

NEWSLETTER No.17

Since the last Newsletter several decisions are being implemented which are somewhat momentous and have far-reaching importance.

The first is to hold the 1983 Annual Meeting & Re-union outside London, see page 8. The second is the development of County/District/Town Groups enabling members to meet on a more local basis. This is the result of a pleasing growth in the number of members and is to be encouraged. With the co-operation of the WRVS Area Organisers (who have been made Honorary Members of the Association) it is hoped that every County will eventually have a County Representative who will help to recruit new members and form a unit within the county. The development of these Groups was discussed at a small Working Party held at Headquarters on October 13th when it was agreed to draft "Notes for Guidance of County Representatives" which would set out the procedure by which Counties will work through their Area Representatives. It is anticipated that the outcome will be an increase in membership, a new interest in the Association and the part it can play in relation to the Service as a whole.

Following other decisions made at the AGM in June and the adoption of a formal Constitution for the Association, the main points for members to note are:

Membership - Paragraph 3 of the Constitution clarifies the eligibility for membership as follows:

"The Association is primarily for WVS/WRVS Members who have served for a minimum period of five years and are no longer active in the Service. Also eligible are members who have relinquished a post of responsibility and others who may wish to continue working in a less demanding capacity".

This does not apply to existing members. Application Forms for membership have been redrafted so as to give us information to ensure the above criteria are followed.

Election of Officers and Committee. The Constitution lays down that the National Chairman may not hold office for more than three years and therefore more serious consideration must be given in future to nominations for Chairman and Committee. Nominations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, WVS/WRVS Association, 17 Old Park Lane, London, W1Y 4AJ, before April 1st, 1983. Nominations should include the proposer and seconder and the agreement of the nominee. Present members of the Committee are eligible for re-election. Area Representatives, who are appointed by their Area Organisers, are ex-officio members of the Committee and so do not have to be nominated.

Subscriptions. The Executive Committee, having endorsed the suggestion made at the AGM that in future subscriptions should be paid annually on the 1st January, have now agreed the procedure for putting this into effect. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY the important details enclosed and if in doubt consult your Area Representative - it may be a little confusing at first but it will greatly simplify things in the future and save postage and reminders. Furthermore, as you will see, members whose subscriptions were paid in July/December 1982 will benefit from a few months of free membership. We regret that those who paid earlier, i.e. from January to June

1982 will lose this advantage.

These matters although important to our development and growth may have sounded rather dull. I hope, however, that the news of some current WRVS work and reports from the Area Representatives which follow will be of interest. The more contributions we receive on matters of general interest the more interesting will be future Newsletters.

K. M. HALPIN, Chairman

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS

During the current year WRVS is making a special effort to develop and publicise the help that teams of members can give to people in the community who "Care for Others". Examples are the families, friends, neighbours of people in need and members of other voluntary organisations already assisting them.

The kind of help can vary from schemes like "Home from Hospital", "Phone Round", "Day-sitters", "Meals on Wheels", "Books on Wheels", "Terminally Ill and Bereavement", "Prescription Service", "Shopping", etc., as well as all the Clubs and social activities which care for those who are reasonably active.

In some places Organisers might like to hear of Association members who would be willing to give occasional assistance, if needed.

FALKLAND ISLAND CRISIS

At the request of the Home Office, WRVS Emergency teams throughout the country were given the responsibility for the welfare of the Falkland Island families vacated from their homes. This included reception at airports and general welfare with, in many cases, each family having a WRVS member allocated to it. Assistance was also given at the request of the Navy, Personal and Family Services and Royal Marine Welfare Organisations to isolated Service families and members of the Task Force, by such services as "Wives' Clubs", "Children's Playgrounds", "Parcels" and "Dressing Gowns for Hospital Ships".

The following was taken from a letter received from one of the Falkland Island families, "I would like to end with saying that my wife and I will be eternally grateful for all the help and kindness we have received from everyone connected with WRVS and we thank you".

PAPAL VISITS

Few people probably realise that in many areas visited by the Pope earlier this year, WRVS members helped in a number of ways, including supplying refreshments, manning lost children's tents and generally assisting the Police and/or other organisations.

Among the reports received are the following:

- Canterbury: Organising Rest Centre and supplying refreshments from 0700 to 1600 hours.
- York: Providing refreshments for 800 police and 2,500 stewards from 2300 on 30th May until 1900 on 31st May.
- Edinburgh: Manning 11 feeding centres along the motorcade route; 1339 police were fed.
- Cardiff: Assisting police with caring for and returning lost children from 0700 to 1600 hours.

WRVS TEA TOWELS

A very attractive WRVS tea towel has been produced and is available at a cost of £1.50 plus postage: one = 20½p, two = 26p, five = 56p. Profits from the sale of these will go to the WRVS Benevolent Trust, the object of which, as members of the Association know, is to assist members who may be in urgent need of help. In the present economic circumstances it has become necessary to find extra money to meet requests.

Orders should be sent to Mrs. A. Hurwitz at WRVS Headquarters and cheques should be made payable to WRVS BENEVOLENT TRUST.

REPORTS FROM AREAS

LONDON. The new organisation in London is now well under way. Members in the North West, on standby at Gatwick Airport to help families arriving from the Falkland Islands, assisted many of them into taxis to go to their hotels. The South East Area has, with legacies, bought, furnished and equipped a chalet in the Isle of Sheppey, on a site where there is a club room, play centre and shop; many needy families go there for a week's holiday. As usual every summer, members have acted as guides in Westminster Abbey in the early evenings when the usual staff go off duty. Members in the South West have again provided and served lunches/teas for the annual WRVS Lawn Tennis Tournament held at Wimbledon. Many London Association members attended the national Association AGM in June and enjoyed it as much as ever. The annual reunion of London members was held at WRVS Headquarters in October.

Mrs. Jean Sanderson - Co-ordinator,
London Areas.

NORTH WEST DIVISION, Area 1 - Cumbria and Lancashire.

The new Area Representative, Mrs. Spibey, reports a series of minor (but expensive) disasters in her initial efforts to contact about 20 members who had ceased active WRVS work; her batch of letters had been vandalised - lighted matches dropped into post box and water poured on; then the next set sent to the WRVS office, who had offered help, was lost in transit. Once again she wrote all the letters by hand and posted them direct.

Brighter news - The Area Organiser has invited Mrs. Spibey to join an Area meeting for lunch, when she will have an opportunity of talking about the Association with all those present. She also attended a District Open Day in Blackburn, which was well supported by local officials and she was able to put up a notice about the Association and talk to possible members.

Mrs. A. Spibey - Area Representative.

NORTH EASTERN DIVISION, Area 1 - Northumbria. During our first year, building our membership has been top priority and to date the number is 109. Social activities are developing in a number of places (see Editor's note below). A Bring-and-Buy Sale is planned to boost our funds and help with an Area gathering.

Mrs. C.V. Smurthwaite - Area Representative.

Editor's note:

We have now received a copy of the first edition of the "Northumbria" Newsletter and would like not only to congratulate Mrs. Smurthwaite on its production but also commend the idea to other Area/County Representatives. After various suggestions on how members can contribute to the Newsletter and also help to recruit new members, there are reports on the following four places:

Northumberland had two events - one an annual lunch and the other a church service and tea party in Ponteland for Darby & Joan Club members, in which Association members joined.

North Tyneside has monthly a social gathering called "Coffee Pot" in the lounge of a recently completed Anchor Housing Association building for the elderly. Collections taken not only cover the cost of the refreshments but enable flowers/letters to be sent to sick or house-bound members.

Sunderland. After an initial meeting in the WRVS office, members joined together for a "Rose Festival" in Bishopswearmouth Church and on another occasion had a meeting over coffee in the Retirement Centre in the same church.

Newcastle held a special lunch for older members at which several joined the Association.

Finally, notice was given of a Reunion being held in the WRVS Area office on 23rd November.

MIDLANDS DIVISION, Area 1 - West Midlands Counties. Worcestershire/Herefordshire members had a meeting in July in Worcester. Twenty people attended, plus three who have joined the Association since then.
Miss H.R. Pollard - County Representative

Area 2 - East Midlands County. A few of the Association attended the Derbyshire Annual Reunion in May. Luncheon was followed by a film "Heathland Habitat" with David Bellamy as narrator. A medal presentation was made by Mr. Godfrey Meynell, High Sheriff of Derbyshire. Col. P. Hilton, Lord Lieutenant, was also present.

Mrs. A. Tyler - Area Representative

Area 3 - West Midlands Metropolitan Counties. The Birmingham Group has met once, joining a local branch expedition to Powis Castle, a very pleasant outing. A coffee morning is to be held later on to plan next year's activities.

Mrs. E. Kenrick - Area Representative

HOME COUNTIES - ANGLIA DIVISION, Area 1 Home Counties. Hertfordshire had their annual reunion lunch in Arwell in July. The sun shone and seventeen members had lunch in the garden.

Mrs. B. Sewell - County Representative

SOUTH EAST DIVISION, Area 1 - South East. The past summer months have been busy for Association members with two "parties"; a Saturday lunch in the WRVS Club in Eastbourne and a tea party when the Area Organiser invited us to the Area office and where we had a splendid welcome and a gorgeous tea. At both these meetings we had up-to-date news of WRVS activities from the Area Organiser or other members at Area and Local level. A number of members were proud to accept the invitation to be present when the Chairman WRVS paid her visit to the Area; we listened enthralled to her inspiring words. I am delighted to report on the growth and success of the "town" Groups of the Association - two in Surrey and two in East Sussex. The Woking Group had a garden party in June in a member's home and in Farnham the Waverley Group had a buffet lunch in the WRVS Club, when the guest of honour was Miss Beth Ealand, a former County Organiser. Hastings have had several coffee mornings and Brighton (a newly-formed Group) have met twice for tea in the District office and had an outing to Chichester. I am sure that these local Group meetings are the best way for Association members to keep in touch and their organisers deserve our thanks and congratulations.

Miss Joanna Barnard - Area Representative

Area 2 - South East. West Sussex had its annual get-together in May in the lovely house and garden at Chidham, the home of Mrs. Ann Beale, the County Organiser. After a splendid buffet lunch, we had a most amusing and informative talk by the Association Chairman, Miss Halpin, whom we were delighted to welcome among us. There were 24 members present and everyone enjoyed the chance of meeting old friends.

Mrs. B. Skelt - County Representative

CHANNEL ISLANDS - Jersey. This Group started in July 1981 with six members and only two have been added this year. It will always be small but we try to keep in touch with other retired members who cannot get to meetings, by letter and telephone, and generally interest them in present day WRVS work. Our meetings which always start with an interesting topic usually dissolve into good old gossip.

Mrs. R. Morton-Fisher - Jersey Representative

SOUTH WEST DIVISION, Area 1 - South West. Gloucestershire were fortunate again with a superb summer day; the annual reunion took place at the home of the County Representative, Mrs. M. Littlewood in Charlton Kings. Following a meeting in the morning, a buffet lunch was enjoyed in the garden and then Mrs. M. Imlah, an ex-WRNS Officer, talked to some 60 members on service life since the war, striking both serious and humorous notes.

Mrs. K. Barker - Area Representative.

Area 2 - South West - Somerset. We try to hold our meetings in different parts of the County each year and this time we chose the village of Wemdon near Bridgewater, the home of our two oldest members. In spite of the transport problems in this large rural area, 25 members and our County Organiser were able to attend. Members had asked for another talk by Mr. Trent Thomas, who spoke about Iceland and showed excellent slides.

Mrs. M. Wigfield - County Representative

WALES. The Cefn y Bedd members kindly arranged the last meeting of the Wrexham Maelor Group in July when an enlightening talk was given on the effect of unemployment on the average person. A sumptuous tea followed. It was decided to arrange a visit to the theatre at Clwyd for our autumn meeting.

Mrs. K. Mowat - Wales Representative

SCOTLAND

From the Scottish Information Sheet, May 1982. The WRVS Association, Scottish Section AGM was held in the Mary Slessor Centre, Dundee, in May. Sixty-eight members were present, representing seven Regions and Scottish HQ. Considering this was the first time the AGM had moved from Edinburgh the attendance was very satisfactory. It would have been even greater if a sudden unseasonable snowstorm had not prevented some members travelling. Mrs. Crabbie, Chairman, welcomed the company, our new President Mrs. Corsar, Chairman, Scotland, and Vice-President, Miss Heaney.

The business of the AGM preceded a glass of wine and a walk-about, when auld acquaintance was renewed, followed by an excellent lunch, which was enjoyed by all.

Afterwards Mrs. Corsar spoke about the work currently being done by WRVS and linked this with work done in the past by members of her audience, which pleased them mightily.

Then sadly we had to say "goodbye" and "Thank you" to Mrs. Crabbie who retired as Chairman after holding office since the beginning of the Scottish Section. Under her Chairmanship we have seen the membership grow from a handful to nearly two hundred - fortunately we are not to lose her expertise for she is to become our second Vice-President.

From Mrs. Grace Macdonald, ex-Services Emergency Organiser, Scotland, who was elected, from three nominations, as Chairman Scottish Section, for a period of three years.

Grampian Region with only four Association members organised a recruiting coffee morning in Aberdeen on 28th September. They invited forty-five formerly active WRVS members, hoping to enrol at least half of them. This could have meant a welcome boost to the membership.

However, a wild day of wind and rain kept most people at home and the meeting was badly attended. Grampian Region is to try again.

Scottish Headquarters and Lothian Region are going to have a meeting in Scottish Headquarters for coffee and a chat and Mrs. Corsar, our WRVS Chairman is to "look in".

Fife & Tayside Regions are holding their half-yearly reunion in Perthshire in the autumn. As usual it is going to take the form of a soup/sandwich lunch, with no set formula, and most of the time being spent renewing old friendships. Both Regional Organisers will give a short talk on current events in their Regions.

"IN THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING" by the Lady Norman, CBE

This recently published autobiography covers Lady Norman's wide-ranging experiences and provides a social history of this century. It includes her work as one of the first Vice-Chairmen of WVS and particularly her pioneer work in the field of mental health, culminating in the formation of the World Federation of Mental Health in 1948. Members will find it interesting reading so DO ask for it at your local library; to purchase, it is £10.00 per copy plus £1.20 postage from LSP Books, 8 Farncombe Street, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3AY.

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Doreen Harris, OBE

Members of the Association will be sad to learn of the death of Doreen Harris on 25th August, in her 80th year, in hospital after a week's illness.

The WVS/WRVS Association has lost an invaluable member, who as their first Secretary, set a pattern of working, which has led to the gradual development and growth of the Association throughout the country. In spite of several illnesses and her subsequent retirement to one of the WRVS Housing Association flats at Farnham, Doreen kept up her interest in the Association work and attended all Committee Meetings, and was present to greet her many friends at the AGM in June.

Doreen had worked with Lady Reading in the Personal Service League before the war and was one of the very first to enrol in WVS in mid-1938. She was a pioneer in starting various departments at Headquarters and held a number of appointments, but will be best remembered for her work as Head of the Clothing Department from 1940 to 1959. In this capacity she was responsible for the booklet, "Processed Secondhand Clothing" which was distributed throughout the country and became the "bible" for all clothing workers for many years and which formed a pattern for all subsequent international work.

In 1958 Doreen started the Archives Department, developing it in a most professional way so that by the time she retired in 1978 it had become of the greatest value both to members within the Service and to many others involved in research projects. During this period she also undertook the organisation of salvage from Headquarters and in 1966 was appointed Special Assistant to the Chairman (Old People's Welfare). She was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours 1945, the OBE in 1952, the Silver Medal of the American Red Cross in 1946 and was made an Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau by the Queen of the Netherlands in recognition of services rendered during the war.

Doreen was selected by the Chairman to present the bouquet to H.M. The Queen at the end of the reception at St. James's Palace to commemorate our 40th Anniversary and no-one was more worthy of having this honour.

Apart from her organising ability, we will remember Doreen for her courage, integrity and her keen sense of humour; for her interest in people and their welfare, but above all for her tremendous love and devotion to WRVS, for which the whole Service is grateful.

We are sorry to learn since the publication of our last Newsletter of the deaths of the following members:

Mrs. L.A. Brodie	- Sussex	Mrs. M.G. Luke	- Hampshire
Mrs. F.B. Brown	- London	Mrs. N.W. Nielson	- Humberside
Mrs. E. Buckingham	- London	Mrs. F. Roberts	- Wales
Mrs. F. Buxton, MBE	- Notts	Miss R. Rosenfeld	- London
Mrs. J.H. Ewen	- Devon	Mrs. D. Salisbury	- Wales
Mrs. Gandell	- Sussex	Mrs. N.B. Tolhurst	- London
Mrs. A. Holt	- Wales	Mrs. C. Toyne	- Hertfordshire
Mrs. M. Hope-Jones	- Surrey	Mrs. A.E. Turner	- Birmingham
Mrs. H.M. Johnson	- Hampshire	Mrs. J. Vaughan	- Wales

INFORMATION FROM WALES

The phonetic pronunciation of the following counties is:

CLWYD	Clew - id
DYFED	Dove - id
GWYNEDD	Gwinnith
POWYS	Powiss

BIRTHDAY HONOURS 1982

Congratulations are extended to the following:

OBE: Mrs. E.E. Simpson-Brass JP - Area Organiser North East Division - Area 1.
 Mrs. J. Macharg - Recently retired Regional Organiser - Strathclyde and retired Vice-Chairman Scotland.

MBE: Mrs. E. Russell - London Borough Organiser, Brent
 Mrs. M.R.T. Carpenter - Services Welfare Organiser 6th QEO Gurkha Rifles.

BEM: Mrs. I.J. Lister - Deputy Metropolitan Organiser, Sunderland.
 Mrs. M. Sephton - District Organiser, Warrington.
 Mrs. M.E. Broad - Local Organiser, Bewdley, Worcestershire.
 Mrs. D. Smith - Member, Beeston, Nottinghamshire.
 Mrs. C.J. Skyner - Member, Liverpool.
 Mrs. M. Comber - Local Organiser, Atcham, Shrewsbury.
 Mrs. J.S. Stead - Hospital Organiser, Salford.

For Services to the Community

Mrs. F.E. Guest - Local Organiser, Stourbridge.

LAYETTE for the ROYAL BABY

The Chairman Scotland, received a letter from Lady Ruth Fermoy, Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen Mother and grandmother of the Princess of Wales, saying that the Queen Mother was touched by the idea of the competition from members of the Scottish NRVS Old People's and Disabled Clubs to make a layette for the Prince and Princess of Wales' baby. Her Majesty greatly admired the handwork of each article and sent her warmest thanks to all who took part in the competition.

TWO STORIES FROM AVON

Do you recall the case reported in the press of a fireman who lost all his fingers and both thumbs? He was operated on in the Frenchay Intensive Care Hospital, Bristol, by an eminent Consultant Plastic Surgeon, the equipment used being the Microvascular Microscope costing £10,000 - a gift which was made possible by WRVS members manning the hospital canteen.

Last June an Open Day was held at H.M. Prison, Leyshill, to which all the inmates are entitled to invite their families and friends. The WRVS were responsible for the provision of refreshments. On a wall at the entrance to the dining room where tea, etc. was being served, a notice was pinned up stating that "Photos could be taken which would help to remind them of their visit to a prison". Could this have been better expressed?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1983

The Annual General Meeting and National Re-union will be held at the Girl Guide Hall, Blucher Street, Birmingham on

Thursday, June 16th 1983

Invitations with full details will be circulated to members in April 1983, but in the meantime groups of members may like to make arrangements for hiring a coach or sharing transport by car. We do want to have a well-attended meeting for our first Annual Meeting to be held out of London. We are grateful to the West Midlands Metropolitan Counties Area for their invitation to hold this meeting in Birmingham and thank them for all they are doing to make it a very successful and happy occasion.

BEST WISHES

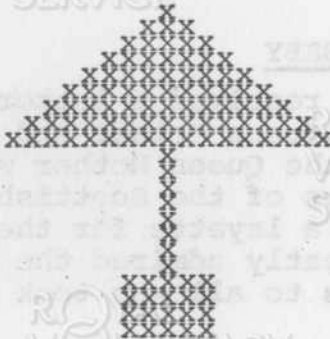
FOR

CHRISTMAS

AND THE

NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR READERS



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

17 Old Park Lane, London, W1Y 4AJ. Tel: 01-499 6040

President

Mrs. Barbara Shenfield

Vice-Presidents: The Baroness Pike of Melton, DBE.
Dame Frances Clode, DBE.

Chairman

Miss Kathleen Halpin, CBE.

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Isola Wren

Hon. Treasurer

Miss Freda Cooper

Editor of Newsletter

Mrs. Doris Moss, OBE

Members of Committee 1982/83

Miss E. Cubitt, MBE

Miss J. Duke, MBE

Mrs. D. Gloin

Mrs. R.V. Griffiths

Mrs. M. Julian

Mrs. D. Moss, OBE

Mrs. M.F. Oswald

Mrs. V. Price

Area Representatives - ex officio members of Committee

LONDON

Co-ordinator Areas

...

Mrs. J. Sanderson

Area North

Mrs. M. Downing, BEM

Area South-East

Mrs. E.G. Block, MBE

Area North-West

Mrs. M. Julian

NORTH WEST DIVISION

-

Area 1

...

Mrs. A. Spibey

Area 2

...

Mrs. M.P. Head

Area 4

...

Mrs. M. Preston

NORTH EAST DIVISION

-

Area 1

...

Mrs. C.V. Smurthwaite, MBE

Area 2

...

Mrs. E. Mackay

Area 3

...

Mrs. D. Stokes, MBE

MIDLANDS DIVISION

-

Area 1

...

Mrs. O. Wright, MBE

Area 2

...

Mrs. A. Tyler

Area 3

...

Mrs. E. Kenrick

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA DIVISION

Area 3

...

Mrs. H. Carmalt-Jones, OBE

SOUTH-EAST DIVISION

-

Area 1

...

Miss J. Barnard, OBE

CHANNEL ISLANDS

-

...

Mrs. R. Morton Fisher

SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

-

Area 1

...

Mrs. K. Barker, BEM

WALES

-

...

Mrs. K. Mowat, MBE

SCOTLAND

-

Chairman

Mrs. G. MacDonald

APOLOGIES

The delay in printing and the distribution of this Newsletter is due to a serious breakdown in the Headquarters Print Room which has to date held up all work for 5 weeks.

STOP PRESS

Stocks of the WRVS Tea-Towels are now exhausted. Please do not send any money until such time as we know that there is to be a re-issue. We will let you know immediately when the time is ripe.

- Mrs. M. Dowling, BEM
- Mrs. E.C. Black, MBE
- Mrs. M. Julian
- Mrs. A. Spiby
- Mrs. M.P. Head
- Mrs. M. Preston
- Mrs. C.V. Smurthwaite, MBE
- Mrs. E. Mackay
- Mrs. E. Stokes, MBE
- Mrs. E. Wright, MBE
- Mrs. E. Hartyck
- Mrs. H. Carmalt-Jones, OBE
- Mrs. J. Barnard, OBE
- Mrs. R. Harrison, BEM
- Mrs. K. Barker, BEM
- Mrs. R. Nowell, MBE

- Area North
- Area South-East
- Area West
- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4
- Area 5
- Area 6
- Area 7
- Area 8
- Area 9
- Area 10
- Area 11
- Area 12
- Area 13
- Area 14
- Area 15
- Area 16
- Area 17
- Area 18
- Area 19
- Area 20
- Area 21
- Area 22
- Area 23
- Area 24
- Area 25
- Area 26
- Area 27
- Area 28
- Area 29
- Area 30
- Area 31
- Area 32
- Area 33
- Area 34
- Area 35
- Area 36
- Area 37
- Area 38
- Area 39
- Area 40
- Area 41
- Area 42
- Area 43
- Area 44
- Area 45
- Area 46
- Area 47
- Area 48
- Area 49
- Area 50

- LONDON
- HOME DIVISION
- NORTH EAST DIVISION
- MIDLANDS DIVISION
- HOME COUNTRIES/ANGLES DIVISION
- SOUTH EAST DIVISION
- SCOTLAND
- WELLS

Mrs. M. Donald

Chairman

SCOTLAND

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

R
V
S