



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No 38
Spring 1993

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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The Hon. Dame Mary Corsar DBE.
Chairman. WRVS

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Dame Frances Clode DBE
Mrs H Foster OBE
Miss K Halpin CBE
Mrs P James MBE
Baroness Pike of Melton DBE
Dame Barbara Shenfield DBE

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Hon. Treasurer

Mrs M Davies

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Mrs P. Cullen Mrs D. Simpkins BEM
Mrs B.E. Gillard Mrs W. Taylor DL
Miss J. Hardy OBE JP Mrs B. Titcomb
Mrs M.V. Moss MBE Mrs D. Travis BEM
Mrs B.M. Pollard
Hon. Editor
Mrs N. Venables

Chairman's letter

Dear Members

This time a proper Newsletter recounting really interesting and original activities from our Counties, Branches and Groups. We apologise, again, for the mini-News last time and trust that you understand our difficulties.



Complicated as is the task of a new Editor in taking over, Ness Venables has added to her traumas by falling down, just one step, resulting in one dislocation and three breakages. She will certainly be very 'captive' in preparing this edition but she has 100% help from her husband Peter. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

The past six months have been, mainly, worrying. WRVS having to draw up their first ever, legal Constitution has had a considerable effect upon the Association. As a very new and 'green' Chairman I have had enormous help and support, not only from our Association Vice-Presidents (past Chairmen) but from WRVS at Headquarters and, of course, our Association Headquarters staff.

Also, there has been the work of finding Divisional Representatives (in place of Area Representatives) to cover the Counties in the new WRVS Divisions.

I felt it essential that the Association follow the present WRVS structure or we would lose our, so important, contact with the WRVS at all levels.

It has been very heartening to receive so much help from Representatives, some having many of their counties moved to different WRVS Divisions and others taking on new Counties. Our coverage is nearly complete and we are working hard to fill the remaining gaps. But those counties where, at the moment, there is no Divisional Representative will not be forgotten but will be contacted direct from Headquarters.

I wish you all a happy, sunny summer

Shirley Hayden

The Association wishes to send sincere
congratulations to the following WRVS members



Birthday Honours List 1992

- MBE -Mrs B Jackson, Books on Wheels, Devon
-Mrs R Tomlin, County Organiser, Notts
- BEM -Mrs G Wormald, Airedale District Hospital Shop Organiser, N. Yorks
-Mrs J Jackson, MOW and Transport Organiser, Daventry
-Mrs C Renwick, Holiday Organiser, Devon

For Service to the Community

- MBE -Mrs E Arnold, Local Organiser, Briarfield, Lancashire
-Squadron-Leader F W Payne, President of the Horsham Branch of the
RAF Association
- Mrs E Menzies, Local Organiser, Cumnock
- Mrs P Byass, Lately D.O., Beverley, Humberside
- BEM -Mrs D Norris, Broughty Ferry, Dundee
-Mrs M C Neill-Morrison, Minster, Kent
-Mrs K Mugford, Meals on Wheels, Stroud

New Year's Honours List Jan 1993

- DBE -The Hon Mrs Mary Corsar, National Chairman, WRVS
- OBE -Mrs Dorothy Ward, DL, Lately Area Organiser, Home Counties North
- MBE -Mrs Beryl Archer, District Organiser Brighton
-Mrs Joan Wood, High Wycombe Hospital Tea Bar Organiser,
Buckinghamshire
- BEM -Mrs Doris Christie, Local Organiser, Bagshot, Surrey
-Mrs Eileen Guest, Trolley Shop Organiser, Burton Road Hospital, Dudley
-Mrs Iris Harding, Local Organiser, Portslade, Sussex
-Mrs Judith Massam, Supervisor, Chelmsley Hospital Canteen and Shop,
Solihull
- Mrs Irene Parker, WRVS work in Walton Hospital, Liverpool
-Mrs Elizabeth Potter, Meals on Wheels, Bowness on Windermere

For Service to the Community

- BEM -Mrs Muriel Kay, Work for WRVS, Bebington, Cheshire
-Mrs Frieda Walker, Meals on Wheels, Havant, Hampshire

Letter from the Editor

Dear Members

As the Chairman wrote in her shortened Newsletter in November, I have been asked to take over the editorship, a daunting task, but I have already had great encouragement and support from the Headquarters staff and Mrs Claydon, Mrs Gross and Mrs Maisey in particular, which has been invaluable. They and you, have very kindly waited six months for me to take over while I completed an Open University degree which I had worked on for five years. Now with that behind me I am taking a long hard look at this job of Newsletter editor.



One problem has been the change in the regional organisation of the WRVS from Areas to Divisions and our Chairman's wish, which I am sure is right, to keep the Association in step with the WRVS. I decided, therefore, rightly or wrongly, that the Newsletter should support her in this and that 'News from the Areas' should now be 'News from the Divisions'. I have 'taken the plunge' and the news from the Group Leaders and Area Reps of 1992 has been re-aligned into the new 1993 Divisions. Some reports had to be split, where new boundaries have made this necessary, but I know that Group Leaders will understand. For the next issue it will be much simpler.

What I did not know when taking on this task was the problem of the the cost of postage and therefore the number of pages that we can include. I have to give you what I think you would most appreciate, while keeping within these weight limitations. So my first thought was "what would the members most like to read in **their** Newsletter?" To answer this, I need you to tell me ...yes, I do mean **you**, what **you** would like. I think that the Newsletter should consist very largely of contributions from members. We all have common problems, eg. in learning to adapt to retirement and age, while continuing to be helpful, and we may be able to pass on tips to each other through these pages.

Therefore with your help, we could make this Newsletter reflect our lives and interests. Each issue will, I hope, have topics to which

readers will contribute; helpful hints, recipes, gardening tips, cooking on a low income, poetry from our poets, mini stories, memories, etc. I have included a few examples in this issue.

It will be fun to help each other and to share our laughter.

To this end (of sharing laughter), as there has been so little time to prepare, I have sought the help of my local members. They have provided some funny memories. I am sure that you will have others to send me. I have also included an "economical cooking " item for this issue. (I was a cook in a previous life!!). Many of you will have good recipes. Please send all your ideas to me at the address below. If you do not wish your name to be printed I will not do so, but please give me your name and address, so that I can write to thank you.

As a start, on page 21 you will find a questionnaire. Do please fill it in, individually if possible and not as a group, add any comments or ideas of your own and send them to me as soon as possible. Please keep contributions short as we have so little space. Please do contribute.

As I write this, the garden is snowy but full of snowdrops and early crocuses and there is a promise of Spring. By the time you read this, Spring will be turning into Summer. This is how long things take in this job. I hope you will all have a lovely summer and provide me with lots of your own items in good time for the November issue.

My best wishes

Derwent Cottage,
Newton on Derwent, York,
YO4 5DA

Ness Venables

Subscriptions for 1993

You are reminded that the Annual Subscription as from January 1st 1993, is £4.00. Members paying by Standing Order should have received a new Form, enabling them to cancel their old Standing Order for £1.50 and authorising their Bank to pay £4 Annually on the 1st of the appropriate month

News from the Divisions



NORTH EAST DIVISION

Northumberland - Tyne & Wear.

Mrs S. McCormack BEM

Her Majesty the Queen's Anniversary was celebrated by the branch at a service in Newcastle Cathedral in May. They also attended the Old People's Welfare Service at Brunswick Church. The Tyneside County WRVS Narrative report (Mrs Yarrington) reports this too, saying that Association members wearing their medals, joined with WRVS to celebrate both events.

Members enjoyed a visit to Floors Castle in June, and held their annual coffee evening at the Civic Centre. One day, after losing their way in the countryside, they eventually had lunch at the Speech After Stroke club caravan at Cresswell.

This area sends out its own very professional Newsletter to its members. (I have considered asking them if they would like this job ! Ed.) It is an area full of activity with groups in Ashington, Ponteland, Newcastle, Whitley Bay, and Sunderland, all enjoying teas, theatre visits, carol concerts and outings. Mrs McCormack tells us of the sad death of Mrs Smurthwaite, one time excellent Area Representative for N.E.1 who will be sadly missed.

Durham - Cleveland - N. Yorks.

Mrs R. Thompson OBE

The York group (Mrs O.M. Brittain) have met in spring and autumn, with talks on "The Birds of the Coastline", and "The Body Shop". The annual holiday was a great success, with 53 members staying at Warwick and visiting the Cotswolds and Midlands. It was a memorable holiday. The branch also had a river cruise on the Ouse followed by lunch. They had an exciting return journey, having to change boats in mid-stream when the engine failed. As we would expect, these elderly Association members took this manoeuvre in their stride, leaping from boat to boat like true sailors !! This group is planning a summer outing, perhaps on dry land next time!

Miss Lesley Hyatt writes that Scarborough's group visited Sion Hill Hall at Kirby Wiske, a treasure trove of furniture, porcelain, pictures and clocks, and she describes a lunch at Scarborough Technical College, cooked by students at a reasonable price which was much enjoyed. Mrs Rene Thompson attended this lunch and talked to members on WRVS re-organisation.

Humberside. Mrs A.M. Wilson

The Beverley group had 71 members to their Annual Area meeting, and were honoured to have with them the Association Chairman, Mrs Peggy James (for Beverley is her home ground). Also present was the WRVS Area Organiser, Mrs Ann Elver. One of their members, Mrs Nan Crewe, gave a talk on "Women in Finland". The group welcomed a new County Representative, Mrs Joyce Ware, and thanks were expressed to Mrs Peggy Allinson who was retiring and had done such wonderful work for the Association. Mrs Allinson they report, was leaving a legacy of enthusiasm which would be enjoyed by them all in the future.

Across the magnificent Humber Bridge, South Humberside welcomed their new County Representative, Mrs Zita Grice, with a strawberries and cream tea. Nine Humberside members attended the Cardiff meeting.

Pocklington, Beverley and Bridlington members met for an annual meal at Flamborough and a Christmas lunch at Cottingham. Pocklington meets for lunch each month. In Lincolnshire, Mrs Marion Birkhead is "spreading her net" towards Gainsborough. We look forward to hearing of her "catch".

Mrs Grice reports that one of their members, Mrs Jo Dixon, who joined WVS in 1938 welcomed 36 members to tea at her home.

Four members from this group attended the AGM in Cardiff.

South and West Yorks. Mrs L. Ziegler MBE

No report received but Mrs Ziegler has reported on Derbyshire activities now in N W Division.

NORTH WEST DIVISION

Cumbria - Lancashire. Mrs M. McCambridge BEM

No report received

North & South Greater Manchester. Mrs E. Collier

Mrs V. Grimshaw sent a long report on the busy Sale group whose 32 members are very supportive. They meet monthly and have contacted elderly, non-Association, ex-WVS members in their area, one aged 92, and helped to revive memories of their days in WVS, (I wonder if any worked in Liverpool in May 1941?- see "The Editor Remembers" p 20, Ed.) They have also visited elderly members now in residential homes. Mrs Peggy James, attended their 50th celebrations at a 50p lunch and spoke about WRVS changes. Mrs James introduced Mrs Collier, their new Divisional Representative in the North West.

Among many activities and events too numerous and varied to detail here, they have taken to the boats at Dunham Massey, attended Rose Queen celebrations, had pub lunches and even a wartime style buffet lunch which no doubt reminded them of the days of ration cards. Mrs Grimshaw was unfortunately in hospital for their Christmas lunch, (We hope she is now much better. Ed)

Altrincham group, (run by Mrs Molly Loynes and Mrs Gibbon), have 10 members. They sometimes join Sale for meetings. Mrs Val Moullin, a life-member from Florida visited them while she was here on holiday in 1992. In September, a speaker discussing the new Metrolink System (Altrincham to Bury) completely won over many members who had been sceptical about the new railway.

Bunches of sage were sold for their funds (an idea for others? Ed). Their October meeting concentrated on Crime Prevention in the Home, advised by a local Community Police Officer.

This group reports the sad death of Mrs Alice Bickley, a long serving member, whom they will all miss.

Bury group, (Mrs Jean Matthew), now has 26 members. They visited Ness Gardens in the Wirral (a beautiful place which your new editor knows well and which the York group visited on their first

Association Holiday).

Sadly the Bolton group has closed. However, they hope for a new group soon in Manchester City. We look forward to hearing from them.

Mrs Ziegler writes that Derbyshire members were honoured on April 15th, by a visit from the Chairman, WRVS for luncheon, and a talk at Ilkeston.

Mrs J. Rose reports that recruitment in Shropshire and Staffordshire has been very disappointing and she has worked actively with the County Representative, Mrs Mercer, to try to reverse this trend, due it is thought, partly to members increasing immobility. But it is feared that it may be due to the increased cost of membership.

Merseyside - Cheshire - Derbyshire (Appointment pending)

Staffordshire - Shropshire (Appointment pending)

CENTRAL DIVISION

Lincolnshire - Nottinghamshire - Leicestershire Mrs D.Martin
Nottingham Branch tried out a new city-centre venue, the central library, for a meeting. This proved popular as members were able to combine shopping, lunch and the meeting, all in one trip.

Housebound members in Nottingham have been visited. In Broxtowe, Mrs Valerie Haigh writes that 47 members enjoyed coffee together in September, lunch in October and were planning a Christmas lunch in December.

West Midlands

Mrs J. Smith

Cambridgeshire - Northamptonshire Mrs B. Titcomb
Cambridgeshire groups, (Mrs Barbara Titcomb), have had a series of interesting talks, one by Dr Barbara Reynolds on her forthcoming biography of Dorothy L. Sayers, another on Norman Hartnell's "Haute Couture" and one on nursing, "From the Inside".

In Northamptonshire, it is pleasing to read that membership is growing so fast that they are opening a new group in Northampton.

Norfolk - Suffolk

Mrs M. Moss MBE

Mrs Laverton, the Suffolk County Representative would find it helpful to know how other representatives cope with their counties and start new branches, which she finds difficult. Help from District Organisers who have supplied lists of members with five year's service, has proved useful and personal contact seems to work best. The distribution of WRVS News is one difficulty they have not yet solved. (How do others manage this? Ed.) She says that membership is increasing slowly with 200 members in the 5 branches. Mrs Laverton says they find it advisable to recruit younger, serving WRVS members, since otherwise the membership is too elderly for an active programme.

Mrs Laverton records the death at 99 of Mrs Dorothy Morrison-Jack, whose life has been commemorated by a WRVS rose planted at Thornbank Residential Club. She will be remembered for her charm, intelligence and indomitable courage.

Mrs Moss reports a lively programme from Norfolk, including a beach picnic, and a visit to "the end of the pier" show at Cromer.

Great Yarmouth celebrated their 10th Birthday in January, at the Pier Hotel Gorleston. Almost 90 members attended, including some from other, nearby branches of the Association, and County Staff. It was sad to remember those members who had died, especially the founder of the Branch, Mrs Doris O'Mahoney BEM.

Great Yarmouth visited Southwold and the disappeared village of Dunwich where the tea room still remains on high ground. Their members have served 600 teas at a local holiday camp.

The Thetford branch may prove invaluable, since the WRVS clothing store has closed and workers can continue to keep in touch through Association meetings.

Warwickshire

Mrs J.Rose

Warwickshire has an active Kenilworth group and other small groups in the County. Mrs Mercer writes of the sad death of Mrs Doris Johnson, former District Organiser for Bromsgrove, who will be sadly missed by her friends.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Oxfordshire - Buckinghamshire - Berkshire

Mrs M. Gordon

No report received

Bedfordshire - Hertfordshire - Essex

Mrs J. Callaway

A D.I.Y. inexpensive lunch of sausages, jacket potatoes and baked beans, followed by gateau, was such a huge success they intend to try again.

Maldon branch tell of the passing of Mrs Warwick-Smith BEM, at the age of 101, a founder-member of WRVS. They say "To know her was a priviledge and pleasure".

Southend-on-Sea branch have had talks by a National Rivers' Authority speaker, and by a doctor on "Arthritis in Old Age". This group also runs the Lulworth Court Collection, a noble effort, collecting and giving all kinds of eatable treats for residents in this home for the physically handicapped

Mrs Charnley thinks there are still many WRVS who have not heard of the Association in their area and they are trying to spread the word. In Bedfordshire, the Association was represented at the WRVS County Rally.

Mrs Betty Sewell BEM, reports that in Hertfordshire help has been given to less active members. Mrs Rosemary Swallow's MBE has been celebrated and Mr Roger Berwick, the WRVS County Organiser talked to the group on the WRVS changes.

Greater London

Mrs A. Christophersen

No report received

London SE

Mrs G. Block MBE

Eighteen members met for lunch in June and had a talk on Knole House where two members work as volunteers. Three of their number went to the AGM at Cardiff in July.

Mrs Block sent the poem you will find on page 19, written by Mrs Ivy Charman a member of the Peckham WRVS Old Peoples Club. Mrs Charman has recently had a successful eye operation and can now see clearly again.

The Southwark Group have had to move their venue yet again. We hope their 'new' home is more permanent.

London NE Mrs D.Gross

No report received

London SW Mrs J.Sanderson

No report received

London NW Mrs D. Stevens

No report received

Surrey - East & West Kent - East & West Sussex Mrs G.Bright

Mrs Bright has stepped in as this Division's Representative after the sudden death of Miss Thea Cooke which saddened them all. Mrs P Cullen of West Sussex was elected to the national committee. Mrs Bright recalls how at the Cardiff AGM, Mrs James gave the table flowers to Mrs Hall of Dartford, one of the oldest members who has attended nearly every annual meeting. Mrs Bright writes to me to say that after years as County Representative, Mrs Frances Smith has resigned but has found an excellent successor in Miss Nora Alston from the Eastbourne Group. We wish Miss Alston great success (Ed)

Hove branch visited a silk craft centre. Surrey have been boating on the River Wey, at Guildford. Lewes branch held a garden party in lovely weather.

Hampshire - Isle of Wight (Appointment pending)

SOUTH WEST DIVISION

Hereford & Worcester - Gloucester Mrs J.Connop

Mrs K Low writes that groups in Bristol City, Kingswood Bristol and Wiltshire have met many times, usually for lunch. An informal meeting was held at Bristol City WRVS office where Mrs Starling spoke on the WRVS work and the changes. Dame Frances Clode DBE was present at the annual lunch in Tewkesbury which was prepared by the Tewkesbury Emergency Team.

Seventy-eight Gloucestershire members attended a lunch in Cheltenham, prepared by the Cheltenham members. This group also

enjoyed a talk on "The Ups and Downs of a Youth Worker "

In Bristol, two Association members who had recently moved to the city from other areas were able to join in a lunch held for 38 members. (This shows how useful the Association can be for making new friends when members have to move to a new home. Ed)

Twenty-four Hereford and Worcester members were joined by Dame Frances Clode and other guests for lunch in Malvern.

Somerset - Devon - Cornwall Miss M.Scott

York members especially will be interested to read that the Tavistock group are arranging a new venture, a holiday for members in the Dales. Having enjoyed many holidays together, York will wish them good weather and a happy time. They seem an active lot down in the South West, still busy on WRVS duties, but still finding time to meet together.

Several members from Devon and Dorset attended the AGM in Cardiff and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Mrs Dunton, (Dorset) writes that housebound and elderly members who cannot get to meetings do enjoy reading this "News from the Areas" section in the magazine. Many of the more active Dorset and Wimborne members attended events in April and September, collecting £55 and £28 at these meetings.

Avon - Wiltshire - Dorset (Appointment pending)

WALES

Clwyd - Gwynedd - Powys

Mrs E.Edwards BEM

Mrs Guest, (Colwyn Bay), has sent no report as she has been in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Dyfed - West, Mid & South Glamorgan - Gwent Mrs D.Travis BEM

A new group has been formed at Abergavenny and one in West Wales is in the pipeline. We wish them well. Meetings are difficult in such a widely scattered area but there is enthusiasm and meetings have been arranged in Wrexham and Newport. Twelve members from Wales attended the AGM. at Cardiff and enjoyed it so much, they hope to attend the next one at Norwich, (see page 16 Ed.).

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey

No report received

Miss E. Robilliard

Jersey

Mrs D. Jennings

Mrs D Corner OBE retires this year as Association Representative and Mrs Doreen Jennings is to take her place. Mrs Corner writes that instead of meeting during the summer, which had proved difficult, the members kept in touch with lonely or housebound members by telephone. However they did manage a meal together in November. She gives a surprising picture of daily life for inhabitants of Jersey, surprising, that is for more northern members. We may think of Jersey as a sunny, idyllic and peaceful holiday isle, but Mrs Corner says that 1992 brought very bad weather and appalling hold-ups on the roads due to extensive roadmaking and building developments.

This branch sends two good ideas.

1. To avoid someone being left on their own when arranging seating for a lunch or tea together they number places at tables, and members draw numbers from a hat.
2. When raising money on a book stall, they let buyers name their own price, since they invariably give more than stallholders might think it was worth. It also saves the chore of pricing.

A cutting from the Jersey Evening Post reports how, when the huge, gleaming Government House limousine was parked outside the Grouville Day Centre, during a visit by Lady Sutton, a member who still drives elderly folk to the centre, Mrs Kathleen Broughton, was heard to say how she would love to drive it. Imagine her amazement when later she received a phone call from Government House, offering her the use of the car for her next delivery. The great day came and Mrs Broughton is pictured at the wheel of the gorgeous car, delivering her elderly passengers. The Government House chauffeur who was in attendance described Mrs Broughton's handling of the car as "brilliant".

SCOTLAND

Chairman Mrs R. Nicolson

News of Association events in Scotland has not recently appeared in our Newsletter, but the Editor feels that there may be members who come from Scotland or are interested and would appreciate news of Association 'Happenings' there.

A Newsletter goes out to 559 members and this year they have a new Chairman. We wish Mrs Nicolson and her members every success.

The Scottish AGM will be held in St Andrew's Church, Dundee on April 22nd. Speakers this year will tell how WRVS Emergency Services helped with the 1992 Tayside flooding disaster, and also give details of the changes in WRVS.

Central. This group met in February in Falkirk, for lunch, held an outing to the Glenkinchie Distillery and Haddington in April and in October heard how the Scottish Tourist Board assist the public who visit Scotland.

Fife. Mrs C Stenning, formerly Emergency Services Organiser for Worcestershire, is the new group leader, They met for a Christmas lunch after a year of inactivity with no leader.

Grampian. The thriving Aberdeen branch had speakers on the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Aberdeen Prison Service. The latter showed slides of the interior of Craiginches Prison, views thankfully unfamiliar to the members ! In June they visited a farm near Turiff where a new Wildlife Conservation had been made with a loch and viewing chalet. They also learned about the Baillies of Benache, a hill which is looked after by the Baillies. The year ended with a "Round the World in 60 days" trip by slides. A member's gift of wool was made into 7 warm knee rugs for the housebound.

The Elgin group have travelled by bus along the Moray coast and at another meeting had a talk from a headmistress on "Education Then and Now".

Highland.

Ross and Cromarty group use WRVS premises at Dingwall for quarterly coffee mornings where they meet for a "*blether*" (My italics for this descriptive Scottish expression. Ed)

Scottish Headquarters and Lothian

No other groups report meeting to play bridge, but these members have had two fixtures, one won, one lost, against Tayside and Strathclyde.

Strathclyde. Travel by mini bus is planned for a visit to Hansel Village, Hunterston Power Station and the White Horse Distillery.

Ayrshire. These members are evidently cooks. They met in March to exchange easy recipes. (Could they, I wonder, send us some for our future editions? Ed) They also had interesting outings to Arrol Park, Leith and Dalgarten Mill.

Tayside Perth & Kinross. One member in Dundee produced an old WVS scrapbook which created much interest. It seems that these members are considering new careers as they had a talk on "How to become a Surgeon". At another meeting they learned about Paisley Shawls.

THE NEXT REUNION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT NORWICH CITY COLLEGE, IPSWICH ROAD NORWICH NR2 2LJ ON WEDNESDAY JULY 14TH 1993.

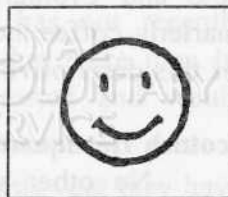
Bed and Breakfast accommodation in the Norwich area.

Details may be obtained from:- Mrs Sheila Scholey,

on receipt of a self address and stamped envelope. All bookings and payments are to be between member and accommodation address directly. Mrs Scholey is only responsible for information. Please note that **NO** arrangements regarding accommodation can be made through WVS/WRVS Association Headquarters.

Memories of WRVS work.

The old L.N.E.R. stoker was getting his Meals on Wheels. An enormous fire raged in the grate. "How are you today, Mr Hughes?". asked the WRVS member. "I'm fine" came the reply, "I've got two buckets of coal here, two at the back door, two sacks in the outside lay' and they're delivering two sacks on Tuesday. I'm fine". One day the ladies got no reply. The neighbour was helpful. "Oh, he's gone into a home. He nearly set the house on fire". We pondered as we drove away. Supposing the Good Lord sends for him to go to heaven. Would he be happier, do you think, if he went down below?



The small boy had had to be taken to old Mr Rowntree's funeral, as his WRVS grandmother, a retired and faithful Rowntree worker wanted to attend the funeral but could find no baby sitter. The child watched intently as the coffin was lowered into the grave. That night she reminded him to say his prayers, but, for the first time he refused. "God won't be listening to me tonight", he answered. "Why not?", asked his grandmother. "Well", replied the small boy, "He'll be too busy unpacking Mr Rowntree".

At the WRVS stand at Wimbledon the cheeky young serviceman asked me which branch of WRVS I represented. I replied that I wasn't quite sure what he meant. He explained, "Well to us Service lads WRVS stands for "Widows, Ravers, Virgins or Spinsters, so which are you?." I thought about it and replied that in my time I had been a virgin and a spinster, I was sometimes still a raver, but thankfully, was not widowed!

(from Mrs Nora Lane ,York)

In the old days we used to say WVS meant "Women of Various Sizes".

(from Mrs Connie White, Finchley)

A cheap and easy recipe



Do you like new ideas for meals? Here is an inexpensive lunch dish to try, which, if served with a salad, gives a balanced meal. The recipe serves two people. If you live alone one serving can be frozen for later.

Porcupine Meat Balls

1/2 lb lean, freshly minced beef.

1 oz uncooked long grain rice. (1 level tabs.sp.)

1 small onion, finely chopped or grated.

1 teasp each, chopped parsley, dried oregano and basil (or to taste).

1/2 level teasp. salt

2 tabs condensed tomato soup, taken from half a can.

Piece of dripping or margarine, size of a large walnut.

A little crushed garlic, (if liked)

1/4 pint water

Remainder of 1/2 can condensed tomato soup.

2 to 4 oz cooked long grain rice (according to appetite)

Mix beef, onion, parsley, uncooked rice, 2 tabs of the soup, herbs and salt. Using wet hands, shape into 8 balls. Heat the dripping or margarine, add the garlic and brown the balls on all sides, rolling them in the pan. Remove meatballs. Add remaining soup and water to the pan, stir well while bringing to the boil. Return meatballs to the pan. Cover the pan tightly, and simmer, very gently for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve on a bed of hot rice. Half may be frozen for a later meal.

Many of you will have favourite, easy, cheap recipes, so do send them to me for others to try. (Ed)

Handy Hint. Do you have difficulty unscrewing the tops of jars? You may find a "Subagrip non-slip mat" useful. This is a flat mat measuring 5½" in diameter. You simply place it over the lid and grip it. It makes the grip much more effective. Mats can be bought at any "Able Living Centre" (see your phone book) or by post from *William Freeman & Co Ltd Suba-Seal Works, Staincross, Barnsley, Yorks.* Order Subagrip Non-Slip mat 5½" dia. Code 1F8. Cost Approx £2.50

The Theatre

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

A theatre small, but very clean,
The stage all set for the opening scene,
Attendance limited to those few
Who meant to see the whole thing through.

The central figure bathed in light,
Dressed in robe all crisp and bright
Who knew that his supporting band
Would watch each movement of his hand.

Each and all had their roles to play,
Each poised to act in the finest way,
The atmosphere became quite tense,
It could be cut, there was suspense.

This drama had been played before
Would be performed again and more,
The climax came and then the end,
But yet no curtain did descend.

They cast off gowns, prepared to leave,
No awards or fame yet to receive,
But in the ward that lies close by,
Their patient sleeps, he did not die.

Mis Ivy Charman

Peckham, Member of the WRVS OP Club

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICEROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

The Editor remembers



I have been a member of the WRVS only since 1964, but my first sight of WVS at work was in Liverpool in May 1941, in North Park, Bootle. Overnight the air raid had scored a direct hit on a fully loaded munition ship waiting to leave the docks. I was just out of Domestic Science college, working for the Ministry of Food, advising housewives on their problems with rationing. The morning after this horrendous air attack, with a colleague as young and inexperienced as I, we were driven at dawn, by the army, to North Park Bootle, where we were asked to prepare soup, sandwiches and tea for several thousand dockers, since all the dockyard canteens had been obliterated. The Pioneer Corp were stoking the fires under the soyer boilers and we were told that other help would arrive. It soon did. Numerous old buses drove into the battered park, and from these there appeared, what to us girls looked like hundreds of Grandmas, who, as they descended from their bus were each issued with a green wrap-round overall. Their leader approached us across the park with purposeful military bearing, asking how they could help. Very soon we were all making mountains of sandwiches, stirring vats of soup and brewing tea. The making of the sandwich filling was a job which fell to me. The army lads opened the long tins of meat loaf, with our one primitive can opener. It was hard and tough to cut up. I found that by cutting it up roughly into a huge metal bowl, and adding margarine I could knead it into a paste with my warm hands. I still remember how my arms ached trying to keep pace with the spreaders. That day the food went to the docks in army lorries, but next day, into the park came two gleaming, new Food Flying Squad vehicles, with a serving counter and fully equipped kitchen from which we served out the food. Different WVS came each day from a wide area of Lancashire and Cheshire towns and worked for several weeks from early morning until tea time. These ladies impressed me then, and they have done ever since. Little did I think, in those days that I would gain a long service medal and bar in their own organisation. I wonder if there is any elderly member who remembers helping during those terrible days. If so I would love to hear from them.

Questionnaire

Your new editor needs to know what you would most like to read in this Newsletter. So please would you fill in the questionnaire, cut out this page, and send it to me at the address below. You can include your name and address, or not, as you wish. Do please fill the questionnaire in individually, not one from each group. In the next issue I will let you know the result. Send your completed forms to me, at the address below, **by the end of July**. Put a number from 1 to 5 after each item, **using 1 for an item you would least like, and 5 for one you would most like to see in the newsletter.**



Example....

Memories of WVS/WRVS work .. 5..(very interested) or Recipes.. 1..(not interested)

Here are the suggestions to vote for.

A. Items in the present issue

1. List of Officers and Committee ...
2. News from the Divisions. ...
3. Honours lists ...
4. Memories of WRVS work ...
5. Lists of Divisional representatives ...
6. Recipes from members. ...
7. Jokes, funny happenings, stories. ...

B. Other suggested items

1. Gardening items...
2. Items on grandchildren ...
3. Holiday ideas, and addresses...
4. Places for groups to visit in your area...

If you have other ideas for wanted (or unwanted) items not listed here please let me have them on the back of this sheet

Many thanks for your co-operation..... Please send your replies to: ...

Mrs Ness Venables, Derwent Cottage, Newton on Derwent, York YO4 5DA

Apology An apology is due to Mrs J.R. Clarke now living in Combe Oxon, for an error in the obituary section of the Nov. 1992 Newsletter.