



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION NEWS

No.25 November 1986

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ

President

Dame Barbara Shenfield DBE - Chairman WRVS

Vice Presidents: Dame Frances Clode DBE
Mrs H. Foster OBE
Miss K. Halpin CBE
The Baroness Pike of Melton DBE

Chairman

Mrs Ava Christophersen

Honorary Secretary

Mrs I. Wren

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs C. Havelock-Poole

Members of Committee 1986/87

Mrs E.M. Adie
Miss K. Batey BEM
Miss M. Binks
Mrs J. Grant MBE
Mrs J. Grebby MBE
Mrs V. Price
Mrs J. Sanderson
Mrs E. Speirs

Mrs P.M. Linton MBE

Honorary Editor

Mrs D. Gross

Area Representatives are ex officio members of the Committee

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* THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR *
* 1987 *
* WILL BE HELD ON *
* 10th JUNE 1987 *
* in *
* NEWCASTLE *
*

Members are also asked to note that NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE should reach Headquarters by 1st April each year and RESOLUTIONS for discussion should be sent in by 1st February.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Mrs Ava Christophersen is already known to many members through her long service, particularly in Civil Defence, and we all give her a very warm welcome. Her charming and forthright personality stems from a Scottish background and her interests and knowledge cover a wide field.

A day spent at the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition with Ava showed yet another glimpse of her lively and enquiring mind.

We all look forward very much to your chairmanship.

H.F.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

I am very glad to have this opportunity to write to you for the first time as Chairman of the WVS/WRVS Association in succession to Helena Foster, and to assure you that I will do all I can to further the aims of the Association. I also look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, either in London or in your own home territory.

We are all delighted that Helena Foster has been elected as Vice-President and we are, therefore, most fortunate in having valuable advice and support from both Kathleen Halpin, our Founder Chairman, and Helena. The Special Project she started in November 1985 has been a great success thanks to all your efforts, and a cheque for £1,504.15 was presented at the AGM at Bristol to Dame Barbara Shenfield, Chairman of WRVS and President of the Association. Since then we have received a further £66.50, making a grand total of £1,570.65 for the WRVS Benevolent Trust.

I would like to express gratitude to Vi Price who has been such an excellent Editor of the Association News.

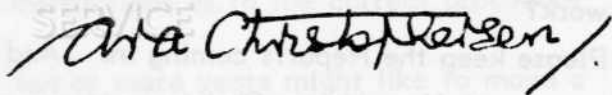
and to welcome, as her replacement, Doris Gross, who has until recently, been WRVS Area Organiser, London North. The Association News is such a very good way for us all to keep in touch.

156 members attended the AGM in Bristol and we are all very grateful to Mrs Mary Garland, Mrs Kaye Barker, Mrs Freda Johnston, Mrs Jane MacFarlane and all the local members for looking after us so well and providing us with a delicious lunch - special thanks to those gallant members who stood out in the pouring rain to direct us to the hall. It was a most happy day and great fun to renew old friendships.

As I am most anxious that as many members as possible should have the opportunity to attend Annual General Meetings, we will continue to choose the venues in different Areas throughout the country. So far, since the first years when our membership was small, we have tried to spread the "catchment area" and have been to Birmingham, Pudsey and Brixton. Next year we plan to go north, and the following year, our Golden Jubilee in 1988, we will be back again in London.

In the coming year, do you think it would be possible for each one of us to try to contact any local Association members with whom we may have lost touch? As we get older, it is the happy memories of shared experience and old friendships which give us a sense of belonging. Having spent many years giving service to others, we must be certain that our fellow members shall be given all the support they may need and deserve in their less active and more lonely years.

Although it may seem rather early to do so, I would like to send you my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Chairman

EDITORIAL

Taking over as your News Editor is no easy task. I promise I will try and keep up the standard of past Editors. However, for those of you who complained, there will be no more very small print! Even if it means that there won't be as much in the newsletter. I'll do my best to provide something to suit most tastes, but it is not easy to please everyone. So please let me know what you would like to see in your keep-in-touch magazine. It won't be possible to reply to everyone for purely economic (postage) reasons, but rest assured we will take note of your views and pass on any problems to be dealt with locally.

WRVS is getting older, and so are our Association members. The membership of the Association is growing too. I would particularly like to hear from those, who, for whatever reason, cannot attend meetings, and for whom the Association News is the only way they can keep in touch. By and large the Association News can be a bit nostalgic. The WRVS Newspaper brings information on current trends and developments. Do you receive a copy?

Articles by Miss Duke and others in recent editions of the News have brought further fascinating reports from members about Services Welfare Overseas towards the end of the Second World War, and more have been promised. With the 50th Anniversary of WRVS approaching in 1988 we shall be thinking back to our wartime origins. If there are other members who worked in Services Welfare during or immediately after the war who have not yet sent in their memoirs, please do so. It might be a good idea to put it all together in our 50th Anniversary edition. And would you like Home Front snippets too, or perhaps coverage of other aspects of WRVS work?

Please keep the Reports coming in. And may I wish

A Very Happy Christmas to you all, and all you would wish yourselves for 1987.

Editor

The REUNION and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place this year in Bristol. There is no need to go into details as Minutes are being sent with this Newsletter. Suffice it to say that all 156 members who attended had a very enjoyable day.

Just a final word about it. One Area Representative has written to say that their member who attended was impressed by the efficient organisation and numbers attending. This is a pat on the back for the officers and committee of the Association, and the members of WRVS locally. (Your new Editor, of course, not having any responsibility on this occasion).

Another member who made the journey was Mrs Hall of Kent, over 90 years of age. Congratulations to her. So why not come and join us next year?

* ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION *
* AT THE AGM OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN BRISTOL *
* IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION *
* SHOULD BE INCREASED TO £1.50 FROM JANUARY 1st 1987 *

Will members please help Headquarters office by sending their subscriptions for 1987 as soon as possible and not wait until January 1st. New members who join after September 1986 do not have to pay again until January 1988.

Bankers Orders. Members paying by Banker's Orders will each receive a letter from HQ enclosing a new Bankers Order form with instructions as to the correct procedure to be followed.

Life Members of ten or more years might like to make a voluntary donation and we are grateful to those who have already done so.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS 1986

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

OBE

Mrs Elizabeth Muriel Campbell
Vice-Chairman
Scotland

MBE

Mrs Patricia Mary Linton
Area Organiser
NW4

BEM

Mrs Anne Clark
Stockport
NW2

Mrs Jeanie McLeod Goggin
Doncaster
NE4

Mrs Elsie May Lawrenson
Prison Canteen Organiser
NW1

Mrs Madelaine Daphne S. Maisey
Purchasing & Supplies Organiser
HQ

Mrs Doreen Hayes Vesey
County Good Companions Organiser
HC/A1

Mrs Morva Joyce White
Clothing Organiser, Salisbury
SW1

The following members also received honours for services to the community:

MBE

Mrs Olive Macleod, Lochinvar, Scotland

BEM

Mrs Joan Boyd, Duns & Berwick District

Mrs Marjorie Mills, Slough

OBITUARY

We are sorry to learn that the following members have died since the publication of the May 1986 "News".

Mrs M.E. Shaw	Manchester
The Hon. Mrs Evans-Frere	Essex
Mrs M.L. Perress	London
Miss R. Driver	NE4
Miss M. Nield	NW1
Mrs M. Cunnington	Wales
Miss G.E.V. Lewis	Sussex
Mrs M. Pitcher	Berkshire
Mrs E. Bullock BEM	Yorkshire
Mrs M. Jacob	Staffordshire
Mrs M. Jackson	Warwickshire
Mrs V.E. Lewis	Hertfordshire
Mrs J.I. Mason	Leicester
Mrs N. Simpson	Yorkshire
Mrs V. Howard BEM	Kent
Mrs K.J. Symington	Norfolk
Mrs E. Golightly	Surrey
Mrs H. Gammon	Hampshire
Mrs W.B. Davis	Somerset
Miss D. Butler	Kent
Mrs M.M. Thompson	Gloucester
Mrs K. Craven	Notts
Miss M. Cheek	SE1
Miss F.A. Urry	SE1
Miss D.E.H. Du Boulay	London
Mrs C. Warden	Hertfordshire
Mrs E.O. Davies	South Glamorgan
Mrs L. Fitzsimmons	London NW
Miss V.O. Hume-Spry	East Sussex
Mrs W. Cheshire	Surrey
Mrs M.E. Ward-Jackson	London SE
Mrs C.M. Munson	H/C3
Mrs A. Lavis-Jones	Wales
Mrs A.H. Edwards	Wales Clwyd
Mrs V. Webber	H/C2
Miss Noel Streatfeild, author, who was a Life Member of the Association.	

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

FROM ROUND THE COUNTRY

24 Members at an Association Lunch in Harrogate totalled between them 425 years of service to WRVS. Is this a record?

WRVS was escorting a wife and child to visit the husband in prison. Sadly, the car broke down. A police car stopped, a policeman said: "Don't worry, my dear, we'll drive them there." Comment by the wife: "The police ain't so bad, are they?"

Mrs Evelyn Standing, a member of the Hull Association group, has much enjoyed her year of office as Mayor of Beverley. She invited members of the various groups in North Humberside to a conducted tour of Beverley County Hall, and tea in the Mayor's Parlour.

Mrs J. Brown of the Epsom and Ewell Association was able to join with other war widows the visit arranged by the British Legion to the Kranji Cemetery in Singapore. "We joined in a dawn service with the New Zealand Forces in memory of Anzac Day, and this was very moving. We all left feeling more at peace having visited our husbands' graves".

WRVS Wales had a very early morning emergency call in early August to aid caravanners caught in a holiday horror flood at the big Conwy Morfa Caravan Camp. Nine people were taken to hospital, and 14 caravans were wrecked. Members of Aberconwy District hurried to open a Rest Centre in a local Church House, which proved a haven of comfort for the caravanners, who included a very frightened party of German Boy Scouts.

REPORT FROM SCOTLAND Mrs A.P. HART, CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion was held in May. 62 members were there, and the Hon. Mrs Mary Corsar, WRVS Chairman for Scotland, who was present, brought members up to date with news of the Service. Miss E. Carter has resigned as Secretary/Treasurer, and Mrs I. Jarron has succeeded her, assisted by Mrs J. Clark. £200 was donated from funds to the WRVS Benevolent Trust.

Central Region meet regularly. They much enjoyed a talk by Mrs Sime of the Seagull Trust about canal cruising for the disabled.

Dumfries and Galloway. Mrs J. Hannay does her best to get together the very scattered members in this part of Scotland.

Fife members are hoping that the new Dunfermline Office will prove a more suitable meeting place than the Regional Office in Cupar, with its many stairs.

Grampian has a wide-ranging programme of speakers for 1986, including one on recent archeological excavations in Aberdeen.

Lothian and SHQ continue to enjoy their bridge. The Jarron Quaich was won this time by Mrs E. Wilson of Scottish HQ. They are planning to produce their own magazine.

Strathclyde. A Chairman (Mrs M. Chalmers) and committee have been elected, and an interesting programme of events planned. They have visited Hiram Walker's bottling plant, where the whisky was found to be untouched by human hand from beginning to end. Sadly there were no samples. They plan to go to another Distillery in Crieff in September.

Tayside. Members from Dundee and Angus went to Letham Village for a visit to a local craft shop and heather nursery, followed by tea.

WALES MRS L. BROTHERTON

Wales now has a membership of 180. They celebrated a first - their first ever Association Reunion for the whole country. Mrs H. Foster, OBE, as National Chairman, joined with 51 members from different parts of Wales.

Mrs J. Walden-Jones, Chairman of WRVS for Wales, reviewed current activities. It was agreed to hold a Welsh Reunion every year.

Mrs E. Edwards BEM, has agreed to be County Representative for Clwyd, and Mrs A. Nicholas for Dyfed.

A very successful luncheon reunion for all southern Counties was held in September.

Colwyn Bay, Dyfed, had their first meeting since the formation of their group. Wrexham and Rhyl and District were invited too. 56 members were there for tea and to hear a wonderful account of a Bahamian wedding which one member had attended. Altogether a great success.

REPORTS FROM THE AREAS

NW AREA 1. Mrs B.F. Wilson MBE

Cumbria. Miss Stevenson reports some progress, but members are widely scattered and meetings are difficult to organise.

Lancashire. Mrs Mitchell says there have been two meetings, one at the invitation of St. Anne's members. Membership is now 74.

NW AREA 2

Mrs Rawlinson reports from Bolton that members have held meetings, continued to knit for the SCF and are looking forward to a Christmas lunch. They have a few new members.

NW AREA 4

Merseyside and Wallasey. Mrs Draper reports that there is now a membership of 62, with 26 from Wallasey, and they have had luncheon gatherings in Birkenhead and Wallasey.

NE AREA 1. Mrs C.V. SMURTHWAITE MBE

Northumbria produces an excellent Newsletter of their own, and donated £230 to the Benevolent Trust.

Northumberland County (Mrs J. Eastwood). Alnwick (Mrs Kohler) has coffee mornings, as does Ashington (Mrs Pratt). In March they went to a performance of "Oklahoma" by the Blyth Operatic Society. Some Association members entertain the local Darby and Joan Club with songs, and Club members went to the theatre with them.

Ponteland (Mrs Frise) continues to knit for the SCF, and members enjoy the local WRVS Annual Lunch.

North Tyneside (Mrs Frew and Mrs Weallens).

North Shields & Tyneside. Membership has gradually increased. Flowers and small gifts are sent to members in time of illness or trouble, and visits are made.

Whitley Bay (Mrs Dawson) has a monthly Coffee Pot gathering. They gave a Christmas party for the residents of Clifton Court.

Sunderland (Mrs Ainsley). Membership has now reached 27. Mrs J. Owen gave a talk on a journey in Nepal, where she was carried down a ravine, across a rushing river, and up the other side by a Sherpa porter. Another talk was by a police sergeant on "Security in the Home". From the exotic to the practical!

An Area outing to the Tall Ships Race was being planned, and efforts for Africa continue in all groups.

NE AREA 2. Mrs B. BURKITT

Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire

A number of very lively groups. Selby met once, but Harrogate meets monthly, with a varied programme, and

York (Mrs Venables) arranged a group holiday in the Wirral Peninsular, visiting many interesting places. Cleveland (Mrs Stamp) together with Hartlepool meets monthly for social functions, and had a lovely coach outing to Swaledale. So if you live in these cities there is much to offer. Elsewhere, such as Darlington there are small beginnings. However the main problem remains the very spread-out nature of many parts of the Area, particularly in North Yorkshire. Any suggestions as to how to start new groups will be gratefully received.

NE AREA 3. Mrs P. JAMES, MBE

Mrs James reports a new group in Pocklington with nine members.

£300 was raised for the WRVS Benevolent Trust at a "Coffee and Talent Sale", supported by over 70 members from all parts of the Area.

The Area Annual meeting was held on 7th April at Bishop Burton College of Agriculture, and 58 members were present. The Vice-Principal of the College, Mr M.J. Withers, gave a talk on the history and work of the College, and Mrs C. Mudge, the Head of Rural Home Economics, amazed everyone with her description of courses available

Lincolnshire. Mrs D. Cook reports that groups meet regularly in Skegness, Market Rasen and Sutton-on-Sea, and she joins them whenever possible, as well as making visits to elderly members in hospital.

South Humberside (Mrs D. Stokes). A group meet in Grimsby and added £60 to the Benevolent Trust total.

North Humberside and Hull. The outstanding occasion was an appeal by two local doctors for help manning a stall outside Sainsburys for three days to collect dried baby milk to be sent to Poland for small babies at the time of the Chernobyl disaster. Sainsburys sold out, and £400 was collected in addition. With a little help from the County Organiser, Association members, and their husbands worked out a

complete rota and are proud that they can still rise to an emergency.

NE AREA 4 Mrs L. ZIEGLER MBE

Wakefield Area sent £300 in all for the Benevolent Trust, and two successful outings were arranged. Another first: an all-Area meeting was held on 18th June, which it was hoped might become an annual event.

MIDLANDS AREA 2. Thank you to Mrs A. TYLER and welcome to Mrs H. SMITH.

Mrs Tyler reports that Nottingham City now has a firmly-established Association Group. They are designing and ordering their own Christmas Cards.

A County Committee has also been formed at a fully representative meeting of Districts and City, and a further meeting is planned.

Miss Lovett tells us that Mansfield (Mrs Johnson) had a meeting at the Centre for the Deaf, and presented a cheque for £108 (collected at a coffee morning) towards the Centre's Building Fund. Bassetlaw had a coffee morning and Broxtowe members visited the Nottingham Evening Post Offices.

Ashfield enjoyed a strawberry tea at the home of the branch secretary, Mrs Knighton. She has recently been on a visit to Australia, where she saw a MOW kitchen and helped in a Hospital Kiosk. She was invited to join the annual cruise given by the Hospital Board up the Hawkesbury River.

Newark held an inauguration lunch in February 1986 for 30 members, when the guest speaker was the Mayoress, who spoke of her appreciation of the work done by WRVS. In May they came down to earth with a talk from P.C. Chalk on Security in the Home. Gedling have regular social gatherings with speakers, including Superintendent Gill of the Nottingham Constabulary on the day-to-day work of the Police and Rushcliffe has monthly coffee mornings, one in the Larwood/Voce Bar of the Nottingham Cricket Club. They seem to find a different venue each time, all of considerable interest.

HOME COUNTIES ANGLIA AREA 3. MRS E.D. CLAYDON
One branch adopted an Old People's Home for Christmas,
and one branch has asked members to take second-class
stamps to meetings to help keep expenses down.

SOUTH EAST, AREA 1. MISS M.T. COOKE MBE
Miss Cooke has sent up to date news of the Counties.

Surrey. Epsom and Ewell, Guildford and Woking all have
varied programmes of meetings and outings, some of
which are joint ventures. Woking had a "Mystery Drive",
and a garden party in August.

Mrs E. Speirs has retired as County Representative but is
remaining on the National Committee. She has been
succeeded by Mrs B. Stirling. East Kent has luncheon
meetings in members' homes. One speaker was Miss
E. Moloney of WRVS Services Welfare, who gave a most
interesting talk about her work overseas and at home.
Mrs K. Banwell has retired as County Representative, and
Mrs B. Wright replaces her.

West Kent. Mrs B. Bright reports a few more members.

Sussex. Brighton, Eastbourne and Hove have regular
meetings and outings. Hove included a coach outing to
Chartwell for 50 people and enjoyed the Churchill paintings
and the peace of the gardens. Wealden and Hastings also
organise gatherings for members and have nine new ones.

SOUTH EAST AREA 2

Hampshire

Mrs M. Albrow reports on a very pleasant spring Reunion
at Havant, saddened by the death of Miss Hilda Gammon,
a founder-member, at the age of 88. She will long be
remembered.

Mrs Albrow is in touch with an Association member recently
moved to the Isle of Wight who would like to help form an
Island Association. Anyone else interested, please?

West Sussex Miss D. Yardley tells us that some members are now too housebound to attend meetings but they do try to keep in touch with them. In Bognor members work with the local branch of the SCF.

40 members attended the annual Lunch Party in Rustington on a sunny day in July at the home of Mr and Mrs Spencer. Mrs Win. Taylor (City and Special Projects Organiser) gave an amusing talk on the Lord Mayor's Show.

SOUTH WEST AREA 1. MRS K. BARKER, BEM Tewkesbury had a successful luncheon gathering followed by a talk from Rev. Moxon on the history of St. Paul's Cathedral. He had helped arrange the WRVS 40th Anniversary Service.

Over 15,000 garments have been produced for Ethiopia and there has been a request for soft toys for tiny babies in Tigray who are too ill to be moved.

SOUTH WEST AREA 2. MISS M. SCOTT. Miss Scott tells us of a new group in Plymouth, and some interest in Exeter. Somerset has an increased membership, and in all there have been 42 new members since January. Transport remains the biggest problem.

LONDON SE AREA. MRS E.G. BLOCK MBE
The Organisers of the Woolwich Central Clothing Store kindly invited members to visit the store and the new Thames Flood Barrier nearby. The latter proved to be a rare sight, as the Barrage was being tested, to the accompaniment of loud sirens, and some of the gates were in the flood position. One by one, the enormous towers were swinging them slowly into the "open for ships" position.

JERSEY. MRS D.M. BATHURST

Now has eleven members, meeting monthly, with outings as well, including one to the Zoo.

P L E A S E
AREA REPORTS TO THE EDITOR
NOT LATER THAN THE
END OF JANUARY 1987.

Tall ones, small ones, thin, slim and fat,
People of all ages step upon our mat.
We do our best to clothe them
And give them what they like,
Doing so with smiling faces, never coming out
on strike.

Off the shelves come garments,
Out of cupboards, shoes.
These are taken to our clients,
They wonder what to choose.
Many leave us happily, outfitted top to toe,
Some we cannot satisfy, as all they say is "No".
We see them off out of the door, to go their
laden way

Knowing very likely they'll come another day
To step again upon our mat
The tall, the small, thin, slim and fat.

Mrs T. Dunton, Poole

One cold wet Friday morning found
The van and team for Herston bound.
From there to Worth - one meal delivered,
(The wind blew hard, and how we shivered)
Then back along the road we sped:
When suddenly we pulled up dead.
We'd quite forgotten, what a sin,
The two who live behind the Inn.
"We'll just turn here" - an open gate
Lured the two to a sticky fate.
The steamed back window all concealed
They ended in a muddy field.
The van was stuck: that fact was plain,
And though they pushed with might and main
The wheels but deepened in the mire
Which reached near half-way up the tyre.
And now, Oh joy, a ray of hope
A farmer came with jeep and rope,
A jerk, a skid, a gurgling murmur
And there we were on terra firma.
Some words of thanks, then off once more
To take the meals from door to door.
Because the most important plan
Is not why we can't, but how we can.

Miss G.W. Date, Swanage

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In November 1956 WRVS was busy helping with the relief of Hungarian refugees. One local paper reported: "A man, his wife and three children crawled on their stomachs through mud - he with the smallest child on his back - and slept in a forest before reaching the border. They realise, he said, that the work of the WVS is voluntary, and is full of praise for the Organisation".

In December 1966, the Queen Mother took tea with 800 members of WRVS in St. James Palace. "The Queen Mother looked radiant, and was followed round the Palace by her Corgi dog."

Were any of you personally involved on these occasions?

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON

North Area Mrs M. Downing BEM,

NE Area Mrs I. Millinaton,

SE Area Mrs E.G. Block MBE,

SW Area Mrs M. Forsdick MBE,

NW Area Mrs M. Julian,

NORTH WEST

Area 1 Mrs B.F. Wilson MBE,

AREA REPRESENTATIVES (continued)NORTH EAST

AREA 1 Mrs C.V. Smurthwaite MBE,

AREA 2 Mrs B. Burkitt,

AREA 3 Mrs P. James, MBE.

AREA 4 Mrs L. Zeigler MBE,

MIDLANDS

AREA 1 Mrs W. Pengilly,

AREA 2 Mrs H. Smith,

HOME COUNTIES, Anglia

AREA 3 Mrs E.D. Claydon,

SOUTH EAST

AREA 1 Miss M.T. Cooke. MBE,

AREA 2 Mrs D.J. Simpkins BEM,

SOUTH WEST

AREA 1 Mrs K. Barker BEM,

AREA 2 Miss M. Scott,

WALES Mrs L. Brotherton.SCOTLAND Chairman, Scottish Section

Mrs A.P. Hart,