

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO.31 MAY 1990

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

WRVS Headquarters.

234-244 Stockwell Rd., London SW9 9SP

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Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross, 38 Barnes Court, Station Rd., New Barnet,  
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YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES...

We are hopefully drawing near the end of a winter in which recent weather conditions have been very severe in many parts of the country, where winds, heavy rain and flooding have badly affected buildings and communication. I sincerely hope that nobody has suffered too badly. I am sure that WRVS Emergency Teams have been in action wherever help was needed and we shall read reports in the next edition of the WRVS News! Following the mild Autumn, plants and shrubs are showing signs of an early Spring - as I write the daffodils are already in bloom in my garden even here in the North of England and I can hear the sounds of grass being cut. The winds have dropped and there are large patches of blue sky, so look forward to your summer meetings and don't forget our house-bound friends - we are still a caring service.

Take care of yourselves and each other - I look forward to meeting many of you during the summer months.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1990

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

OBE  
Mrs. S. G. Ballantine Lately Deputy Chairman, Scotland

MBE  
Mrs. L. Dent  
Regional Emergency Services  
Organiser, Dumfries & Galloway.

Mrs. B.M. Mills  
County Organiser, Dorset

BEM  
Mrs. G. Evans  
Local Organiser, CRYMYCH, DYFED

Mrs. A. Hamilton  
Lunch Club Organiser,  
Newtongrange

Mrs. J. Moore  
County Training Organiser,  
Nottinghamshire

Mrs. P.M. Parker  
County Organiser, Welfare of the  
Elderly, Powys

Mrs. J. Smith  
Area Office, Midlands 3,  
Medals and Membership

Mrs. J. Young  
Borough Organiser, Merton

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

WILL BE HELD ON 20th JUNE, 1990 IN YORK

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF WRVS HQ. IS NOW 071-733-3388

ROYAL  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE

OBITUARY

ROYAL  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE

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

Mrs. G. Harrington	Hastings	Mrs. V. Morgan	Feltham
Mrs. S. Langston	Bickley	Mrs. J. Bache	Droitwich
Miss C. Gibb	Kidderminster	Mrs. F. Dowden	Woking
Mrs. C. Taylor	Chippenham	Mrs. C. Hay	W. Byfleet
Mrs. E. Jackson	BRM Kingsbridge	Miss M. Jeffrey	Harrow
Mrs. C. Mallabon	Hereford	Mrs. D. Adams	Wirral
Mrs. C. Mitchell	Hereford	Mrs. M. Hughes	Farndon
Mrs. B. Mailen	Hartlepool	Mrs. I. Thaxter	Southsea
Mrs. H. Sartain	Cambridge	Mrs. I. Crump	Solihull
Countess Beauchamp	MBE Malvern	Dr. G. Wright	Newcastle
Mrs. N. Thirlwell	Wolverhampton	Mr. J. Bentham	Wakefield
Mrs. L. Lampard-Vachell	JP Bideford		
Miss A. Gairdener	Stoke Poges	Mrs. L. Jones	Solihull
Mrs. A. Dungate	Cambridge	Mrs. H. Webb	Clwyd
Mrs. M. Covell	St. Leonards	Miss O. Lough	Wembley
Mrs. H. Stonebridge	Cambridge	Mrs. S. Eason	Dunstable
Mr. S. Henderson	Felixtowe	Mr. E. Pratt	Darlington
Mrs. M. Whyte	MBE Stalham	Mrs. J. Byron	Poole
Miss K. Denny	Brighton	Mrs. D. D'Ademar	Jersey
Mrs. R. Moore	Sale	Mrs. D. Lowe	Lytham
Mrs. M. Barton	Accrington	Miss J. Dyson	Lytham
Mrs. M. Whyte	MBE Norfolk	Mrs. M. Covell	Sussex
Mrs. A. Rouse	Blackburn	Mrs. J. Elliott	Sale
Mrs. W. Wareing	Blackburn	Miss. V. Herring	Hove
Mrs. T. Rabnott	Rustington	<del>Mrs. M. Shaw</del>	Ponteland
Miss J. Martyn	OBE Grimsby	? M. Keogh	Sunderland
Mrs. E. Ryder	Cheltenham	Mrs. V. Hill	Wakefield
Mrs. L. Davenport	Macclesfield	Mrs. A. Sharp	Plymouth
Miss M. Mitchell	Eastbourne	Miss E. Natham	Northwood
Miss A. Donald	Eastbourne	? M. Nelstrop	Ponteland

Miss M. Fryer Blackburn

EDITORIAL

Your Committee regrets that for financial (postage) reasons, and also because of very heavy demands on the Print Room, we have had to reduce the size of this edition. We hope to be back to normal in November, so please keep your contributions coming in! We can't get all the Children's Welfare Archives in this edition, and will continue in our next. Please start on the next subject: Old People's Welfare. I love to receive your memories and stories. Doris Gross.

Sadly, Mrs. M. Whyte, MBE, well known in the North as well as in Norfolk, died recently. It was requested that instead of flowers donations should be sent to the WVS/WRVS Association.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE ARCHIVES

Region 9 1951-64 Lady Zuckerman writes: "I was Children's Welfare Officer during these years. Before this, the position of Local Authority Children's Officer had only just been created. These new officers were feeling their way carefully and were reluctant to trust our WVS volunteers to help. Mother and Baby Clubs and Escorts were acceptable: but it was through the WVS Holiday scheme that we eventually won their approval. We started by finding hostesses for London children, but soon left this to others, and concentrated on the children from Birmingham and neighbouring County Boroughs. We decided on a policy of keeping children within the Region, so that we were able to supervise and control events. Because we found it difficult to find sufficient Hostesses for boys, we decided to try our hand at running camps, some tented and some in schools - and one for little brothers and sisters in Miss Gray's house in Warwickshire: all these were staffed by WVS.

"We enrolled police cadets, Outward Bound volunteers, teachers, Probation Officers and others to look after the boys. We had one exception to the 'with in the Region' rule, and this was a camp in Jersey which happened in a rather miraculous way. An anonymous

person advertised on our behalf in the Scoutmaster Magazine, and we had two outstanding replies, one from Don Coombe of Lloyds in London, the other from the Rev. Manton of St. Helier, offering an empty Scout Hut to house some 15 boys, and help with looking after them.

"At the time, all available funds were allocated, and we were on the point of reluctantly declining these offers when the Birmingham Chest Clinic sent us a totally unexpected donation. We accepted with great enthusiasm, and Don Coombe took the boys on what became the first of 21 years of successive camp holidays in the hut at St. Helier, with Coombe and Manton always in charge. They and their families became great friends. Some of the older boys became helpers as years went by. I remember meeting one returning bus load of St. Helier's boys so thrilled with their visit that they had brought back Jersey earth in their suitcases! It was a joy to see their happy cheerful faces.

"One other poignant reminiscence: one boy who went to camp at Long Mynd in Shropshire was reported missing the next year, and was found camping alone at the same place, having acquired for himself the basic equipment. It showed remarkable initiative: most children we sent away hardly knew anything further afield than a few neighbouring streets. Many of the children went to stay with private families, but camps played a great part in the scheme, and the idea was quickly taken up by others. "When I left Birmingham in 1964, we had grown from 20 holidays a year to just about a thousand, all for children recommended as in need by Local Authority bodies. It was mainly funded by generous donations from a variety of Trust Funds. It was exciting and rewarding. We were a very happy but exhausted team of WVS volunteers."

Durham Mrs. D.B. Stoker tells us: "I assisted Mrs. Walmsley in organising a camp at Westgate in Weardale where we took over a school for handicapped children while they were on holiday. There were some 40 boys and girls from 8-15 years old. This was an experiment which several people thought wouldn't work! There were two large dormitories with a large communal hall in

between, Mrs. Walmsley and I elected to sleep on camp beds in the hall to avoid any to-ing and fro-ing! There was no trouble, and the experiment was a huge success. We had one helper who was a scout master, and four police cadets, and each day WVS helpers came from various centres in the area to help with the catering. When I had any spare time I delighted in nipping off with the children on their outings. There was a lovely river nearby full of fluospar in lovely shades of purple, green and blue, and a natural swimming pool in the rocks. There are many stories to tell of individual children, some loving, some awkward, but one I remember well was a little girl whose parents had left her to be brought up by an Aunt. At first she was most appealing, but she craved so much attention that it grew wearing. One day we were lost on the fells. The scoutmaster went to a farm to enquire, while I stayed with a few of the children near some open pigsties. We were playing games, but this child wouldn't join, and stood on the railings looking at the pigs. Suddenly I was startled to hear howls of pain coming from one of the pigs, which she was holding firmly by the tail. I finally prised her off, to see the pig's once lovely curly tail sticking straight out as stiff as a poker! We left as quickly as we could, and I often wonder if the tail ever returned to normal.

#### ROUND THE COUNTRY

Wales is grateful to Mrs. M. Gibbons, Chairman for Wales, and all her staff, for the help given with the Christmas lunch for S. Wales groups. Wrexham and Newport also had Christmas lunches. News of Colwyn Bay and Aberystwyth next time!

Jersey has increased membership. They regret the death of Mrs. D'Adhemar. She was a WVS member in India, and later in Kenya, as a crack horsewoman and shot, she dispatched a charging crocodile with one bullet!

NW 1 The AGM was held in January 1990 in the WRVS County Office, and it was decided to hold meetings in both

Backburn and Lytham to help with transport difficulties.

NW 2 Bury At a summer tea party, a McMillan nurse was presented with a handsome donation from group savings. They are specialists who work alongside district nurses and help cancer sufferers at home. Altrincham One delicious tea was shared with the Townswomens Guild Choir, who entertained. The entertainment was shared with the people evacuated from part of the Day Centre undergoing refurbishment! Sale has regular meetings, and regrets to report the deaths of members Mrs. Elliot and Mrs. Moore; the latter had 39 years of service.

NW 4 Members are getting quite elderly, and what they want, and get, is coffee and a chat.

NE 1 Northumbria has raised £3,000 for two hospices. North Tyneside were entertained to lunch by a stout supporter, Madam Mayor. One male associate spent his time asking if anyone remembered the wartime dances at the Civic Hall.

NE 3 S. Humberside 46 members attended a Christmas lunch. They regret to report the death of Mrs. J. Martyn OBE. Lincolnshire hopes to increase the number of groups: two meet regularly. N. Humberside held an early Christmas lunch in November.

NE 4 Most Groups enjoyed a Christmas get together, and show a steady increase in membership. York £25 was sent to the Benevolent Trust. Hartlepool donated £53 to the Deaf Association.

Mid. 1 They had a Reunion in Worcester and another in Hereford in June, when a delicious tea was produced by WRVS staff in spite of the fact that they had been up all night on an Emergency call-out. They wish to say thank you very much! Shropshire hopes to increase membership. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Moseley c/o WRVS County Office. Staffordshire Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Tweedie c/o WRVS District Office, Civic Centre, Womborne,

Mid. Area 2 Newark welcomed Mrs. H. Smith, Area Rep., to their Christmas Lunch. They extend grateful thanks to her for the ready help and assistance she always gives to them. Nottingham City highly recommend the holiday arranged for them by a coach firm, based on the Loch Ericht Hotel in Dalwinnie. Broxtowe is active! Leicestershire now has over 100 members.

Mid. Area 3. Sutton Coldfield went to see Madame Butterfly and there is a new Group in Coventry meeting one a month.

Anglia Area 1 All four Counties are hives of activity. Christmas lunches were enjoyed, though one full car load lost their way in the fog and ended up in the local pub! There is a new Group in Northampton.

Anglia Area 2 meets regularly.

Anglia Area 3 Being rather far-flung, St. Edmundsbury have divided themselves into two groups, each being host to the other in turn. Great Yarmouth presented a basket of fruit to Mrs. Trett on her 90th. birthday

SE 1 Sussex Lewes Christmas lunch was held at the house of Miss M. T. Cooke. HBE.

SE Area 2 Isle of Wight now has a steady programme, and as a holiday island, would be pleased to welcome members from other Areas who may be holidaying there! Fareham (Hants) A splendid lunch was cooked for them by the WRVS County Organisers and their staff: much appreciated.

SW Area 1. Cheltenham provided lunch for 72 members in November, and welcomed Dame Frances Clode, DBE.

SW Area 2. This Area is at present very wet with unpleasant gales: but no worse I suppose than elsewhere in the country!

London had their usual October Reunion, and thank the London NE Emergency Services team for providing lunch.