



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
No.21 November 1984

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ

Tel: 01-499 6040

President

Mrs Barbara Shenfield - Chairman WRVS

Vice-Presidents: Dame Frances Clode DBE
Miss K. Halpin CBE
The Baroness Pike of Melton DBE

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Mrs Helena Foster OBE

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Isola Wren

Honorary Treasurer

Miss Margaret Binks

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Miss J. Duke MBE
Mrs J. Grebby
Mrs R.V. Griffiths BEM

Mrs M.F. Oswald
Mrs V. Price
Mrs J. Sanderson
Mrs E. Spiers

Editor

Mrs Viola Price

Area Representatives are ex officio members of Committee

See back page

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OUR NEW EDITOR -
WELCOME

Mrs Vi Price was a senior member of Premises Department for 17 years and is well known to many members throughout the country.

She brings with her many talents - some hidden - such as an ability to speak the Welsh language fluently.

Mrs Price is now much involved in her Church and local community in Welton, Lincolnshire and we are grateful to her for accepting this new role.

Chairman

* * * * *

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1st October 1984

Dear Member,

You may think it strange that my letter has taken several weeks to reach you but of course we have to allow for printing and despatch by courtesy of Headquarters Printing Department to whom we owe much for their continued interest and expertise.

I have just returned from a delightful reunion in Nottingham held at the University Hospital, Queens Medical Centre. We were privileged to meet there because of the vast amount of WRVS hospital canteen work carried out by some 250 members seven days a week. The Area Health Authority Chairman spoke warmly about the service and the thoroughness with which WRVS viewed new jobs.

Meetings such as these throughout the country are rich in friendship and immensely stimulating to all who like myself are still mobile!

Reunions however always make me conscious of those members who though active

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in mind are housebound or nearly so and the President's remarks at our Annual General Meeting stressed the Association's welfare and caring aspect. Recently we have been able to assist two members through the WRVS Benevolent Trust. In one case, using great initiative, a member traced someone with whom everyone had lost contact. Mrs X, now aged 82, is in a Psychiatric Hospital in a geriatric unit with few visitors but in her prime she gave yeoman service over many years. We hope the gift from the Trust may bring her some pleasure and comfort.

The Association will be represented at the WRVS Rally to be held in London shortly and in December I shall join Association members in Northumbria for their Carol Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle. Whilst I am not always able to accept invitations to visit you, I do enjoy hearing from you and the varying ways in which you continue to work and play, the secret of a contented mind.

I send you every possible good wish for health and happiness and look forward to seeing many of you at our next Annual General Meeting. Do make a note of the date now!.

Helena Foster

Helena Foster
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

A new broom, they say, is supposed to sweep clean and I imagine you will all be watching, perhaps critically, to see what I, as the new Editor of the WVS/WRVS News, am going to do. Whilst I do, of course, have some ideas and plans that I should like to follow, I am very dependent upon your support in the form of contributions, suggestions, yes, and criticism for any success I may have in the presentation of our Association's journal. A new broom is only as good as the sum of the individual bristles!

I look forward to receiving your reactions to the new format which I hope you will find easier to handle and read - along with any ideas which you think may be included in the future. I am indeed conscious of the responsibility I have accepted and will do my very best to justify your confidence. Thank you for the many messages of good luck which I have received.

1984 has come and nearly gone with Christmas only a matter of weeks away so that the time is again approaching when loneliness or physical and emotional problems are highlighted and there is sadness sometimes where there should be joy. Our Association cares and tries very hard to bring friendship and happiness particularly at this time of the year.

SO MAY I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A CARING, SHARING NEW YEAR.

Editor

AID TO POLAND

Our President, Mrs Shenfield, has asked Association members to join WRVS in an appeal for all types of babies' new or nearly new laundered clothing and soft toys. Layettes for use in maternity hospitals are much needed and it is almost impossible to buy nappies in Poland! Here are some details for guidance:

Cotton or Knitted Vests, length 10", chest 16".

Nightgowns, 23" long (not nylon).

Dresses, 18" long (not nylon).

Shawls or Cot Blankets, white or coloured,
36" x 36".

Terry Towelling Nappies and pins.

Distribution is through the Roman Catholic Convents and our link is Ockenden Venture with whom we have worked in the past. Your Area Representative will tell you about collecting points at WRVS Centres.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Many members wish to continue knitting babies' vests and your magnificent response of over 6,000 last year was greatly appreciated by the Fund. The Overseas Supplies Officer, speaking at our Annual General Meeting, asked if we would make larger vests (increasing the number of stitches and decreasing accordingly) and also simple unisex garments for which we hope to let you have patterns. These are to fit children from 1 to 3 years of age.

The Fund's overseas workers are making tremendous efforts to stem the daily death toll of young children from malnutrition and disease and helping the families living in terrible conditions. You can rest assured that their experienced and skilled administration makes the best use of all money and material gifts.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN
TO HELP THESE PROJECTS

RE-UNION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1984

held at the Civic Hall, Pudsey

on Tuesday, 12th June 1984

What a very happy meeting this was, and what a welcome we received! Was our journey really worth it? It certainly was.

A full report of the meeting will, of course, be contained in the Minutes but I think it is significant, and indeed encouraging, that the outstanding success of the Re-unions at both Birmingham and Pudsey (Leeds) has proved initial doubts to be without foundation as far as choice of venue is concerned. The credit for this must be given in no small measure to the local teams whose efficient organisation and delicious catering was typical of the high WRVS standards - our grateful thanks to them.

The afternoon session was interesting and varied as we were fortunate to have our President, Mrs Barbara Shenfield to speak to us and we are grateful to her for her support and real interest in the Association.

Mrs Margaret Braslis was our next speaker and in thanking our Association for the magnificent knitting efforts of its members, she assured us that every precious garment WILL reach its intended destination and will help to ease the suffering of so many tiny babies and toddlers whose plight is heart-breaking.

It was lovely to hear the voice of Mrs Grace MacDonald from over the border. Under her leadership the Scottish Association was gradually increasing its membership and a number of social gatherings had taken place; particularly successful was the Bridge Club - an indication that each group planned its programme to meet the wishes and interests of that locality.

The final cup of tea helped us on our way in happy mood and looking forward to the next time.

I understand that the publication of your "News" is due in November and I would be very grateful if

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RE-UNION & AGM 1985

will be held at

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL, BROMPTON ROAD,
LONDON, SW7

on Tuesday, 4th June 1985

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Nominations for committee, in writing, not later than
1st April, please.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members who pay their subscriptions annually are reminded that payment for 1985 is due in January (or earlier, if you wish!).

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A REMINDER

In 1984 it was necessary to send out several hundred reminders which, at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p a time (now 13p) considerably reduced our funds. Members who pay by banker's order should, of course, take no action.

Treasurer

AREA REPORTS

YOUR CO-OPERATION WOULD BE
GREATLY APPRECIATED IN ENSURING
THAT REPORTS FOR INCLUSION IN
THE MAY 1985 "NEWS" REACH THE
EDITOR NOT LATER THAN

31st JANUARY 1985

"A PEOPLE'S WAR"

The following is a copy of a letter received from Mary Fox, Programme Secretary, Documentary Department, Thames Television and speaks for itself:

"The documentary department of Thames Television are starting their research for a programme to be entitled, "A People's War". Nine tenths of the population of Great Britain remained civilians throughout the war. Their story - and that of the society they created - deserves to be fully told.

I understand that the next issue of your "News" is due in November and I would be very grateful if you could mention this project. We would like people to contact us with their memoirs and how they were affected in their lives.

The producers are Richard Broad and Liz Neeson and can be contacted at

We would be grateful for any help you can give us".

(Editor - I am quite sure that many of our members have some very interesting stories to tell - now is the time to tell them!)

WRVS RALLY 1984

"A Friend in Deed"

Our Association's Chairman and six members were invited to represent us at the WRVS Rally held at the Bloomsbury Centre, London, on Thursday 18th October. An amusing address of welcome was given by the Lord Mayor of London, Dame Mary Donaldson CBE and the guest speaker was the Right Honourable Leon Brittan QC, MP, Home Secretary, who was generous in his praise of the work undertaken by WRVS and its immediate response to calls for help as they are received from every direction. He referred particularly to one of our own members, Mrs Peggy Allison from whom he was interested to hear that she had joined WRVS 45 years ago as a bride of 24 and that, from a mobile canteen similar to the one she was demonstrating, she had dispensed thousands of cups of tea, sandwiches, buns, etc., to grateful but weary soldiers, airmen, sailors and civilians engaged in the conflict of World War II. Mrs Allison comes from Beverley and is still busy running a Day Centre in a nearby village.

Another interesting visitor to the Rally was Mrs Courtel who represented the WRVS Organisation in Portugal

whose membership includes British residents and whose welfare work is expanding along much the same lines as our own.

Mrs Shenfield read a message received from WRVS President, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, sending greetings and best wishes for a successful Rally.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 1984

The names of the following WRVS Members appear in the Birthday Honours List 1984.

MBE

- Mrs Frances M. SMITH
Divisional Emergency Services Adviser, South East SE1
- Mrs Margaret WHITSON
County Organiser, Cumbria NW1
- Miss Mary ADAMSON
Administrator WRVS Services Welfare Overseas Hong Kong

BEM

- Mrs Rosemary BURROWS
District Staff, Workop MID2
- Mrs Margaret A. DICKSON
Metropolitan Organiser, Wirral NW4
- Mrs Margaret J. HAWKINS
District Organiser, Exmouth SW2
- Mrs Hilda MILLER
District Organiser, Wealden SE1
- Mrs Mary G. NORFOLK-BROWN
Local Organiser, Bridlington NE3

FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

MBE

- Mrs Honour M.M. TAYLOR
Member, Blandford, Dorset SE2
- Mrs Joan A KIRBY
Joint County Organiser, Hampshire SE2

PROMOTING THE WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

How good it is during the prime of life to be busy, useful and needed, responding to calls on our time with energy and a sense of purpose. This is particularly true, I think, of those who belong to a voluntary, caring organisation such as the WRVS. There is a very special sort of fulfilment when one's skills and energy are directed to the task of helping those who need support. The energy released whilst engaged on such work seems to come in abundance to meet the demands made upon us.

The time we all dread, surely, is when, due to sickness, infirmity or age, we are no longer able to take part in these service activities. The loss of purpose, the missing of companionship of like-minded people, the consciousness of no longer fulfilling a useful role in life is most unwelcome and can sometimes lead to lonely and unhappy lives.

The aim of the WVS/WRVS Association is to help maintain contact and to provide the occasions for continuing or renewing the friendships formed during more energetic days. Social gatherings of even a small number of members provide the opportunity in reminiscing, recalling shared adventures and even dramas. Many of the WVS/WRVS members recently retired or about to do so were very involved in our war effort and its aftermath and have many stories to exchange and a feeling of "belonging" is revived.

This is all very well, but unless our retired and retiring members are aware of the purpose of the Association, or even of its existence, they are deprived of the opportunities. Let us all, therefore, follow the WRVS theme for 1984 and become "Friends in Need" and hence "Friends in Deed" taking every opportunity to promote our Association by all means available to us - by simply talking about it, by seeking out our former colleagues, by making sure

that no-one is overlooked or forgotten, by writing letters or articles in Parish Magazines and the like. Many new members have been discovered through the publicity given to the appeals for little vests and other tiny garments for the Poland and for the Save the Children Fund. The response has been beyond our wildest dreams and everyone participating has been grateful for the opportunity of helping to relieve the suffering of helpless babies. In so doing they, themselves, have "discovered" the WVS/WRVS Association and are now enjoying the "togetherness" it offers. Join us, you will be made most welcome. Help us to help each other.

OUR PRESENT MEMBERSHIP IS NEARING 3,000
THE POTENTIAL IS FAR GREATER!

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OBITUARY

We are indeed sorry to learn that the following members have died since publication of the last Newsletter:

Mrs B. Rowntree	- Sunderland
Mrs. H. Orr	- Lancashire
Mrs E.M. Bolton	- Tyne & Wear
Mrs A.X. Milton, BEM	- Tyne & Wear
Mrs J.S. Shuttleworth	- Kent
Miss D. Matthew	- London
Hon. Mrs Lowther, MBE	- Sussex
Miss M.M. Hodges	- London
Mrs V.N.C. Kisby	- Headquarters
Mrs O. Bellamy	- Cheshire
Mrs F. Harrison	- Hampshire
Miss L.M. Thompson	- Coventry
Mrs K. Wilkinson	- Surrey
Mrs O.M. Dyke, MBE	- London
Mrs A. Lewis	- Wales (Clwyd)
Mrs E.D. Wilkinson	- Huntingdon
Miss M. George	- Cardiff
Mrs M.F.M. Mason	- Surrey
Princess Weikersheim	- Oxford
Mrs N.W. Taylor	- Wiltshire
Mrs G.S. Anstice	- Warwickshire
Miss M.O. Griffiths	- London
Mrs O.W. Trumper	- Kent
Mrs O. Walsh	- N. Yorkshire
Mrs Nora Tanner	- W. Sussex
Mrs Edgar Jones	- Avon
Mrs A.M. Spibey	- Lancashire
Mrs E.M. Smith	- Cornwall
Miss R. Gocher	- W. Sussex
Miss M. Murray	- Surrey
Mrs D.A. Adams	- Dorset
Miss Rona Lamb, MBE	- Devon
Mrs M. Grater	- Hertfordshire
Mrs H.F. Hughes	- Surrey
Miss G.E. Owen, OBE	- Gloucester
Mrs E. Russell, OBE	- Hertfordshire
Mrs M. Stubbs	- Warwickshire
Mrs R. Wilkinson	- Sutton Coldfield

MRS ANNE SPIBEY of Knuzden, Lancs, was the Association's Area Representative for North West Area 1 and her sudden death was a sad blow to the committee. Mrs Spibey enrolled in WVS in 1957 and received the Long Service Medal in 1972. She was a founder member of the local Guide Dogs for the Blind.

MISS GWYN OWEN, OBE will be remembered particularly for her overseas welfare work serving in the Middle East, at Benghazi and Cyrenaica, GHQ Canal Zone and as BAOR Administrator for seven years. Joining in 1939, Gwyn was on Wales Regional Staff during the war years and after serving overseas became Head of Services Welfare at Headquarters until 1972. Members in the London Region will remember her as County of London Administrator from 1960-1965.

MISS MARJERY M. HODGES, MBE joined WVS in 1946 working in the Registry of which she was Head from 1952 to 1965 when she transferred to the Regional Department where she worked until 1978. Marjery was awarded the MBE in January 1964.

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SUMMARY OF REPORTS READ BY AREA
REPRESENTATIVES AT AGM 1984

SCOTLAND

The summer period was as usual a quiet one but a number of activities are planned for the autumn. The Scottish section committee meeting was held in SHQ on 8th October when Regions reported their activities since we all met at the AGM in April. Perhaps the outstanding event was an open day at West Balruddery Garden near Dundee. This garden, which belongs to one of our members was looking superb and the weather likewise. It was a pity that more members didn't turn up to enjoy it. A small donation was sent to the Benevolent Trust from the collection taken.

The challenge match between SHQ/Lothian and Strathclyde bridge clubs ended in a defeat for Strathclyde but they got a prize just the same. SHQ/Lothian will be getting a few more challenges when it is discovered you can't lose.

Our Central Region must surely deserve a star for progress. They have increased their membership of eight to over forty in about one and a half years, and are still growing. They are full of ideas too - the main course at a reunion lunch last week was a large baked potato with a selection of fillings. Cheap, easy to serve, and enjoyed by all.

WALES

Mrs Mowat said that she still found it difficult to interest retired WRVS members in joining the Association. There was, however, a little activity at Wrexham Maelor when members enjoyed a theatre outing to see "The New Moon" followed by

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a tea party with a beautifully decorated cake to celebrate the 24th birthday of the Llandegla Darby and Joan Club. Mrs Mowat wonders whether she is too old at 79 and asks for volunteers to step in. Any offers?

LONDON

NORTH AREA

Mrs Downing now has a membership of 33 who have produced 155 vests. Support from Area Office is being maintained and its Newsletter is circulated to all Association members. Meeting attended by Chairman arranged for June 14th.

SOUTH EAST AREA

Mrs Block reported steadily increasing membership - all knitting vests. Programme includes visits to places of particular interest in each of the 6 Boroughs in turn. The recent excursion to Bermondsey was a huge success.

DIVISIONS

NORTH WEST. Area 1.

Mrs Spibey who, sadly, has since died, reported increased interest in the Association and hoped that "get-togethers" could be arranged.

NORTH WEST. Area 2. Greater Manchester.

Mrs Head reported that Mrs Spriggs, Area Organiser, gave an interesting talk on the current work of WRVS at their recent Annual Re-union. Mrs Head was invited to say a few words about the Association at a party in Rochdale in honour of the award of the B.E.M. to Mrs Kathleen Armstrong, Metropolitan District Organiser. Mrs J.S. Stead, M.B.E., is having some success at Salford and Worsley. A large number of vests have been knitted for the Save the Children Fund, 220 from Altrincham and Timperley district and when the final total is known

it is hoped to have the figure announced in the press. Area membership is now 58 and still growing.

NORTH WEST. Area 4.

Mrs Preston reports continued increase in membership and that regular "coffee and chat" meetings are held in districts having 20-25 members. Two groups have visited the Liverpool Festival and more being planned. Transport is the main problem in this large area, as in so many others. A very interesting letter from a member recalls how she joined WVS following her own initiative in forming a voluntary group.

NORTH EAST DIVISION. Area 1. Northumbria.

Mrs Smurthwaite reported that 435 vests have been contributed by the Area in response to the Chairman's appeal.

NORTH EAST. Area 3. Humberside and Lincolnshire.

Mrs James, too, finds transport and long distances to be the main problems in trying to organise meetings but in spite of these difficulties many of the members said, surprisingly "Oh, we'd rather meet members from other districts - we see our local folk all the time!" Mrs Cooke is still busy in Lincolnshire and Mrs Tomlinson arranged transport when 14 members from the City of Hull attended a pub lunch which they enjoyed so much that they have arranged to repeat the occasion. Over 30 members from North Humberside met at the County Office by courtesy of the County Organiser, Mrs Barbara Gillard, when it was agreed to establish a "kitty" to meet the group's costs of postage, etc., each member contributing 50p. Meetings would take place on a monthly basis.

Area membership had increased from 10 to 90 since the end of 1983, still increasing though a little more slowly. Over 100 very gay vests had been handed

to the Save the Children Fund since March and needles were still clicking.

NORTH EAST. Area 4. South Yorks Metropolitan Counties.

Mrs Zeigler reported that 20 members had been enrolled in Wakefield and 25 in Sheffield. A "get-together" at her home was attended by 29 members from the Area and Wakefield and was most enjoyable.

MIDLANDS DIVISION. Area 1.

Mrs Wright reported that the Counties of Hereford-Worcester and Warwickshire had both held successful re-unions during the year and members and friends had been knitting enthusiastically for the Save the Children Fund. It was hoped that the recently retired County Organiser would rekindle interest in Staffordshire but, so far, no interest had been aroused in Shropshire.

MIDLANDS DIVISION. Area 2. East Midlands Counties.

Mrs Tyler conveyed a "good luck" message to the Chairman on her first AGM from members of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. An extremely well-attended and enjoyable meeting of Derbyshire members was recently held at Chesterfield. After a splendid luncheon and medal presentation by the President, entertainment was provided by their very own concert party. Other activities include coffee, sherry and tea "get-togethers" and Leicestershire members visited the Crown Derby Works and organised other events. A very go-ahead County Representative took advantage of a captive audience to enrol 16 members plus a secretary. There is a new group at Broxtowe and the Rushcliffe District again received civic greetings at their annual buffet. Coffee mornings could well develop into coffee clubs. Another

highly successful luncheon was held at the Clarendon College of Further Education and the support of the vest project provided 130 vests from one senior member alone. A 3-counties luncheon is planned for September/October at Queen's Medical Centre.

MIDLANDS. Area 3.

Mrs Kendrick reported that only 3 of their 7 Metropolitan Districts were active. Wolverhampton group meets for tea or coffee and is lucky to have Mrs Thurwell who at 89 still plays an important role. Solihull members meet regularly and Birmingham include coffee and lunch meetings as well as winter and summer outings when 15 to 25 members attend. After a lull, activities will resume with a coffee morning in October.

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA DIVISION. Area 3.

Mrs Claydon said that membership was increasing and that one group had produced a neat little "Programme of Dates" which includes talks on various topics, a strawberry tea, a ploughman's lunch, a demonstration on the arrangement of dried flowers and a festive Christmas snack lunch.

In two counties donations were made to the Association by hospital projects and a former clothing worker regained her "purpose in life" when she found she could knit our little vests and helped to produce a magnificent total of 1,740 for the Area.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION. Area 1.

Mrs Cooke reported that they had representatives in all their counties and new branches were being formed. A successful reunion luncheon was held at the home of Mrs Banwell at Canterbury and she now had the East Kent branch under her wing. The meeting was attended by the County Organiser,

Mrs J. Mudie and Mrs Z. Webster (Publicity). The next meeting, hosted by Mrs Caudwell would include a talk on the work being carried out by WRVS today and it was hoped a press photographer would come along.

SOUTH WEST. Area 1.

Mrs Barker gave the following interesting statistics:

<u>Membership</u>		<u>Vests Produced</u>
Avon County	56	800 +
Gloucestershire County	114	355 +
Somerset County	70	
Wiltshire	67	Figures not available

Pattern for larger sizes being distributed also pattern for tiny frock easily made from scraps of left-over materials.

Re-unions planned: Wiltshire 13th June 1985.
Gloucestershire 21st June 1985.

SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM AREA REPRESENTATIVES SINCE AGM.

NORTH WEST DIVISION. Area 2.

Mrs Head reports that recently queries from older members have been dealt with and that on 18th July Altrincham members were invited to tea in

Mrs Preston's beautiful garden. On 22nd September their two-monthly meeting included a delightful talk by Mrs Brundrett of Bowden on the "Art of Laughter". The group has contributed vests and knitted square blankets to the Polish venture.

Mrs Joan Graham of Bury held a lunch for members in her district and plans another event this year. Mrs Stead of Grumpsall is busy promoting the Association at Worsley, Eccles, Irlam, Pendlebury and Salford.

NORTH WEST DIVISION. Area 4.

Mrs Preston reports that small groups continue to meet and that their first summer Area meeting was held at a member's home when 42 members attended, many for the first time, and it has been a pleasure to welcome one new particular new member who had returned to the Area after an absence of 25 years. Mrs Purdon is having considerable success in Macclesfield and is holding informal meetings every three months.

NORTH EAST DIVISION. Area 1. Northumberland County.

Mrs Hughes reports growth in membership although difficult in this rural area. Many attended the service at Hexham Abbey in June and the Ashington group meets monthly. Area events included one at Raby Castle and a very enjoyable carol service at Newcastle Cathedral.

NORTH EAST DIVISION. Area 2.

Mrs. Newman, York, had the honour of being chosen to represent Great Britain at the recent Civil Defence meeting in Germany. Congratulations.

NORTH EAST DIVISION, Area 4.

Sheffield District of South Yorkshire meets bi-monthly at the office with guest speakers. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs Kathleen Turner, invites applications for membership.

MIDLANDS DIVISION, Area 2.

Mrs Tyler reports that the highlight of their year was the reunion luncheon held at the Queen's Medical Centre, University of Nottingham which was attended by 63 members from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. The chief guests were our Chairman, Mrs Helena Foster, the Area Organiser, Mrs Ida Hobbs and Mr Eric Poyser, Chairman of the Nottingham Area Health Authority.

Mr Poyser thanked the Service for its enormous help in so many ways and congratulated us on our professionalism and forecast many changes in the Health Service in the next 10 years. At the meeting Mrs Tyler was happy to announce the formation of three new groups.

Bassetlaw District.

A new group resulted from a "tea meeting" held at the home of Mrs J. Moore, District Organiser in September and many new members attended the Area luncheon later in the month. A meeting was arranged for early in the new year to plan their programme.

Broxtowe District.

Following the recent formation of this group, members were welcomed at the Area luncheon. A coffee morning has been arranged for 30th October at 14 Digby Street, Kimberly, to discuss the venue and format of future activities and to elect a committee - enquiries to Mrs Squires.

Newark District.

An exceedingly good and enthusiastic number of members met in the District Office at the invitation of the joint District Organisers, Mrs P. Mumby and Mrs Elsie Green, when Mrs Tyler and the County Secretary spoke and a group was formed. A meeting is being arranged to form a committee and to discuss further activities.

Rushcliffe District.

The coffee club has welcomed three gentlemen members and has found a new home at the Edwalton Golf Club where its next meeting will be held on 28th November. The sudden death of Mrs K. Harvey, a committee member, is a sad loss as she was a strong supporter of the Association. She had been a tower of strength in WRVS as Ruddington Village Representative and had been a Councillor for many

years. Our thoughts go out to her family and the many people who will greatly miss her.

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA. Area 3.

Mrs Claydon is justifiably proud of the fact that membership in Essex has now topped 100 and would love to know how they stand in the "League". A party of members from Southend is planning to attend the annual re-union in London on 26th October. Two members from the Area have recently received their Long Service Medals.

Mrs O'Mahoney, Great Yarmouth representative now has a membership of 21, 15 of whom enjoyed a coffee morning at the home of one of the members which was supported by their County Representative, Mrs Whyte. Past elderly members of WRVS are visited and this has proved an excellent means of discovering friends who might otherwise have slipped through the net. The group has contributed 148 delightfully coloured garments for the Save the Children Fund. At a recent successful coffee morning a "kitty" was established, launched by a donation of £5 from the husband of one of the members. A Luncheon has been arranged for October by which time it is hoped more members will have been enrolled.

HOME COUNTIES/ANGLIA. Area 2 - Berkshire County.

From a "Pink" dated 20th July 1984, it would appear that Association members receive copies of the County Newsletter, an issue of which was to be distributed at a Garden Party at Englefield on 24th September. (Editor: If this assumption is correct do please let us hear more of your activities and those in the Area, particularly as we are encouraged by your growing membership. Good Luck!)

SOUTH EAST AREA 1.

Mrs Cooke reports the following progress and activities in the Area:

Surrey - Membership 157.

Epsom District have enjoyed a further gathering of Association members and are still recruiting.

Waverley District held a luncheon at Farnham in the spring to which Commander Fitzherbert of Surrey County Save the Children Fund was invited. He talked about the organisation and went away laden with a bundle of vests.

Woking District have had a splendid summer. In May, 30 members visited the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. The annual garden party was held in a member's home in July when 40 members enjoyed a delicious tea on a beautiful sunny afternoon. 29 members went on a mystery tour to Windsor in September when some visited the local Madame Tussaud's and others went on the river. Mrs Betty Sturling, the new Co-ordinator, says all have been happy occasions and everyone is looking forward to the October luncheon.

Guildford District. Mrs Stella Tippett and Mrs Dorothy Fickling are arranging a tea party in Guildford for retired WRVS members, possibly in November, and hope to start a local branch.

East Sussex - Membership 125.

Brighton District. Monthly coffee mornings are well-attended. They have had three outings during the summer and another is planned for the Autumn.

Eastbourne District hold regular meetings and coffee mornings. They have had one outing. In October a buffet lunch has been arranged to which members of other branches in East Sussex have been invited. They have adopted St. Wilfred's Hospice as their charity.

Hove District plan to hold a meeting of retired members in the Autumn and hope to start a branch.

East Kent - Membership 25. A buffet lunch is being held in Canterbury on October 29th when future plans will be discussed.

West Kent - Membership 38 - held a buffet lunch in Maidstone in April.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION. Area 2. West Sussex County.

Mrs Buckley reports through Mrs Yardley, Arun District representative that their recent activities include a luncheon for the County and a District Harvest Luncheon, both at Rustington, and a sherry party at Bognor. Plans are in hand for a visit to the theatre at Guildford and also a tea party. 18 members attended a successful coffee morning at Mrs Buckley's home and Mrs Cumberlege hosted a luncheon at her home in June. (Editor's Note: Yes, please Mrs Buckley, we really do want to hear all about your activities and wish you every success in further increasing your membership - this, of course, applies to all Divisions, north, south, east and west!).

The Dorset cream tea party in June was a very happy occasion attended by around 30 members including their new treasurer. They now aim to form a group in North Dorset.

GUERNSEY - (Editor's Note: We were pleased to learn from a Narrative Report that a very pleasant morning had been spent with older members filling in forms for medals and certificates, enjoying lunch together and reminiscing and that it was hoped to form a WVS/WRVS Association in the near future - volunteers to organise, please!).

SOUTH WEST DIVISION, Area 1.

Mrs Barker reports with justifiable pride in Mrs Sell that Gloucestershire now has a membership of over 100. Mrs Law, County Representative for Wiltshire, has arranged a reunion for 24th October and Mrs Barker has planned a similar event the following day.

SOUTH WEST DIVISION. Area 2.

Mrs Hacon, Somerset County Representative, held a meeting at Yeovil attended by 40 members who were given a delightful tea by those who lived locally. Mrs Marker very kindly supported Mrs Hacon and was able to clear up a number of queries including the method of collecting the many vests produced. She also sold (much reduced) several out-of-date WRVS Magazines which stimulated interest and resulted in orders being placed.

STOP PRESSLONDON

The London Area Association Re-union held at Holy Trinity, Brompton Road on Friday 26th October was a huge success and Mrs Sanderson, Co-ordinator, and all concerned were delighted that with the help of the Bring & Buy Stall, they managed to break even financially.

Between 90 and 100 members attended including three Area Organisers as well as many friends and former colleagues from surrounding Areas. Everyone enjoyed the delicious luncheon cooked and served by the Hounslow Emergency Services Team - many thanks to them.

Each Area Representative reported briefly on her branch's activities and the only outside speaker was a "news-gatherer" from ITV Channel 4 who described the type of stories which would be of sufficient interest to be incorporated in the project, "A People's War" (see page 8) to which many of our members will surely make valuable contributions.

HAMPSHIRE

Farnham members had the pleasure of entertaining our National Chairman to tea on 29th August and it was truly a Red Letter Day, Mrs Albrow tells us!

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE
AREA REPRESENTATIVES
(Ex-officio members of the Committee)

LONDON - Mrs J. Sanderson (Co-ordinator)

North Area Mrs M. Downing BEM,

Central Area Westminster & City
Mrs Theo Robertson,

Hackney, Newham & Tower Hamlets
Mrs Millington,

South East Area Mrs E.G. Block MBE,

North East Area Miss Doris Wright,

South West Area Mrs M. Forsdick,

North West Area Mrs M. Julian,

DIVISIONS

North West

Area 1

Area 2 Mrs M. Head,

Area 4 Mrs M. Preston,

North East

Area 1 Mrs C.V. Smurthwaite MBE,

Area 3 Mrs P. James MBE,

Area 4 Mrs L. Zeigler MBE,

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Midlands

Area 1 Mrs W. Pengilly,

Area 2 Mrs A. Tyler,

Area 3 Mrs E. Kenrick,

Home Counties/Anglia

Area 3 Mrs E. Claydon,

South East

Area 1 Miss M.T. Cooke MBE,

South West

Area 1 Mrs K. Barker BEM,

Area 2 Miss M. Scott,

WALES

Mrs K. Mowat MBE,

SCOTLAND

Chairman - Scottish Section

Mrs. G. MacDonald,

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