



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No. 36 MAY 1992

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WRVS Headquarters

234-244 Stockwell Rd., London SW9 9SP

Tel 071-416-0146

President

The Hon. Mrs. Mary Corsar, Chairman of WRVS

Chairman

Mrs. Peggy James, MBE

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. M.D.S. Maisey, BEM

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs. M. Davies

Honorary Editor

Mrs. D. Gross,

YOUR CHAIRMAN WRITES...

As my term of office soon draws to a close this will be my last letter to you. It has been a privilege to serve as your Chairman. I appreciate the welcome you have given me at your various meetings where I have had the opportunity of renewing acquaintance with former WRVS friends, of making many more new ones and of visiting parts of the country I had not seen before.

I have been amazed at some of your activities and reassured that the Association is living up to its aims of maintaining friendships made in the Service - also that you can be relied upon to keep in touch with those members who are or will become less mobile as we all grow older.

Your new Chairman will be elected at our Annual Reunion in Cardiff on July 8th and I know you will give her the same welcome and support you have given me.

With my thanks and very best wishes to you all.

Peggy James

NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST 1992

MBE

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Mrs. A. Blair | Regional Organiser, Tayside |
| Mrs. B. Clewer | Lately Vice-Chairman, Wales |
| Mrs. M. Evans | Lately County Organiser, Surrey |

BEM

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Mrs. M. Bateman | Catering Organiser, Darby & Joan Club, Central Northampton |
| Mrs. R. Cook | District Organiser, Lancaster |
| Mrs. D. Pearman | Local Organiser, Immingham |
| Mrs. J. Rowe | L.B.O., Kingston on Thames |
| Mrs. J. Wilson | Local Organiser, Wetherby |
| Mrs. S. Barton | For Services to the Community in E. Sussex. Former Local Organiser, Rye |
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EDITORIAL

There just isn't room in this May edition for me to thank everyone who has helped me in one way or another to produce the Newsletters. Your letters have been a pleasure to receive - I'm only sorry we can't print more of them. I shall be retiring as Editor in July at the A.G.M.. Until then, please continue to send me all your reports, all your anecdotes, stories and memories, so that I can hand over in good order.

WVS/WRVS now has a long history. It has had to change to meet new challenges often with new ideas. It is you, the vintage generation, who can recall and record for the younger generations how these challenges have been met over the years.

Doris Gross

FUTURE SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will have read in the AGM Minutes which were included with your last Association Newsletter that we have had to consider raising future subscriptions. After a great deal of discussion which took place in November at a meeting of your Committee and Area Representatives it was decided that the Annual Subscription will be increased to £4-00 and the Life Subscription to £20-00 for **NEW** members as from **1st. October 1992**. Renewal of Annual Subscriptions for **EXISTING** members will not take effect until **1st January 1993**.

The entire income of the Association comes only from members' subscriptions and donations. We are sure you will all agree that we have had a very low subscription for the past 18 years, with only a very small rise from £1 to £1-50 about six years ago. We have refrained from making frequent small increases as inflation and our expenses rose. Changing subscriptions costs money in reprinting of Application forms, changing of Bankers' Orders etc. - but we have now reached the stage where our expenditure is exceeding our income and this is impossible housekeeping. We are very fortunate to have the use of our office and equipment at HQ free of charge and our administrative costs are kept to a minimum - but postage and printing, two of our main expenses - have escalated considerably and are beyond our control.

The new subscription, at less than 8p. a week, is still very much lower than that of other Associations and Clubs, and we shall make every effort to keep it at that level for many years.

SO PLEASE NOTE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

for **PRESENT** members £4 from 1 Jan 93
for **NEW** members £4 from 1 Oct 92

LIFE MEMBERSHIP until 1 Oct 92 £15
after 1 Oct 92 £20

BANKERS ORDER Members will be sent a new form in due course.

VOLUNTARY
SERVICE
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE 1971

OBITUARY

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

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Mrs. E. Whewell Blackburn | Mrs. J. Todd Sevenoaks |
| Mrs. I. Hare Leconfield | Mrs. D. Kempton Nantwich |
| Miss M. Gosling Guildford | Mrs. S. Elliott Chester |
| Mrs. E. Chubb Gloucester | Miss M. Neild Blackburn |
| Mrs. E. Horsey Guildford | Mrs. E. McIlwraith Sale |
| Miss D. Cole MBE St. Leonards | Mrs. M. Tweedy Darlington |
| Mrs. J. Bottard Bognor Regis | Mrs. N. Pegg Leeds |
| Miss W. Burrige Bognor Regis | Mrs. V. Little Sidmouth |
| Mrs. G. Ainsworth Rustington | Mrs. J. Doyle Warwick |
| Miss B. Patterson Rottingdean | Mrs. G. Copp Churchdown |
| Mrs. L. Roe Newcastle-on-Tyne | Mrs. E. Pearson Bristol |
| Mrs. C. Ludgate Leigh on Sea | Mrs. S. Rothwell Langport |
| Mrs. J. Peet Long Eaton | Miss M. Haig Somerton |
| Miss A. Lea Alsager | Mrs. K. Perkins Wallasey |
| Mrs. E. Asson Wellingborough | Mrs. V. Straw Gedling |
| Mr. G. Roberts Plymouth | Miss P. Hardy Beccles |
| Mrs. M. Spencer Rustington | Mrs. W. Cotton Selby |
| Mrs. J. Hawkyard Somerset | Mrs. M. Gilbert Cheltenham |
| Miss E. Martin Bexhill on Sea | Mrs. E. Orchard Solihull |
| Mrs. M. Arundale Scarborough | Mrs. D. Taylor Skegness |
| Mrs. E. Caudwell Canterbury | Mrs. A. Armstrong Brough |
| Mrs. M. Skeffington-White OBE Wetherby | |
| Miss M. Castleman-Brown MBE Cambridge | |
| Mrs. P. Fitzwilliams Healing | Mrs. H. Gilliard Jersey |
| Miss T. Cooke MBE S. East | Mrs. G. Arthy Benfleet |
| Mrs. D. Dodworth Sheffield | Mrs. V. Lake Formby |
| Miss D. Oldham Sevenoaks | |
| Mrs C. Bragazzi Cleveland | Mrs. M. Jennings Alcester |
| Mrs. V. Brown Cottingham | Miss V. Elesmore Stratford |
| Mrs. W. Johnson Sale | Miss K. Sadler Marden |
| Mrs. O. Crane Huntingdon | Mrs. W. Nash Farnham |
| Mrs. P. Hamilton MBE Kingsbridge | |

From Mrs. D. Corner, OBE Jersey. Two of our members, who are excellent needle women, are taking part in the making of Jersey's answer to the Bayeux tapestry. The Island is divided into twelve Parishes, over which presides a Connetable and Centeniers and Vingteniers (voluntary Carers for the Parish). Each Parish is producing a panel in needlework depicting the times of the German occupation of the Island, which when finished will, I gather, adorn the wall of the States, the equivalent of the Houses of Parliament.

From Miss B. Stern NE3 joined WRVS Services Welfare Overseas just after the second world war. "We organised entertainment for the troops in big clubs and small regimental canteens: arranged tours to places of interest: welcomed the arrival by troopship at the docks of young National Servicemen: and waved them goodbye when they sailed for home. We tried to be their "Older sisters" or "Agony Aunts" as they are now called.

Apart from club work, we visited sick or wounded Servicemen in Military Hospitals and acted as disc-jockeys putting out Forces requests over the tannoy system on troopships, or on Forces broadcasting units on dry land. Our living arrangements were as varied as our work: a flat in a Berlin Barracks; a rubber planter's Bungalow in Malaya; a Quonset hut in Korea; a five-storey hotel in Tokyo and a Madam Butterfly house with sliding walls. Some of the sanitary arrangements in the Far East were of the "down the garden path" variety, and water came out of jerricans more often than from taps. Wherever we went, a plentiful supply of magazines was sent to us by WVS at home, for which we were most grateful. They were really appreciated by the servicemen.

The most unusual duty we had was to measure the Korean bride of an Australian soldier for her first western clothes, show her how to wear them, and wave her goodbye as she sailed to join her husband in Australia. I am in touch with eight other ex-WVS Overseas, and would welcome news of others.

From Mrs. M. Simmons BEM How They Did It Then.

In 1946 I was Centre Organiser for Cottingham. I wanted to start a Darby & Joan Club, and we invited the old people in Cottingham to meetings to tell them what we would like to do. (Elderly people in those days never went outside their homes!)

We opened our Club in a small room in the old King Street Rooms in 1947. We had 80 members and also sent out 20 meals on wheels. It was hard work, as the kitchen had to be scrubbed out and all the equipment taken to the WVS office over the Trustee Savings Bank. This meant collection and delivery every time. Mrs. Jones cooked the meat at home, and others had a bucket of potatoes delivered which they peeled ready for the next day.

After 3 years we decided it would be nice to have our own hall. Mrs. Jarvis and I took chairs to stand on to look over Mr. Hartley's wall, where there was a hard tennis court. We asked him if we could buy the land, and he agreed on £600. We called a meeting of seven Village Worthies, who each gave us a £100 interest free loan. Alderman Bisby suggested we should start from scratch, and Counc. Briggs was asked to build a hall for us.

We raised money in every possible way, from selling bricks at 5/- each to fashion shows and whist drives. Local Business men gave us large doors, toilets, windows and the floor. Lady Reading helped us to obtain £1,000 from the King George VI Fund, and there was a donation from Social Services.

In 1954 four Trustees were appointed to run the financial side, and the Midland Bank Manager became Treasurer. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. B. Clarke, a member of the Club, on 31st. December, 1954, and the hall was handed over to us in May 1955. (a stage was added later.) The Hall was opened by Counc. Mrs. Moring, Chairman of the Council, on 23rd May, 1955. Princess Mary came to visit us later. The D.& J. Club continues to thrive. I still attend the Club myself. A big thank you to everyone who made it all possible!

ROUND THE COUNTRY

New Groups: Diss (Norfolk)

We are all sad to hear of the death of Miss T. Cooke, MBE, Area Representative for South East Area and a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund since 1984. Mrs. A. Troup writes: Thea Cooke joined WVS in 1962, and held a number of different appointments. She was a member of the SE staff specialising in Welfare for the Elderly, Disabled and Family Support. When in Cuckfield, she played an important part in organising a camp for Ugandan Asian Refugees. She was a much loved colleague.

H/C North. In January many members of the Association attended the funeral of Miss Castleman-Brown MBE. known to us all as C.B.. She was active in WVS from its earliest days, particularly in organising clothing stores throughout the Region. We are proud to remember a lifetime of dedicated service, and we miss her.

MID.1 Miss V. Elesmore died in March aged 91. A Headmistress all her working life, in 1939 she offered her services to WVS in the school holidays. Lady Reading gave her special tasks. After the liberation of the Channel Islands, she was sent in a destroyer to Guernsey with bundles of clothing, boxes of toys, goodies to eat and a huge Christmas tree for the children.

NW2 Sale Membership at present is 32 plus three Honorary members in Rest Homes who are visited regularly. We have also traced ex-WRVS members who are not Association members, and revived memories for them. One was over 92 but still very much with it. Mrs. I. Platt was presented with a plant on her 90th. Birthday.

NE2 York Mrs. Brittain is now Chairman.

NE3 We welcome a new member, none other than Mr. Bill James. We thank him for his untiring yet unobtrusive support, and we are delighted he is now "one of us".

NE4 welcomed the Association Chairman, Mrs. P. James, to their Area Lunch held in Wakefield. Members provided the catering. £45 was sent to the Benevolent Fund.

EAST ANGLIA Norfolk. They had a County Reunion in December held at County Office attended by 50 members. A Bring and Buy sale raised £40 for the Association funds at HQ. When subs. were collected a number of ladies changed to Life Membership.

Mrs. G. Parsons a member from Southend-on-Sea broke both wrists while on holiday in Yorkshire, and was taken to Catterick Hospital. Her friend Mrs. Reed rang Mrs. Tytherleigh as to what could be done, and she rang Mrs. Maisey at WVS/WRVS HQ, who immediately started making enquiries. Mrs. B. Burkitt took over, and arranged for Mrs. D. King to visit! As a thank you, Southend sent a donation of £50 to the Association, for which they are very grateful.

South West 1 Bristol Mrs. M. Gosling received a third clasp to her long Service Medal. 83 members of the Gloucestershire Association met for lunch in Cheltenham. Wiltshire Two successful coffee mornings were held.

South West 2 Dorset The D.O. for Poole arranged a special tea party at the Centre Office in June to celebrate the Birthday of Mrs. J. Grebby. Fifty members met for their AGM at the home of Lady Hanham, Chairman.

WALES. Clwyd. 45 members held their yearly meeting, followed by a buffet lunch. Wrexham. They visited an icecream factory. Newport In July Mrs. Travis opened her garden to members, and the proceeds went to Chernobyl orphans who were on holiday with the local scouts. S. Wales Welsh HQ again provided lunch for their half-yearly meeting.

LONDON From Mrs. N. Atwell. I am so pleased we were represented at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall last year. I had felt strongly before that we had been forgotten.