thursday, 24th January. Unhappily because of illness, lack of transport and rather uncertain weather, several apologies for not being able to come were sent. However, eight members arrived in good shape and it turned out to be quite a happy little gathering. We all seemed pleased to see each other and had lots to talk about. Nothing definite could be arranged in the circumstances but one or two suggestions for future activities were spoken about. The meeting closed about 13.45 and the date of the next meeting arranged for March 28th.

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA DIVISION AREA 3 -
EAST ANGLIA - ESSEX, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK -
MRS E.D. CLAYDON

Snippets from Norfolk - A beautiful Autumn morning, late October 1984, overlooking the sea, seventeen members enjoyed lunch and a gossip. Four lively "over eighties" still contributing to ordinary WRVS duties in a small way were happy to be there. The 13p stamp idea was greeted with great approval, seeing that most letters are delivered by hand, we should collect a little for the funds each time. Great Yarmouth being a town for the hardy, we only have roughly four retired members who need regular visiting. Some careful "eye" is given to helping our Meals on Wheels recipients and folks in hospital. Membership increases each session.

A lunch was held at the Pier Hotel, Gorleston, on Tuesday, 29th January for the Great Yarmouth members. This was most enjoyable as 31 people attended. Amongst those attending were three past District Organisers, the eldest now in her 90s. Members were glad to hear of the letter from the Ockendon Venture thanking them for their contributions towards the "Consignment for Poland".

HOME COUNTIES ANGLIA DIVISION AREA 3 (continued)

In the Southend-on-Sea Branch in Essex a First Anniversary party was held and 29 members attended. The membership has increased since then.

A generous paragraph of WVS/WRVS Association News was included in the second WRVS Area Newsletter.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Mrs Bathurst reports: We have had an excellent year and have managed to meet every month, usually for a snack lunch and a glass of sherry at Headquarters but we also managed a delightful picnic last summer. We have been knitting vests very hard with wool bought with money kindly sent to us. This year we had to put off our January meeting till the end of the month because of the snow - but were able to hold it on January 28th. Our next meeting will be on 28th February - it's hoped it will be warmer by then.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION AREA 1 - SOUTH EAST - EAST AND WEST KENT, SURREY AND EAST SUSSEX - MISS M.T. COOKE MBE

Congratulations on the November issue. I think the new format is excellent.

East Kent - Mrs Banwell reports: A luncheon party was held at the home of Association member Mrs B. Caudwell on 29th October 1984. 16 members attended. In addition we were pleased to welcome Miss T. Cooke, Area Representative, Mrs J. Mudie, East Kent County Organiser and Miss F. Gostling, Canterbury District Organiser. Mrs D. Whiting, Canterbury Local Organiser was, unfortunately, unable to attend but sent greetings. Miss Cooke spoke about the Association and gave information about other branches and Mrs Webster gave a most informative, witty and amusing account of the work of her department. Mrs Webster had informed the press of the luncheon party and of the existence of the East Kent Branch of the WVS/WRVS Association and we are hoping for a "write up" and photograph in the Kentish Gazette.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION AREA 1 - SOUTH EAST (continued)

It was a most happy and friendly occasion and two members offered to be hostess for next year - the first luncheon party will be at the home of Mrs P. Hart on 13th May 1985 and the second at the home of Mrs C. Adams - date to be arranged. In addition, Member Miss B. Griffiths, would like to hold a Coffee Morning in the summer - again, date to be arranged.

It is encouraging to note the increase in membership and I would like to thank Miss Cooke for keeping me supplied with an up-to-date list of members. My thanks also to Mrs J. Mudie, Mrs Z. Webster and Miss F. Gostling for their interest and support.

West Kent. Mrs Bright reports: Twenty-one West Kent members of the Association met at the Area Office, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday, December 7th, 1984. Amongst those present were three ex-Regional Organisers and two retired Headquarters staff. Members paid £2 for cold turkey and salad followed by mince pies and gateaux with a glass of wine. Cheese and biscuits and coffee completed the meal. The conference room at Area had been kindly made available by Mrs Russell, Area Organiser, and was an ideal venue. Early arrivals caught Miss Cooke busy with dustpan and brush; nevertheless, the tables were ready and looked most attractive in time for most of the guests. One retired Regional Organiser was soon organised into taking the names and the money whilst another was delegated to serve the wine from a wine box. (What would our Founder have thought of that!). Many old friendships were renewed and new faces made welcome.

After lunch Mrs Russell gave an account of the October Rally in London and also talked most interestingly of the present work being done and the emergence of WRVS into the computer age. She also gave advance information of the arrival of Jill Archer of Ambridge as a fictional Local Organiser, the script writer being briefed by a West Kent District Organiser. From the many warm letters received it would appear that everyone really enjoyed

West Kent (continued)

themselves and appreciated the chance to revisit the old familiar Regional Offices.

We will hope to hold a similar Spring event in another part of the County, perhaps Sevenoaks or the Medway Towns area.

Surrey.

Guildford held an initial "get together" on December 11th 1984 in a member's house. 14 joined the Association and others took application forms home. They have formed a committee and already have plans for future meetings and visiting frail members. Lady Watson, Guildford Centre Organiser 25 years ago attended and was delighted to see "her" old members.

Woking held a most successful lunch in October when the speaker was Mr. H. White and his subject "The History of Chiddingfold". Mrs Eveline Spiers was invited by the County Organiser to talk to the District Organisers and it is hoped that they will encourage more members who are eligible to join the Association.

East Sussex

Hove. Mrs Park reports on the Get Together of members on 10th December 1984 at All Saints Church Hall:

There were 44 members present and 4 members from the Emergency Team came along to serve tea. Mrs Graham Hooper, with the help of Mr. Galbraith, ran a Tombola stall which raised £12.70. Mrs Joyce Hooper opened the gathering at 3.30 pm after all members had had a chance to meet each other and catch up on news. A trip to Portsmouth on 24th April 1985 will be arranged to visit the D-Day Exhibition. A coach has been ordered and the approximate cost at date will be about £3 per member. We intend to leave about 10 am and return at approximately 3.30 pm.

Following this, Mrs Hooper gave a most interesting talk about her work as a magistrate. She explained that there

are about 70 magistrates in Hove and there are two or three courts each morning. A magistrate has to undertake 26 sittings in the year covering various cases. They are also expected to attend various committees. Some of the work is routine and Friday is crime day. A sad aspect of life is the increasing use of drugs which is very worrying and there is a great shortage of places where they can be treated. This, of course, leads to more stealing in their need for drugs. Murder cases are only dealt with on a basic footing in Hove Court and are then passed on to Crown Court. All members found the talk extremely interesting and the meeting closed at 4.30 pm after an enjoyable afternoon.

Brighton held a Christmas sherry party and 16 members went to the Ice Revue. Monthly coffee mornings are held.

Eastbourne held a most successful lunch in October and invited members from other Branches in East Sussex. 18 members attended a Christmas lunch.

Hastings and Rother Districts. Mrs Deidre Edwards held a tea party in Bexhill attended by Thea Cooke, Area Representative.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION AREA 2 - DORSET, HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT AND WEST SUSSEX

Hampshire. Mrs M. Albrow, Hon. Secretary of the Hampshire Branch reports:

The membership is now 76 and reunions are held half-yearly. The next get-together is at Shawford, near Winchester, by kind invitation of the Hants Deputy County Organiser, Mrs Carol Webb, on Wednesday 29th May at 2.30 pm when we hope to have a talk on "Women of the World".

The Portsmouth Branch have knitted 660 vests for the Third World and Fareham members have sent 165 vests, 14 pullovers and 10 blankets to the Save the Children appeal and are still busy knitting.

[Editor's apologies for confusing Farnham with Fareham, page 27 Nov. issue - hope we've got it right this time!]

SOUTH WEST DIVISION AREA 1. SOUTH WEST -
AVON COUNTY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, WILTSHIRE
AND BRISTOL CITY - MRS K. BARKER

Ockenden Venture Appeal for Children's Clothing for Poland - sent to Poland 1st November 1984:

- 300 knitted garments for children
- 50 items babies' clothes
- 150 teenage clothes
- 50 adult jumpers

To Ethiopia - Save the Children Fund - period ending 1st June:

3,000 knitted vests from three Counties, plus another 300 now awaiting collection.

STOP PRESS: A further 800 garments collected 21st January 1985.

Emergency Care for Children in Ethiopia - a scheme sponsored privately by Bristol businessmen, but recognised as a registered charity. This is meant primarily for the despatch of medical materials to a team of French doctors and nurses working in Ethiopia. There is also a request for blankets, both plain and knitted and, to date, about 30 have been handed over. We now have a further consignment packed in just over a dozen black plastic bags.

Through a scheme organised by students of the Ecclesiastical College in Bristol, Avon County have succeeded in sending to Poland over 1,000 garments for children up to the age of 8 years.

Wiltshire. In October 1984 we held a very successful reunion luncheon at the Nursteed Centre, Devizes. 30 ladies were very well catered for by Mrs Barbara Glendenning and Mrs Cordelia Taylor. We were greeted with sherry and the food and wine which followed was superb - how they managed to budget within our limited resources we shall never understand.

Mrs Monica Fowler organised her village of Aldbourne very well - they produced a number of beautiful,

Wiltshire (continued)

brightly-coloured blankets for Ethiopia and these have now been delivered to the local representative of the Save the Children Fund. I am pleased to report that the Wiltshire membership of the WVS/WRVS Association is slowly but steadily growing.

SOUTH WEST DIVISION AREA 2 - CORNWALL, NORTH & SOUTH DEVON, PLYMOUTH CITY, SOMERSET -

MISS M. SCOTT

Cornwall. A great deal needs to be done in this County. At present we have only six Association Members. With the appointment of a new County Organiser in April I am looking forward to reviving interest and enrolling members.

Devon. A get-together for lunch and a chat was held on 30th January. Unfortunately, due to wintery conditions, many members felt it wise to remain at home. Those who came had a happy meeting. A further meeting is to be arranged for later this year. More interest in the Association is being shown by District Organisers and several new members have been enrolled. A good meeting was held at Tavistock.

Somerset. I have met Mrs Hacon, Hon. Secretary of the County Association and all is well in Somerset. A get-together for members is being planned for the spring. Interest is being shown about the needy in Poland.

STOP PRESS

Humberside and Lincolnshire - Mrs James sent a hastily prepared and brief report on the most successful and enjoyable Area meeting held at Limber on 1st April 1985 when 69 members were delighted to have Mrs Helena Foster, National Chairman, with them.

(A full report will be included in the November Issue)

VOLUNTARY SERVICE
AREA REPRESENTATIVES
[Ex-officio members of the Committee]

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
LONDON - Mrs M. Julian,

North Area Mrs M. Downing BEM,

Central Area Westminster & City
Mrs Theo Robertson,

Hackney, Newham & Tower Hamlets
Mrs Millington,

South East Area Mrs E.G. Block MBE,

North East Area Miss Doris Wright,

South West Area Mrs M. Forsdick,

North West Area Mrs M. Julian,

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
DIVISIONS

North West

Area 1

Area 2 Mrs M. Head,

Area 4 Mrs M. Preston,

North East

Area 1 Mrs C.V. Smurthwaite MBE,

Area 3 Mrs P. James MBE,

Area 4 Mrs L. Zeigler MBE,

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Midlands

Area 1 Mrs W. Pengilly,

Area 2 Mrs A. Tyler,

Area 3 Mrs E. Kenrick,

Home Counties/Anglia

Area 3 Mrs E. Claydon,

South East

Area 1 Miss M.T. Cooke MBE,

South West

Area 1 Mrs K. Barker BEM,

Area 2 Miss M. Scott,

WALES

Mrs K. Mowat MBE,

SCOTLAND

Chairman - Scottish Section

Mrs G. MacDonald,

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MAGIC MOMENT

Constant noise of traffic
Ceaseless roar of planes:
Thunder of great lorries
Flashing by of trains.
For a magic moment,
I closed my eyes and heard,
Above this great confusion,
The sweet song of a bird!

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Cicely Smith

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PLEASE - Area Reports for November issue
to Editor by 31st August 85 - many thanks.

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