

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No. 35 NOVEMBER 1991

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WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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Mrs. D. Gross,

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

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Members who pay their Subscriptions Annually are reminded that these Subscriptions are due on 1st. January, 1992. The current rate is £1.50.

Life membership is now £15

Many congratulations to Mrs. Eloise Warwick-Smith, BEM, who has become the Association's first known Centenarian. Guests representing every organisation and charity in Burnham joined in her celebrations, and in the afternoon she visited the Burnham Darby & Joan Club, of which she has been the tireless President.

A keen sailor in her youth, she is a Life member of three yacht clubs and a sailing club. She was awarded the BEM in 1970 for her 30 years as WRVS Centre Organiser. During the war, with her husband, her home became the official ARP post.

After the war she realised the need for sheltered housing for the elderly, and started fundraising for such a project. Warwick Court opened in 1963, one of the first such projects. She says the secret of success is self-help!

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

Dear Member,

At our 18th. Reunion this year our President, The Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar and 2 colleagues modelled the very smart new uniform before giving us most interesting up to date news of recent developments and future plans in WRVS. We appreciate being 'kept in touch'.

I have recently returned from a visit to the Channel Islands where I had the pleasure of meeting more than 30 of our members in Jersey and Guernsey. We tend to think of these islands only as lovely holiday resorts but the needs of the residents are similar to those on the mainland. WVS/WRVS has been very active there since the end of the War during which they suffered German Occupation and many of our members have very long service and are still helping.

Three Association members were given the privilege of attending the special National WRVS Conference which was opened by HRM The Princess Royal at Nottingham University in April. Displays of all aspects of WRVS work were visited by Princess Anne and at our display stand, consisting of a large map of the Country marked with positions of all Groups, names of Representatives in their Areas and accompanied by large photographs of Group activities, the Princess showed great interest in the very long service of so many members. However the greatest benefit for us of attending this Conference was the opportunity of talking to Organisers about the Association and to emphasise the need for them to encourage retiring/semi-retired members to join us. Cooperation with WRVS locally is essential.

When you read this most of you will be looking forward to Christmas with your families but I know you will not forget those members alone or housebound who may need a little extra thought and care.

With best wishes for good health in 1992.

Beth James

Editorial

I have been delighted to receive letters from Association members now in their nineties, and news of other members who have received awards for their work in the community. Of course, Honours given by H.M. the Queen are most prized, but local honours from a member's own community are to my mind rarely given, and should be highly valued.

We have recently been "mixing" our Archives subjects as space has become available. The one subject we have never covered since I became Editor is Services Welfare. At that time numbers were being reduced, but once again the M.O.D. has realised the need for more WRVS ladies to bring help and comfort, particularly to young servicemen. So I will reopen my file on this subject: I already have some material, and will welcome new contributions covering all decades of WVS and WRVS work at home and overseas.

Many thanks to Mrs. Wilkinson for the front cover, and to the Print Room for producing this Newsletter.

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

Doris Gross

Miss M.S. McCormack of 5 Bedale Way, Pound Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3RU writes: A few months ago I was invited by a friend to talk to her W.I. meeting about my experiences with the WVS "Forces Overseas". Two ladies living in the village, and not members of the W.I., asked if they might attend as they had both been with the WVS in Germany in the 1950s. They told me my talk had made them nostalgic, and brought back memories of their experiences with the Forces. They invited my friend and me for tea, and said how much they had enjoyed the meeting. I wonder if there are other WVS/WRVS of the '50s and '60s who would like to attend a get-together to renew old acquaintances. If so, please let me know and tell me where you think it might be convenient to meet.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 1991

We send our sincere congratulations to the following:

CBE

Mrs. Jill Walden-Jones National Vice-Chairman

OBE

Mrs. Ann Fleming Area Organiser, SW2

MBE

Mrs. Mary Coard Welfare Services Organiser, NE2

Mrs. Joyce Bryant Services to the Community in
Bagshot. Stroke Club Organiser.

BEM

Mrs. Doreen Edwards MOW Organiser, Harrow, London

Mrs. Eluned Evans MOW Organiser, Aberystwyth.

Mrs. Renee Murfitt Lately Metropolitan Local
Organiser, Bramhall

Mrs. J. Saunders Services to the Community,
Hospital Canteen helper,
Dartford, Kent

THE NEXT REUNION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD
IN CARDIFF ON WEDNESDAY, 8th., JULY, 1992.

Many congratulations to Association member Miss Marjorie Stagg of London, who had the honour of being made a Freeman of the City of London in recognition of her services with WRVS at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

OBITUARY

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of the following members

Mrs. O. Churchill, Area Representative for NW2, died after a short illness. Mrs. M. Spriggs writes: Olga Churchill joined Altrincham WRVS 20 years ago when she moved to this area from London. I much appreciated her knowledge of large-scale catering through our work in setting up new kitchens for Anchor Housing. When appointed Area Financial Adviser, Olga used her rare gift of being able to explain the intricacies of book-keeping to those less able than herself. We shall all miss her.

Mrs. H. Bradshaw	Solihull	Mrs. L. Hughes	Rhuddlan
Mr. J. Geldert	Ashington	Mrs. J. Wetton	Nantwich
Mrs. G. Newton	W. Bridgford	Mrs. N. Stewart	Bingham
Mrs. E. Clark	Leigh-on-Sea	Miss A. Muir	Bristol
Mrs. E. Sutherest	Sheffield	Mrs. S. Whittaker	Lytham
Mrs. F. Carpenter	Sheffield	Mrs. Walker	Bolton
Mrs. M. Tallamy	Wales	Mrs. D. Hughes	Rhyl
Mrs. C. Williams	Sheffield	Mrs. W. Frisby	Hastings
Miss D. Lister	St. Helier	Mrs. P. Adames	Southwick
Mrs. J. Bone	Middlesborough	Miss W. Fick	Hartlepool
Mrs. M. Rouse	Bexhill-on-Sea	Mrs. E. Askew	Maldon
Miss R. McCutcheon	Bristol	Lady Norman CBE	London
Mrs. E. Tassell	Wellingboro'	Mrs M. Jarvis	Heathfield
Mrs. G. Wallis	Bexhill-on-Sea	Miss M. Ryall	Plympton
Miss A. Wilson	Market Weighton	Mrs. J. Gauld	Grimsby
Mrs. E. Williams	Beverley	Mrs. G. Fisher	Newport
Mrs. B. Tracey	Bury St. Edmunds	Mrs. K. Franks	Langport
Mrs. E. Wild	Bilborough	Mrs. K. Howarth	Halifax
Mrs. J. Tuckett	OBE Bristol	Mrs. G. Houghton	Redditch
Miss W. Smith-Wright	Pulboro'	Mrs. K. Hartman	Epsom
Miss P. Samuel	Hornchurch	Mrs. D Matthews,	Hengoed
Mrs. V. Sanders	Canterbury	Mrs. B. Roper	Lowestoft
Mrs. A. Chapman	Eastbourne	Mr. R. Hallatt	Nottingham
Mrs. I. Millard	Langport	Miss D. Murray	Harrogate
Mrs. M. Gurr	Wilmslow	Mrs. V. Seymour	Selby
Mrs. J. Jeremy	Leigh-on-Sea	Mrs. E. Alder	Rustington
Mrs. J. Rubie	Woodbridge	Mrs. E. Laine	Guernsey
Miss A. Crowe	OBE London	Mrs. M. Smith	Ashfield
Mrs. P. Renouf	MBE. Jersey	Mrs. I. Wilson	Reepham

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
ROUND THE COUNTRY

98-year-old Mrs. G. Clark of Sunderland has written to say how much she enjoys the Newsletter. She enclosed a newspaper cutting about her long service as a WRVS Volunteer. She started the first branch in the Seaburn area. "It was quite a shock when the press came to talk to me about my 98th. birthday, but had a pleasant afternoon. I showed them some of my cuttings of previous meetings....I am now living at the very happy Glenthorpe Nursing Home. I would like to send my best wishes to all the members - and keep it going with a swing." She puts her long life and good health to "lots of positive thinking and honest hard work."

Mrs. M. Stanley of Burton-on-Trent writes: "I have been wondering if there are many, if any, left of the original County Borough Organisers. I was appointed CBO of the County Borough of Burton-on-Trent in 1938, when I became the handmaiden of the ARP officer. In the early years I always seemed younger than most CBOs, and as I am almost 92, there cannot be many of us left. It would be interesting to know. They called me Mrs. Burton at HQ in Tothill St.. The only name in the Newsletter which I recognise is that of Miss Halpin! Lady Reading made us into a hardworking and happy group. She was a wonderful woman."

Member Mrs. B. Newham of Whitley Bay was one of ten people who received an award from Ross Young's Food Services for meritorious service to the community. Accompanied by Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Murray, she took the early train to London, and then a taxi to the Savoy, where they were early, thanks to British Rail!. When all concerned were assembled, there was an hour long photo session, and everyone enjoyed a pre-lunch sherry. Award winners were photographed with Patty Caldwell of TV fame and various representatives of Ross Young's Foods and Age Concern. Lunch was magnificent, and was followed by speeches and the presentation of the awards by Patty Caldwell. Six of the ten awards went to WRVS members.

Mrs. Newham was presented with a personally engraved silver salver, together with a framed certificate. Many old and new relationships were formed at the function. Our Whitley Bay contingent caught the 16.00 train back to Newcastle, arriving home about 19.00, to bring a happy end to a perfect day.

Congratulations to Mrs. D.M.Tweedie County Rep. for Staffordshire, who in June received the Kinver Rotary Annual Award for Services to the Community.

ARCHIVES

LADY READING

Mrs. S Lewis. (London) writes: "In September 1939 the Home Office suggested I should apply to 41 Tothill St.. I found myself in the Registry. Lady Reading worked on the sixth floor, and we were on the ground floor. The immediate work was to keep a tally on children being evacuated from Central London, a continuous job, as fresh children needed to be evacuated, some children came back and then were re-evacuated several times, all depending on how serious the air-raids were. In the evening some of us would go along to a large house in Knightsbridge where a WVS Club had been opened for Servicemen. If there had been bad raids, Lady Reading never failed to ask us how we had fared. Occasionally Lady Reading would invite us home and feed us on rabbit or salmon. It was there that we first saw the Tapestry worked by Queen Mary, which went on show at the V and A and eventually was taken by Lady Reading to America and Canada to raise 'Dollars for Britain'. It is in a museum in Canada now."

Mrs. M Glenn (Nottingham) writes "when I take the trolley on the wards at University Hospital, I pick up little anecdotes. One gentleman told me that when he sees the Women in Green it reminds him of a day in 1939. He was training with a man called Montgomery, who was little known at that time. Tired and hungry, they were pleased to see a little green van approaching them, and a lady called out 'Come along, gentlemen, as much bread and jam

as you can eat!' He was proud to say he had eaten bread and jam from the fair hands of Lady Reading.

"A lady told me she had served for 43 years in WVS and she had received her medal and a sprig of rosemary from Lady Reading. That sprig has now grown into a beautiful bush in her garden in Derby, and she is proud to tell everyone its origin."

HOSPITALS

Mrs. M. Preston (Knowsley District) writes "WVS started work in Whiston Hospital in 1949, when three members working from a cupboard went round the wards with trays bearing things patients may have required. By 1969 they had purpose-built premises, and last year over £5,000 worth of gifts were given to the Hospital. Two members who started this project are now Association members, and received their second bars to their Long Service Medals last year."

Mrs. J.M. Wollerton BEM (Lincoln) spent many years as Hospitals Organiser. I have had to edit her interesting report which was much too long. Ed.

"At the beginning there were just a few trolley shops and hostess services. Then came a canteen in the County Hospital, an eight by ten with a counter. With two members on duty it depended on their size how much space was left to work in. In 1971 a purpose-built canteen was opened by Lady Reading at the large St. Johns Hospital, followed by a smaller project at Harmiston Hall for younger patients with more permanent disabilities. How those youngsters enjoyed spending their pocket money. Sadly both hospitals are now closed. Currently there are similar shops at St. Georges Hospital (acute longer stay).

"We provided a Hostess Service for the County Hospital for many years. When the large new District Hospital opened, the Health Authority decided to provide their own "Robins". The place is difficult for patients to find their way round. It was not long before we were helping the Robins, and now it is purely WRVS. The same loyal member has run the rota for many years. I would like to

thank all the members who have given many years of dedicated service to these projects".

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The late Mrs. O. Churchill wrote: "In 1957 a Lunch Club started in a small town in the NW. One of the first members was an ex-Alderman of the Town Council. He tended to be offensive to the other members, and likely to close the club. So the WVS ladies gave him a small room on his own, and served him lunch in solitary state. He remained rude and bad-tempered. His death produced rather guilty sighs of relief, which later changed to amazement when in his Will he left a handsome bequest to the Club. The interest on the money, invested with the Trust, has for some 30 years paid for summer outings, Christmas parties, and presents for Club members."

Growing up with a Lady in Green with acknowledgements to the Northumbria Newsletter. "It was during the 70s. that Mother was organising holidays for Darby & Joan Clubs. One year I came home to find a fifty-odd seat luxury coach parked outside, and two beefy coach-drivers in the kitchen devouring king-sized meals. It emerged that the company had made a hash-up of booking overnight accommodation for the drivers! All my ifs and buts were to no avail. There were the Darbys & Joans to think of, and my protestations were submerged in the noble and stoic brainwashing of WRVS tradition. I did score one point. I rang the company and negotiated £5. each for dinner, bed and breakfast. Having seen Mother and the Drivers off the next morning, I was left to launder the sheets!"

JERSEY Mrs. D. Corner, OBE

Four members compiled a very comprehensive Report for the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations on the facilities on the Island for the aged, bedridden, and independent elderly. The Association was much involved in sending magazines and paperbacks to the Gulf. They had a lot of assistance from outside organisations and individuals.

A WELCOME TO THE NEW GROUPS

Boston (Lincs). Coventry. Darlington Daventry & S.
Northants Kenilworth Lichfield Lincoln
Sandwell Shrewsbury.

WALES

MRS. L. BROTHERTON

GWENT Mrs. B. Travis MBE. Newport members meet monthly and had outings to the Three Choirs Vineyard, and the Arboretum at Westonbirt to see the autumnal colours. They visited the Stuart Crystal factory at St. Arvans, and were pleased to have Mrs. Brotherton with them. Other places of interest visited were the Three Counties Spring Show at Malvern, and St. Fagans, where there is a collection of houses, shops etc. from the olden days. During the Gulf crisis, members were asked to stand by to help hand feed seriously wounded servicemen, and were all grateful that this was not needed.

CLWYD Mrs. E. Edwards, BEM. Wrexham was the venue of the 5th. AGM and Reunion for Wales. Members were welcomed by Mrs. M. Bellis, WRVS County Organiser. There was a most interesting talk by Mr. A.H. Davies on his visit to Patagonia. They were happy to welcome Mrs. P. James, Association Chairman, and Mrs. M. Gibbons, WRVS Chairman for Wales. They also thank the Wrexham Emergency Services team for serving the lunch.

REPORTS FROM THE AREAS

NW1 Thank you to Mrs. B. WILSON MBE and welcome to Mrs. M. McCAMBRIDGE, BEM

NW2. Mrs. V. Grimshaw (Sale) writes: Our March meeting was a very sad one with the news of Mrs. Olga Churchill's illness. It came as a great shock to hear of her death very soon afterwards. It did not seem possible, for she had been with us just a few weeks before. She was just one of us, and joined us on all our outings. She gave us reports on Association meetings, and answered all our questions. She will be missed by all of us.

TRAFFORD

Altrincham Mrs. M. Rogers. They met regularly. There were talks about interesting places in London, from Mrs. Spriggs about her visit to Buckingham Palace to receive her OBE, and from the Fire Brigade on what to do in case of fire, including a video of Thora Hird chatting away as she does. They held a Jumble sale to sell unwanted items to each other, and any left over went to the Clothing Store. On another occasion Mrs. Allen brought her display of things in general use in past years, such as a button hook. Sale Mrs. V. Grimshaw. Sale hosted the Area meeting held in the Avenue Methodist Church. They were delighted to welcome Mrs. P. James, the National Chairman. There were some 60 members present, and Sale members provided refreshments. Transport was provided for those who needed it. Mrs. James gave an interesting speech, and then circulated to all the tables. Visits are made on a regular basis to two members in Rest Homes. There were various outings, and a copy of the Sale book of verses was sent to H.M. The Queen Mother on her 90th birthday. This was acknowledged by her Lady-in-Waiting. In May The Sale Cruising Club took us down the Bridgewater Canal, two or three to a boat, and member Mrs. J. Moreswood, who had arranged the trip, took the helm for part of the journey. Mrs. P Brocklebank, the local WRVS Organiser, joined our meeting, where she is always welcome. August is a month for looking after grandchildren and visiting friends!

BURY Mrs. J. Graham. In March Mrs. Graham held a Bring & Buy sale at her house, and an equally enjoyable Garden Party in July. They had the winter meeting in the Metropolitan Office, and were very grateful to WRVS for this. Eight members from Bury attended the Area meeting in Sale. Sadly Mrs. Graham has resigned as Group leader. We thank her for all her work.

NE1 Thank you to Mrs. C. SMURTHWAITE, MBE and welcome to Mrs. S. McCORMACK, BEM

The Annual Carol concert was well attended, and they were delighted to welcome the Chairman, Mrs. Peggy James. Members have continued to raise money for the Hospices.

It was with great regret that they accepted Mrs. Smurthwaite's decision to retire at the end of December. Her sterling work and enthusiasm has established Association membership on a firm foundation in this Area.

Northumberland County Mrs. E. Rotstein. Despite many administrative problems, those members who attended the Members Day at Morpeth enjoyed it. It was a good opportunity to meet and find out how the face of WRVS in general and Northumberland WRVS in particular is changing. Mrs. Rotstein says she is fighting a losing battle to get new members. She is trying to follow up after retirements, but the fact that members are so scattered and with no focal point is the biggest problem.

Ponteland Mrs. D.J. Hughes. Our Coffee mornings have been hosted by different members on each occasion. We are all such busy people, we can only arrange to meet on alternate months.

Ashington Mrs. M. Pratt. We continue to meet monthly, but some of our plans have gone awry. The Council decided to close Northumberland Close hall for refurbishment to the kitchen, but after four weeks decided to re-open as they were short of money to complete the work. Our Darby & Joan Club uses the same premises and last year was their Ruby wedding. The warden was very kind and between the jigs and reels we managed to hold the appropriate celebrations. We managed to raise over £20 to support the appeal for comforts for our troops in the Gulf. Our Christmas/New year festive meal was held at the General Havelock, East Sleekburn.

Sunderland Mrs. J. Lister. Sunderland has five new members. We now meet in Nelson's Close, an Anchor Housing complex. We have the use of a lovely warm lounge and kitchen, all on the ground floor. At our second meeting there, we caused a stir. Making coffee with the kettle provided, we managed to set off a heat detector in the kitchen. The kettle was faulty, and did not switch itself off! Before we knew where we were we had the warden dashing though the lounge, closely followed by a fire engine heading in our direction. Fortunately all was well, and I hasten to add, not our fault! Mrs. J. Owen has moved to Newcastle, and was presented with a

lovely plant and thanked for all her work as Chairman. A Bring and Buy stall is arranged each month, with the proceeds going to the Sunderland Hospice, and we are still knitting for the Save the Children Fund.

Newcastle Mrs. Yarrington. Our membership increased by three, who brought in a few new ideas. Instead of holding Coffee Mornings for our charities, we hold 'sales tables' after each meeting - much were the delicacies which were tempting us. Many comforts were brought in for the troops in the Gulf, and several members offered their help for relatives who needed accommodation if the injured were posted to hospitals in this area. We will have to find another venue for our Christmas lunch, as several members were disappointed that the Polytechnic could not accommodate us all.

North Tyneside Mrs. E. Frew. At our March Coffee Pot we had much pleasure in presenting the Warden of Norfolk Court with a cheque for the residents welfare as a small token of our appreciation for their continuing support and hospitality for our events. The Coffee Pots are held on the first Friday of each month, 10.-11.30 a.m.. Everyone welcome. We continue to check as far as possible the health of our older members.

Whitley Bay Mrs. M.E. Dawson. Our members attend the monthly Coffee morning with our North Shields friends. We were delighted to hear that Mrs. Bessie Newham had won one of Ross Young's Food Service awards for meritorious service to the community. (See Round the Country.)

NE2. Thank you to Mrs. B. BURKITT and welcome to
Mrs. R. THOMPSON OBE

There are now seven Groups in the Area, all expanding. York was happy to host the 1990 AGM of the Association. This was the first residential AGM, and much enjoyed by everyone. The NE2 Area Annual Lunch was held in Osgodby and we were glad to have Peggy James with us.

Darlington Mrs. G. Evans. There were seven outings during the year, ranging from teaparties to an afternoon visit to Newburgh Priory and Coxwold.

Hartlepool Mrs. E. Stamp. This group meets monthly. They had outings to the Gateshead Garden Festival and Whitby, when they stopped for tea with the WRVS in Pickering.

Harrogate Lady Hilda Laycock. This Group meets monthly. They still find time to help others and are fund raising for the MacMillan nurses as a memorial to one of their members.

Scarborough Mrs. J. Price. This Group had a summer outing to Lotherton Hall, and a visit to the flower display at the Manor House, Heslington. Beforehand they had an enjoyable lunch in Stamford Bridge, where they saw the Whitby members. Flowers were presented to Mrs. M. Watson on her 90th birthday.

Middlesbrough Mrs. K. Bragazzi. We were given £300 by the Local Council to get us off to a flying start. Our Group is growing, and has 37 members, this after only one year. A speaker has attended each monthly meeting. We had lunch in our local College, and hope to become more venturesome.

Selby Mrs. J. Altass. This Group meets for lunch at the Local Technical College as well as other outings and meetings. They hosted the Annual Lunch. In July they had a mystery evening ending with a meal at Carlton Husthwaite. They were joined by Miss L. Hyatt, who had helped in finding the venue.

York Mrs. B. Hind. The Mini-Holiday this year was in Chichester. They broke their long journey south at Farnham, where Mrs. Hill the D.O. had kindly arranged a very good tea. They visited, among other places, Chichester Cathedral, the ancient church at Bosham harbour famous for its connections with King Canute, the Roman palace at Fishborne, the Mary Rose exhibition in Portsmouth, and had a trip round the harbour to view the ships - while eating lunch. On the way home, Mrs. Maggs of the Haslemere WRVS office kindly provided a pleasant coffee break.

They looked after everyone at the Association AGM 1990. and meet twice a year for tea, a chat and a speaker.

NE3.

Mrs. A. M. WILSON

The Annual meeting for the Area was held in Cleethorpes on 24th. April: there were 91 members plus a number of guests. They welcomed the Mayoress of Cleethorpes, Mrs. Peggy James, the Chairman, and Mrs. A. Elver, Area Organiser, who gave an interesting talk on present

WRVS work. Membership continues to expand, and visits to the housebound have been appreciated. Summer lunches and afternoon teaparties have been enjoyed.

North Humberside Mrs. B. Gillard reports that they much enjoyed the AGM. Mrs. Elver had spoken of the Pegasus Bed presented from hospital shop profits to the Castle Hill Hospital. The patient occupying the new bed was recognised as a WVS/WRVS member: an instance of present day members caring for a former colleague! Mrs. Allison, the County Rep., entertained members to tea. Pocklington members meet quarterly, and extend a welcome to any member to join them.

South Humberside Mrs. D. Stokes. MBE. The husband of one of our members asked if visits could be arranged while she was in hospital. We organised a daily rota. We have three social meetings a year. 40 members enjoyed tea in the home of Mrs. P. Fitzwilliams, and we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Peggy James, our Chairman.

Lincolnshire Mrs. M. Birkhead. A new group has been established in Lincoln, and Boston retired members are forming another group.

MID.1

Mrs. J.B.ROSE

Hereford & Worcester Mrs. M. Huins, who for many years was the enthusiastic County Rep, retired last year, but remains a keen member. She has been replaced by Mrs. D. Mercer. On 20 June 25 members gathered for a buffet lunch in the home of Mrs. Robertson-Smith in Malvern. Right in the middle of a very wet spell, the sun shone for us all day, thus adding to our enjoyment. Mrs. Rose was with us, and gave an excellent report on the recent AGM which she had attended, and several members were interested in attending the 1992 AGM in Cardiff.

Staffordshire Mrs. D.M. Tweedie organised their first luncheon in April at the Coffee Shop in Lichfield Cathedral, which was most successful. They were grateful to Mrs. C. Tillett, County Organiser, for allowing them to gather at County Office beforehand, and were pleased that both Mrs. Tillett and Mrs. Rose, Area Representative, joined in the luncheon. Mrs. Tillett gave them an excellent report of the Nottingham Conference.

Shropshire. A new group is being formed in Shrewsbury,

and 10 members met for the first time on 14th March. Further meetings are being planned.

MID.2

Mrs. H. SMITH

Mrs. Smith, assisted by Mrs. M. Glenn, entertained members to a buffet lunch in September, which was much enjoyed by everyone.

Nottinghamshire

Nottingham City. Mrs. M. Glenn. They continue to thrive, with many outings.

Mansfield From Mrs. Hubble. We had a coffee morning and Bring & Buy, and at Mrs. H. Smith's lunch party we much enjoyed digging up and splitting plants coveted by the gardeners amongst us.

Ashfield Mrs. J. Flynn. In May they had a coach trip to Bakewell. They are always ready to visit the sick and elderly who may be in need.

Newark. From Mrs. H.T. Alderman, Secretary. We have lunches four times a year, which are well attended.

Rushcliffe From Mrs. J. Loach, Secretary. They meet monthly, and have had two lunches, one at Clarendon College. They had a variety of speakers at coffee mornings including a Keep-fit Instructress who had them joining in, much to the amusement of staff and customers who had wandered in. Dr. & Mrs. Roebuck again invited them to use their beautiful home and grounds.

Gedling From Mrs. B. Noon, Secretary. We meet each month, with an average attendance of 30/40 members, and there is always a convivial atmosphere.

Whenever possible we look after members who are not so young and not so fit. We have visited the premises of our local Newspaper, held coffee mornings sometimes with a speaker, buffet lunches at members' houses, and afternoon teas. One of these was held in a village hall and we heard a talk about badgers. The W.I. kindly organised our tea.

Bassetlaw From Mrs. A. Glass, Secretary. They visited a local garden centre and enjoyed the tea.

Broxtowe from Mrs. V. Haigh. There was an AGM meeting in May, and a coffee morning in July at the home of Mrs. M. Davies, and lunch is planned for October at the High Peak College in Buxton.

Leicestershire Mrs. W. Andrew, Secretary. They now have 102 members, and enjoyed trips to Kew, Stratford and Caithness Glass.

Derbyshire Mrs. D. Martin. Members enjoyed a day at Kedleston Hall in in April, and after a good lunch they toured this famous house. Membership is growing throughout the County.

MID.3 Thank you to Mrs. M.F. OSWALD and and welcome to Mrs. J. SMITH, BEM

Mrs. Smith is just starting to visit the Groups. Coventry Miss R. Lee. They are very active, meeting monthly in the Coventry Met. Office, and having trips out. Using W. Midland free bus and rail passes for pensioners, these trips do not cost much. The Group is helping with refreshments for the next medal presentation at Coventry. Sandwell Mrs. S. Duffield. BEM. This Group has got off to a good start, with coffee mornings at Mrs. Duffield's home, and visits to Sandwell Park Farm, the John Ashbury House, and to Haden Hall House, Cradley Heath. There was a coffee morning with a visit from a Canon of Lichfield Cathedral.

HC/NORTH AREA

Mrs. E.C. CHARNLEY

Bedfordshire Mrs. P. Henderson-Begg, County Rep., has also become Chairman of Sharnbrook WRVS House.

Cambridgeshire Mrs. B. Titcomb who is also organiser of Peterborough Group. 19 members and their speaker enjoyed a delicious lunch, with desserts and wine provided by members. Mrs. S. Hendricks spoke about her nursing career.

Huntingdon Mrs. E. Watson. They welcomed members from all parts of the County to their annual Buffet Lunch in November. It was good of Mrs. Watson to work so hard arranging their meetings in spite of illness which prevented her attending most of last year's meetings, and we are glad to report that she was at the last two meetings, and trust that her health will continue to improve. Members sew together knitted squares for the Save the Children Fund.

Cambridge The group meets regularly, and was joined by members from Peterborough for a (cold and wet) midsummer trip to Sandringham.

Hertfordshire Friends keep in touch locally, and those who can meet each summer at the home of County Rep. Mrs. B. Sewell, MBE. This year we were happy to welcome our County Organiser, but we missed Eleanor McLeod who had to delay her visit from Australia due to illness.

Northamptonshire Mrs. L. Shanks has taken over as County Rep. They have continued with their programme of luncheons at Rushden Hall, and have another Group covering Daventry and South Northants. The Association mounted a stand at the WRVS members' County Day and a number of new members were recruited.

HC/SOUTH AREA

Mrs. M.H. GORDON

Mrs. P. James MBE joined us for our AGM in March. There was an informal buffet lunch hosted by Oxford group members, who provided an excellent meal. Mrs. Darlow is now Oxford County Rep.. Lunches and outings continue.

Newport Isle of Wight. Mrs. J. Ackling. On 12th. April, members enjoyed a super lunch at the Cranbourne Restaurant. Our County Organiser, Mrs. P. Chaplin-Orman was able to join us, and it was a very happy occasion. We all met again for a Garden Teaparty at the County Office on 20th June, and had great fun and games and all won a prize. Again our County Organiser was able to be with us, and our Chairman made a beautiful chocolate Gateau.

EAST ANGLIA AREA

Mrs. E.D. CLAYDON

Norfolk and Suffolk have over 95s whose birthdays are duly celebrated. Will our E. Anglian air produce the next Association Centenarian?

Norfolk Mrs. M. Moss MBE. They had a happy Lunch in Cromer and outings were organised by Norwich, N. Norfolk and Gt. Yarmouth branches. Gt. Yarmouth reported "sew in" mornings arranged at the request of Social Services to stitch together squares knitted by the disabled, and also had a coffee morning to raise funds for WRVS family holidays.

Suffolk Mrs. S. Laverton. Many branches pay special attention to organising transport to their activities.

Maldon Mrs. B. Perks. They continue to have what the members want, lunches and a chat.

St. Edmundsbury Mrs. Mytton-Mills. They hold lunches in members' houses every six months or so, all those nearby providing food and hosting the other half of the Group.

Stour Link Mrs. M. Maudsley. They continue their popular walks, ending with a pub lunch, plus an annual strawberry tea.

Ipswich Mrs. R. Conder. They have regular lunch meetings. and helped their 98-year-old celebrate her birthday - she received a card from all the members of Southend - her previous branch.

Newmarket members are joining St. Edmundsbury.

Essex. Southend Mrs. B. Tytherleigh (with apologies from the Editor for the typing error). They produce an amazing selection of Speakers. The branch collected their annual supply of groceries for a local Home, and used 6 cars for an outing to Heycle Hall to save coach hire. They then ruined their figures with a scrumptious cream tea.

SE AREA

Miss M.T. COOKE MBE

WEST KENT

Surrey Mrs. B. Stirling and Mrs. B. Evans Epsom Mrs. W. Bickley received an award for 40 years service at a coffee morning in the Town Hall. She also received the Surrey County Award for achievement. Many congratulations to her. Tea was enjoyed at Carlodge, Ranmore Common, joined by three Leatherhead members. 41 members were at the AGM when Mrs. E. Patrick handed over to Mrs. V. Hawkins. They had a teaparty at the end of July at Mrs. B. Stirling's home. There were 43 people with their garden chairs, BUT it poured with rain. It was rather funny to see them all in rows in the sitting room, with 7 stalwarts in the garden under umbrellas!

Guildford held their AGM and lunch. They also visited a Flower Festival at the Saxon Church at Albury where a

speaker gave them a talk on the history of the Church. This was followed by tea at Shere. Woking 40 members attended the Annual Lunch. They also went to the theatre at Windsor.

EAST SUSSEX Mrs. F.M. Smith MBE Eastbourne have regular meetings and outings which are well attended. Hove held a coffee morning in March, and visited Parham House in June. The house was interesting, but rain prevented a tour of the gardens. Lewes held a coffee morning and visited Finchcocks, Goudhurst where, after touring the house, they heard a recital of music played on a variety of keyboard instruments in this museum. Hastings and Rother At a coffee morning in Bexhill in June it was decided to form separate branches and to arrange their own gatherings in view of transport difficulties.

WEST SUSSEX Mrs. P. Cullen We welcome West Sussex into the South East Area, and hope to have news of their activities in future Newsletters.

HAMPSHIRE Thank you to Mrs. D.J. Simpkins, BEM, who was until recently Area Rep. for SE2. She writes: "It is with regret that we change our Area and lose our colleagues in West Sussex and Dorset. We ourselves, together with the Isle of Wight, will be part of H/C. South".

SW1. Mrs. K. LOW
Membership increases steadily, and meetings, luncheons and coffee mornings are held regularly in all the Counties.

Avon Mrs. R. Matthews, County Rep. Members held a coffee morning in May in the Area Office. There was an interesting talk on "The Soup run" and £30 was contributed as a donation. Member Mrs. Chubb has completed 40 years service at the hospital shop at Frenchay Hospital.

Bristol City Mrs. B. Rich. A very successful gathering was held in March at the Whiteladies Rd. Office.

Gloucestershire Mrs. J. Connop. County Rep. Luncheon,

was served for members on 27th. June at the Masonic Hall in Tewkesbury, when Dame Frances Clode was welcomed. The speaker was Miss. F. Jackson on " the magic of the Falklands". The Tewkesbury Emergency Services team provided an excellent lunch.

Cheltenham Members had a get-together on 20th March when Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins gave a slide show on "Death Valley to the High Sierras",

Wiltshire Mrs. M. Darby. The Annual Reunion lunch took place in May, when a delicious three course lunch was served to members.

SW2

MISS M. SCOTT

Area 2 SW is quiet at the moment, but recruitment in Cornwall is improving slowly. Devon enjoys coffee mornings and days out. On April 11th. our President, the Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, planted a tree at Cedar Shade Residential Home in Sidmouth. Member Mrs. J. Harvey, 93½ years old, welcomed the President, presenting her with a floral token, and thanked her for sparing the time to come and visit Cedar Shade. Dorset Mrs. G.A. Dunton. Dorset Association held their Annual Reunion on 20th. March at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne. Mrs. D. Simpkins, Mrs. P. Steward, Poole D.O., Mrs. J. Kingsbury, Wimborne D.O., and Mrs. S. Evans, Bridport D.O. were welcome guests. There were 48 members present, and £70 was raised by a raffle and Bring & Buy sale.

London

SE. Mrs. E.G. Block MBE. On May 25th. members had a Ploughman's Lunch in the Robert Whyte Memorial Hall, thanks to Mrs. J. Todd, LBO Bromley. Several members donated additional gifts for the raffle, and we were able to send £10 to the Benevolent Fund. The speaker was Mrs. S. Lewis, with her memories of early days at WVS HQ in Tothill St., (See Archives). The second meeting was held in the home of Mrs. G. Cleverly in Eltham. She provided a Ploughman's lunch and apple pie. Mrs. Marhoff, LBO Greenwich, brought us up to date on their work. A profit was made from the raffle, and a cheque for £20 was sent to help Association funds.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE
AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON Co-ordinator, Mrs. A. Christophersen, HQ

NW Area Mrs. D. Stevens

SE Area Mrs. E.G. Block

SW Area Mrs. A. Leacock MBE,

NE Area Mrs. D. Gross

NORTH WEST

Area 1, Mrs. M. McCambridge BEM

Area 2.

Area 3, Mrs. M.J. Preston

NORTH EAST

Area 1. Mrs. S. McCormack BEM

Area 2, Mrs. R. Thompson OBE

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. J. Smith BEM

H/C N. Mrs. E.C. Charnley

H/C S. Mrs. M. Gordon

EAST ANGLIA. Mrs. E.D. Claydon

SOUTH EAST Miss M.T. Cooke MBE

SOUTH WEST

Area 1. Mrs. K. Low

Area 2. Miss M. Scott

WALES Mrs. L. Brotherton

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

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
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SERVICE

Sent to us by Mrs. M. Ainsley, MBE (London)

Once you reach 80 everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or anybody else's, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be in three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything, (At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain).

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire and complain about your arthritis and you ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them. (Actually your hearing is about 50% gone).

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. If you ask me, life begins at 80!