



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No.34 MAY 1991

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WRVS Headquarters

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President

The Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, Chairman of WRVS

Chairman

Mrs. Peggy James, MBE

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. M.D.S. Maisey, BEM

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs. M. Davies

Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross,

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

In December I had the pleasure of attending three Christmas meetings and the privilege of reading a Lesson at the Carol Service held annually in Newcastle Cathedral for our members in Northumberland and Tyne & Wear. I remember the happy greetings at these meetings - everyone looking forward to Christmas with families or friends - then early in the New Year when bad weather with snow and the war in the Gulf arrived - I began to wonder how many of our members were housebound or lonely due to worry, illness, disability, or were just unable to leave their homes because of the weather - and I hoped that someone was keeping in touch with them.

The Association was formed to preserve friendships made in the Service but as we get older we need someone to care about us. Please make a special effort to contact anyone you have not seen for a while - caring could begin with a 'phone call.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you again soon.

Peggy James

NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

<u>OBE</u>	Mrs. J.M. Wynne-Jones	Lately Area Organiser, S. & W. Yorkshire Met. Area
<u>MBE</u>	Mrs. J. Henderson	Met. Organiser, Sheffield
<u>BEM</u>	Mrs. B. M. Glendinning	Local Organiser, Devizes
	Miss L.A.H. Gregory	Area Consultant, Stroke Clubs, Newcastle
	Mrs. J. Joynson	District Organiser, Moray
	Mrs. F.E.M. Parker	Services to Community Hospital Trolley Service, Sunderland
	Mrs. J.B. Pitts	Met. Organiser, Leeds
	Mrs. B.H. Statham	Bedfordshire County Hospital Organiser
	Mrs. J. Todd	LBO Bromley
	Mrs. J. M. Walton	Dep. County Organiser Lincolnshire
	Mrs. M.A. Houghton	Services to the Community, Welton, Lincoln.

Mrs. C. Smurthwaite, MBE, (NE1) and Mrs. B. Burkitt (NE2) have retired as Area Representatives, and Mrs. B. Wilson MBE, (NW1) retires in May. The Association thanks them very much for their valuable services. The new Area Representatives are:

NE1. Mrs. S. McCormack.

NE2. Mrs. R. Thompson, OBE,

NW1 Mrs. E.M. McCambridge,

OBITUARY

Just after the November Newsletter went to press, we discovered a new 'Oldest Member', Mrs. May Andrews of Skegness. Sadly we now have to record her death. Many WRVS and Association members are thanked for visiting her, but we understand that this was a two-way advantage, as she was always cheerful and gave much kind advice to all.

We are sad to hear that Mrs. Doris Moss, OBE., a previous Editor of this Newsletter, has died. She joined WVS in 1951. She rendered valuable service, but was particularly valued for her expertise in training techniques, and her ability to pass this knowledge on to others.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. A. Perkins, MBE, County Representative for Northamptonshire. She had long, valued service in WRVS, and will be much missed.

Mrs.J.W. Marshall	Stradbroke	Mrs.H.B. Phipp	London
Mrs.L.D. Lewis	Sevenoaks	Mrs.J. Kirkman	Bury
Mrs.J. Bassett	Great Yarmouth	Miss E.G.Hawken	Bristol
Mrs.M.E.C. Rayner,	Pakenham	Mrs.V.C. Martin	Rushden
Mrs.G.E.Dowsett	Bexhill-on-Sea	Mrs.D.C. Hammond	Exmouth
Miss M.C. Deacon	Liverpool	Mrs.M. Andrews	Skegness
Mrs.M. Stephenson	Whitley Bay	Mr. F. Adams	Woodthorpe
Mrs.B.M. Grove	Bromsgrove	Mrs.T.M. Morgan	Cardiff
Miss M. Holbrook	S.Petherton	Mrs.M. Davies	Yeovil
Mrs.D. Butcher	Gloucester	Mrs.E.R.Shirman	Wilmslow
Mrs.C. Appleby	Nottingham	Mrs. O. Parrett	Newark
Mrs.M. Powell	Aberystwyth	Mrs.E.R. Woods	Heswall
Mrs.C.A.Sutterby	Malvern Wells	Mrs. M. Henley	Prescot
Mrs.M.E. Williams	Wrexham	Miss B. Brown	Leeds
Mrs.J. Walmsley	Leamington Spa	Miss S.M.Ball	Nottingham
Mrs.J.M. Granville	Jersey	Mrs.D.J. Short	Sevenoaks
Mrs.E. Hetherington	Roby	Mrs.I.Dale	Huntingdon
Mrs.E. Hughes Evans	BEM Cardiff	Mrs.M.Terry	London
Miss L. Tweddle	Choppington	Mrs.S.Stead	Altrincham
Mrs.J.B. Wadsworth	Hove	Miss J.M.Howat	Hadlow
	Miss P.D. Philp		Cheltenham

EDITORIAL

I am so sorry this has to be another small Newsletter, for financial reasons. I am very grateful to those of you who have sent in contributions. They are all on my file, and any Archives for which there is no room will hopefully appear in the next Newsletter. To give you variety, we will start with a Headquarters contribution. I can't remember receiving one before! Perhaps we could have some more: or perhaps your favourite memories about Lady Reading. Please keep on writing.

Doris Gross

Mrs. M. Hawes, London, N.E. writes: "We had just moved from Tothill St., which had spacious accommodation, all on one floor. Our new Headquarters in Old Park Lane had less space, and as far as I can remember was spread over five floors plus mezzanines. The move had entailed hours of planning, and those responsible had been congratulated for completing a very difficult job in record time.

"A Conference had already been convened and coincided with the first day in our new home. Those attending were couples responsible for the running of our Residential Clubs. At that time we had very few menfolk in the service.

"Morning coffee came and went, and the three of us in the Department were typing away when a red-faced middle-aged man burst into the room - another little man peering over his shoulder - both looking desperately flustered. One said 'Where's the Gentleman's?' A quick search of our new layout revealed that we'd forgotten to make provision for one!

"A hasty cardboard notice was pinned onto the nearest loo door, but before it was finished, both men were in situ. As they went back to the meeting, they thanked us profusely, obviously relieved!"

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

HOSPITAL ARCHIVES

In 1989, Mrs. Gallafent of Leatherhead wrote to say she thought it was time to pay a tribute to WRVS members working in hospitals. Their turn now, Mrs. Gallafent.

1954. Overheard in a North London Teabar:

Customer: (looking at a very large new block under construction), 'What is going on there, mate?

Another Customer: 'A new maternity wing'.

First Customer: 'Corblimey, they haven't much faith in the pill, have they?'

Mrs. N. G. Harper, (Middleton-on-Sea) writes: "I have worked at Graylingwell Mental Hospital in the WRVS shop for about ten years. A very nice young man aged about thirty had been a patient, but now lives in a flat nearby, and comes in most Monday mornings. He takes charge of two of the most unattractive patients, often old crones unable to speak properly. He escorts them round, buys them sweets, and in general looks after them. In case of 'accident' he just calmly cleans it up. I told him recently what a wonderful job he was doing. His reply was 'It is therapy for me.' This is a marvellous hospital, where patients often show kindness to each other."

From Mrs. E. Frew (N. Tyneside) Mrs. Smith had been in hospital a long time. One night the phone rang, and Sister answered it. 'How is Mrs. Smith doing?' was the query. Said Sister, 'Very well, she is being discharged to-morrow. Who shall I say called?' The reply - 'Oh, its Mrs. Smith - the doctors tell me nothing!'

Great Yarmouth. An Association member recalls how, when pushing a trolley in her local hospital, an elderly male patient surprised her by saying 'You've got lovely legs!' Then he slowly looked up and added 'Pity your face doesn't match them!'

Many congratulations to our Chairman and to Bill James on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Miss Betty Stern, NE3, received the MBE for her work with WVS in Korea. She has now been presented with the new certificate by the Communication Director, Mr. J. Childs. This is awarded by the International Korean War Memorial Committee in the U.S.A..

FROM THE AREAS

Most Groups have had successful Christmas lunches.

Wales Wrexham joined the WRVS Carol Service, followed by tea. Extremely bad weather has curtailed further activity. Newport have regular meetings and country walks.

Jersey Members decided to collect paper-backs and magazines to send to the forces in the Gulf. They were completely inundated with contributions, and were lent storage space in a hotel. They were also promised free transport to the mainland for the parcels.

Australia Jenny MacLennan has had telephone calls from travellers, and a visit from Ann Leacock.

NW1 Lancashire had an outing to the Jodrell Bank Science Centre, a meeting in Blackburn, and a coffee party later in Lytham.

NW2 Bury The November meeting in the WRVS District Office had them all rocking with laughter at Mrs. Calcrow's reminiscences about starting up a Clothing section in Bury. Altrincham are sad to report the death of Mrs. S. Stead. Sale wish Mrs. Grimshaw a speedy recovery. The Hale Ladies Choir sang for them. In January, a tea and chat turned into a debate on the Home Help Service!

NW4 A new Group has been started in Chester District. Mrs. A. Colbert of Kingsley District received a second bar to her Long Service Medal. Wirral District visited Bolton Market on the way to the 'Last Drop Village'.

NE1 Members are sad to hear of the death of Mrs. M. Stephenson. Ashington had an outing to Eye. Newcastle and Gateshead visited St. Oswald's Hospice, and were greatly impressed by the lay-out and thought for the patients.

NE2 The Annual lunch was again held at the Scarborough Technical College, where food and service are excellent.

NE3 N. Humberside visited Flamborough: members are active and numbers grow. Lincolnshire meet regularly, and membership grows by word of mouth from Association members, which is better than leaflets in offices.

NE4 Wakefield decided to make up some parcels for the forces in the Gulf. They filled 32 shoe-boxes, which were collected by the Army, who sent a letter of thanks. They were full of everything from sun cream to toiletries and sweets.

MID1 There is a new group in Bromsgrove. Hereford and Worcester had a successful Reunion in June, and Warwickshire welcomed the Association National Chairman to lunch in a member's garden. A group in Burton-on-Trent, (Staffordshire) met during the summer.

MID2 Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire have active groups. Newark gave a gift to each member at a Christmas lunch. Derbyshire now has a County Representative, and membership is beginning to grow.

Anglia 1 Miss M. Castleman Brown would like her friends in the old WRVS Region IV to know that she used her parting gift, a bicycle, until about four years ago when she could no longer cycle. She kept it in the garage, but finally, when a friend of hers had an accident with her own cycle, she gave it to her. Now, with the money she received for it, she has bought a lovely Coalport plate as a memento of her happy times in the Region.

Bedfordshire Mrs. E. Woods MBE has resigned and has been succeeded by Mrs. P. Henderson-Begg as County Representative for Bedfordshire.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Mrs. L. Shanks has agreed to act as County Representative for Northamptonshire.

Anglia 3 Christmas 1990. On two evenings members of the Great Yarmouth branch, "feeling all posh in their new WRVS Sweat Shirts" pushed disabled shoppers around an Asda store on special evening openings, to enable them to do their Christmas shopping. They had a lunch in October when 10 medals and clasps were presented, and five members from Suffolk branch were present, together with 61 from Great Yarmouth. They were glad to welcome 91-year-old Mrs. Trett. A successful buffet lunch was held by the Woodbridge Branch. "We were all asked to bring as many of the (horrid) 5p. and 20p. coins as we could spare towards their postal costs!"

SE2 From Mrs. P. Williams. (Poole, Dorset). A member set out in a new role, to bring to a WRVS Old People's Club exercises adapted to stimulate and create a feeling of well-being for older people. But how to beat Bingo? Gradually, many were weaned away: even those who continued to play Bingo joined in to do 'hands and heads'. But even after five years, Bingo hasn't been totally defeated!

SW1 Bristol City enjoyed a tea and a lunch. Kingswood hold bi-monthly coffee mornings, and exchanged visits with Clevedon for lunch. Avon County met for lunch in the WRVS office. Gloucestershire enjoyed lunch prepared by Cheltenham members, and welcomed Dame Frances Clode, DBE, Mrs. P. James, MBE, and Mrs. K. Low. Wiltshire celebrated Christmas early with "Christmas Goodies" on sale, and a raffle.

London Some members of the Association were delighted to attend the WRVS teaparty in the Mansion House, attended by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, in honour of her Birthday. The Annual Reunion was held in October, and welcomed Mrs. P. James, MBE, Association Chairman. They wish to thank the London NE Emergency Services team for providing such a delicious lunch.