



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross,

Area Representatives are ex-officio members of the
Committee. See pages 23 & 24.

To our retiring Chairman, Ava, we extend all our good wishes and thanks for her devotion to the needs of the Association during the past three years, which included our very special Golden Jubilee Celebrations, and all the extra commitments she so willingly undertook with such kindness and generous spirit. We hope the memories of these years will give her much pleasure.

We give a very warm welcome to our new Chairman, Mrs. Peggy James, MBE, whose years of devoted service to WRVS and the Association make her appointment as our new Chairman a cause of great pleasure to us all. We know the Association and its future are in very capable hands. We all offer her our congratulations and assurance of all our efforts to further the work of the Association.

Chris Smurthwaite

THE NEXT AGM WILL BE HELD IN YORK ON 20th.JUNE, 1990

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

ANNUAL subscriptions will be due on January 1st., 1990
Please send your £1.50 as soon as possible

BANKERS ORDERS are due in the appropriate month.

LIFE MEMBERS - Now £15.00. Please consider a small donation for postage if you joined before 1980.

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES...

Dear Member,

I am very conscious of the honour you have given me by electing me as your Chairman - I consider this a great privilege, and hope that I can maintain the high standards set by my predecessors.

I hope you have all enjoyed the lovely summer and have benefited from the warm sunshine even without going to generally warmer climes. No doubt your plans for Autumn and Winter meetings are well in hand, and I shall again be amazed at the variety of activities organised in many Areas. It is good to know that the Association is providing so much pleasure retaining old and building new friendships. I have noticed also that many gentlemen are joining us - and why not? - there are many more men joining WRVS for active service too.

Each year we lose several members and we extend our sympathy to their families - many more become less mobile and some become or are already housebound - can we make a special effort this year to visit or keep an eye on those who cannot get about - they will still enjoy being members if we keep them in touch.

I have visited 2 Areas and Wales, and 3 more are planned before the end of this year. This way I hope to meet a large number of you - something I shall enjoy very much.

With my very best wishes for good health and happy days in 1990.

Pepp James

Chairman
WVS/WRVS Association

EDITORIAL

Thank you, very much, those of you who sent in the very well-written reports on Emergency Services Archives. Thank you, also, to Mrs. M. Wilkinson for the front cover, and to the Print and Computer Rooms who produced the Newsletter.

If I receive any more Emergency Archives, too late to go in this edition, I will hopefully use them in May, 1990. Our next Archives subject will be Children's Welfare, everything from holidays to Creches, Mother and Baby clubs, toy libraries and Baby Clinics, etc.. Please keep your contributions coming in for what is such a valuable record of WVS/WRVS work in the past. We'll just go on printing as much as we can, into November, 1990 if necessary!

A very happy Christmas to you all, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Doris Gross

Round the Countries

Please let HQ have any news of the whereabouts and addresses of any member you know who is now living in Australia. Jenny MacLennan has already held one meeting for Association Members Down Under.

Mrs. Griffiths reports that she has been in touch with other WVS/WRVS members now living in Northern Ireland and is hoping that they are able to get together soon. A reminder of the address: Glanbrenig, 23 Mullinure Park, Armagh, Northern Ireland BT61 9EJ.

WVS/WRVS Headquarters is trying to find out who is the oldest Member of the Association. So far, she is 98-year old Mrs. E. Warwick-Smith of Burnham-on-Crouch.

in Essex.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 1989

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

OBE

Mrs. H. Downham Lately Area Organiser
(Kent, Surrey, East Sussex)

MBE

Mrs. G. Whammond Services Welfare Rep.
Shorncliffe Barracks.

BEM

Mrs. D. Harris District Organiser,
South Norfolk

Mrs. M. Miller Lightburn Stroke Club,
Glasgow

Mrs. M. O'Donnell Local Organiser, Bootle

Mrs. A. Poskitt Lately District Organiser
Lydney, Glos.

Mrs. M. Russell Deputy City Organiser,
Leicester

Mrs. S. Skinner Deputy Area Organiser
Humberside & Lincolnshire

Mrs. V. David Hospital Shop, Hensol, Mid.
Glamorgan

Also, for Services to the Community

MBE

Miss L.M. Bois MOW, Jersey, and for
Community Services

Mrs. A. Borthwick Linlithgow, Blood
Transfusion service and
luncheon club

Mrs. J. Brander Founder Trustee, Winged
Fellowship Trust

BEM

Mr. L. Lambertstock MOW, Oxford

OBITUARY

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

Miss M. Triggs, MBE. Members who knew her are sad to hear of her death. She served WVS/WRVS for 35 Years in various areas of work at Headquarters

Mrs. I. Hobbs. The death of Ida Hobbs, ex-Area Organiser Mid.2., will bring great sadness. She was well known outside as well as within her own Area.

Mrs. M. Duffield	Yarmouth	Mrs. D. King	Yarmouth
Mrs. A. Rouse	Manchester	Mrs. E. Bell	Epsom
Mrs. R. Heggett	W. Yorks	Miss A. Lee	N. Devon
Mrs. B. Swann	Somerset	Mrs. M. Jones	MBE Reading
Miss G. Medcalf	Highgate	Mrs. B. Shaw	Wakefield
Mrs. E. Sutcliffe	Wirral	Mrs. G. Talbot	Worcs
Miss M. Flyer	Blackburn	Mrs. P. Brown	Essex
Mrs. E. Johnson	Maldon	Mrs. M. Beale	Poole
Mrs. M. Broderick	Bristol	Mrs. C. Mace	Appleby
Mrs. R. Christian	Woking	Mrs. A. Church	Tiverton
Mrs. M. Keene	Bognor Regis	Mrs. P. Clare	Yeovil
Mrs. E. Brooke	Nottingham	Mrs. V. Rahim	Wilmslow
Mrs. V. Crichton	Yarmouth	Mrs. L. Jones	Cheshire
Mrs. K. Jeffreys	Huntingdon	Mrs. I. Moss	Norwich
Mrs. M. Beale	Hamworthy	Mrs. H. Burns	Norwich
Miss R. Vasey	Darlington	Mrs. M. Rhymer	Devon
Mrs. M. Archer	Kenilworth	Mrs. E. Law	Manchester
Mrs. S. Scott	Cambridge	Mrs. A. Kent	Cheshire
Mrs. M. Knott	Tyne & Wear	Mrs. D. Smith	MBE Glos.
Mrs. D. Dawkins	Cleveland	Mrs. F. Lock	N. Yorks
Mrs. A. Martin	Aberystwyth	Mrs. H. Jennings	Cardiff
Mrs. M. Forsdick	MBE. Mitcham	Mrs. I. Gledall	N. Yorks
Miss E. Nicholls	Trowbridge	Mrs. M. Frost	Ashted
Mrs. M. Nelstrop	Newcastle	Mrs. L. Fell	East Sheen
Mrs. M. Nicholls	Leatherhead	Mrs. E. Sexon	Tewkesbury
Mrs. J. Donkin	Sunderland	Mrs. K. Waldram	Grimsby
Miss E. Snaith	Sunderland	Mrs. A. Begg	Sale
Mrs. D. Fickling	Guildford	Mrs. V. Morgan	Lon. NW
Lady J. M. Collins		Swanage	

EMERGENCY SERVICE ARCHIVES

1952. Mrs. A. Stanley MBE On 1st. August, 1952, Mrs. Alex Stanley was at the races in Newbury with friends. As they left the enclosure they saw a newspaper headline,

"Lynton and Lynmouth Devastated by Floods".

Mrs. Stanley was the WVS Services Emergency Feeding Officer for the South West of England, which stretched from Bristol to Cornwall: she would be needed urgently. Still in her race-going clothes she set off for Devon. Eight weary hours later, and after many detours, she managed to reach Lynton, the nearest point to the disaster area.

In the Jubilee Hall she found a scene of chaos. Survivors from the stricken village, huddled in shock, weeping children, people still looking for family members, rescuers, helpers, service men and women, all in a state of disbelief. Villagers from Lynton were trying to comfort and help. The Red Cross were issuing blankets and some basic clothing. There were 60 exhausted firemen sleeping on mattresses. No-one had eaten a proper meal since the flood struck: just hot drinks and snacks had kept people going, much of this supplied by local folk and armed services supplies.

First thing next morning a Disaster Committee was set up consisting of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, a senior Army and a senior Naval Officer, the Chief Constable, and, the only woman, Mrs. Stanley. She promised to provide one good meal for every survivor and rescuer each day. Mobile WVS canteens from Bristol and Bath were called upon to keep up a constant supply of hot drinks and light meals. So began seven weeks of feeding up to 300 people a day, a mammoth task. The WVS from Barnstaple and Bideford formed the backbone of the team, helped by many local volunteers, and as time went on folk from far and wide. Many of the people of Lynmouth who found themselves without homes or occupation did sterling work.

The Government appealed for help and announced that all parcels could be sent to Lynmouth post-free - a great mistake. Hundreds of parcels arrived and there was soon a mountain of food, clothing, etc.. All this needed sorting and distributing. Keeping account of it all became a nightmare. There was all the food to be ordered too, and financial records to be kept. One of the Boatmen of Lynmouth who had lost all he possessed took over as storekeeper and did a wonderful job.

Then all the caravans arrived, big ones, small ones, luxurious, spartan, new and decrepit. The Committee arranged a ballot among the homeless families and each was settled. At last the Jubilee Hall had some space, only the 60 firemen were still sleeping there. WVS made up packs of food for each caravan and saw to it that these were regularly "topped up". Despite the fairness of the ballot there was ill-feeling about the allocation of the best caravans, and it took all of Mrs. Stanley's considerable tact to soothe ruffled feelings.

By the end of the first week the team had a routine for supplies, cooking and clearing away. and so on and on. Mrs. Stanley and her Deputy attended meetings, handled personnel problems, checked supplies to outlying villages who had taken in evacuees, and supplies to the caravans.

WVS set up a special depot at Newton Abbot. and all "Aid" was redirected there and sorted before being delivered to Lynmouth. Mrs. Stanley only had her week-end clothes, covered by a huge butcher's apron, so she had sent to Bristol for her uniform and flat shoes. They got buried in the mountain of parcels, and she only found them three weeks later. All food aid was not welcomed with joy. Barbados sent a ton of sugar, and there was a whole shipment of bananas and a vanload of plums.

Came the day of the funeral, a day charged with emotion for everyone concerned. VIPs came from all over Britain. As Mrs. Stanley was turning away from the cemetery the County Councillor said "Oh, by the way, I've asked everyone to lunch at the Jubilee Hall".

Recovering from shock and dismay, she rushed back, and within an hour all the dignitaries sat down to a cold lunch served on white cloths (sheets) and with beautiful bowls of roses (purloined from local gardens), but surrounded by lines of rather smelly mattresses.

Your Editor is grateful to the Local Organiser for Sidmouth who took down Mrs. Stanley's memories and produced them neatly typed for this Newsletter. Mrs. Stanley received the MBE in 1953 in the first Honours List of the new young Queen Elizabeth.

1953 East Coast Floods, Mrs. Stanley had to wait for her uniform, but Miss M. Stevenson writes about the problems of WVS members who had to deal with gift parcels in times of distress.

"This, I believe, was the last emergency for which the post office allowed free post on any parcels of clothes to a WVS address, this time to the NW WVS Regional Office. I shall never forget the mountains of coats, the smell of unwashed garments, and the enveloping clouds of pulverised poor quality brown paper. Fortunately Sunlight House allowed us to use their huge ground floor. Experienced WVS clothing packers came on a rota on Saturdays and Sundays for at least six weeks, and we also recruited army cadets, Boy Scouts and senior schoolchildren, with some teachers. All sorts of firms gave us string, labels etc, and we had some unusual allies, old clothes dealers, and on Sundays the invaluable assistance of the bedding salesman from the high class shop just up the road. A local restaurant fed us at the weekends.

The dealers gave us money for unsuitable items like evening dresses and cloaks, which they sold to African countries! Our work parties used the money to buy wool to knit babies' layettes. We had thousands of odd shoes, which were invaluable as fuel for the dry cleaning firm round the corner who were still rationed for fuel, and in return they cleaned the filthy blankets that "generous" people sent. There was a smell which got dreadful as the days wore on, until a

scout unearthed a box which contained a small joint of mutton, very dead, with a note to say how sorry the family was, and they were donating their Sunday dinner. It was posted a full month earlier! Another letter said "Dear Miss Stevenson, I sent you one of George's nice flannel shirts, but forgot the collar, please add it to the shirt, and I enclose the stud as well." The whole place was cleared in two months, and we were able to help many of the caravanners who had lost everything in the floods."

1972 Mrs. G. Bright (Kent) recalls that the mass evacuation of Ugandan Asians resulted in the most prolonged call-out for their WRVS Emergency Services. A disused base at West Malling Airfield in Kent had to be made habitable as a reception centre. Plumbers, carpenters, electricians were hard at work making habitable the old buildings and huts. As they finished one block, WRVS took over with bucket and mop. The most back-breaking job was making up those 700 beds! Kitchens were re-equipped and prepared to make vast amounts of curry. Enrolment cards were used to flush out members who could speak Urdu and Gujerati. Clothing was sorted and racked, until from a generous public it became an overflowing flood. The first arrivals came on 4th. October, 1972, on a beautiful autumn day, but hardly that to the dispirited and bewildered families now in our care. Each family was appointed an escort who stayed with them round the different parts of the camp they must visit: Registration, Medical Care, Food, Clothing, Baby Care. They needed warm clothing immediately, but could not take easily to cardigans and tweed coats, while their feet, used to flat sandals, could not be squeezed into our socks and shoes.

A school was started within a very few days, so that in the eventual re-homing it was most often the children who were able to translate to parents and grandparents. Sometimes the C.O. would be told of an elderly woman who had not fed or been under care simply because she could not eat in the presence of men even of her own family. So many customs and usages had to be learned

on both sides. Families were gradually being rehoused, which is another whole story of help and support by WRVS.

We had heavy snow that year to the delight of the children, and some of their elders were seen to touch it with apprehension and then wonder. Among the trades and professions of the evacuated men were many skills and needs that helped the camp to run as a unit, and indeed it did so until the last family left for a permanent home in January 1974

1972 Miss M. Hammersley writes "During the Foot and Mouth outbreak and during the pig disease in Somerset, WRVS provided hot meals for the men working on the problem. This entailed delivering rectangulars to the policeman on the gate, who waded through the disinfectant and delivered them to the men. They disinfected the containers before returning them to us about an hour later. Of course we also did a little individual lunch for the policeman, whose job was pretty boring.

"In 1972 we were also occupied with the Ugandan Asian Refugees. Of course there were awful hiccups, as when the Bristol Salvation Army, in reply to our urgent call for perambulators in which to sleep the babies and small children, arrived within 24 hours with two lorry-loads of them. In order to pack more in, they had taken the tops off the wheels, but omitted to mark which belonged where!"

1974 Mrs. B. Gillard of Humbershire reports on the Flixborough disaster. There was a major explosion at the Chemical works at Flixborough in South Humberside. Widespread damage was inflicted on the village and lives were lost. The tremendous explosion was heard and felt on both sides of the Humber. WRVS teams were called from North and South Humberside to assist with the setting up of a Rest Centre at the Technical College to accommodate families who had been evacuated from their damaged houses and because of the risk of further explosions and the toxic fumes.

In the early hours of the morning the North Humberside

team packed the County vehicle with equipment and left for Flixborough. In 1974 the Humber Bridge was not completed. We therefore had to drive round the River Humber, a journey of approximately 60 miles. As we travelled along the river bank, the sight was unbelievable: a large mushroom shaped cloud of smoke and the glow of the fire could be seen for miles around. Roads to the village were closed, but the "Ladies in Green" were directed to the Rest Centre, where the police had set up an Inquiry Point and the college kitchen staff had prepared refreshments. Our team was quickly involved in making up beds brought in by the Army, and settling families down for the night. The college switchboard operator had been on duty since the explosion occurred at 5 p.m., and two members were able to take over from her, giving her a much needed break. There were continuous calls from anxious relatives and friends seeking news of families. I well remember an elderly, frail gentleman being pushed in a wheelchair by one of our members, who had firmly refused to leave his home until someone took care of his pigeons! After being given assurance that the R.S.P.C.A. would attend to them, he agreed to leave and come to the centre, where he tucked in to a large plate of roast beef and Yorkshire pud! As well as assisting with the general welfare of the people, our members were able to provide initial support to those suffering from shock, which brings a numbness and feeling of helplessness, until they were ready to pick up the threads again and make their own arrangements to bring back normality to their everyday lives, which had been so suddenly disrupted.

About 1974 Mrs M. Julian (Harrow) writes that a mini emergency arose when two men working down a sewer were trapped by a fall of earth in Harrow's central shopping area, caused by heavy rain. She heard the wailing of police sirens, and the incident was mentioned on local radio. Emergency plans were put into action by the ESO and an urn was filled with hot water from the Civic Centre staff canteen. From hearing the sirens at home to arriving on site with tea for the rescue workers

took forty minutes, but the Salvation Army were there before us. We made a working arrangement, whereby they provided soup, we served tea, and local shopkeepers supplied food.

All ended happily as both men were rescued, and the Contractors gave Harrow WRVS a donation which bought some new emergency equipment.

1976 Mrs. P. Williams (Poole) writes: "During the long hot summer of 1976, Poole WRVS were called upon to provide drinks and sandwiches for the firemen who were dealing with heathland fires. On one occasion we set up our teabar in a clearing on the perimeter, and the men came in turn for their break, all weary and black faced. One detached himself from the side of a companion who had just lit up a cigarette, saying 'I can't stand the smell of smoke!' "

1986 Mrs. Gillard says that Emergencies always seem to happen at holiday times or week-ends. In North Humberside it was on Saturdays. We all remember vividly the Saturday morning when the terrible train crash occurred, with the loss of many lives, at the unmanned crossing at Lockington. I heard the continuous sound of ambulances, fire engines and police vehicles passing the end of the lane, followed by a local radio announcement reporting a crash at Lockington. WRVS contacted the police offering help. A request was made for refreshments for the rescue teams involved in the tremendous task of freeing the injured and recovering the bodies of the dead, trapped underneath the train. Our own emergency teams were alerted, food and drinks prepared, and the first vehicle with supplies left the County Office forty minutes later. The original request for food for approximately 60 people was increased, and members continued to supply the emergency services with refreshments throughout the day. In the evening, the nearby army base cooked a hot meal, which our members served to the rescue teams. Our teams were withdrawn having worked throughout a very tragic day. We remained on stand-by all night.

REPORT FROM SCOTLAND.

MRS. S. MAITLAND-MAKGILL-CRITCHON CHAIRMAN.

The Scottish Association Annual General Meeting was held in April, 1989, in Aberdeen, and made Mrs. A. Christophersen very welcome.

We were all very pleased that the Association Chairman for Scotland, Mrs. S. Maitland- Makgill- Crichton, was able to attend the AGM on 7th June in Chester.

Mrs. Venables, York, again organised a Mini-Holiday. "When we arrived in Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, we were greatly honoured to be met by the Scottish Chairman, Mrs. Ross, and we were served a superb tea by the Edinburgh WVS/WRVS Association members in their magnificent Scottish Headquarters. We were very grateful to Mrs. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton for all the arrangements she had made for us, and to Mrs. Wilkie who acted as our guide as our coach toured the city. We do hope they will visit York one day so that we can reciprocate".

REPORT FROM WALES

MRS. L. BROTHERTON

The AGM was held in Newport in September, and we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Peggy James MBE, the new Chairman of the Association, and Mrs. J. Walden-Jones, a national Vice-Chairman.

CLWYD. Mrs. E. Edwards, BEM. Wrexham In April the group had an outing to Hanmer for lunch, and toured the local Glass Blowing Studios, where they were able to buy mementos of their visit.

Aberystwyth enjoy their lunch and chat each month.

Colwyn Bay has a comfortable new meeting room, and in February the County Representative, Mrs. Edwards, was guest at a lunch arranged by Mrs. Boden. Mrs. Platt organised a sales table, the proceeds being earmarked for the expenses of the hall and towards outings.

GWENT Mrs. B. Travis, MBE Newport held a meeting in

VOLUNTARY

a member's house in March to discuss business, and this was followed by an excellent video of the Gwent service in St. Woolos Cathedral, showing as well the WRVS badge displayed in a flower bed in the local park.

In May Mrs. Travis organised a very enjoyable coach trip through the beautiful springtime scenery to Malvern, joined by Mrs. Brotherton. They visited the Three Counties Show, taking time out for a picnic.

REPORTS FROM THE AREAS

A WELCOME TO THE NEW GROUPS

Frome. Minehead. North Bedfordshire. Norwich City. Peterborough. St. Edmondsbury. South Bedfordshire. Stour Link. Tavistock. Thetford. Torridgeside, Devon.

NW2

MRS. O. CHURCHILL

Bolton A very jolly lunch party was held in April at the home of Mrs. Cox. Mrs. Rawlinson has felt unable to continue, and the group has disbanded, temporarily it is hoped.

Trafford Altrincham Mrs. M. Rogers. They have had a series of talks and a cookery demonstration by Mrs. Studholme of the District Office, while Mrs. Rogers organised a most enjoyable outing and tea at Bridgmere Garden Centre. Sale Mrs. Grimshaw, after producing a book of poems contributed by members, energetically organised two outings. One was to the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight - "all done on soap" as one member remarked of the excellent collection of pictures and Wedgwood china; then tea and sea air were enjoyed at Parkgate on the coast. The next outing was to Llandudno with plenty of shops to visit, and a trip to the end of the pier. Other activities included a talk by the Assistant Borough Treasurer on the Community Charge (Poll Tax) and a slide show given by member Mrs. Morewood. Sale regrets to report the death of Mrs. A. Begg, the oldest member, who played bridge up to her 92nd. Year.

Manchester WRVS members, and Mrs. Churchill representing the Association, attended a memorial

service at Crumpsall, organised by her daughter, for the late Mrs. E. Law, a long time member who had worked for 40 years in WRVS in Civil Defence, Hospitals, and Clothing for which she was Manchester Organiser. Our sincere sympathy goes to Miss Law.

NE1

MRS. C. SMURTHWAITE MBE

Ashington and North Tyneside concentrated during the past year on raising funds for the benefit of St. Oswald's Hospice and the Gosforth Hospice.

Northumberland County Ashington Mrs. M. Pratt. Mrs Smurthwaite and her neighbour Mrs. Lewis opened their homes for a fund-raising/coffee morning in aid of St. Oswalds. It was a very wet day, and Mrs. Pratt was more concerned about the state of their carpets than how much money they had made. Altogether £180 was presented to the Northumbria Hospice Association at the Grand Hotel.

Ponteland Mrs. J. Hughes, MBE. Members were invited by WRVS to join their luncheon in April.

North Tyneside Mrs E. Frew and Mrs. L. Weallans. Support was given to the S.C.F. and to the Gosforth Hospice Appeal. Monthly coffee pots are a real source of information and a check on members welfare.

Iris Crowther organised a day out at Beamish Museum.

Whitley Bay. Mrs. Dawson. Members helped with and supported Mrs. Smurthwaite's coffee morning, and visited Beamish Museum.

Sunderland Mrs. J. Owen. They are sorry to lose their organiser, Mrs. Ainley, who was a founder member.

Fortunately she still attends most meetings. Mrs. J. Owen is welcomed as the new organiser.

Included in their programme was a symposium "I'd Never Part with It", when members produced and talked about their most treasured possession.

Newcastle Mrs. Yarrington. As space was limited for Christmas lunch, they held another one catered by themselves for everyone, including the Newcastle WRVS staff. A coffee morning raised money towards a new minibus for "Speech after Stroke".

NE2.

MRS. B. BURKITT

The Annual Lunch was held in Hartlepool in September, and much enjoyed. We were delighted to welcome Peggy

16.

James on her first official visit as Chairman, also the Mayor of Hartlepool and her Escort. We welcomed 31 members of NE1, and the Hartlepool Choir entertained us.

Darlington Mrs. G. Evans. They enjoy occasional treats, and particularly Mrs. Evans' account of her holiday in Australia.

Harrogate Mrs. E. Taylor. They meet monthly, and visited a synagogue after a talk on the Jewish faith.

Hartlepool Mrs. E. Stamp. They had a varied programme, went behind the scenes at Marks & Spencer, and on an outing to Cragside, Northumberland, where coffee was served by Morpeth WRVS -doing some twinning!

Scarborough Mrs. K. Adamson. They have two outings a year, the latest to Sutton Park.

York Mrs. J. Mott. They have twice yearly meetings, and Mrs. Venables again organised a mini-holiday to the Scottish Borders. Apart from their wonderful welcome in Edinburgh (see Report from Scotland), they travelled to Galashiels and then through the Tweed valley amidst beautiful scenery to Biggar.

Selby Mrs. J. Altass. They particularly enjoy lunches at the local Technical College, and friends and husbands are encouraged to join them.

NE3.

MRS. P. JAMES, MBE

Mrs. James has much enjoyed her six years as Area Representative, and is grateful for the support she has received from the City and three County Reps. The AGM was held at Hedon, one of the oldest Boroughs in the country. Mrs. H. Foster, was present, and no less than 13 WRVS Organisers, including Mrs. A. Elver, the Area Organiser. Members were delighted that Mrs. James received a clasp to her Long Service Medal at the AGM.

N. Humberside and Hull Mrs. P. Allison. Beverley members meet monthly at the Kings Head, and Pocklington and Stamford Bridge meet quarterly for lunch in the Corn Mill. In September the Bridlington Group organised a meeting and pub lunch at Flamborough for all of us.

S. Humberside Mrs. D. Stokes MBE. Membership is still increasing as the newly retired are enrolled,

which is good as they are active and able to help others. The Strawberry tea at Mrs. Stokes' home was again very successful.

Lincolnshire Mrs. D. Cook BEM. This is Mrs. Cook's last report, as she has retired, and members are sorry to see her go. Mrs. M. Birkhead will take over from her. Mrs. Cook reports that much enjoyment is derived from members chatting together.

MID AREA 2.

MRS. H. SMITH

Nottingham City. Mrs. M. Glenn has worked hard to establish this Group. In April, members together with WRVS members, visited the Beamish Museum in Bishop Auckland. Some even braved a ride on the open top of the tram, and went down a coal mine. They returned home in a blizzard! Later there was a lovely morning in the home of Mrs. Crothers, who has an amazing collection of china and glass. On a lovely day in July 41 members went on a trip to Staffordshire, travelling on a horse-drawn barge from Froghall Wharf on the Caldon Canal. Tea was served by ladies dressed in period costume.

Nottinghamshire Gedling Mrs. I. Hill and Miss B. Noon have reported on the Service held in All Hallows Church, Gedling, to dedicate the stained glass panel depicting the WRVS badge, which was presented by Mrs. Hill, Chairman, on behalf of the Gedling branch of the Association, to the Rector, Rev. D. Davies to commemorate the WRVS Golden Jubilee. The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Service. The Bishop of Southwell, the Rt. Rev P. Harris, dedicated the window, which had been designed by Michael Stokes. Over 200 people were present, including WVS/WRVS members and their families. The Rector told Mrs. H. Smith, Area Representative, that he was delighted his historic Church should have this memorial stained glass panel.

Mansfield. There was a lunch at the Pine Lodge Hotel to celebrate the 90th. birthday of Mrs. A.M. Howie.

Rushcliffe Miss M. Lovett. There were three coffee mornings and two luncheons, including a talk on chocolate making and a mouth organ recital.

Leicestershire 35 members went to Bourton-on-the Water

in June, and tea was provided by members of the Methodist Chapel at Kings Sutton. Members decided to raise money to sponsor a holiday through the WRVS Children's Holiday scheme, and they managed to do so. Following links with Nottinghamshire forged during Jubilee Year, Leicestershire members joined colleagues from Nottinghamshire at a "half-way" house on a bright morning in March.

ANGLIA, AREA 1

MRS. E.C. CHARNLEY

wishes to thank the County Reps. and group leaders who have welcomed her into their Districts. All are doing a great job.

Bedfordshire Mrs. E. Woods, MBE held an inaugural meeting in July. Despite the heat and transport difficulties, everyone who had expressed interest arrived. It was decided that the County should be divided into two: North and South, with Mrs. Woods attending both groups. Pub lunches are on the Agenda.

Cambridgeshire Mrs. E. Connor, MBE. A small group has been formed in Peterborough under the guidance of Mrs. Sillick and Mrs. Titcomb. Huntingdon and Cambridge have enjoyed a full programme of activities, including lunch at Grafham Water, a trip on the river, and a tour of Hinchinbrooke House.

Hertfordshire Mrs. E. Sewell MBE, hosted her annual buffet lunch in September, so members were able to enjoy the beauty of the autumnal tints.

Northamptonshire Mrs. A. Perkins MBE. They entertained a full coach load of members from Cam. & Hunt. to tea at Rushden Hall. Mrs. Perkins and her team provided a feast for the eye as well as the taste buds, and served 95 members seated at elegant rose-decked tables. It is hoped to repeat these joint ventures, and include other Counties and outlying areas.

ANGLIA, AREA 2

MRS. M. H. GORDON

In March, a meeting was held of members of Home Counties Area 2 at the Berkshire WRVS County Office in Reading. It was a great pleasure to have Mrs. A. Christophersen present, and to hear about her fascinating time as Chairman of the Association.

News from the Counties of Berks. and Oxfordshire is promising. There are no groups as yet in Bucks.

ANGLIA, AREA 3.

MRS. E.D. CLAYDON

ESSEX Mrs. H. Bostock. Colchester Mrs. D. Rogers and Southend Mrs. B. Tytherleigh tell of regular meetings, strawberry teas, lunches and a CHAT.

NORFOLK Mrs. M. Moss MBE. Mrs. Christophersen was present at a tea party in the Norfolk County Office in April. The County Representative has many plans, and the first meeting/lunch is planned in West Norfolk.

Great Yarmouth Mrs. V. Jackman. This is the largest branch, with regular lunches, and new members pour in.

North Norfolk Mrs. J. Gilderson, They are reviving.

Norwich City Mrs. M. Randell, has held two meetings.

SUFFOLK Mrs. S. Laverton. The one-hundredth Association member in Suffolk received a house-plant.

Stour Link Mrs. H. Maudsley. There was a strawberry tea in Mrs. Maudsley's garden, and many more now wish to join.

St. Edmundsbury Mrs. Mytton-Mills. They got off to flying start with a delicious lunch at a member's home. There are plans for a picnic and visit to a vineyard (Wine tasting?)

Woodbridge Mrs. van Zwanenberg. They enjoyed a gourmet lunch cooked by the Branch Organiser's Cordon Bleu daughter. This branch is planning small group meetings for scattered villages, transport for the car-less, and a list of those living alone or chronically sick with notes of members who will keep in touch.

A Norfolk member who moved to Leeds, was, within days of her arrival, invited to lunch by the West Yorkshire Association! Thank you, Leeds.

SE AREA 1

MISS M.T. COOKE MBE

EAST KENT Canterbury Mrs. M.P. Tavener, They held a coffee morning in June.

WEST KENT. Mrs. G. Bright. They had lunch in May in Mrs. K. Swingland's house.

SURREY Mrs. B. Stirling. Epsom had a lunch party in April. Guildford enjoyed a teaparty in May and joined with Woking on a visit to Loseley Farm House for tea.

Woking Mrs. E. Patrick is the new branch Chairman.

Members visited Syon House as well as Loseley. The annual lunch will be on 21st. November. Waverley held a buffet lunch with a talk by Mrs. P. Duvall on her visit to South Africa.

EAST SUSSEX. Mrs. F. Smith MBE Brighton members meet regularly, as do those in Eastbourne. Hove had buffet lunch in Mrs. P. Munday's home in Newick. Hastings and Rother had a cream tea and a pub lunch. North Wealden Members enjoyed tea in Mayfield by kind invitation of Mrs. D. Trevillion. South Wealden meet monthly, and gave a farewell lunch to Mrs. E. French, who leaves for the U.S.A.

SE AREA 2.

MRS. D.J. SIMPKINS BEM

Dorset Mrs. T. Dunton reports that the Spring reunion of the Dorset Association was held in the Allendale Community Centre, Wimborne. Lady Hanham, Chairman for Dorset, welcomed Mrs. A. Christophersen, Mrs. D. Simpkins, Area Representative, Mrs. B. Mills, County Organiser, and her Deputy, Mrs. M. Webb, and forty or so members from Dorset. Mrs. Christophersen gave a talk on WVS/WRVS Association as it is to-day. Six WRVS District Organisers were invited to the meeting to gather information with future membership in mind. One member was celebrating her 84th. Birthday, and was presented with a beautiful home made iced cake. A Bring and Buy sale and a Raffle raised £56. and everyone enjoyed a substantial tea.

SW AREA 1

MRS. K. LOW

Gloucestershire Mrs. J. Connop. They are sad to report the passing of Mrs. Doris Smith MBE who gave long service to WRVS and the community. Members of the Association attended her Memorial service. Another very successful Luncheon was served by Cheltenham members for 69 Gloucestershire members in June, where they were pleased to welcome Dame Frances Clode, DBE. Mrs. C. Isles gave a demonstration on "covering a cake" Mrs. N. Horne of the RNLI was the speaker in March at a meeting of Cheltenham members, and Gloucester met in a member's home in March, and enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch in July.

Wiltshire Mrs. K. Low. The annual reunion lunch took place in Devizes, and 32 members attended. They were delighted to welcome Mrs. A. Christophersen as guest speaker. They wished Mrs. B. Glendenning a speedy recovery after her accident, and much missed her usual miracles of catering for this event!

SW AREA 2

MISS M. SCOTT

We are sad to hear of the death of Miss Ada Lee, one of the original WVS volunteers in Bideford in 1939.

Somerset Mrs. B. Flinn reports that there are now two established groups. Mrs. M. Solomon organises the Minehead group, and Mrs. I. Paren that in Frome.

Mrs. Flinn welcomed 25 members to her home on 13th. June, with pre-lunch drinks in the garden. Mrs. A. Fleming, WRVS Area Organiser, brought members up to date on the changes taking place in WRVS.

Devon Bideford is active and had a good first AGM in April. Plymouth is quiet but hoping for a September meeting. Sidmouth held a coffee morning at Cedar Shade. They welcomed Dame Frances Clode DBE, who was on holiday. Mrs. A. Stanley (see Archives) was also there. Tavistock is showing much interest, and a preliminary meeting was held in June. It is hoped to form a group to cover this part of Devon. Abbotsford used a press SOS, and now has 25 members.

LONDON

London NW. Harrow Mrs. D. Stevens reports that there was a very successful cheese and wine party in her home. The group has raised £40 from coffee mornings and the cheese and wine party, and decided to donate the money to the WVS/WRVS Association.

London SW They were very grieved to hear of the death of Mrs. Mona Forsdick, MBE, after a long and distressing illness. She had for many years served them faithfully as Area Representative. At her funeral, Mrs. A. Christophersen represented the Association Chairman, and Mrs. D. Stevens and Mrs. A. Leacock, MBE were also present. Mrs. Leacock has taken over as Area Representative.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON
NE Area

Mrs. D. E. Gross,

SE Area

Mrs. E.G. Block MBE,

SW Area

Mrs. A. Leacock 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. A.M. Wilson,

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 Mrs. K. Low,

Area 2 Miss M. Scott,

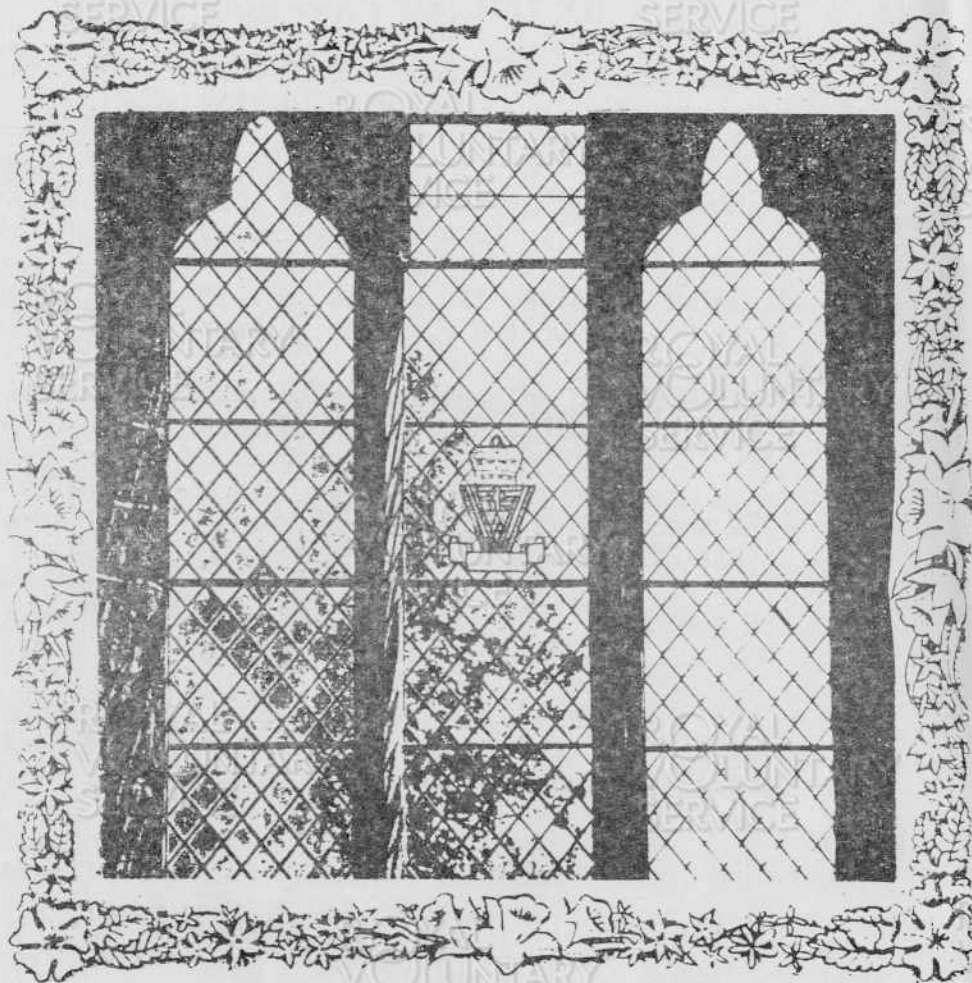
WALES Mrs. L. Brotherton,

SCOTLAND Mrs. S. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Chairman

ROYAL
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SERVICE

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SERVICE

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VOLUNTARY
SERVICE



WRVS Panel in All Hallows Parish Church, Gedling
See Page 18 of the Reports from the Areas.

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