



ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE



ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE



ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

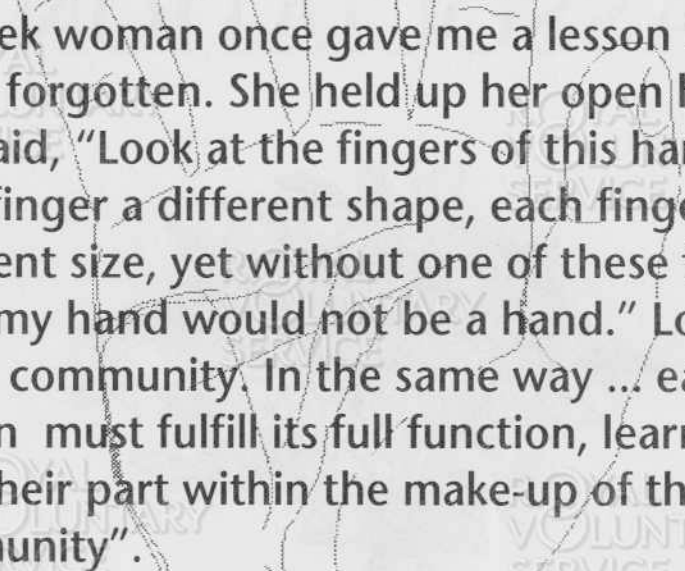
WRVS ASSOCIATION



ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Newsletter No 49
Autumn 1998

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE



A Greek woman once gave me a lesson I have never forgotten. She held up her open hand and said, "Look at the fingers of this hand - each finger a different shape, each finger a different size, yet without one of these fingers, my hand would not be a hand." Look at the ... community. In the same way ... each person must fulfill its full function, learn ... to play their part within the make-up of the community".

From "My Philosophy of Life" by Lady Reading.

Letter from the Chairman.



Dear Members,

I am delighted to have been asked to be the Chairman of the Association. I shall find following Sheila McCormack a hard task, but I will do my best. I am sure you will agree she has been a super Chairman over the past three years.

A few words about my past WRVS career for those who do not know me. My first introduction to the Service was helping my mother during the Lynton and Lynmouth floods a good few years ago. This progressed to helping with Meals on Wheels rounds in the towns where we lived as we moved around during our early married life. I was the local Organiser for Pocklington in Humberside, and finally a District Organiser in what has become the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Leaving the past behind - now for the future ! I have decided to alter the Association boundary in this part of the country, as Humberside was disbanded in the last Local Government reorganisation and has now become four Unitary Authorities (with the exception of the "blue light" services). The WRVS on the north bank of the Humber is now in the N.E. 3 Area so the Association will follow the same pattern. The south side is now part of Lincs., Notts., and Leics., so it seems sensible that the Association there will be part of the same area. I hope that this will be a satisfactory solution to what has been rather a muddle.

I am sure those that came to the AGM this summer enjoyed the weekend at Milton Hill. We are planning another AGM for 1999. More news later.

I hope you will have a warm and comfortable winter. Spring is not too far away !!

Sincerely,

Diana A. Pugh

News from the Divisions

NORTH EAST DIVISION Headquarters Newcastle



Northumberland, Tyne & Wear.

Div.Rep. Mrs M. Doyle.

Newcastle group's speakers and their talks at the monthly meetings have been very varied. They have been concerned with the army, the origins of surnames, the experiences of driving a long distance coach and the voyages of Captain Cook. Nineteen members had coffee with the Lord and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House and all enjoyed a pleasant morning. Everyone enjoyed themselves at the WRVS Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Beamish Open Air Museum. They saw the railway station, the farm, the manor house, the colliery village and the town, all old buildings relocated from elsewhere, to this site. It is always a good day out, especially when it is good weather, but everyone enjoyed the occasion, Lady Toulson's address, visiting the WRVS shop and refreshments.

Mrs Hardy reports that Sunderland group presented a cheque for £100 to St Benedict's Hospice, from their sales table profits and collection box.

They too have had several interesting speakers including a talk about the RNLI, one from a retired Anglican Sister and one from the Area Manager, WRVS.

Sadly, Mrs Cansfield died just after her 90th birthday. On the brighter side they have recruited three new members, one, Mrs Hardy, receiving the BEM in the last birthday honours.

The visit to Beamish although in bad weather was enjoyed and also the visit to the Mansion House for coffee.

In July they visited the Washington Wildfowl Wetlands Trust for the summer lunch outing and enjoyed watching the birds and having a good natter over lunch..

Twenty-five members of North Shields/Whitley Bay also attended the Mansion House coffee morning to celebrate the Silver Jubilee. At their coffee mornings each month they continue to have cakes and cheese scones made by members and some of these go to the residents of the home where they meet. They have sadly lost the valued husband of Mrs Charles, one of their members. He was always one of their most valued helpers.

This group tell us more about the Beamish celebration meeting, where ten members thoroughly enjoyed their day. Mrs Dawson says that the facilities on the Show Field included catering and a WRVS shop. Those that could find a seat were the lucky ones ! and amid the rain and umbrellas, Lady Toulson's

speech really brought the field to life. The presence of BBC cameras also added a flair and many were able to get home in time to see the tribute to Lady Reading and nostalgically recall the jobs WRVS had done over the 60 years. All in all - an excellent tribute to WRVS.

Mrs Jones from this group, has moved to Cornwall to be near her daughter and Mrs Davison is settled in her new home in Northants. (Could these members, if they are willing, be put in touch with groups in their new Areas I wonder so that they could make new friends? If someone writes to me with addresses I will try to make a connection. Ed)

Ponteland group too enjoyed the Mansion House coffee morning and the Beamish day. Several members attended the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication at Bedlington in July and enjoyed the address by Mrs Beckwith.

They have been saddened by the death of Mrs Hall who was 92. She was for many years treasurer of Ponteland WRVS and her funeral was held at Hexham Abbey with several friends attending.

Durham, Cleveland, N. Yorks. Div. Rep. Mrs R. Thompson OBE

As the last Newsletter was going to print in the spring we heard the very sad news of the death of Beryl Burkitt of Darlington. Beryl had suffered from M.S. since the 1950's and was disabled but had never let it stop her taking an active interest in helping WRVS and many other causes, including the C.A.B. and M.S. Last year she had a hip replacement and had recovered well, so that her death was a shock to all her friends. She had worked each week at the WRVS Tuesday Social Club in the Psychiatric Unit in Darlington hospital and at the Darlington WRVS office and had, in retirement, enjoyed taking an Open University Honours Degree. She is very sadly missed by her husband Eric who has always been a great supporter of all Beryl's work, and by her many friends.

Hartlepool has 31 members and has had a successful year. They had a demonstration on Reflexology and another by a Japanese student on "Tea Making". At one meeting members shared their "Precious Moments" and they also enjoyed a coach trip to the Lakes and an Ullswater boat trip. Mrs Stamp says they remember with great happiness that Beryl Burkitt was able to come to their January lunch.

Talks to the Middlesborough group have been many and varied. They have included one by Mrs Bregazzi on her introduction to nursing, another by Mr Hay on the History of Wireless; one from an "environment officer", who welcomed suggestions for improvements and got some!, and yet another on the experiences of Mrs Flick in the ATS Enigma team. Rev. Errington described the work of a Chaplain at South Cleveland Hospital, Mr Crossgill talked about the Ambulance Service and Mrs Cook showed them a large selection of Whitby Jet. In addition Mrs Gostick says they have enjoyed a meal at the Middlesborough College and had a bus trip to Thirsk, Hawes Cheese factory and Richmond.

The Darlington group had a New Year lunch at the Catering College and

a Spring lunch at the Golden Lion, Northallerton. In May they had a tea party at the Memorial Hospital, Darlington as a "thank you" to all WRVS members who had worked there.

The Harrogate members all enjoyed a coffee morning at Mrs McKenzie's (their leader's) home and in July, an outing to Temple Newsham. They were also greatly entertained by Mrs Jenkins, at their lunch, who spoke humorously about her life as a vets' wife.

Scarborough members support their coffee mornings which they find are good "getting to know you" occasions. A popular Paté and Wine lunch was held again at Mrs Chamberlain's home.

In March, Mrs Longley in York held a lively and well attended meeting at which the yearly change of Chairman which they had had for many years, was discussed and it was decided in future that their Chairman would serve for 2 years, insted of one. This would give the serving member more time to "get into" the job, yet still have regular changes to bring in fresh ideas. This scheme will start from the AGM in October. This group need funds to subsidise outings and meals, which may otherwise be too expensive for members and they are asking for ideas and planning several new ventures for this purpose. This summer, a day's outing planned to Brodsworth Hall had to be cancelled through lack of response. Half day outings have been discussed.

East Yorkshire, Mrs R Priestley reports that longevity seems to be the rule for E. Yorks' members as they have celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs Collinson, for many years secretary at County Office, the 95th birthday of Mrs Marjorie Simmonds (whose work for the Cottingham Darby and Joan Club was described in the Spring Newsletter), the 90th birthdays of Miss Foxton and Mrs Duck, all still active members. Also the Golden Wedding of Mrs Gillard and her husband. We send them all our congratulations.

Nineteen members attended the WRVS Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Beamish organised by N.E. Region and they all thoroughly enjoyed their day.

South and West Yorks

Div. Rep. Mrs L. Ziegler MBE

The Association has lost one of its founder members, aged 102 Mrs Lily Graham was a former Sheffield Lady Mayoress and Alderman.

Sixteen members from Wakefield had a most enjoyable day in Llandudno, where they strolled along the front in beautiful weather. This group have met every other month in the Salvation Army Citadel. Their fund raising has enabled them to give £20 each to the Wakefield Blind, the Salvation Army, the Samaritans, the N.S.P.C.C. and Yorkshire Cancer Research, and £30 to the Benevolent Fund. All this money was raised from their teas and Bring and Buy Stalls.

Lincs, Notts and Leics.

Div. Rep Mrs J Newman

Nottinghamshire.

Of these three counties, most news comes from branches in Nottinghamshire, although Mrs Newman reports that the Ashfield branch, which in our last report had lost its pivotal member, its secretary, had a new committee formed in March. But so far this committee have sent in no report, which, we agree with Mrs Newman, is disappointing. We hope to hear from them for the next issue

Bassetlaw held their AGM in March following a buffet lunch which members provided. They had another meal together at Worksop in May and afternoon tea at a member's home where they increased their funds by a raffle and bring and buy.

The Broxtowe year has been punctuated by "food" ! It started with sherry and shortbread, went on to coffee in February, followed by lunch in March, and more coffee in May and more again in July !. But June was different. They went on an outing to Darley Dale, (sounds delightful, Ed). After lunch here, heavy rain prevented them from exploring Bakewell but, (food again !) they enjoyed coffee at the Bakewell Pudding Shop.

In March, at the East Midlands lunch the Mayor of Broxtowe presented Mrs Wilson, their treasurer, with a Clasp to her Long Service Medal.

This group are sad to report the death of four members. However they are delighted to have welcomed six new members.

Gedling members meet in the mornings, for coffee, sometimes with an interesting speaker. In February they heard from a volunteer who had helped to build a school in Uganda. This was being provided, as so many are in the Third World, by the Church. The volunteers had no running water and no machinery, they made the bricks by hand. Scaffolding was made from tree trunks, not metal, which would in any case have got too hot to handle in the heat and there were no cranes for the heavy job of hoisting up the roof timbers. In March several members replenished their wardrobes at Boundary Mill in Lincs., evidently a place to get bargains !, and they enjoyed tea on the homeward journey at the Golden Fleece Inn. In April they heard about the history of the Nottingham Goose Fair to which, in the old days, geese were walked for many miles, some taking several weeks over the journey. To prevent them getting sore feet with all this walking, their feet were smeared with tar. (The geese's feet, that is !)

One long serving member, Mrs Hustwayte, had arranged to hold a May lunch, to be followed by the AGM, at her home. Very sadly she died a few weeks before the event. But her husband insisted that the arrangements she had already made should stand and the meeting was held as planned. A visit to Belton House, for June got no support, so had to be cancelled, but in July, in bad weather, everyone enjoyed a tea at Manor Farm, Blesly.

In August they visited Southwell Garden Centre, for tea. Mrs Cramp reports that they have welcomed several new members but are sad to report the deaths of Mrs Bilton, a founder member and of Mrs Hustwayte. Both are sadly missed.

Mansfield group held their AGM in February and in March had a session on Aromatherapy, but since then Mrs Newman has had no reports, although several members were chosen to attend the Royal Garden Party.

Newark members support their group well for Luncheon meetings every quarter and three members attended the AGM at Milton Hill in July and enjoyed meeting members from other parts of the country.

The February, March and April coffee mornings were well attended at Rushcliffe, also the AGM in April. One new member joined them. They had an enlightening slide quiz about Nottingham in June which showed them just how little they knew about the buildings and street furniture in that city. In May they joined the WRVS celebrations for their Diamond Anniversary, and after the service, had tea in the church hall where a delicious cake was cut and enjoyed by all. In June they celebrated the Association 25th Anniversary and Rushville's 15th, with a lunch in Notts. County Hall. Several members were selected to attend the Royal Garden Party at Milton Hill and a week later four members attended the National AGM there, basking in the luxurious accommodation.

The membership of this branch is holding steady with several new members, but they are sad to report the deaths of Mrs Lovitt, who ran a Darby and Joan Club for 27 years and had been on their Association committee and of Mrs Jeffrey, who died aged 101. Although such a great age, she still kept up a lively interest in all the groups' activities.

Mrs Newman says that she wishes she had had more time to visit the various groups, who have always made her feel so welcome.

Leicestershire

Another active County. Coffee mornings were held in January, March, April, May, June and August. Also they have had lunch in February at the local college, a much looked forward to annual event at that deary time of the year.

At their celebrations for the 25th Anniversary lunch they had a cake made by the Chairman's daughter, in the shape of a diamond, decorated with the WRVS logo. They all enjoyed this after their lunch and there was some cake over for the next meeting.

Two day trips were taken, one to Nottingham and a memorable day to Frogmore House, Windsor, on the day offered to WRVS by the Queen where Leicester members joined others from all over the country. (This is the only mention of this function in member's news and not known about, I am sure, by many. Perhaps we could hear more about it for the next issue ? Ed.)

Two members were asked to attend the Royal Garden Party and they even had a chat with the Queen. (From our reports, these are the only ones we have heard from who were so lucky, and we are pleased for them. Mrs Newman says that they all enjoyed this grand event despite the weather. She adds that she thinks everyone was able to get a good view of the Queen, but as the item on

“the pink hat” later describes, it seems some were not so lucky ! Ed)

Sadly this county have lost several members, who have died this year.

Lincolnshire

Although depleted in numbers the few members remaining have met for lunch about every two months, still trying to maintain contact with one another.

One member, Mrs Lawson of Nettlesham, who joined WVS in 1939 has been named “Diamond Volunteer of the Year” for the County. She now goes through to the Regional stage of the competition.

Mrs Grice reports from N. and N.E. Lincs that thirty-five members attended their Annual Meeting at Grimsby in April, when Mrs Partin spoke to them about her life as a WRVS worker among the Gurkhas, their wives and families.

At this meeting they were shown items being sold for WRVS funds. They also saw 12 Teddies, made by members, to be sent to children in disaster areas around the world.

In July thirty-six members enjoyed a Strawberry Tea and the chance to meet together. At these events the members are very generous at “Bringing” and “Buying” and they make enough profit to cover all their administrative expenses. They raffled a blanket donated by Mrs King, who still makes children’s blankets for Bosnia.

Mrs Grice says that she recently had tea with Mrs Dixon, a member since 1938 who had invited the group to her house for many years for their Strawberry Tea..

NORTH WEST DIVISION

Headquarters Manchester

Cumbria, Lancashire.

Div. Rep. Mrs M. McCambridge BEM

No report

Greater Manchester

Div. Rep. Mrs E. Collier

Mrs Collier presides over a very active Division. Romiley branch members have met monthly and have speakers at their meetings.

Several members attended a concert at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, in April to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. In May they enjoyed an outing through the Ribble Valley with tea at Waddington’s Moorcock Inn and in June they had a cream tea and cake stall. Also in June, all Stockport area WRVS were invited by the mayor to a reception at the Town Hall, to mark 60 years Service to the community and it was an opportunity for many old friends to meet once more.

Six Association members attended the service in Manchester Cathedral in July.

Twenty members of the Rochdale group also attended the Bridgewater Hall concert and met old friends there.

In July the Mayor and Mayoress attended a strawberry tea where eight members prepared and served tea to over 100 elderly people. In July too, Mrs Hirne, the Association branch organiser

attended the Milton Hill Royal Garden Party.

Bury group in April enjoyed participating both in the Bridgewater Hall concert, (a presentation of the work of WRVS, followed by a musical entertainment) and in the June Cathedral Service. In June also, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Waller attended the Royal Garden Party, where even the constant rain could not dampen their delight at seeing the Queen at such close quarters. They admired her truly lovely smile, her outfit of Royal Blue, with a white hat trimmed with the same colour, and her porcelain complexion. Her Majesty then cut the cake and signed two photographs before waving them all goodbye, Later Lady Toulson addressed them all ... and the sun came out !

Sadly Mrs Graham and Mrs Connel have died. Mrs Graham was founder of the group and its leader for eight years. Mrs Connell died after only a short illness. Both will be remembered by their friends.

Sale group have had meetings each month. In January a Fireman not only came to talk about prevention, but left some smoke alarms for those members who had not got them.!(Is this an idea for other groups? Ed.)

Mrs Tedham seems to have arranged their February meeting solely dealing with money, (perhaps wisely! Ed) for at this meeting they collected their subs. (This is the first time any group have reported that they do this ! Ed) and also held a Bring and Buy to boost their funds, to pay their rent. They also had a bingo session, without great prizes.

In March they celebrated the anniversary of the formation of the branch with a cake and a musical quiz arranged by Mrs Collier.

At the April meeting they discussed the proposed attendance at the Bridgewater Hall concert and later in the month sixteen members attended this function, some travelling by Metro and twelve in a hired minibus.

In May two speakers from the Social Services Department spoke about what happens when an elderly person goes into hospital or a Rest Home. They explained the financial implications of such a move.

The very bad weather prevented more members attending the service of rededication in Manchester Cathedral in June, but a few members did brave the weather.

Their June meeting was a day out at Timperley, with tea at the Wyevale Garden Centre. Mrs Collier reported on her visit to the Garden Party at Headquarters where, she says, they all enjoyed the lunch and where they had a good view of the Queen and Lady Toulson. (unlike some others Ed.)

Mrs Grimshaw handed round copies of the book of verses she had put together for the anniversary, which contained contributions from members. (See one sample, printed later in this edition Ed.)

Merseyside, Cheshire

(Appointment Pending)

No report

Staffs. Shropshire, Derbyshire. (Appointment Pending)

No report

SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Headquarters St Chads St. London WC1

Cambridgeshire, Northants.

Div. Rep. Mrs B. Titcomb.

The Cambridgeshire branches are all active under their respective Chairmen and Committee members. Six members thoroughly enjoyed their day at Milton Hill House, for the Royal Garden Party celebrations, with a radiant Queen and the Gurkha Bandsmen to cheer them on a very wet day. Mrs Titcomb is sad to report that two members have died from the Huntingdon group, Mrs Bottell of Rushden and Mrs Pepper of Huntingdon. Both have made great contributions to the work of the WRVS and the Association. Mrs Pepper was 92, had worked for WRVS for 50 years and died peacefully in her armchair. Mrs Watson says they will all miss her lively wit and sense of fun.

This group although small, is very active, meeting each month and with two coach outings per year. They have had a variety of talks, from "My work as a Magistrate", "The Legends of St Ives" and "The Work of the Society for the Blind", to a talk on "The Village that nearly died" by 80 year old Mr Honeybone whose family had worked tirelessly with one other family, to raise funds to restore the village, which is now delightful. A wonderful achievement.

They have had two outings, one to Saffron Walden, the other a Mystery Tour of Cambridgeshire villages, ending at Shelford Garden Centre for tea. Here, as well as plants, they saw parrots and rabbits wandering freely.

Norfolk, Suffolk.

Div. Rep. Mrs S. Scholey.

Mrs Scholey, who still works at Norfolk Area Office, in July received her Long Service Medal from Mrs Callister, Norfolk Area Manager.

Sadly, Mrs Scholey has to report another Suffolk branch closed. Mrs Mytton-Mills has retired after giving great support as Branch Rep. and Mrs Scholey appeals to any Suffolk member who would be willing to take her place, to come forward and carry on the worthwhile job of keeping in contact with Suffolk members.

It is a happier tale from Great Yarmouth where members continue their great support of their branch. They have visited the fascinating East Ruston Garden, the Cromer Pier Show and Beach picnic and Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge.

Several Norfolk members attended a Diamond Jubilee Cream Tea in Mrs Scholey's home, under a perfect blue sky and warm gentle breeze. To add to the success of this event, Norfolk funds were greatly helped by the generosity of all present.

Beds. Bucks. and Oxfordshire Div. Rep. Mrs J. Callaway

The son of the late Mrs Goode has written to inform us of the sad news of his mother's death. She was Meals on Wheels Organiser for Weobley.

Mrs Callaway writes that on 19th March she was privileged, with over 100 WRVS members and with Lady Toulson and Mrs Mayers, (S.E. Div. Director) to be invited to a reception in the State Rooms of the Speaker's House at Westminster. The Speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd welcomed them, beginning with the words "Order, Order," saying that having them welcomed to her "house" was the best tribute she could make to an organisation which she holds in very high regard for the wonderful work done over the past 60 Years.

She said she was honoured to be the 155th Speaker and the first woman to hold the post. She spoke of the building, first completed in 1859. In the State Bedroom (where she does not sleep !) members saw the huge, very hard bed which had been removed during the war, the bed being put into store and later sold. It was lost sight of until 1979 when following a lecture on the building, the Daily Telegraph published an article and photograph and the bed was discovered in a Welsh Woollen Mill. It was bought back at a highly inflated price for the nation and restored, thanks to the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Members were able to see the wonderful portraits of previous Speakers. They also saw their armorial bearings, Betty Boothroyd's was set on a lozenge, as is proper for a woman, the red background referring to her Labour Party connections, the Mace, her Speakership, the white rose and owl to her Dewsbury, Yorkshire, background and the millrinds (the iron supports of a grinding mill), were taken from West Bromwich's coat of arms, Miss Boothroyd's parliamentary constituency.

Lady Toulson thanked the Speaker and Mrs Mayers said that the occasion was the highlight of the S.E. Division's Diamond celebrations.

Mrs Callaway said that for them all it was an evening they will always remember.

Essex and Herts

Div. Rep. Mrs P Copping

Mrs Copping is sad to report the untimely death of the Branch Organiser for Castle Point, Mrs Le-Fevre. She says that nothing was too much trouble for her and she will be a great loss, not only to the Association, but to the community for whom she worked tirelessly. They will remember her with love and gratitude.

For Southend group, Mrs Tytherleigh reports that they have had two unusual occasions. One was when a chimney sweep and his wife came, dressed in top hats, with brushes and other utensils hanging from their waists, all very smelly and dirty. They gave an amusing talk on the various chimneys they had swept, even Buckingham Palace and other Stately Homes where chimneys had

to be swept from different floors, to reach the top, as they were so long. Another speaker, a well-known butcher arrived with check table cloth, chopping board, various dangerous looking knives and a whole Welsh lamb which he proceeded to chop up, producing all sorts of cuts, including a whole boned leg. He showed members how to trim the meat to remove those bits they were unable to use and made it look so easy. Members were delighted and it was an hilarious afternoon.

Hampshire, Isle of Wight. Div. Rep. Mrs B Adams

About 50 members went for a trip on the Basingstoke Canal from Odiham, where, for two and a half hours they enjoyed a leisurely sail, watching the wild life, admiring the views and enjoying the company. They then had a marvellous tea supplied by Fleet members who had brought it all on the boat !

To celebrate the Jubilee, sixty members met at the W.I. in Bariton, a delightful old village on the edge of the South Downs. They were lucky with the weather, and a W.I. member accompanied them on a stroll round the village, telling them a brief history of some of the old houses while other W.I. members prepared a delicious cream tea, with scones, cream and home-made jam and a tempting selection of cakes. While they ate, it started to rain, but it had kindly held off until they had had their walk.

Hampshire membership is increasing, which is good to see and meetings are well attended. It had been suggested that they split into smaller groups but members would rather continue to meet together in the one group.

Surrey, E. & W. Kent, E. & W. Sussex. Div. Rep. Mrs G. Bright

Some members stayed overnight at Milton Hill House for the AGM. They enjoyed the chance to see the new Headquarters and to meet other members from all over the country. They wish to thank Mrs McCormack for her work on their behalf and they welcome Mrs Price as the new Chairmen.

Mrs Bright and Mrs Corke attended the Royal Garden Party to represent their Division, It was, they report, a splendid occasion in spite of the weather. They travelled to the Garden Party in County transport and say it was quite a sight to see sixty five coaches converging on Abingdon that day.

At Hove in East Sussex, Mrs Hooper has retired after running that busy branch for several years but has found two members to continue her work. We all wish them well. The first task, which they had to tackle was to cope with the branch's finances and they did this well, as do all Mrs Bright's groups She thanks the branch treasurers for their successful work with their branch's finances.

London N.E./City. Div. Rep. Mrs Win Taylor, O.B.E.

London N.W. Div. Rep. Mrs D Stevens

London S.E. Div. Rep. Mrs G. Block M.B.E.

London S.W. Div. Rep. Mrs A. Christophersen

All four "areas" of London met for their Annual Association Reunion in April, a very special meeting this year, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee, to which sixty-four members came. Mrs McCormack attended for her third and final time as their Chairman and they were all sad to see her go as she had supported them so well.

On this special occasion they were delighted to welcome also Dame Mary Smieton, who from 1940 to 1942 had been seconded from the Ministry of Labour to WVS as General Secretary. Also, they welcomed Miss Kathleen Halpin, CBE who has been in WVS from the beginning and was the Founder of the Association. Both of these members, now in their '90's, gave very interesting talks.

Some enjoyable "do you remembers" followed and they had a really excellent buffet lunch, prepared once again by Mrs Mycock and her emergency team. A raffle and bring and buy raised enough money to cover the expenses and leave a little over towards postage to keep in touch with housebound members unable to be there.

SOUTH WEST DIVISION

Headquarters Exeter

Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester. Div. Rep. Mrs J. Connop

A Silver Jubilee Luncheon, prepared by outside caterers, was held at Tewkesbury Masonic Hall, by kind permission of the Directors. Members were delighted to have Lady Toulson and Mrs McCormack present, together with Major Macrae, Director of the Masonic Hall, Mrs Mercer, WRVS County Rep. and two members from Hereford and Worcester. The cake was cut by Mrs Owen, who in September cut her own 100th birthday cake. Table decorations were sent to housebound members after the lunch, to show they were not forgotten.



Mrs Owen

Mrs Connop is sorry to report the deaths of five members, Mrs Brednecke, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Kent, Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Winrow, who will all be sadly missed.

Cheltenham group under Mrs Norman, held a well attended meeting in Cheltenham Library. The speaker told them of his "Life as a boy in Rural Gloucestershire", between the wars and how from there, he built up today's thriving dairy business which covers most of the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury area, all from a small milk round with a horse and cart.

Mrs Morris's Gloucester City group enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch, prepared by members in one member's garden on a beautiful summer's day. They all enjoyed being together and there was much reminiscing about their work in WVS/WRVS.

West Midlands

Div Rep Mrs J Smith

No report

Warwickshire

County Rep Mrs J. Rose

The Nuneaton group meet bi-monthly for coffee, or for a pub meal in one of the many attractive pubs in north Warwickshire. Transport is a continual problem and husbands are invaluable as honorary members and taxi-drivers.

There has been little support for more ambitious days out and these have been abandoned. But the Royal Garden party was the major social occasion of the year and attended by five members. Later the group had a garden lunch party in one member's lovely garden on the hottest day of the year, which they all enjoyed. At this function they welcomed the WRVS Project Organiser.

Numbers in this branch remain static in spite of efforts to recruit retiring WRVS. Nevertheless, members value the spirit of friendship and support, remembering the comradeship of the past.

Wiltshire and Dorset.

Mrs B. Williams

The Wiltshire Branch were invited to join the Bristol reception to celebrate the WRVS Jubilee.

The Dorset group held their spring meeting in Wimborne at the Allendale Centre, where Mr Mitchell, Area Manager of WRVS was the speaker and where members generously supported the Raffle and Bring and Buy.

Somerset, Devon, Cornwall. (Appointment pending)

Mrs Dunn has written from Torridge to say that sadly they have lost three members, Mrs Beaumont, Mrs Blatchford and Mrs Keen. They had all been tireless workers for WRVS and are sadly missed.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, 14 members went to Exeter on May 7th and joined in the County celebration. The service was impressive and the tea which followed very much enjoyed but the day was special as they met so many old friends.

Three members had hoped to go the Association AGM at Abingdon, but illness meant that they had to cancel their plans. Illness, and Mrs Dunn's journeys to visit a brand new granddaughter in Vienna has also meant the postponement of their own AGM which they hope to hold later.

WALES

Headquarters Cardiff

Div. Rep. Mrs E. Edwards BEM

Ruthin and Colwyn Bay have met regularly during the year. Llandudno group go from strength to strength and their meetings are fully attended. At one meeting which Mrs Edwards attended, an Arts competition was in progress and she writes that the work was of high standard including a coffee table, an

opera cloak, paintings, embroidery, knitted toys etc. Certificates were presented to the winners. In May a Service was held in St Asaph Cathedral to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Mrs Rowland-James reports from Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire that they have been "reasonably" active. They attended the Jubilee Service in St David's Cathedral in April, after meeting together for lunch in a local hotel. Some members attended the wet Royal Garden Party at Milton Hill House and in August a wet buffet lunch at Mrs Rowland-James's home. But at this event, the rain did not spoil the chatter as they "talked their heads off". They have enrolled four new members since last Christmas, which is good news.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey.

Assoc. Rep. Miss E. Robilliard

Guernsey members have enjoyed their twice yearly bar lunches and have now sampled quite a few local hosteleries ! They have enjoyed meeting and having a chat with friends on these occasions but just as important is the profit made each time which has enabled them to take flowers when visiting house bound members not able to come to the lunches.

May 9th, Liberation Day in Guernsey is celebrated with religious services, concerts and street entertainments. On one of the harbour piers WRVS members assisted at the "Pensioners Parlour". This proved extremely popular and it was a pleasure to welcome several Association members who came in to have a much appreciated sit down and tea and cake, all provided free by the generous sponsorship of a local company.

Mrs Cheminant had written to us with a request for anyone with a spare copy of "Women in Green" which she could buy from them. She said she thought it a hopeless quest, but has now written to say that an out-of-print book service in U.K. have found her a copy. She suggests that if anyone has another copy they do not want, it could perhaps be donated to the WRVS Association H.Q. Library.

Jersey.

Assoc. Rep. Mrs D. Jennings

In May seven Association members joined WRVS members for a lunch to celebrate the Silver and Diamond anniversaries

SCOTLAND

The Scottish report is an annual one. It tells us that Mrs Blair has retired this year as Association Chairman for Scotland and Lady Macintosh has taken her place. We welcome Lady Macintosh and look forward to adding her reports to our pages. Our members in England and Wales do like hearing the news from Scotland.

Grampian have had talks on "Church towers from Aberdeen to Russia",

"Stained glass windows" and "Grampian transport". They have visited the Main Post Office for tea and a most interesting tour. They had one mysterious talk about a journey by bicycle to the kingdom of Lo, by hair-raising tracks up mountain sides, when "Get on your bike" took on a whole new meaning.. This group enjoyed a splendid Christmas lunch at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Central report that they have several new members. Scottish WRVS have themselves had great changes and members were brought up to date in March by the District Administrator, telling them how the changes would affect them locally. They have had a bus ride amongst the magnificent scenery of Inverary and the Nine Lochs.

Ayrshire gets a poor response to meetings and are reducing them to 4 per year as purely social affairs. They have had two lunches in Ayr. Mrs Wilson reports that these were cheery affairs, due, she suspects to the fact that the treasurer was able to subsidise the cost of the tip ! (We Sassenachs are sure that this is not true. Perhaps it was just a good meal. ! Ed.)

In Dundee meetings have been well attended with a varied programme, from a speaker from the Broughty Ferry Lifeboat, to a visit to the Verdant Valley works in Dundee. They had a display of "Perganano", (artistic work involving card, material and paint), a talk on Fire Prevention, a film on Florence and a talk by the Red Cross. They also enjoyed lunch at the Art College.

Perth members had an inspiring talk about the Children's Hospice, Rachel House, slides on the Himalayas, and a thoroughly enjoyed lunch. This last, their leader, Mrs Mackay suspects in her report, was because they also had two free bottles of wine with the meal ! For their February meeting they enjoyed a slide show showing the beauties of Central Scotland.

Fife have several new members and they all enjoyed a visit to an Edinburgh theatre to see "Summer Holiday".

Highland, a big group, have 75 members and meet in the coffee lounge of Raigmore Hospital which the hospital authorities kindly allow them to use. (Mention of this wonderful hospital brought back to me the memory of travelling there through the night from Cape Wrath, across two ferries, where there are now bridges, with my 10 year old son who had broken his leg on the beach one afternoon, on a family camping holiday nearly 40 years ago. The hospital staff expected us and nurses came out to meet us at the entrance in the small hours of the morning. Ed.)

A spokesman for "Help the Aged" gave them an amusing talk of "Age Related Oddities". They also had a trip to Elgin to visit the Biblical Gardens, followed by tea at Grantown on Spey. At another meeting Mrs Gorman, Area Manager, showed a video on WRVS work in the Highlands.

The Lothian and H.Q. group were saddened by news of the deaths of Mrs Unwin, one time Vice-Chairman for Scotland, and of Mrs McCrone, MBE., who had worked on hospital work. This group had an enjoyable visit to Hopetoun House with tea in the stables, and an enthralling talk by the Keeper of the Purse

to the Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly. Another talk described the preparations leading to the Edinburgh Tattoo, which start three years in advance.

The newest Scottish branch Inverclyde has grown from strength to strength, Mrs Horton reports. They have had talks on a wide range of topics, from flower arranging to "Medical Old Wive's Tales" by a G.P. In May they visited Moffat.

Last but not least, Strathclyde learned about nursing in the past, good, bad and amusing. Also they saw slides of Altar cloths and church embroideries and heard well-loved songs sung by a male quartet as they enjoyed a delicious lunch. In February "A Victorian Romance" told of courtship and married life in Victorian times.

SILVER JUBILEE A.G.M.

MILTON HILL HOUSE

JULY 3rd/4th/5th 1998

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee, the 1998 AGM was held at Milton Hill House, now the WRVS National Training Centre. The WRVS Head Office is housed in the grounds, surrounded by 52 acres of peaceful parkland, with gardens and woodlands. Members enjoyed the comfortable accommodation and delicious food.

After the Saturday morning AGM and lunch Mrs Sheila Wilkinson, an Association member and past Chairman of the Guild of Guide Lecturers in Oxford, gave an interesting slide talk tour of the Oxford Colleges and their history. She told members also of the Bodleian Library which automatically receives a copy of every book published in U.K.

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Please note that as from 1st April 1998, Life Membership will **not** be available to **new** members joining the Association. There is **no** change in the position of existing Life Members

Please note also that from 1st April 1998, Annual Subscriptions were increased to £5.00.

Members who pay annually by Bankers Order should notify their own Bank accordingly

Have you paid your Annual subscription ?

Letter from the Editor



24 August 1998

Dear Members,

Another Newsletter and another chance to write to you all.

Thank you to all those who have written to me. Your letters are all read with interest and I love hearing your views, your worries as well as your happy memories.

Many of these memories are connected with your WRVS work and it does not surprise me that the work we did, and some of us still do, gave so much happiness.

Some years ago I did some research for my Open University Degree studies to find out why so many people chose unpaid, voluntary work, rather than a paid job. Of course the numbers I interviewed were too small to be a scientific study but the results I got were interesting nevertheless. **Without exception**, I found that all the WRVS members I interviewed, had **not** chosen to do voluntary work **primarily** to help others, but because of some great need in their own lives, which the work fulfilled. My results showed that we, the so called "do-gooders", are not "do-gooders" at all but, first and foremost, fulfilling our own needs.

Do you agree or not? I find the same reason echoed in the letters I get. They, and the people I interviewed, did not mention that they joined to help others; they told me what their predicament was at the time they joined and how the work helped them over those difficulties: "It saved my reason when my husband died"; "I was very lonely"; "I was not interested in money, but companionship", "I did not feel that I could take a paid job but was at the end of my tether".

Does this fit your experience? It certainly does mine. I was a young lonely Mum in a strange town. I drove for Meals on Wheels with the two year old beside me, just to get out of the house and meet other people.

If my findings are in any way supported, the WRVS must have been a valuable aid to the mental well-being of many people. Will the Service in the future be as effective in meeting peoples' needs when they walk through the door to ask about a job, perhaps suppressing great anxiety or loneliness, I hope so. What do you think? Do write and tell me your views.

Do try to go along and support your groups this winter if you possibly

can. By helping to make your group meetings go with a swing you may be helping someone who is otherwise very lonely to enjoy a happy meeting.

Thank you to all those who have sent me their Desert Island suggestions. It was fun to read them all. Do send more.

With best wishes to you all.

Ness Jeweller



Have you heard any of the **Light-Bulb Jokes**?. Here are a few from my grandchildren. (Ed.)

How many shop stewards does it take to change a light-bulb.?

One, but he never changes just the one bulb. "If we change one, then they'll all have to be changed. One out, all out!"

How many policemen does it take to change a light-bulb ?

Just one, - but he's never around when you want him.

How many garage mechanics does it take to change a light-bulb ?

Six. One to polish the fitting, one to replace the fitting after it's been polished, ("It was looking very worn, sir"), one to get a new light-bulb from the suppliers, one to go back to the suppliers get the right light-bulb, one to try to change the bulb without success and one to phone later and say, "It'll take a couple of weeks, squire _ and you won't get much change out of a hundred quid".

How many ballet dancers does it take to change a light-bulb.?

Just one, provided he can execute a "Sauté" or a "Jeté" to reach the bulb. Otherwise two, to execute a pas de deux, with lift.

How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light-bulb.

One. But the bulb must really want to change.

How many procrastinators does it take to change a light-bulb. ?

Just one - but would it be all right if he did it next week ?

How many shop assistants does it take to change a light-bulb.

Only one, but I'm afraid he will only change it if you have the receipt for the old one.

A story to live by.

My sister had just died. My brother in law opened a drawer in her bureau and handed me a tissue wrapped parcel, inside an exquisite new silk slip, hand-made and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. "She bought this for a special occasion", he said bitterly. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion, every day you're alive is a special occasion".

His words changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less, I'm sitting in the garden and admiring the view and not fussing about the weeds, I'm using the good china and crystal, I'm wearing my good coat and my expensive perfume to go shopping; after all the people in shops and banks have eyes and noses too, as well as my party-going friends.

Its those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited, the letters I had meant to write, the friends I had meant to contact, the people I had not told often enough that I truly loved. I'm trying hard, and every morning now, when I open my eyes, I tell myself that this is a special day.

From Mrs Keenan. Grimsby.

The Day the Pope visited York.

In WRVS circles in York there was much anticipation. On the day before the event we assembled all our equipment on the Knavesmire and throughout that night several members spent very chilly hours, keeping the Soya boilers going, supplying hot drinks and soup to 3,000 policemen and all the stewards.

Early next morning we changed shifts and went home to get a few hours rest before returning for the arrival of the Pope.

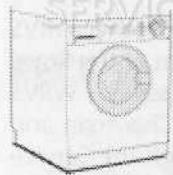
Arriving home, I was astonished to see a very large packing case sitting on the grass.

On examining it I could find no indication of its intended destination nor from whence it had come. Opening it I found it contained a brand new Hoover Washing Machine. I called the police and a young constable arrived, not looking very pleased. "I'm told a washing machine has been left in your garden" "Come and see it", I replied. "You mean you have" ? With a look of relief he added "I thought the lads at the station were having me on"

After walking round the box and looking into it he delivered his judgement. "That's certainly a washing machine. You should put it in your garage"

"No, you should, I suggested", which he very kindly did, saying that if no one claimed it in three months, it was mine"

With the huge box safely inside the garage I returned to the feeding job and the Pope came and went.



Three months passed and no one claimed the box, so one lucky young friend of mine in great need of a washing machine became the proud owner of a brand new one. Where had it come from? Had it "fallen off the back of a lorry and had the visitation of the Pope that day turned a bad deed into a good one? I will never know.

Mrs Rosa Smith. York.

JUBILEE YEAR MEMORIES

A Day to Remember. A visit to the Speaker's House. Westminster.

We arrived at Westminster a little early and it was suggested we went into the Stranger's Gallery of the House of Commons to hear a little of the debate. This I found interesting.

At 6-30pm we walked through Westminster Hall where past monarchs have lain in state. Then as we rounded a corner, this wonderful house came in sight. On entering its portals I was even more in awe of the beauty and history which surrounded me. We climbed a very elegant staircase and received a wonderfully warm welcome from the Speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd, whose home this is, during her time in Office..

After being refreshed with wine and delicious hot and cold snacks, (which kept coming!) the Speaker addressed us all, (the staff of S.E. Division Area Offices.) Bringing us to silence with her now famous voice calling "ORDER, ORDER!" she told us many stories of past Speakers who had lived there. She pointed out the bed where Kings had rested on the night before their Coronations in the past. The hour of the Reception sped by far too fast and it was time to don our coats and take away the memory of what will be for me a treasured evening on that cold March Day. It was a great start to the Diamond Jubilee Year.

From Mrs S. Scholey. Div. Rep. Norfolk/Suffolk.

WRVS Royal Garden Party -

Early on a beautiful morning I set off West by coach. With 49 other WRVS members I was off to see the Queen. Her Majesty was to be present at the Royal Garden Party at Milton Hill House, WRVS Headquarters where several WRVS members were to be presented, including our Association's first Chairman and Vice-President, Miss Kathleen Halpin, who has been associated with the Service since Lady Reading's day.

We arrived at 1-0pm, bright and excited, many wearing wonderful hats. Unfortunately the summer's morning had given way to heavy rain, so up went the umbrellas, but the adrenalin was running and nothing was going to dampen our spirits. There was plenty to see, many special stalls selling unusual items and we could listen to the band of the Gurkha Regiment, which added to the atmosphere as we waited for the Queen to come amongst us.

I was so lucky to find a spot in the second row, surrounded by people from

the S.E. Division. As the Queen approached, down went the umbrellas and soon I was looking at this lady whom I have held in great esteem all my life, for I am of her generation and I feel we have experienced the same 70 years of life. She was a tiny figure dressed in royal blue and, I feel, more beautiful in life than her photographs portray.

Her Majesty continued on her way, and after the ceremony of "cutting the cake", which we were to partake of during our tea, she left, leaving me with a feeling of euphoria.

One last thought went through my mind. "Why are so many of her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants so charming and debonair. Oxford's was no exception and we too have such a one in Norfolk.

It was an unforgettable day.

From Mrs S. Scholey. Div. Rep. Norfolk/Suffolk.

The Beautiful Pink Hat !

This hat was on the head of Lady Toulson who was escorting Her Majesty the Queen along the lines of members, at the Garden Party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the WRVS. The Queen arrived whilst we, members from West Bridgford, Notts. were having tea in a splendid marquee. When we emerged, long lines had formed along a marked path and all views of the Queen were obstructed by heads, hats and umbrellas on that very wet and dreary day. Then someone was able to point out the area where the Queen was walking and we were able to keep pace with her movements by watching THE PINK HAT. Thank goodness for that, and for Lady Toulson's lovely tall figure.



The unfortunate scramble for tea made it quite obvious to us that WRVS were not organising this part of the proceedings. We felt quite sorry for the people concerned, who hadn't quite got it right. No doubt they learned a few lessons. There were certainly some experienced people there who could have given them some tips on handling large crowds!

From Mrs Court. Rushcliffe. Notts.

RECIPE



Mrs Parry of Herts has sent a copy of "Rescue a Recipe", a delightful book of recipes published by WRVS in 1975 and illustrated by Molly Blake's delightful drawings. The book was the result of a competition in 1974 open to people who had been helped by the WRVS Domiciliary Care Service. Sadly there is not space to print it all but I will include a recipe and drawing from it from time to time as space allows. Here is one my own mother-in-law used to make and I have found it useful for sandwiches. She used to call it "Mock Crab", although she was a strict vegetarian ! Ed.

Tomato Paste

2 oz grated cheese
1/2 lb tomatoes salt and pepper
1 oz butter, beaten 1 egg



Put tomatoes in boiling water for 1 minute and then skin them. Mash to a pulp and place in small pan. Add butter and cook a few minutes. Add all other ingredients. Stir gently until it thickens but do not let it boil. Cool and use for sandwiches.

POEM

Here is just one excerpt from Mrs Grimshaw's collection of Verses, mentioned in Greater Manchester News. It is by S.J. Cummins.

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Another light bulb story:.....

A patient in a mental home was firmly convinced he had swallowed a light-bulb and all the efforts of the team of psychiatrists to persuade him otherwise were of no avail. Finally the chief psychiatrist tried one last trick. He put the patient to bed under heavy sedation and then removed the light bulb from the bedside lamp and laid it on the patient's chest. Presently the patient came round and the psychiatrist said "Nothing to worry about now Mr Smith. We've managed to remove the light-bulb surgically."



The patient examined the light-bulb carefully. Then he looked up and said scornfully, "You must think I'm stupid, doctor. This is a clear forty watt bulb and the one I swallowed was a hundred watt pearl".

DESERT ISLAND DISCS.

Do send more



Members were asked to name ...

1. The favourite record they would choose to take to a desert island.
2. The book they would wish to take.
3. The luxury they would choose.

We had a good response to this idea.

Here are some replies from members.

1. Scheherazade. Op 35. Symphonic Suite. Rimsky Korsakov.
2. Samuel Pepys' Diary. Complete Edition.
3. Supply of Bassett Liquorice Allsorts.

Mrs Jones. Widmerpool. Notts.

1. "Smoke Gets in your Eyes". Nat King Cole.
2. Winnie the Pooh. Complete set. (A reminder of peaceful bedtimes).
3. Shampoo.

Mrs Court. Rushcliffe. Notts

1. Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata to calm my panic at being left there.
2. A Comprehensive "Teach Yourself to Paint"
3. Unlimited supply of paint, paper and brushes. If I am rescued I might make a fortune selling my works of art !

From Robina Priestley. Wilberfoss.

1. "Memories". Andrew Lloyd Webber.
2. "The National Trust" by Martin Waterson.
3. Jars of Vitamin Cream. (for the heat).

Mrs Moss. Stalham. Norfolk.

1. My Relaxation Tape.
2. The Bible. C.E.V. preferably.
3. Insect Repellent

N. Peet. St Helens. Lancs.

1. "Hallelujah Chorus". Huddersfield Choral Society.
2. James Heriot's "Yorkshire".
3. Sun Glasses.

Mrs Maybury. Pocklington. York

1. A selection of Strauss Music.(For my Line Dancing.)
2. A book on Grasses and Weeds, with coloured illustrations, telling me which are edible or medicinal.
3. A Bath and some Yardley Soap.

Mrs Ellis. Wilberfoss. York.

1. "Wotan's Farewell" from Wagner's Die Walkure, sung by John Tomlinson. Truly music of the Gods !.
2. "The Merry Heart". Robert Davies' speeches compiled after his death in Toronto in 1995. One extract describes him. "A merry heart doith good, like medicine but a broken spirit drieth the bones".
3. A Lute. I have the fantasy that I would have the time to learn it and with Wotan's and the sea's music I would have food for my hungry ears.

Mrs Rosa Smith. York

1. Last Night of the Proms.
2. "At the Mercy of the Sea". Lisa Clayton.
3. Violin or Cello.

Mrs Jackson. Totnes. Devon. (Aged 90+)

1. Music for Romeo and Juliet. Prokofiev.
2. Jane Austen. Complete Works.
3. A mixture of flower seeds, basic garden tools and compost.

Mrs Adams. Hants.

1. Schubert. Octet for strings and wind instruments in F.
2. Latest edition of the O.E.D.
3. My bed.

Mrs J. Rose. Warwickshire

British determination against all odds

During the second world war the French underground had the opportunity, when things looked particularly grim, to send a brief message by telegraph to supporters in England. After much thought they wired the two words "God Reigns!" The message however was garbled in transit and the English received it as "God Resigns"! They wired back, "Regret Decision. British Policy remains the same".

From Mrs Dawson. Whitley Bay.



For the next newsletter

Members are invited to send their own version of the following light bulb joke which starts:-

How many WRVS managers does it take to change a light bulb?

Replies please to the Editor before Jan 31st 1999.

This year the team working at Wimbledon were told "no hats for the less formal appearance"!



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN - THIS IS YOUR LESS FORMAL APPEARANCE?!"

Cartoon by Penny O'Brien

WRVS BENEVOLENT TRUST

Registered Charity No. 261931

The Benevolent Trust is here to help people at any time who have been members of the WRVS, either in this country or abroad, and are now in need of financial help. Current members should have given five years service.

We have helped with new cookers, personal alarms, essential car maintenance, funeral costs, convalescent holidays, electric wheelchairs and house repairs. These are some of the needs members could not afford.

Some members apply directly, some are recommended by Area Managers, and others by project leaders or by the WRVS Association Representatives. If you, or someone you know, are in financial need, please contact us.

The WRVS Benevolent Trust is here to help you. Every application is confidential.

Please write to: The Honorary Secretary
WRVS Benevolent Trust.
151 Clapham Road
London. SW9 0PU

Advertisement.

WRVS ASSOCIATION

151 Clapham Road
Stockwell
London SW9 0PU
Tel 0171 793 9917

President

Lady Toulson
Chairman, WRVS

Vice-Presidents

Mrs A Christophersen
Mrs E.D. Claydon
The Hon. Dame Mary Corsar DBE.
Mrs H Foster OBE
Miss K Halpin CBE
Mrs P James MBE
Mrs Sheila McCormack BEM
Baroness Pike of Melton DBE
Dame Barbara Shenfield DBE

Chairman

Mrs Diane A. Price

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Dorothy Stevens

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs M Davies

Hon. Editor

Mrs N. Venables