



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



H.M.S.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
NO. 29 - MAY 1989

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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Mrs. A.M. Wilson

Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross,

Area Representatives are ex-officio members of the
Committee. See back pages.

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* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *
* The Annual General Meeting will be held in *
* CHESTER *
* on Wednesday, 7th June 1989 *

We hope to see as many members as possible on that day. Full details are enclosed with this Newsletter.

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES...

Dear Member,

It seems impossible that nearly three years have gone by since I first wrote to you. The time has passed even more quickly than usual. I feel very privileged to have been your Chairman during the wonderfully interesting year of our Golden Jubilee.

Our A.G.M. this year will be in Chester on 7th. June, which should make it easier for those of you who live in North Wales, North West and Midlands Divisions to meet each other. Your Committee has now managed to arrange for these meetings to be held in most parts of the country, as well as every third year in London.

We are most fortunate that the new WRVS Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, will, as President of the Association, take the Chair at our A.G.M..

May I take this opportunity of thanking all the Area and County Representatives, the elected Committee members, Association Headquarters staff, and the Hon. Editor of the Newsletter for their support and kindness to me. I have very much enjoyed meeting so many of you when visiting different Areas.

With all my very best wishes to all of you.

Awa Christophersen

Chairman
WVS/WRVS Association

EDITORIAL

I hope you found the print in the last Newsletter to your liking. The Print and Computer Rooms used my Amstrad disc and were able to produce a copy for printing in 3 hours instead of the three days it took to retype it. The wonders of modern science! Clearly you all had a lovely Jubilee Year. I have included a few late reports, as the Jubilee lasted until after the previous Newsletter went to Press.

Many thanks to those of you who sent in Recipes. I'm sorry I hadn't enough room for all of them, but I omitted the more complicated ones! They are, as I promised, all suitable for one or two people. Its hard to be innovative when cooking for oneself alone.

I thought that for the next edition we might deal with Emergency Services. We know there is one among us at least who helped with the Lynton and Lynmouth floods. Is there anyone out there who struggled in the mud of Aberfan? Or were you at Flixborough, at the Stansted highjack, or at any of the other civilian disasters which sadly have taken place over the years. Post war emergencies, please. And don't forget the "little" emergencies too, which were just as important though smaller in scale, but often had a happy ending. Please let me have your stories for the records.

WRVS rarely gets much publicity and credit for the support it gives to the victims, rescuers and firefighters at disasters. Let's give some publicity to ourselves!

Finally, a big Thank You to the Print and Computer Rooms who produced this Newsletter, and to Mrs. Wilkinson who once again provided our illustrations.

Mrs. D. Gross

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1988

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

OBE

Major T.H. Perkins Lately Chief
Administration Officer
WRVS Headquarters

MBE

Lately Area Organiser Mrs. J. Ford
HC/Anglia Area 2

BEM

Mrs. M. Flint Deputy Metropolitan Organiser
Manchester

Mrs. E.M. Fromhold Member, Basildon

Mrs. D.W. Hood MOW Organiser, Penarth

Mrs. B. McDonald County Food Organiser, East
Sussex

Mrs. D.I. McQueen Emergency Services, Devon

Mrs. J.L.K. Thurston Member. Wallington

The following names also appear in the Honours List:

OBE

Mrs. T.E. Webb Bedford

MBE

Mr. R. Rogers Norfolk

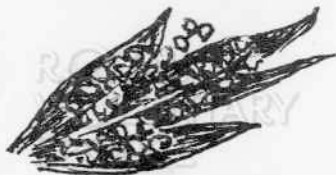
BEM

Mrs. M. Talbot Kent

OBITUARY

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of the following members since the last Newsletter.

Mrs. D.E. Rothschild, OBE	London North		
Mrs. W.A. Benton	MID 3	Miss M. Brassey	
Mrs. G.E. Morgan	Wales	Mrs. J. Wotton	MID 3
Mrs. H. Nobbs	SE 1	Mrs. H. Higgins	SE 1
Mrs. M. Newell	HC 1	Mrs. H. Hunter	NW2
Mrs. D. Kershaw	Wales	Mrs. R. Evans	Wales
Mrs. E.E. Jones	MID 2	Mrs. M.K. Bell	NE 2
Mrs. M.D. Harrison	NE 1	Miss R. Burrell	HC 3
Mrs. D. Parker	NE 1	Mrs. G.W. Bower	NW 4
Mrs. V.L. Crighton	HC 3	Mrs. V.E. Greenwood	MID 1
Mrs. Coles	HC 1	Mrs. M. Yeomans	SW 1
Mrs. H.J. Briggs	SW 1	Mrs. M.K. Hoare	SE 2
Mrs. J.M. Johnson	MID 2	Mrs. I.G. Addison	SE 1
Mrs. K.M. Lamb	SW 2	Mrs. D.M. Adams	HC 3
Mrs. L.W. Maskell	HC 1	Mrs. V. Robertson	NE 2
Mrs. D. Davison	NE 2	Mrs. E. Jackson	NW 2
Mrs. G.E. Surman	SW 2	Mrs. M.C. Fulford	NE3
Miss N.K. Allen	NE 3	Mrs. M.A. Gouda	Lon.N.
Mrs. D.M. Findlay	SW 1	Mrs. O. Thomas	Wales
Mrs. E. Nicholson	NW 1	Mrs. K.E. Bishop	SW 1
Miss J.F.M. Norville	SW 1	Mrs. D.N. Bullock	SW 1
Mrs. M.H. Ayton	SE 1	Mrs. M.L. Eagle	SE 2
Mrs. C.M. Williams	Wales	Mrs. A. Broad	Wales
Mrs. J. Appleton	SE 1	Mrs. L.C. Garner	NE 3
Miss H. Cass	NE 3	Mrs. E.M. Leek	HC 3
Mrs. J.D. Greatrix	MID 2	Mrs. J. Cocks	NE 3
Mrs. D. Spencer	NE 3	Mrs. M. Heron MBE	NE 1



ASSOCIATION RECIPES

Sunderland reports that at one of their meetings they had a demonstration of "cooking for one" by one of their Association members. They say "thank you, Margot, for an amusing and delicious morning".



FISH

Cod and Mushroom Pie Mrs. K. Turner, Sheffield
 One cod steak or portion of white fish One onion
 $\frac{1}{2}$ can mushroom soup One tablespoon milk.
 Trim and wash fish, Place in fireproof dish. Finely chop onion. Mix soup, onion and milk and warm. Pour over fish. Bake Gas mark 5 for 30 mins.

POULTRY

Savoury Chicken Joints Mrs. K. Turner, Sheffield
 One or two chicken joints. $\frac{1}{2}$ can mushroom soup
 salt and pepper.
 Trim and wash joints and put in casserole. Pour in soup and cover with foil or lid. Cook Gas mark 4 for 40-50 mins.

Jewelled Rice (Serves one) Mrs. B. Woodford, London
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cupful long grain rice 2 eggs hard boiled and diced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ packet frozen mixed vegetables, plus peppers and sweet corn. Grilled skinless chicken fillets. Cooked Prawns (defrosted or fresh).
 Boil good cupful of water. Add rice, teaspoon of oil and pinch of salt. When cooked, fluff up with fork. Cook vegetables, mix with eggs, Season with cayenne. curry powder or marjoram, etc. to taste. Arrange

vegetables in ring of rice, and top with chicken strips and prawns.
Sprinkle chopped parsley, mint or watercress over rice.

Chicken Special Serves two Mrs. A. Shaw, Hartlepool
2 chicken breasts 1oz. butter
1lb. seasoned flour small onion
can 10oz. condensed cream of mushroom soup. Sherry
Melt butter in frying pan. Coat chicken fillets with
seasoned flour and cook gently until golden brown.
Place in casserole dish. Chop onion finely and cook
gently until clear, add soup and cooking sherry and
stir until it boils. Pour over chicken fillets and
cook for 1 hour, 170c or gas Mark 3.

MEAT

WVS Loaf Mrs. M. Page, Canterbury
Three-quarters of a pound of minced beef or pork.
2oz. mushrooms 1 apple peeled, chopped.
2oz oats 1 egg
1 tablespoon milk seasoning
Mix together. Bake in a greased loaf tin for 1½
hours, gas mark 4.

A recipe for Lamb Chops Mrs. L. Brotherton, Wales
One tin of Italian chopped tomatoes. Dried thyme
Required number of chump chops of Welsh Lamb. Red Wine.
Line the bottom of a large casserole with the tomatoes.
Remove excess fat and gristle parts from the chops, and
lay them on top of the tomatoes and sprinkle with dried
thyme. Pour in sufficient red wine just to reach the
chops and cook in a moderate oven C180 F 350, Gas mark
4 for 1½ hours. If necessary add a little more red
wine which has been warmed, or boiling water, so that
the dish does not become dry. About half way through
the cooking add salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Panacaty for Micro-Wave cooking. Mrs. E. Stamp
Hartlepool
6oz. corned beef or cooked beef 1 lb. potatoes

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sliced onions. Tin of oxtail soup
Place layer of thinly sliced potatoes in a dish, then a layer of meat, a layer of onion rings and finally a layer of sliced potatoes. Pour in oxtail soup. Cover with cling film, (airtight), and cook 10 minutes on FULL, 25 minutes on MEDIUM. Leave to rest.

DESSERTS

Chocolate Crumbs. Mrs. M. Page, Canterbury
Mix together equal quantities of grated dark plain chocolate and fresh brown breadcrumbs (rubbed through a sieve). Put in small dishes topped with cream. (An old recipe given to me by an Aunt)

Marshmallow Dreams Mrs. D. Buckland, London
16oz. tin of peaches. Drain and arrange in individual fireproof dishes. Crumble two sponge cakes and sprinkle over fruit. Arrange 4 marshmallows on each dish. Preheat oven to 350F Mark 4. Bake in oven until slightly melted and brown, (just a few minutes). Other fruit can be used.

CAKES & BISCUITS

Connie's Cake Mrs. C. White, London
3 oz. margarine and $1\frac{1}{2}$ table spoons golden syrup melted in saucepan. Do not boil. Remove from heat and add 8oz. digestive bisuits crushed and $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoonfuls of cocoa. Mix together and press into a 7in. greased tin and put in the frig. Can be decorated with icing for special occasions. Keeps well in an airtight tin, but do not store with other cakes or it will become soggy.

Bara Brith (Welsh Bread) Mrs. C. White, London
Soak three quarters of a pound dried mixed fruit and 6oz. caster sugar with a cup of cold strained tea overnight. Next day, add three quarters of a pound of self-raising flour and 1 large egg. Mix well until smooth. Bake in a 7in. greased tin (I use a square one) on the bottom shelf of a slow oven Mark 2 for $1\frac{1}{2}$

hours. Reduce oven to a quarter, and cover the loaf with foil (to prevent the crust becoming too hard) for another 30 Minutes. This loaf keeps well and if wrapped in foil will keep in a deep freeze for a few weeks. Butter just before using

Chocolate Crunch Cake Mrs. M. Lowe, London
12 oz. plain cooking chocolate. 4oz. Butter or marger.
1 large can Nestle Milk, condensed. 10 oz Rich tea
biscuits broken into pieces.

Melt together half the chocolate with marger and condensed milk. Stir in biscuits broken into pieces. Pack mixture into 6" cake tin lined with greased foil. Chill for 3 hours. Turn out, and spread over the remaining melted chocolate. Decorate with toasted nuts.

Honey Biscuits Mrs. V. Preston, Hartlepool
Gently melt and stir together 5 tbs, Honey and 4oz margarine. Put into large basin: 6 oz. S.R. flour, 1 teaspoon ginger, 4oz. brown sugar, 4oz. oats and 2oz. currants. Stir in margarine and honey: if a little too sticky, add a little more flour. Roll into small balls (approx 30-32). Bake at 325 in electric oven, allow to cool, then put on wire tray.

A MAN'S CAKE

Not long ago I thought I'd bake

A really super-special cake.

Of course I did it, like a man,

With order, method and a plan.

I whisked the eggs and creamed the fat,

Mixed them with flour and that was that.

The fruit then had a thorough wash

and straight into the mixture, splosh!

When it was baked 'twas plain to see

I'd made a new discovery,

For when cut horizontally

Half was Madeira - half Dundee!

Anon.

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROUND THE COUNTRY

Another Anniversary! Miss M. Cowell, the first WVS Services Welfare Area Organiser in Hong Kong, has sent us the following letter:

"I became involved in the 'Yangtse Incident', which was when H.M.S. Amethyst escaped after being pinned down for three weeks in the Yangtse River by the Chinese in 1949, and finally arrived with great rejoicing in Hong Kong. Later, I returned to England on the same troop ship as the Amethyst wounded, and when the Amethyst Association was formed, I was made a member, and I have attended the A.G.M. and Reunion Dinner each year. 1989 is the 40th. Anniversary of the "Incident", and the preparations are being made to celebrate - I feel very proud to represent WRVS on such a memorable occasion as well as going in my own right as a member of the Amethyst Association. So WVS/WRVS has another place in history."

Mrs. J. Dunn, of

..... served with WVS India during the war in Lahore, Kashmir and Bombay. She would love to hear from anyone else who served in these parts of the country, and who may have known her.

Mrs. T. Barrow of NE 1 was privileged to be among those chosen few who were invited to attend the reception given by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee. "I walked across the floor. It seemed a long way. I was greeted by the P.M. who said 'Good evening', and I reciprocated.....Among the hostesses was Mrs. Edwina Currie who told me she had a very bad press and had never mentioned chips in connection with the North of England! Another member told Mrs. Angela Rumbold a few home truths about Nursery Schools, while the P.M. was heard to express

her admiration of the Gateshead Metro Centre. Mrs. Thatcher gave a short talk saying how much she admired the work of the WRVS: Dame Barbara Shenfield replied, and we all trooped unwillingly down the stairs and back to reality!"

Mrs. P. James (NE3) reports: "On October 11th, 1988, the N. Humberside Emergency Services Organiser mounted an exercise for her newly trained teams...A Rest Centre was set up in the Guide Hut at the Guides Centre at Raywell Park, Cottingham, and 16 'old girls', three from Hull and 13 from North Humberside, became evacuees for the day, registered on arrival, were given hot coffee and biscuits, and offered clothing and first aid! At 12 noon there was a piping hot stew with mashed potatoes, followed by stewed apple and custard, all cooked on three trench cookers and a Soyer Boiler....A very successful day, and we oldies can have no qualms about leaving emergencies in younger hands!"

Altrincham Mrs. M. Rogers. They invited both the Red Cross and the Townswomen's Guild to give talks, and the latter reciprocated by inviting an Association member to talk to them. They also put an Advert in the local free newspaper, and recruited four new members: one of them had worked in the WVS in India and was otherwise out of touch.

Mrs. Jenny MacLennan, who worked at HQ, has returned to Australia. She is anxious to get in touch with any ex-WRVS or Services Welfare Members now living in Australia in order to try and form a Branch of the Association there. If any members have any names and addresses, or other information, of anyone they may have known in the Service who is now living in Australia, please let the Association office at Headquarters have the details, and they will pass them on to Mrs. MacLennan.

REPORT FROM SCOTLAND.

MRS. S. MATTLAND-MAKGILL-CRITCHON CHAIRMAN.

Scotland has 208 Life members and 328 annual members. Scottish HQ and Lothian Region have a full syllabus for 1989 and will meet every two months.

Strathclyde Glasgow has monthly meetings, and various outings to a distillery and the pantomime.

Dumbarton meets occasionally. To mark the 50th.

Anniversary they had dinner at a Hotel with a cake decorated like the 40th Anniversary tile. Members who could not be there received a piece of cake next day.

Fife Region Members attended the Regional Jubilee Day on 2nd November, and met the new Association Chairman for Scotland.

Highland Region Distances are long in this scattered area, and meetings difficult, but they keep in touch.

Grampian Region Aberdeen meets regularly, and they continue to knit for the WRVS store.

Tayside Region membership has increased, especially in Perth, and they enjoyed a Christmas lunch.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held in Aberdeen.

REPORT FROM WALES

MRS. L. BROTHERTON

Clwyd Mrs. E. Edwards, BEM

The Golden Jubilee Service was held in Wrexham on 4th. November. The Service was taken by the Rev. G.

Davies, whose connections with WRVS go back to his childhood, as his mother had been a member of WVS.

47 members went to Donnington in Shropshire for their Christmas lunch in a hotel. Mrs. Brotherton joined them in a happy get-together chat.

Aberystwyth held their Christmas lunch in late November.

Gwent Mrs. B. Travis, BEM

Newport has interesting meetings, and one group went for a coach tour to the Wye Valley to view the glorious autumnal colours of the trees. Mrs. D. Dunn arranged a magnificent tea in the village hall at St. Arvans where she lives. On 16th November Mrs. Waite gave a talk on the Antique Theatre Memorabilia which she had inherited from an Aunt. These included silk posters

and programmes, and signed letters, one from Queen Victoria and another from Florence Nightingale. They held their Christmas lunch in a little country pub in Llandefa.

REPORTS FROM THE AREAS

A welcome to the New Groups:
Castle Point, Essex, Sutton Coldfield and Erdington,

NW1 MRS. B.F.WILSON, MBE
Lancashire enjoyed a Christmas lunch, followed by a visit to the theatre.
Cumbria had a coffee get-together at the Castle, Carlisle, much enjoyed judging by the noise! Each County invites the other, but a round trip of 198 miles seems to be off-putting. We are sad to report that Miss M. Stevenson is retiring as our Organiser for South Lakeland and Barrow Districts. She has been a wonderful help in promoting the Association in Cumbria.

NW2 MRS. O CHURCHILL
Bolton Mrs. Rawlinson. At their Christmas party they raised £35 for the Bolton Hospice, making a total of £175 to date. There were two lunches, and an outing by coach. The driver said his mother had worked for WVS during the war - "surprising how we keep on cropping up, isn't it!" One lunch was in the garden at the home of the Secretary, Mrs. Wilkinson, in perfect weather.

Bury Mrs. Graham. After the superb garden party in the summer, Mrs. Graham again provided splendid refreshments for a group meeting in the District Office, when member Mrs. Cowie gave an interesting account of her world cruise, calling at 20 ports.

Trafford Altrincham Mrs. M. Rogers organised an excellent Christmas party with entertainment by a singer accompanied by member Mrs. Malden. At a meeting two WRVS members enthused on their visit to Leningrad, Moscow and Uzbekistan. Sale Mrs. Grimshaw. Member Mrs. Morewood got everyone busy making decorations for the Christmas party, at which

member Mrs. Coles accompanied the singer. To keep up with the times, there was a demonstration of microwave cooking by a 'Home Economics Adviser for Norweb, and to balance that, a film show from North West Gas, while a Health Visitor advised on "taking care of yourself". Attendance at meetings averages 25-30, and transport has been arranged for one or two members. Contact is kept with those unable to come through illness.

NW4

MRS. M.J.PRESTON

Wallasey continues to meet informally on the first Tuesday of each month at the Victoria Hotel, New Brighton, and the AGM was held on 4th November. A coach was hired to take members from various parts of the Wirral for the Jubilee Service at Liverpool Cathedral.

NEL

MRS. C. SMURTHWAITE MBE

Northumberland County Mrs. J. Eastwood. Members joined in the Jubilee lunch in Jesmond. Ashington Mrs. Pratt. Ashington held its own Golden Jubilee Service in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and there was a large turnout. The Association annual outing was to Beamish Museum - despite the hilly walking which has always deterred me from taking our Darbys there. Since most of us are now older than many of them, perhaps I should think again! The Association Birthday lunch was held at the Foresters Arms, West Sleekburn.

Ponteland Mrs. J. Hughes, MBE. All our group have been visited at various times during the year. The more active members continue with their various WRVS duties and represent WRVS on various committees. Gardening, Bridge and playing Bowls and Golf are some of the leisure activities undertaken.

North Tyneside Mrs E. Frew and Mrs. L. Weallans. Golden Jubilee functions were numerous and well supported. Flowers, gifts, the WRVS News and of course our very best wishes continue to be distributed to our sick and hospitalised members.

Whitley Bay. Mrs. Dawson. We thank Mrs. Stephenson

for organising our theatre tickets once again: several members were able to enjoy three productions at the local theatre. The Coffee Pot in North Shields is always well attended and proves to be a good morning.

Sunderland Mrs. M. Ainley. We have had talks on a variety of subjects. The Metropolitan District held their special Service in Houghton-le-Spring Parish Church to which the Mayor and Mayoress were invited. We celebrated for our own group with a Jubilee lunch at my home, everyone contributing something to eat and drink, including of course the birthday cake.

Newcastle Mrs. Yarrington. Newcastle continues to knit and members also made a wonderful collection of dressed dolls for Christmas parcels for needy children. We are pleased to welcome four members of Gateshead to share our meetings. We held a celebration Jubilee lunch of our own.

NE2. MRS. B. BURKITT
 The Golden Jubilee made 1988 such a memorable year. Wouldn't it be nice to find a time machine which could transport us to the centenary in 2038? I am certain of one thing, our people would still be doing their best.

Darlington Mrs. G. Evans and Mrs. B. Newman. The highlight of activities was a civic reception at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Darlington. Mrs. Horseman invited members to a lunch in her home. The Mayor was also present on our visit to the South Park to see the flower-bed commemorating our Golden Jubilee.

Harrogate Mrs. E. Taylor. There was a friendly Golden Jubilee Service in Harrogate. There are regular meetings, with talks and a bring and buy.

Hartlepool Mrs. E. Stamp. Meetings are many and varied, including carpet bowls and wine-making. There were two outings. The new Association choir led the singing at the Jubilee service.

Scarborough Mrs. J. Altass. There were three luncheons, and two meetings in the District Office.

York They meet socially twice a year, and are planning a mini-holiday in Scotland.

NE3.

MRS. P. JAMES, MBE

N. Humberside Mrs. P. Allison. They had the usual monthly coffee mornings in the Beverley Arms.

S. Humberside Mrs. D. Stokes MBE. Mrs. Stokes held her annual strawberry tea, which has developed into almost a family occasion. Those who don't get out much are helped by the younger members who bring their cars. A raffle and Bring and Buy enabled us to send £30 to the WRVS Benevolent Fund.

Lincolnshire Mrs. D. Cook BEM. Lincoln District WRVS organised a very good Jubilee Party in the Recreation Hall of the County Hospital, which Association members much enjoyed. Skegness is sorry to say goodbye to Nancy Newstead, its Organiser. We wish her well in her new home, and thank her for all her help in Skegness. Mrs. W. Reed has taken over from her. Market Rasen gets along nicely, and Sutton-on-Sea had a super coffee morning!

City of Hull Mrs. R. Tomlinson. They thank Cleethorpe for their hospitality at the AGM, and members went to one of other of the Jubilee Services.

NE4

MRS. L. ZIEGLER MBE

Sheffield Mrs. E. Adams BEM and Mrs. K.M. Turner Sheffield meets twice a month, with speakers and an update on WRVS news. On 4th. September there was a Service of Thanksgiving in Sheffield Cathedral, honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield. Refreshments were served afterwards in the famous Cutlers Hall. The Christmas Lunch was held on 30th. November, with a full attendance. At the Carol Service on 10th, December, the singing was led by the WRVS Choir.

MID AREA 1

Thank you to MRS. W. PENGILLEY
and Welcome to MRS. J.B. ROSE

MID AREA 2.

MRS. H. SMITH

Nottinghamshire Miss M. Lovett. Last year, there were three coffee mornings with speakers, and two luncheon meetings, all at the Willow Tree Inn. There

was a Jubilee Civic lunch at the Rushcliffe Civic Centre on 22nd. September. The Area Representative, Mrs. H. Smith, hosted a Buffet lunch in her home in September.

Gedling branch are financing the cost of a stained glass window in All Hallows Church in memory of the Golden Jubilee. More in our next edition.

Derbyshire held their Annual Reunion in Buxton, attended by the Mayor of Buxton and the High Sheriff.

Leicestershire followed up the delightful visit to Caithness Glass with a Christmas shopping spree! They enjoyed a coffee morning with WRVS Leicester members, joined by Mrs. H. Smith.

MID AREA 3

MRS M.F. OSWALD

In Jubilee Year I had the privilege of attending three services. At Coventry Cathedral, I had the honour of being a supporter of the Rosemary and Ivy. There was an advance rehearsal. We were worried about the floor which was like sheet ice! But we managed well on the day.

Solihull has always been a close group, but in Birmingham, Association members have been very scattered.

I suggested that Sutton Coldfield and Erdington form their own group, which they have done. They have had coffee mornings, and lunch at Birmingham Catering College. In January they said good-bye to Mrs. Kenrick, who has done so much to keep them together. Member Mrs. F. Banks has been running a Darby & Joan Club for 42 years. Is this a record?

The rest I am hoping to gather into Solihull or other new groups. At present, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall have no groups, but we are hoping to get something moving. Solihull meets three or four times a year for coffee, and these are well attended.

ANGLIA, AREA 1

MRS. E.C. CHARNLEY

At last we have a full compliment of County Reps..

Mrs.E. Woods MBE has agreed to take on Bedfordshire

where we have very few members at present.

Cambridgeshire Mrs. E. Connor. Huntingdon and Cambridge thrive, and interest is growing in Peterborough. Transport is a problem, but all the groups met together and welcomed staff from WRVS Area and County offices for their two pre-Christmas lunches!

Hertfordshire Mrs. E. Sewell MBE. Membership is thinly spread, so individual members who are active give support to the less able in their District, meeting once a year to exchange news.

Northamptonshire Mrs. A. Perkins MBE. Groups round the county meet for coffee mornings at members' homes.

ANGLIA, AREA 3.

MRS. E.D. CLAYDON

Essex Mrs. H. Bostock. A new Branch has been formed in Castle Point District, to join the well established and active Branches of Colchester, Malden and Southend.

Norfolk Mrs. M. Moss MBE. Mrs. Moss held a well-attended lunch at the WRVS County Office which resulted in 18 new members, and the hope that a Branch will be formed in Norwich. I look forward to this as it would be the first Branch in any of our County Towns! Great Yarmouth hired a coach to visit the Norwich double-sized Marks and Spencers and to attend a theatre matinee.

Suffolk Mrs. S. Laverton has several potential Branches 'pecking through the shell' to become 'fully fledged' and join those of Newmarket and Woodbridge. Two years ago there were none.

My two WRVS Organisers again allowed me the use of the Area Office for a lunchtime session with our Branch Organisers and their Deputies. Everyone seems to consider such annual meetings both useful and constructive - there is certainly no difficulty getting them to talk!

SE AREA 1

MISS M.T. COOKE MBE

East Kent

Canterbury Mrs. M.P. Tavener. Members enjoyed lunches and coffee mornings.

West Kent. Mrs. G. Bright. Members attended the Golden Jubilee Service in Wrotham Church in October, followed by tea.

Surrey Mrs. B. Stirling. Guildford held a tea party and coffee morning. Woking The Annual Luncheon was well attended in October, and members have enjoyed outings. Redhill is hoping to recruit members to form a branch.

East Sussex. Mrs. F. Smith MBE Brighton held a Christmas gathering. Eastbourne held a Christmas lunch. Hove have visited Standen House, a National Trust property, and 49 members enjoyed a Christmas tea in December. Hastings and Rother chose Battle for the venue of their Christmas party. North Wealden arranged a Golden Jubilee Service in Rotherfield Church and were pleased to welcome a founder member, Miss Porter. The service was followed by lunch. South Wealden held a Christmas lunch, and invited serving members and friends to join them.

SE AREA 2. MRS. D.J. SIMPKINS BEM
Hampshire Membership is now 92, and meetings are well attended - including some husbands, who much look forward to the reunions! 45 members joined in the Jubilee Service in Winchester Cathedral. The Autumn Reunion was held in Whitchurch, when Mr. C. Simpkins gave a talk on the manufacture of Bank Note and High Security Paper.

Sussex. It is regretted that the name of the Speaker at the Golden Jubilee lunch was wrongly given in the last news letter. The speaker on Services Welfare was Miss Willis. I'm afraid there was a problem because of the postal strike, which meant much copy being received by telephone! Editor.

SW 1 We are sorry to say good-bye to
MRS. K. RICHARDS

Gloucestershire Mrs. J. Connop.
75 members attended the November meeting, and welcomed Dame Frances Clode, DBE, President for the Association in Gloucestershire, and Mrs. Richards. Members

enjoyed a ploughman's lunch, including one member who was celebrating her 87th birthday and 50 years membership of WVS/WRVS.

SW AREA 2

MISS M. SCOTT

Things have been very quiet, but at long last there is a County Representative for Cornwall!

LONDON

The Annual London Reunion for all the London members was held on 20th October, 1988. Mrs. M. Downing, BEM, Area Representative for London North, welcomed the members, and recalled the early meetings, first at London Regional Office, and then at HQ until the floor became unsafe! It was then that the reunions were moved to the City. Miss K. Halpin, CBE, sent her apologies, and a get well message was sent to her from the meeting. Thanks were due to Mrs. P. Brautigam, Mrs. D. Powell all the other helpers, and to Mrs. D. Stevens for supplying the Golden Jubilee cake! Mrs. Downing announced her own retirement as an Area Representative at the end of December, and said that Mrs. D.E. Gross would take over from her. Mrs A. Christophersen, Chairman of the Association, later thanked Mrs. Downing for the excellent job she had done in keeping in touch with the members. She said that membership of the Association was increasing everywhere except in London, and asked members to encourage their colleagues and friends to join.

Postscript Only a few days after the Reunion, it was announced that London North was to be abolished. However, as there was a vacancy in London North East, your Editor found that she was not after all without another job! For those of you affected, the new list of four London Areas appears on the back pages of this Newsletter. Some of you resident in the old London North Area will be joining London NE, and some London NW. Mrs. Stevens or I will be in touch with all of you, and we assure you that you are not forgotten!

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON

NE Area Mrs. D. E. Gross,

SE Area Mrs. E.G. Block MBE,

SW Area Mrs. M. Forsdick MBE,

NW Area Mrs. D. M. Stevens,

NORTH WEST

Area 1. Mrs. B.F. Wilson MBE,

Area 2 Mrs. O. Churchill,

Area 4 Mrs. M. J. Preston,

NORTH EAST

Area 1 Mrs. C.V. Smurthwaite MBE,

Area 2 Mrs. B. Burkitt,

Area 3 Mrs. P. James MBE,

Area 4 Mrs. L. Ziegler MBE,

MIDLANDS

Area 1 Mrs. J. B. Rose,

Area 2 Mrs. H. Smith,

Area 3 Mrs. M. F. Oswald,

HOME COUNTIES, ANGLIA

Area 1 Mrs. E. C. Charnley,

Area 2 Mrs. M. Gordon,

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

Area 2 Miss M. Scott,

WALES

Mrs. L. Brotherton,

SCOTLAND

Mrs. S. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Chairman