



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No.33 NOVEMBER 1990

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

WRVS Headquarters
234-244 Stockwell Rd., London SW9 9SP
Telephone 071-416 0146

President

The Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, Chairman of WRVS

Vice-Presidents

Mrs. A. Christophersen Dame Frances Clode, DBE
Mrs. H. Foster, OBE Miss K. Halpin, CBE
Baroness Pike of Melton DBE
Dame Barbara Shenfield, DBE

Chairman

Mrs. Peggy James. MBE

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. M.D.S. Maisey, BEM

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs. M. Davies

Members of Committee, 1990-91

Mrs. G. Bright Miss J. Hardy OBE, JP
Mrs. E.H. Edwards BEM Mrs. M.V. Moss MBE
Mrs. M. Gell Mrs. C. Mitchell
Mrs. B.E. Gillard Mrs. B.M. Pollard
Mrs. I. Wren

Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross,

Area Representatives are ex-officio members of the
Committee. See pages 23 & 24.

CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman.....p.3

Editorial.....p.4

Honours List.....p.5

Obituary.....p.6

Archives.....p.7

Round the Country.....p.10

Reportsp.11

Area Representatives.....pp.23 & 24

Members who pay their Subscriptions Annually are reminded that these Subscriptions are due on 1st. January, 1991. The current rate is £1.50.

Life membership is now £15.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR WRVS HEADQUARTERS IS 071-416 0146

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES...

Dear Member,

It was a very great pleasure to welcome nearly 300 members to our 17th. Annual Reunion in July held this year in the City of York. My first impression from the platform was a vision of waves of bobbing silvery heads busily greeting friends! Residential accommodation available to us for the first time was much appreciated by over 100 members (and a few husbands) who enjoyed the extra time to chat with old friends as well as to explore a City which has such history and beauty. We missed our Association President, the Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, who was unable to be with us because of her WRVS commitments in London, but we enjoyed the company of WRVS Vice-Chairman Mrs. Jill Walden-Jones in her place.

All members are proud that the Service has been involved in the 90th. Birthday celebrations of the Queen Mother who is President of WRVS and always most interested in our work. Special Greetings were sent to Her Majesty on behalf of you all and I have no doubt that many of you have enjoyed gatherings held locally in honour of the occasion.

News of the existence of our Association is spreading and many more WRVS members are looking forward to joining us as soon as their 'official' duties allow. Several Groups are now exchanging visits with those in adjacent districts - a very good idea!

Another long hot summer should have fortified us for whatever the winter has in store and by the time you read this Newsletter we shall be looking forward to Christmas. I wish you all good health for the festive season and a peaceful New Year.

Chairman
WVS/WRVS Association

Editorial

A very happy return to a full-sized Newsletter! I have tried to give more space than usual to the Reports from the Areas to make up for the small May edition. I can do this partly because I was most disappointed at members' lack of response to the request for Old People's Welfare Archives. In fact I received no letters at all on this subject. It covers so many aspects of WRVS work: surely some of you must have suitable stories or anecdotes! Perhaps the weather was just too hot to write letters!

If any of you do have anything interesting to write about Old People's Welfare which you had intended to send but didn't, please do send it now. And let us try Hospital Archives as our next subject, and see how much you have to say about that. Once again I repeat that I can only edit the Newsletter, not write all of it: the rest is up to you.

Fortunately we have plenty of Area reports for you, many of which have some very interesting news items and ideas. So please don't read only the Report for your own Area: you were not the only ones to celebrate the Birthday of H.M. The Queen Mother.

Very many thanks once again to Mrs. M. Wilkinson for the Front Cover design, and to the Print and Computer Rooms for producing the Newsletter.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

And Happy Letter Writing too, please!

Doris Gross

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 1990

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

OBE

Mrs. M.P. Spriggs, MBE Lately Area Organiser, NW2

MBE

Mrs. M F. Pantry County Organiser, Cumbria

BEM

Mrs. J. Cornford Local Organiser, Margate, Kent

Mrs. M.L. Goodfellow District Organiser, Harlow,
Essex

Mrs. V. Hirst Metropolitan/Local
Organiser, Littleborough

Mrs. J. Hopkins WRVS Hospital Shop & Escorting
Dr. Gray's Hospital, Elgin

Mrs. J.P.M. Irvine Emergency Services Organiser,
Suffolk

Mrs. P. Jones District Organiser, Nuneaton

Mrs. S.G. Williams Acting Deputy District
Organiser & Welfare for the
Elderly Organiser, Poole,
Dorset

THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WVS/WRVS
ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON 12th. JUNE, 1991,
IN LONDON

OBITUARY

We apologise for the error in the previous Obituary. Mrs. Elliot of Sale should have read Mrs. E. Elliot.

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of the following members since the last Newsletter.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Mrs. L. Greenway | Wrexham | Mr. S. R. Fox | Harrogate |
| Mrs. I. Strong | Newport | Mrs. E. M. Hill | Bath |
| Mrs. F. J. Gardiner | Minehead | Miss E. L. Meyer | Heswall |
| Miss E. Colebrook | Scarborough | Mrs. B. M. Atkins | Stanway |
| Mrs. E. Hallam | Blackpool | Mrs. B. Thompson | Norwich |
| Miss H. M. Lansdell | Gorleston | Mrs. E. E. Skinner | Avon |
| Miss A. G. Talintyre | Harrogate | Mrs. M. Nockels | York |
| Miss A. M. Hepworth | Hastings | Mrs. W. Knighton | Selston |
| Mrs. M. E. Mager | Guernsey | Miss J. D. Moss | Malden |
| Mrs. M. L. Hutchinson | Bromley | Mrs. M. Buckle | Guildford |
| Mrs. P. M. Parker | Builth Wells | Mrs. J. E. Haley | Southend |
| Miss C. Z. Westby | Leicester | Mrs. E. D. Warner | Woking |
| Miss M. Wimant | Nottingham | Mrs. B. Ottewell | Selston |
| Mrs. K. M. Moore | Milton Abbass | Miss N. E. C. Tomes | Rhyl |
| Mrs. J. Fraser | High Wycombe | Miss F. Henry | Ewell |
| Mrs. M. Shaw | Newcastle-on-Tyne | Mrs. D. M. Echt | Wetherby |
| Miss M. D. Yardley | Bognor Regis | Mrs. N. M. Abbott | Oxford |
| Mrs. D. E. McElween | Denbigh | Mrs. K. C. Orton | Solihull |
| Miss L. Ekins | Chislehurst | Mrs. K. Fox | Reading |
| Miss M. M. Lace MBE | Wetherby | Mrs. R. C. Cash | Redditch |
| Mrs. A. S. Howell | Aldeburgh | Miss D. A. Coffen | London |
| Mrs. S. Elliot | Cheltenham | Mrs. D. L. Lewis | Wrotham |
| Mrs. P. H. S. Worsfield | Glynde | Mrs. E. Dodsworth | Grimsby |

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

CHILDREN'S WELFARE ARCHIVES

1939 Pocklington Mrs. M.E. Allison (now of Beverley) tells how she was just married, and joined the WVS in its early stages. "Our first task was to tour the town asking people if they were willing to take in evacuee children. We no sooner completed this task, than the evacuees arrived. Boys from Hymers College, Hull, came to share Pocklington School. They were soon billeted and some have kept up their friends in the town. Recently 30 of them had a Reunion at the school, turning up with gas masks with the original labels, and wearing their old school caps.

When the blitz started, evacuees were very loathe to leave town and often arrived by bus and train at a very late hour. One family of nineteen arrived, from Grandma down to great grandchildren. They wished to stay together, and the only suitable place was a vicarage in a village on a large estate. The bus took them out, but they were soon back at reception as there was no fish and chip shop or public house for miles around! They had to sleep on the school floor, and went home the next day."

Bury. During the war, Mrs. Calcrow had prepared a house for schoolboys evacuated from Jersey. Years later, when she was on holiday, by chance she met a man who said "Do you know Bury? I would love to meet the lady who welcomed us and baked a special cake". Mrs. Calcrow replied: "That was me!"

1958 From "Growing up with a Lady in Green" (with acknowledgments to the "Northumbria" Newsletter). A WVS worthy had a cottage at Wark, and my mother and another local member were asked to take children from a deprived family there for a fortnight's holiday. It emerged that the four children they were to accompany were the issue of a family living in the West End of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. As I recollect, they were kitted out by the Newcastle Clothing Store before delivery. During the wardrobing activity, they made a formidable

attempt to denude the Newcastle office of its wallpaper. As to whether they were given the equivalent of evacuee name tags, I do not know, but they should possibly have been electronically tagged. The country holiday cottage was situated three fields distance from the nearest bus stop. Lighting was afforded by two oil lamps, one of which was demolished by one of the children on the first evening. As to heating, there was none - well, a simple coal-fired stove. At least those two WVS stalwarts didn't have to resort to Civil Defence field cooking. I have it from the highest authority that the children were fed on the best during those two weeks. My suggestions for games and activities turned out to be inappropriate. The children were equally street-wise in the country as in their impoverished environment in the city. Apart from desecrating the War Memorial at Wall, they were found to have pockets full of sweets and chocolates 'acquired' from a well-known store in Hexham following a turbulent visit to the Abbey. Ebullient and vivacious, four youngsters were returned to their normal environment, hopefully having gained something broader and beyond their former experience. The WVS Ladies in green returned to their homes, bedraggled, worn-out and somewhat bemused. Two forlorn husbands greeted them warmly - "I've missed you so much - did you have a nice time? - I haven't had a decent meal for two weeks - what's for supper?"

London About 1976. He was six years old, the middle child of three of a single parent mother - all by different fathers. He had never been away from his mother before. When I collected him at the end of his WRVS Hostess holiday I was a little concerned: he was very quiet and morose. However his hostess said there had been no problems, which was reassuring. On the way home it all came out. He did love his mother: but Their Father had played football with him, and Their Father had taken him to see the frogs in the pond, and he hadn't wanted to go home. He felt somehow that he was being very wicked. I told him he wasn't wicked at all, that was what holidays were all about: one met new people and saw new things, and then

it was lovely when one got home again. So he said he was going to play football for Tottenham and Liverpool when he grew up, and he sang football songs all the way home. His social worker hoped that when he grew up he would remember the holiday, and realise how important Their Father had been to that happy family. Ed.

Right up to date! Mrs. V. Jackman reports that on 28th. June, 1990, some Great Yarmouth Association members assisted at the Royal Norfolk Show where WRVS had a creche. The children could be left for up to two hours to enable parents to enjoy the Show. Toys, pencils, blackboards and a sand pit etc. were provided for the children. Facilities were also available for nappy changing and feeding babies. The Police brought along several lost children. They were privileged with a visit from the Princess Royal who was obviously interested.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ARCHIVES

Mrs. F. Banks (Mid Area 3.) has been a member of WVS and WRVS from 1938, and has written a very interesting and full account of her career. She writes; "In 1946 I was Deputy to Mrs. A. Groves, who was Old People's Welfare Organiser, and we started the first Darby and Joan Club in Kingstanding. In February 1947, during that terrible winter. we started the second which became the Witton Club. These were the only Clubs at that time for older people, both men and women being welcome. Food and coal were still rationed and we each took some coal so that we could light a fire in the room where we met. We gave up coupons for fruit to make cakes each week for tea. Mrs. Groves left the Witton Club after some months, taking 50 members with her, and opened the Burlington Club. The two are now amalgamated as the Witton & Newtown Club. We arranged outings and holidays, taking as many as 400 people away for a week with some WVS escorts on the coaches. We also started Dinner Clubs quite soon, collecting the meals from a Civic Restaurant nearby, and we are still running a Luncheon Club twice a week at Newtown".

ROUND THE COUNTRY

Members will be glad to know that a Birthday Card has been sent to H.M. the Queen Mother with the best wishes of all Members of the WVS/WRVS Association. The front cover design was a spray of flowers in cornflower blue especially designed and painted by Mrs. Chris Smurthwaite MBE (NE1.)

Congratulations to Mrs. Nan Foot, a member of the Gedling Branch of the Association, who was awarded the First Citizen of the Year award by the Rotary Club of Nottingham North on the 7th. June 1990. This is awarded yearly and was for working unselfishly without reward for the benefit of the Community.

Fifty Years on. The wartime County Organiser for Norfolk, expecting Mrs. Churchill in Norwich to visit the WVS Club for USA Servicemen, received a telephone call late one evening: "This is 10 Downing Street: the Prime Minister insists that his wife must have a rest during her busy day in Norwich. Please arrange for a bed to be made available in a quiet place after lunch". The County Organiser fixed it - in the Mayor's Parlour.

Association Member Mrs A. Hardy joined the WVS in 1939 in Huntingdon, Cambs., when she was Mrs. Thompson. On the death of her husband, she remarried and transferred to Great Yarmouth. Since then she has worked consistently in all departments of WRVS duties. At present she does trolley service in Part 111. accommodation and is a helper at a Day Club.

I think it might be a good idea to start collecting the short biographies of members who have been active in the Service since its beginning, and contributions will be gratefully received! Editor.

AUSTRALIA. Jenny MacLennan tells us she has started doing MOW in her Area, and now has contact with six ladies with WVS connections, but as distances are so great they mostly keep in touch by newsletter.

GUERNSEY Mrs. E. Robilliard. Although doubtful at first, she soon discovered how valuable the Association was to many who had retired, had no contact any more, and how much the occasional phone call or gift of flowers meant to them.

JERSEY. Mrs. D. Corner OBE is the new Association Representative, and she hopes that any member visiting Jersey will get in touch with her.

SCOTLAND. Mrs S. MATTLAND-MAKGILL-CRICHTON, CHAIRMAN Scotland invited Mrs. P. James MBE, Chairman of the Association, to their AGM in Stirling, and made her very welcome. They hope that any Group on holiday in Scotland will get in touch with them.

Many Areas expressed great appreciation of the residential AGM this year, and thanked the Headquarters staff for all the hard work they had done to make it so successful. They hope it will be possible to hold future residential meetings from time to time.

REPORT FROM WALES

MRS. L. BROTHERTON

Mrs. Brotherton reports that the AGM for Wales was held in Aberystwyth, and they welcomed the new Chairman, Mrs. P. James MBE and the WRVS Chairman for Wales, Mrs. M. Gibbons. The Guest Speaker was Mr. Hywel Harries, a retired art teacher. Lunch afterwards was in a nearby hotel.

CLWYD. Mrs. E. Edwards, BEM.

Wrexham They had to postpone a meeting because the Wrexham office was completely filled with blankets and clothing which had been donated for the flood and storm victims.

Aberystwyth met in September.

Colwyn Bay Mrs. N. Guest. This group is thriving, meeting every six weeks. They had an enjoyable outing to Portmadoc. Members are grateful to Mrs. Guest and Miss Boden for making it possible for them still to keep in touch. Rhyl joined the Rhyl Club festivities in Flint, and stayed dancing until 11p.m. In May there was a visit to Ruthin Castle, with its paintings, long history and beautiful gardens. Tea was most appetising! The Clwyd Group organised a special day to honour the Queen Mother in August. Rhyl members arrived by minibus, and then everyone set off for a glass-blowing demonstration.

GWENT Mrs. B. Travis, MBE

Newport had a very pleasant outing to Brecon, coffee on a canal boat trip, lunch at Brecon, and then a visit to Graig-y-Nos Country Park. They enjoyed their Christmas lunch in a local hotel, and were glad to have Mrs. Brotherton with them. In May Mrs. Travis arranged a meeting in honour of the Queen Mother's birthday in her garden. The local Scout Group lent and erected a tent and took it away afterwards, all for the price of ice-creams all round. One lad became rather thoughtful whilst eating his ice-cream, and asked 'does the Queen Mother come here every year for her birthday?' Those who stayed all day enjoyed pizzas cooked by Mrs. Travis - and this on the hottest day since 1911! It is intended to send half the proceeds of the day to the Benevolent Fund as a birthday tribute to the Queen Mother.

REPORTS FROM THE AREAS

A WELCOME TO THE NEW GROUPS

Ipswich. Middlesborough. Northampton.
Tavistock. Thanet.

NW1

Mrs. B.F. WILSON, MBE

Lancashire

Lytham Mrs. C. Mitchell has asked for a special mention of the late Mrs. D. Lowe, who will be greatly missed.

NW2

MRS. O. CHURCHILL

The event of the year was the visit from the Chairman, Mrs. Peggy James, at a combined meeting hosted by the Sale Group, and joined by Altrincham and Bury Groups. Sale provided a delicious tea and entertainment. The WRVS Area Organiser, District Organisers and Local Organisers were also welcomed.

Trafford Altrincham Mrs. M. Rogers. Monthly meetings have included a Bring and Buy Sale of 'oddments' which replenished Group funds, an outing to Tatton Park, and a talk from a member of 'Family Contact Line' which aids families and very young children.

Sale Mrs. Grimshaw. Monthly meetings provided a variety of interest, with a talk on 'Relaxation for Living' when Mrs. Rickman got everyone sitting up straight and relaxing. Some members are going to join her classes. Then there was a fascinating 'Collection of Old Rubbish' garnered by Mrs. Allen - throwaways of the not so recent past but well remembered by members. At an informal meeting Mrs. Churchill reported on the AGM at York, while in July the outing was to the Bridgemere Garden World, a guided tour and one or two wheelchairs provided for those unable to walk far.

NW 4.

MRS. M. PRESTON

Macclesfield and Congleton. Visits are made when needed, and flowers and cards are sent for special occasions. One Group sends each member a birthday card, so that each knows she is remembered. Two Groups met at local hotels for a Christmas lunch, whilst the Wirral Group combined their lunch with their AGM in March.

NE1

MRS. C. SMURTHWAITE MBE

We were pleased to welcome the new Chairman, Mrs. P. James MBE at our October, 1989, gathering.

Northumberland Mrs. E. Rotstein. Sales of Ivory Webb cards allowed Northumberland as a whole to give £34 to the work of the Hospice.

Ashington Mrs. M. Pratt tells us that on a visit to the Eye Department of the RVI, Newcastle, she noticed a request for old, useless spectacles for use in Third

World countries. A Darby and Joan Club soon produced 52 pairs of spectacles which were gratefully received by the RVI. They meet regularly, and enjoy social events which have raised another £100 for the hospice.

North Tyneside Mrs. E. Frew and Mrs. L. Weallens. North Shields, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and Shiremouth. Monthly Coffee Pots continue to be well supported, and provide contributions to Gosforth St Oswald's Hospice. A further donation of £100 is being given shortly. Members attended the 90th. birthday celebrations for the Queen Mother organised for all WRVS members, and flowers are sent and visits made to those who need them.

Ponteland Mrs. J. Hughes, MBE. It is difficult to arrange a suitable meeting place as the area is very scattered, however they make every effort to keep in touch and have 5 new members. A 'Members Day' has been arranged by the County to keep up with the news.

Sunderland Mrs. J. Owen. The Bring and Buy Sale early in 1989 raised £200 for Benedict's Hospice.

Newcastle Mrs. Yarrington. They had another pleasant visit to Alnwick. They had a big coffee morning in a member's house and raised £500 for the local Hospice.

Gateshead members join Newcastle for meetings and outings including theatre trips.

NE2.

MRS. B. BURKITT

The September, 1989, Annual lunch was held in Hartlepool and we were pleased to welcome the new Chairman of the Association, Mrs. P. James, MBE. This year the lunch was held in Selby in September, and again our visitors included Mrs. James. She gave a fascinating glimpse of a year in the life of the Association Chairman, which left us all breathless! We also welcomed about 20 members from NE3 as well as serving members from Area and the Districts. After the meeting, members had the opportunity of looking round Selby and its Abbey, and were invited to tea in the WRVS District Office.

Darlington Mrs. G. Evans. Several new members have joined, and Christmas lunch was held in Hurworth. We are making a special effort to encourage men members to

join us. There was lunch in a local hotel in March, a proper old-fashioned tea at the Sports Centre in May, and a trip to Newburgh Priory in Coxwold.

Harrogate Sadly, due to ill-health, Mrs. E. Taylor, who has organised activities for many years, has had to retire. We are grateful indeed for all she has done. Meetings and lunches are held in members' houses each month, and are greatly enjoyed.

Hartlepool Mrs. E. Stamp. Our highlight was naturally hosting the Annual lunch in 1989. Although Hartlepool members have enjoyed good outings and speakers at their monthly meetings, they feel that their main priority has been giving good companionship, and caring for each other during illness or other personal problems.

Scarborough Mrs. J. Price. Christmas lunch was again held at the Scarborough Technical College. They enjoyed a visit to Lotherton Hall near Leeds. The staff were pleasant and the food enjoyable.

York Mrs. I. Winter. There was a meeting on 16th. October, 1989, when 40 members attended, and the Chairman gave a report on the year's events. The highlight of the summer was welcoming the AGM of the WVS/WRVS Association to York. 50 members and friends went on a mini-holiday organised once again by Mrs. Venables, this time to Wiltshire. They stayed at Urchfont Manor in Devizes. There were many things to do and see, including Salisbury and Wells Cathedrals, and a trip on a horse-drawn barge down the Kennet and Avon canal. They were grateful to the members of Bath WRVS who gave them a lovely tea and a warm welcome.

Selby Mrs. J. Altass. They hosted the Annual Lunch in 1990, and gave everyone a warm welcome. They visited the local Technical College for lunch every month or so, and had the occasional outing.

Middlesbrough Mrs. C.A. Bragazzi. A new Group; they already have 28 members. They intend to meet monthly.

NE3

MRS. A.N. WILSON.

County Representatives have worked hard to increase membership, and Lincolnshire has been encouraging individual retired members to start small local groups. The sixth Annual meeting for Area 3 was held in Market

Rasen in April, and attended by the Chairman, Mrs. P. James MBE, and 94 Association members, WRVS members and guests. The Mayor of Market Rasen welcomed everyone. Mrs. James gave a short talk, there was an excellent lunch cooked by Market Rasen WRVS members, followed by a talk on Lincoln Cathedral by Miss E. O'Neill.

South Humberside Mrs. D. Stokes. 48 members enjoyed a strawberry tea in July. They are sad to report the death of Mrs. E. Dodsworth.

Lincolnshire Mrs. M. Birkhead. Their senior member reached her 98th. Birthday, and loves to receive news and visits.

NE 4

MRS. L. ZIEGLER MBE

Wakefield members meet at the Citadel six times a year. On May 16th. we invited our Chairman, Mrs. P. James MBE, to join us: we were thrilled that she accepted. Members came from Sheffield, Doncaster, Bradford and Leeds, and there were 45 present. Our Speaker was Mrs. N. Lane MBE of York who spoke about her duties for WRVS at Wimbledon: it was most amusing. Leeds group meets about six times a year at Mrs. Ziegler's house. £50 was sent to the Benevolent Trust.

MID AREA 1.

MRS. J.B. ROSE

Hereford and Worcester Last Autumn we enjoyed a visit to Hanbury Hall and were pleased to welcome eight Warwickshire members. After a tour of the house, the National Trust kindly gave us a room of our own for refreshments, which possibly made it more peaceful for members of the general public who were served elsewhere. Several groups had their own lunches and teaparties. Warwickshire, there is growing interest.

MID AREA 2.

MRS. H. SMITH

I do feel that all our get-togethers play a very important role in our Association work for those who live alone and find the companionship so important. A number of our Groups have held Queen Mum Celebrations which have been highly successful. Other groups have continued coming to my home for lunch etc.. Mrs. Mary Glenn, Notts. WRVS Chairman, is a tower of strength and

helps me when I undertake the 'At Homes'. We are very proud of the award received by Mrs. N. Foot.

Nottinghamshire

Nottingham City. Mrs. M. Glenn together with Mrs. Smith were invited to afternoon tea by Sutton-in-Ashfield group. This took place in sheltered housing accommodation loaned to us after members had undertaken a luncheon club. They held a party on 14th. August at Mrs. Smith's home to celebrate the birthday of H. M. the Queen Mother. The weather was beautiful, and long serving member Mrs. Zuckerman was presented with a bouquet and named Queen Mum for the day.

Broxtowe A pre-Christmas lunch was held in the Clarendon Restaurant, and a New Year sherry and shortbread party was a great success.

Rushcliffe Miss M. Lovett reports a delightful visit to Thornton's Chocolate Factory in Derbyshire. There were six coffee mornings at different venues, with talks by the Director of Nottingham Red Cross, a visit to Africa on Safari, the history of the Lace Hall in Nottingham, and the work of the Cheshire Homes: there was a demonstration of Dried Flower arrangements, and a Mouth Organ recital by Mr. C. Daniels.

Newark Mrs. J.R. Burgin. At their Christmas lunch, each member takes an inexpensive gift and these are all exchanged. Members seem to prefer lunches, and they continue through the year, always with a raffle.

Leicestershire. Mrs. W. Andrew reports on a coach trip to Windsor in June, when members saw the Garter procession. In spite of drizzling rain, all the Knights, including the Queen Mother, walked to the Chapel. Other members went to see the Railway Exhibition, which they thought superb. Non-members were included in the outing, and four of them decided to join the Association! There were other outings, and the format of regular meetings for coffee, chat and a Bring & Buy sale continued. Membership continues to increase. During the summer we enjoyed a very pleasant day at the home of Mrs.H.Smith, our Area Representative, who provided a marvellous luncheon.

Derbyshire On Sunday, 23rd. September, 1990, a WRVS kneeler was presented to Bakewell Parish Church in memory of Ida Hobbs MBE. It will be placed in her pew in the Church where she was a regular attender. The kneeler was worked by Betty Lumley BEM, a colleague and friend of long standing.

ANGLIA, AREA 1

MRS. E.C. CHARNLEY

Membership is growing, and there are now active groups in many Districts.

Bedfordshire. Mrs. Woods, MBE. Our Garden Party coincided with the only wet day this summer, but members came as planned, and strawberries and ice-cream tasted just as good indoors. A highlight of our year was tea at the WRVS Club at Sharnbrook, where we had the pleasure of sharing an afternoon with the residents.

Cambridgeshire Mrs. N. Kelly. Sadly, Mrs. E. Connor MBE had to resign as County Representative due to her husband's ill-health. It is thanks to her hard work that there are now so many large, active groups in the County. We welcome Mrs. Kelly as her successor.

Peterborough Mrs. Sillick and Mrs. Titcomb. They meet for lunch or tea. They entertained members from other parts of the County and guests from Bedfordshire in the Spring, when they were all happy to meet the Association Chairman, Mrs. P. James MBE, who arrived despite the best efforts of British Rail!

Cambridge and Huntingdon Groups meet regularly. A highlight of the year was a party held on 12th. October 1990 to celebrate the 90th. birthday of Mrs. Amy Cowell BEM. The Mayor of Cambridge presented Mrs. Cowell with a Third Clasp to her Long Service Medal marking 51 years of active service with WVS/WRVS.

Hertfordshire Mrs. B. Sewell MBE, Members from all parts of the County gathered for Betty Sewell's annual lunch in her delightful house and garden by the river. News was exchanged and absent friends remembered. We were pleased to see Betty so fit and active after surgery on her knee.

Northamptonshire Mrs. A. Perkins MBE. This summer members enjoyed a splendid day in London. They had a

guided tour of both Houses of Parliament, followed by a picnic lunch and a trip on the river. Members meet their friends locally for coffee or tea, but there is no enthusiasm for 'official' Groups. It seems everyone prefers to join the County functions at Rushden, and all look forward to the next delicious lunch.

ANGLIA, AREA 2

MRS. M. H. GORDON

Membership continues to increase gradually. Berkshire The Summer lunch was held in the delightful garden of one of our members. We are sad to report the death of Mrs. K. Fox. Oxfordshire have had outings to members' houses and gardens. We are sad to report the loss of Mrs. N. Abbott. The representative for Oxford County has recently received recognition for 50 years service with WRVS.

ANGLIA, AREA 3.

MRS. E.D. CLAYDON

Once again my WRVS Organisers allowed us to use one of the large rooms at Area Office for our annual "Chiefs" lunch and natter. Our Chairman, Peggy James, came all the way from Beverley to be with us.

NORFOLK Mrs. M. Moss MBE. held a well attended lunch in May, and welcomed the Association Chairman.

North Norfolk Mrs. Gilderson organised a visit to the Cromer Pier show preceded by a beach picnic. (Rapid changing by male members from shorts to slacks!) The Comedians at the Show evidently made "full use" of the Association members occupying the front seats.

SUFFOLK Mrs. S. Laverton. The membership in this County and the number of branches have grown enormously. More branches are in embryo.

Stour Link. Mrs. H. Maudsley. They had a happy pub lunch when 20 attended. St. Edmundsbury Mrs. Mytton-Mills. They had an enjoyable two hour walk ending up in a pub.

Woodbridge and Felixtowe Mrs. van Zwanenberg. They held open house with coffee and mince pies.

Ipswich Six members of this group had coffee with Mrs. Morrison-Jack to celebrate her 97th. birthday. The

delicious home-made cakes were gladly 'donated' by the staff of the WRVS Home, Thornbank, where she lives. The sprightly old lady introduced Mrs. Laverton to two other ex-WVS/WRVS ladies living in Thornbank. Mrs. Laverton contemplates a mini branch there and fairly regular visiting from the established Ipswich branch.

ESSEX Mrs. H. Bostock.

Southend Mr. B. Tytherleigh. They have well attended meetings with a wide variety of speakers, and continue their large annual collection of groceries for a local Home for the Disabled. Earlier this year they were given a wonderful conducted tour of the Houses of Parliament by their M.P., Mr. Teddy Taylor.

SE AREA 1

MISS M.T. COOKE MBE

EAST KENT

Several Association members attended a party organised by the Darby & Joan Clubs to celebrate the Queen Mother's birthday.

WEST KENT.

Mrs. G. Bright. They held a luncheon party in April.

SURREY

Mrs. B. Stirling. Members attended a re-union at Guildford Railway Station when 23 original WVS members and helpers met 23 ex-soldiers whom they had served with cups of tea following the evacuation from Dunkirk. Members from Guildford, Farnham and Woking had outings to Sainsbury's Distribution centre. Wearing protective clothing, they were taken over the 40 acre Depot site - temperatures varied from 3 degrees Centigrade to 20 degrees. Then they had a delicious lunch. Epsom had a tea party. Guildford: Mrs. Hiscock writes that Members are very sorry to report the death of their Honorary Member, Lady Watson, at the age of 91, who was at one time Centre Organiser for Guildford.

EAST SUSSEX.

Mrs. F. Smith MBE. 30 members attended a County luncheon to celebrate the Queen Mother's 90th, birthday. A bring and buy stall helped to raise funds

for an Image Intensifier, presented to the X-Ray unit of Brighton Hospital by WRVS.

Hastings & Rother have met for coffee, lunch and tea. One member, Miss J. Barker, has received a Clasp denoting 51 years of service. Hove had a coffee morning and two luncheons at members' houses. Lewes had an outing to Standen, a National Trust property. North Wealden enjoyed a luncheon in a member's house.

SE AREA 2.

MRS. D.J. SIMPKINS BEM

Dorset Mrs. G. Dunton. Dorset held their Annual Social gathering on 21st. March, at the Allendale Community Centre, Wimborne. There were 36 members and guests present. A warm welcome was given to Lady Hanham, Chairman for Dorset, Mrs. D. Simpkins, Area Representative, Mrs. J. Kingsbury, Wimborne D.O., and Mrs. S. Broomfield, Poole office secretary. A raffle and bring and buy raised £54. Their AGM was held on 19th. September in the home of Lady Hanham. 45 members attended, and the guests welcomed were Mrs. Simpkins and Mrs. Kingsbury once again, and Mrs. S. Evans, Bridport D.O.. Mrs. P. Williams was congratulated on her award of the BEM, and presented with a splendid iced cake during tea. Mrs. J. Dalzell from County Service for children with impaired hearing gave a talk about their work, and a raffle raised £30.30.

Hampshire told us that the next AGM was to be held on a narrow boat on the Basingstoke Canal in May 1990.

SW AREA 1

MRS. K. LOW

In July 1990, 48 ladies and two gentlemen of the York Branch of the Association visited Bath, and were entertained to tea by ladies of the Bath Branch, organised by Mrs. P. Weeks with the valued co-operation of the Bath District Organiser, Mrs. A. Brown.

Gloucestershire Mrs. J. Connop.

Cheltenham A meeting was held for local members when the speaker was Mrs. R. Tombs who spoke on "Coins and Coin enamelling." In March, members enjoyed a tea and slides of "Springtime in the Rockies".

Gloucester 73 members enjoyed an excellent lunch

prepared by Association members at St. Luke's Church Hall. Members welcomed Dame Frances Clode DBE, Mrs. K. Low, Area Representative and Mrs. R. Laycock, County Organiser. Mrs. C. Wyndham, assisted by Mrs. Summer, talked about their experience with Women's Groups in Kenya. One member who was celebrating her birthday cut the cake which had been provided by her friends. Members had an outing to the Selsley Herb and Goat Farm near Stroud, followed by tea.

Wiltshire Mrs. M. Darby organised an enjoyable Reunion Lunch at the Riverside Club in Melksham in June attended by 26 ladies.

SW AREA 2

MISS M. SCOTT

The AGM was held on 13th. September, 1990, when Mrs. P. James MBE, the Association Chairman, was warmly welcomed. Mrs. James gave an interesting account of Association activities across the country. Mrs. A. Fleming, SW2 Area Organiser. brought members up to date about WRVS to-day. A delicious lunch was provided by the Exeter District WRVS Emergency services members, for which many thanks. It was good to see Mrs. B. Flinn and several other members from Somerset, though most of those present were from Devon.

Tavistock A new group. They now have 13 members. They held a lunch party and invited members of the South Hamms branch. In September 1989 they visited St. Luke's Hospice in Plymouth and were very impressed by the loving care given to patients and relatives in cheerful and pleasant surroundings. Several members of the Group still work for WRVS. In March 1990 a school bus crashed and all the children were brought to the Hospital Outpatients Department. Members on duty in the 'Refreshment Corner' gave sympathetic help reassuring the young people, which was much appreciated.

LONDON Members send their best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. A. Leacock MBE, Area Representative for London S.E., who unfortunately had a serious accident in York after the AGM.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON
NE Area

Mrs. D. E. Gross,

SE Area

Mrs. E.G. Block MBE,

SW Area

Mrs. A. Leacock MBE,

NW Area

Mrs. D. M. Stevens,

NORTH WEST
Area 1.

Mrs. B.F. Wilson MBE,

Area 2

Mrs. O. Churchill,

Area 4

Mrs. M. J. Preston,

NORTH EAST

Area 1

Mrs. C.V. Smurthwaite MBE,

Area 2

Mrs. B. Burkitt,

Area 3

Mrs. A.M. Wilson,

Area 4

Mrs. L. Ziegler MBE,

MIDLANDS

Area 1 Mrs. J. B. Rose,

Area 2 Mrs. H. Smith,

Area 3 Mrs. M. F. Oswald,

HOME COUNTIES, ANGLIA

Area 1 Mrs. E. C. Charnley,

Area 2 Mrs. M. Gordon,

Area 3 Mrs. E.D. Claydon,

SOUTH EAST

Area 1 Miss M.T. Cooke MBE,

Area 2 Mrs. D.J. Simpkins BEM,

SOUTH WEST

Area 1 Mrs. K. Low,

Area 2 Miss M. Scott,

WALES Mrs. L. Brotherton,

SCOTLAND Mrs. S. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Chairman

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

W.R.V.S.

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Four letters, these, that nationwide
are worn by the 'Women in Green',
who always wear them with great pride
no matter what the scene.

They're worn by women who steadfastly
uphold the great tradition
of smiling service, no matter where
or under what condition.

We do meet sceptics here and there:
there are always a few about.
They can't believe we really care
and always do 'summat for nought'.

And, as we go, to our delight
the fun makes the work seem lighter.
We're happy when we feel we might
have made some lives seem brighter.

So let's work on 'til day is done
and we hand on the torch to those
who'll add their weight to what we've done
and see that the Service grows.

Dorothy Vaughan

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE