



WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION



*Newsletter No 39
Autumn 1993*



"WRVS changes of course affect the Association but our priorities have not changed. Our purpose is to form a friendly link between past and present members of the Service, and to maintain contact and provide companionship and care, to those who require it".



Written to N.E. members in the introduction to the 1992/93 N.E. Division Newsletter from Cleveland, Durham and N. Yorkshire (Div. Rep. Mrs R Thompson).

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

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Mrs H Foster OBE
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Mrs E. Charnley Mrs W.Taylor DL
Mrs B.Cox Mrs P.Copping
Mrs I Wren

Hon. Editor

Mrs N. Venables

NOTICE OF 1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1994 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London. on

Thursday 9th June 1994

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Birthday Honours

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WRVS members have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List:

MBE - Mrs Ruth Bellingham, Hospital Shop Organiser, Rushden Hospital, Northants; Mrs Jill Cross, Chairman, Surbiton Road Family Centre, Chairman Easton Housing, Suffolk; Mrs Alix McCrone, lately, Hospitals Manager, Scottish HQ; Mrs Kathleen Milroy, District Organiser, Carlisle; Mrs Ellen Morgan, Local Organiser for Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed; Mrs Ann Scott, lately Deputy Area Organiser, North East; Mrs Jaqueline White, District Organiser, Luton, Deputy County Organiser, Bedfordshire.

MBE for service to the community - Mrs Iris Ellis, Watford Herts; Mrs Kathleen Fletcher, Scunthorpe; Mrs Peggy Lea, Sussex; Mrs Evelyn Schaffer (services to young people) Scotland; Mrs Patricia Shepherd.

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Cover picture " Autumn" by Mrs M.H.Wilkinson of Nottingham.

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Chairman's letter

Dear Member,



Once again, with the summer holidays in full swing, it is hard to realise that by the time you read this we will be into long, dark nights and winter woollies again

This, the 20th year of the Association, has been a very busy one both in work and in the enjoyment of being part of celebrations all over the country. We celebrated at H.Q. at a Committee Meeting, held almost exactly 20 years from the first one, with a birthday cake cut by our founder Chairman - Miss Kathleen Halpin CBE. Kathleen, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday in November, still works regularly and tirelessly at H.Q.

Our reunion and AGM in Norwich in July was, it would seem, if decibels are any criteria, a happy occasion. For me it was very good to be back in my old 'patch' but there was far too little time to talk to so many members I recognised. Our morning speaker, the Managing Director of 'Colman's of Norwich', gave a fascinating and very 'pictorial talk' on the history of his well-known company and left a gift package of 'special' Colman's mustard for every member of his audience. We were happy to have the Association Chairman for Scotland with us again, she and her husband had flown down specially.

Dame Barbara Shenfield chaired the AGM in the afternoon as Dame Mary Corsar had just retired and our very new President, Mrs Elizabeth Toulson, had a prior engagement.

It was sad that Dame Barbara had to open the meeting with the announcement of the death of Dame Susan Walker.

I do wish you a Happy, Healthy and Warm winter.

Elizabeth Toulson

*A message from the Chairman of WRVS
to all Association members*



I am obviously thrilled and very honoured to have been invited to serve as Chairman of the Service following the well-earned retirement of Dame Mary Corsar.

I look forward to building on the excellent work set in train by Dame Mary, to reform and strengthen the service in the 90's and beyond. We are becoming a very professional, efficient organisation with so much to offer to all members of the public who require our skilled pair of hands to ease their paths through life.

It is my intention to attract younger recruits to continue the work which all of you have done so well for many years - since the implications of an average age of 59 are all too obvious. We must publicise the excellent work of the WRVS, beyond our "shop window" - Meals-on-Wheels - and explain all the other facets of human need to which we are able to respond. This will interest so many people and hopefully lead them to enlist in our organisation and thereby strengthen its future.

I look forward to being with you at the next AGM of the Association where I shall obviously have much more to tell you when I am no longer "a new girl!"

Elizabeth Tomlinson

News from the Divisions, March to October.



Some members may still be confused about Association "Divisions". There are now six major WRVS Divisions of England and Wales. The Association keeps in line with these as you may see in the reports below. They cover huge areas. (South East Division, for example, covers eleven counties). For ease of working, these are divided into smaller Divisions, each consisting of several Counties, each looked after by a Divisional Representative, (Div.Rep. below) who supports her own patch and sends in a report. Finally, there are local Branches, whose leaders send their reports to the Div. Rep. Their names may appear below in their reports and their news augments Divisional reports with local detail, which readers say they enjoy, so whatever job you do, please keep sending them ! They are much appreciated.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

Northumberland - Tyne & Wear Div. Rep. Mrs S. McCormack BEM

"Northumbria", Northumberland's Newsletter tells of a coffee morning at the Newcastle Mansion House. Eighty members and Mrs Thompson were invited.

Newcastle and Gateshead branches have amalgamated. Mrs Vine organised a visit to the WRVS holiday caravan for the disabled at Cresswell, lunching on fish and chips cooked at the camp restaurant and finishing with tea at Warkworth. It was voted "a good day". Talks included charity work in South Africa and puppy walking.

There is sad news from Wansbeck where the whole membership have resigned en bloc, due mainly to the increase in membership fees.

Ponteland group (Mrs Joan Hughes MBE) meet monthly, sometimes for a Bistro lunch and keep strong ties with WRVS by inviting District and County Organisers to speak at their meetings. This group reports the death of Mr Stanley Vevers, a stalwart male member of both WRVS and the Association.

A Sunderland newspaper headline ran, "A cooking-crazy Wearside woman has won a regional competition for her tasty cheese dish". This referred (writes Mrs J Lister), to Mrs Margot Harrison, who won a cook book and apron for her Smoked Salmon Log. (We must ask Mrs Harrison for a contribution to our recipe section - please. Ed). A talk by Sainsbury's has resulted it seems, in an increased number of members shopping in their Sunderland store. This group sent £200 to their Hospice. Mrs Grace Clark of Sunderland who celebrated her 100th birthday in June is still active and enjoys her WRVS memories. WRVS Area office, no longer needed because of WRVS changes, closed with a party to which members were invited.

Meetings are now held at the home of Mrs N Hope

Durham - Cleveland - N. Yorks Mrs R. Thompson OBE

This Division also sends out a printed Newsletter giving news of the whole Division. Mrs Stamp, for Hartlepool, reports a successful coffee morning in May, while in June a speaker described her aunt's exciting escape from Occupied France during the war. In July they enjoyed a quiz and in August 52 members went on an outing to Whitby, with tea at Rushpool Hall, Saltburn. They hope to send 25 to the Division lunch in Middlesborough in September. One member, who still attends meetings, celebrated her 90th birthday and was visited with flowers and a card.

The Middlesborough group (Mrs Grace Evans), has been asked to host the Division lunch in September. They have close contact with WRVS and are invited to their meetings.

Darlington have been to Captain Cook's birthplace at Stewart Park, and to see the Queen Mother's wedding Dress at the Bowes Museum.

Harrogate (Lady Hilda Laycock) had an April meeting at a members home and heard a humorous talk on the struggles of a wife coping with young children, when her husband took Holy Orders.

The Selby group, (Mrs Joan Altass) have discovered three good, inexpensive venues for food. Selby Tertiary College has its menu in French but students on hand translate!; British Rail Club food is excellent and inexpensive; a third venue is the District Office where Fish and Chips are brought in and "a good time is had by all". Lunch time meetings are appreciated by members who live alone, as they can eat with friends. Here the membership grows slightly and one stalwart in her nineties still comes to the luncheons. Funds made by raffles have helped District Office get a few much needed extras for their "new" offices. (Is it the first time that Association members have helped in this way? Ed).

Mrs Audrie Dumville, this year's leader of the York group reports a new venture which she hopes succeeding York leaders will follow. (York each year appoints a deputy leader, who becomes leader the following year. This spreads the load of leading the group and brings new ideas as each leader takes over for just one year. It has worked well for several years.) Mrs Dumville's initiative has been to visit all 31 members who have not come to meetings or outings. She says it has been rewarding and is amazed at the response. It is time consuming, but since it is only for her one year of office, it has been possible. She says, "it helped the ladies realise that after their years of service, they were not forgotten". The group have had two outings. One to Leeds, where 42 members had lunch at the Mansion Hotel and visited the Canal Gardens in Roundhay Park; the other, when 52 members and friends, visited the Humber Bridge with a talk by its Operations Officer, then across the bridge, visiting Normanby Hall and the Grimsby Heritage Centre. This outing ended with tea at a member's home

The Scarborough Group

No report received

South and West Yorks

Div Rep Mrs I. Ziegler MBE

Eight Wakefield members attended a performance of Barnum, at the Grand Theatre, Leeds. In August they held their annual Sunday lunch at Lorne House with 50 members attending from Leeds, Ackworth, Calderdale and Brighouse. The weather was kind and they were able to sit outside and enjoy the garden.

Twelve members went to see the lavender fields in Norfolk, but the lavender had been cut the week before ! But they enjoyed the lovely gardens, and later were driven round the grounds at Sandringham

This group sadly reports the death of Mrs Elsie Roberts of Wakefield,

Mrs Ziegler spoke about the Association, in Sheffield, where Mrs Jean Henderson is working to get a group established. We wish them success.

Humberside

Div.Rep. Mrs A.M.Wilson

Lincolnshire now leaves this Division. (see below), and future County boundary changes may affect the Division still further. Among North Humberside's 94 members, one third are still actively engaged in WRVS work with several more still on WRVS Call-Out lists. They plan another coffee and lunch get-together at Flamborough "Seabirds" restaurant in September.

Pocklington meets quarterly in a local pub, renowned for good food.

Mrs Wilson writes that the highlight of the year was a visit to Newburgh Priory where, as she has done for other groups, Miss Lesley Hyatt made the contact with the owners and shared the talk on the house and its contents. The day was fine and they were able to walk in the lovely grounds.

Two sad notes are recorded. Miss Margaret Binks, one of 6 ladies seconded from the Home Office to help Lady Reading in the formation of the WVS, died in May. After serving 19 years at Headquarters, on retirement was Association Treasurer. On moving to Pocklington she helped form the Pocklington group. Also Mrs Dorothy Stokes, MBE, died in March. She retired as County Representative last year having built up their membership to 60. She showed great enthusiasm, dedication, loyalty and hard work. Both ladies will be remembered with gratitude.

In South Humberside, thirty-seven members welcomed Mrs Claydon to an all-day Division meeting in Market Rasen in April when they joined Lincolnshire members for the last time. WRVS changes mean that Lincolnshire now moves into Central Division. The meeting was honoured by a distinguished company; Sir Henry Nevile, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Lady Jean Nevile, the Mayor and Mayoress of Market Rasen, the Association Chairman, County Organisers from Humberside and Lincolnshire and Association Divisional Representatives from Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Sir Henry enthralled members with his talk on the duties of a Lord Lieutenant. This was a sad meeting as it was the last joint

meeting for Lincolnshire and Humberside In July Mrs Dixon welcomed members to her home for a strawberry tea. Accompanying them were two residents from The Garden House Home for the Elderly who were warmly welcomed

NORTH WEST DIVISION

Cumbria - Lancashire Div Rep. Mrs M. McCambridge BEM No report received.

North and South Greater Manchester Mrs E. Collier

In a long, interesting half-yearly report Mrs Grimshaw tells of a caring branch in Sale, visiting those who cannot get to monthly meetings and of a M.O.W. driver, Mrs Clark, who kindly brings disabled members by car. At the March meeting £28.40 was raised with a Bring and Buy Stall and all outstanding subscriptions were collected.

Major Pickering, and a wheel-chair-bound resident, described the British Legion's home, Broughton House, in Manchester At the April meeting Mr Hulley spoke about street signs.

In May, members from Altrincham and Bury held a quiz with visitors from WRVS The visitors won the quiz In June "home grown" speakers from amongst members showed what enormous talent and interest there was among members. One member spoke about her life as a Couturier in Bruton Street, London, making gowns for Royalty, State occasions, coming-out balls, Ascot etc. Mrs Collier described her recent tour of classical Greece Altrincham group is small but meets regularly with Bring and Buy sales to boost funds. In March, Bury had a lunch at the Catering College, in June enjoyed a garden party at Mrs Graham's home, with delicious refreshments and they plan a mystery tour in September with tea at Skipton.

There are high hopes that this autumn two new groups will be started at Hazel Grove and Romiley

Merseyside - Cheshire - Derbyshire (Appointment Pending)

The Wirral Branch now has over 100 members from Wallasey, Birkenhead, Hoylake and Bebington, who meet monthly, with two outings annually This year, they have visited Windermere and Llangollen. Two members, (Mrs Lamb reports), Mrs Pat Lynton and Mrs Mary Preston, have retired and will be greatly missed. Members met for a visit and delicious lunch, to Eyam Hall, near Baslow, a 17th Century manor house still occupied by the family who built it

Staffordshire - Shropshire (Appointment Pending)

Mrs Rose (Div Rep for Warwickshire) was invited to a service at Lichfield Cathedral to mark "European Year for older People" where Mrs Toulson also attended and met the other dignitaries present

CENTRAL DIVISION**Lincolnshire- Nottinghamshire-Leicestershire** Div Rep Mrs D. Martin

This group reports the death of Mrs K. Bradford, a once active member of both WRVS and the Association. More happily, they have celebrated Mavis and John Wollerton's golden wedding.

The Lincoln, Skegness, Caistor and Market Rasen groups have met during the year. The Lincoln group have lost four members, they have visited sick and elderly members to keep in touch with them.

In Nottinghamshire travel is lessened by having a small group in each district and they are hoping more will be formed like this. Two such groups enjoyed lunch at the High Peak College, Buxton in May, a coffee morning in a member's garden in June, while in July they met for lunch in the Eastwood area to meet members from that part of the Division. Mrs Haigh says how much they appreciate Mrs Martin's presence at these gatherings.

West Midlands

Div. Rep. Mrs J. Smith BEM

Members at Sandwell could teach us all a lesson. Each member visits 2 people per week, (writes Mrs Duffield). They have had a varied programme of talks on politics, religion, the War Graves Commission, and Texan and Scottish holidays. They meet at Mrs Duffield's home.

Erdington members (leader Mrs Joan Wortley), have lunched at Birmingham College of Food, visited Ironbridge and Powys castle where the Acers were ablaze with colour.

Solihull members support the Horse Sanctuary charity fund, (writes Mrs Peggy Oswald), by collecting used stamps.

In Coventry, members have used bus passes to visit Moreton in the Marsh and Hope, to have a trip on the canal. They have also helped WRVS to prepare lunch at a medal presentation.

Cambridgeshire - Northamptonshire Div Rep. Mrs B. Titcomb.

Mrs Titcomb reports Mrs Charnley's resignation. She has been a wonderful, caring person and has helped Mrs Titcomb with the running of Central Division. Fortunately, she will now be able to continue as a committee member. At one of their monthly meetings this group learned how to make greetings cards in 3D.

They record the death of Mrs Ethel Porter, followed shortly by the death of her husband. They will both be remembered with love and gratitude.

Due to pedestrianisation, shoppers have a long walk to the centre. Mrs Charnley is contacting councillors to see if buses to edge-of-town stores can be provided. She also has a list of people willing to help with decorating and gardening.

In Huntingdon, Mrs Watson reports that membership is dwindling with only

thirty active members, who still enjoy their meetings. They have learned about Old Huntingdon, heard the impressions of three American ladies who became airmen's wives, enjoyed a coach trip to Stamford, partook of a strawberries and cream tea and a pub lunch, and learned about WRVS changes from the County Organiser.

Peterborough members have had bi-monthly meetings, with talks from Age Concern and the Chaplain of the District Hospital. The annual outing was to the Peakirk Wildfowl Trust. Most members are still active in WRVS. Those at the Trolley shop received their 25 year certificates. Another member, Mrs Isaac, one-time M.O.W. Organiser, was honoured for her work with the Crime Prevention Panel, receiving a framed certificate and a bouquet.

In Northamptonshire, Rushden has no hall, so this group holds coffee mornings and lunches in the homes of willing members.

Daventry and South Northants, (Mrs B. Parr) have a growing membership and they indulge in a pub lunch each month.

A new Northampton group, (Mrs N. Douglas), will have their inaugural meeting on October 1st. We wish them every success.

Warwickshire

Div Rep Mrs J. Rose

The County has only two groups, Kenilworth and Nuneaton. Efforts to start groups in Warwick, Leamington, Rugby and Stratford have been unsuccessful.

The Kenilworth group have an arrangement to meet for coffee on the first Thursday of each month at an hotel and they have had two outings, one to the Forest of Dean, and one to visit the Fire Services College at Moreton in Marsh.

The newer Nuneaton group has 15 members who have frequent outings, often to Stratford or to a stately home.

Norfolk - Suffolk

Mrs M. Moss MBE

Membership in Suffolk grows slowly, but they still have no branches in Newmarket or mid-Suffolk. WRVS NEWS is delivered throughout Suffolk by branch organisers, who get their copies direct from WRVS County Offices, stamps being paid by branch accounts. A system of sending stamps to Representatives, so that WRVS NEWS can be sent to housebound members may not be such an easy idea, (according to Mrs Laverton) Apparently it has already been tried by Suffolk and it became difficult in many ways (See "Wales" below Ed.) Suffolk now find out which members are fully retired from WRVS, which are still working. This tells them who cannot get WRVS NEWS easily and these members are visited with their copy. Mrs Laverton reminds us that batches of 25 copies of the NEWS can be sent to a local address direct if we contact our WRVS County Representative.

A new branch has been opened at Waveney. Members in Suffolk often work in Norfolk, so Association activities are often shared. They plan a lunch at Lowestoft in October. Woodbridge had a wet picnic at a member's garden at Warberswick and

hope for a drier one planned for September

Sudbury branch made £76 at a strawberry tea at the D.O's home, and Stourlink also ate strawberries for tea (They say "earlier they had a pub lunch" Could this be both on the same day ?Ed.)

Norfolk were able to meet for tea at Broadlands, the WRVS Trust's residential home near Waveney St Edmundsbury meet for lunch in each other's homes.

SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Oxfordshire - Buckinghamshire - Berkshire Div Rep Mrs M. Gordon

Regular meetings, outings, winter lunches and summer garden parties in member's gardens are held during the year. One member, Rosemary Amies, read in WRVS NEWS of WRVS work in the Falklands. Having done WRVS work overseas she contacted WRVS out there to see if there was any help needed. They said that a much needed pool table was stuck at Brize Norton, awaiting transport. Rosemary contacted the R.A.F only to find that it had been sent two day's earlier. But the contact having now been made, there may be other help that can be given in the future.

Bedfordshire - Essex - Hertfordshire Div. Rep. Mrs J. Callaway

The County Organiser, Mrs Jacobs, attended both the New Year lunch and summer garden party. Members were invited to the WRVS service of Dedication in Luton in April. To cut down travel, members had a Spring lunch in a mid-county garden centre and in October will visit the Wardown Museum and have lunch in Luton. Visits seem more popular than meetings with speakers. (Do other groups find this too? Ed.)

In Hertfordshire Miss Anne Parry has agreed to take over some of the heavy work-load from Mrs Betty Sewell - a welcome relief for her. One member, Mrs Eleanor McLeod, a former County Emergency specialist now living in Australia, met several old friends at Mrs Sewell's home.

In Essex, Mrs Copping reports some unusual activities in their four groups in the county. Castle Point members held an indoor ' Christmas barbecue, (We wonder what they did about the smoke ?Ed.), with a Mediterranean-style lunch cooked by a Cypriot fishmonger, who cooked and decorated a magnificent salmon.

Colchester group has been re-formed and has had three coffee mornings. They have many housebound members, so numbers at meetings are not high, but they battle on hopefully

Maldon group has no such problem with large numbers, both male and female, attending a popular lunch. Here, the District Organiser is very supportive. (Do other groups with a strong link with WRVS find this helps their numbers too ? Ed)

Southend-on-Sea celebrated its tenth anniversary in April with lunch and a birthday cake, with Mrs Claydon as guest of honour. The Chairman spoke on the work of the Association and the WRVS County Organiser on the new WRVS structure.

Greater London Div. Rep. Mrs A. Christophersen No report received

London S.E. Div. Rep. Mrs G. Block MBE

Four members went to the Norwich AGM. In June Mrs Block had a coffee morning at her home for members from Bromley, Beckenham and Southwark.

Housebound members in Eltham, and Blackheath are contacted regularly by Mrs Grace Cleverly who takes their WRVS NEWS to them.

London S.W. Div. Rep. Mrs J. Sanderson

A report by Mrs Joan Young, WRVS County Borough Organiser, tells of an annual WRVS activity in Merton. She reports how they help 5,000 children, all leukaemia sufferers or physically disabled, to enjoy the Paul O'Gorman party. WRVS arrive at Battersea Park at 7-30am to give drinks to the workers and later they distribute food bags to the children. Royalty attends, as do stars of stage, screen and radio to entertain. WRVS ladies eventually leave at 4-30 am after all clearing up is done. It sounds a very happy event for WRVS workers.

London N.E. and City. Mrs W Taylor DL No report received

London N.W. Appointment Pending

Mrs D Stevens writes that this group is hard to run as members have so many other interests. However Harrow members have had monthly coffee together, visited Mount Pleasant Sorting Office and the R.H.S. gardens at Wisley

Surrey - E. and W. Kent - E. and W. Sussex Mrs G Bright

In Surrey 57 met for lunch, and members met in their new Chairman's barn for tea. (We wonder if they sat on the straw bales or rolled in the hay ?)

East Sussex use the Eastbourne WRVS office for their monthly meetings. Trips have included a visit to a sheep centre, and a strawberry tea in a Hove member's garden.

Hailsham, a small group, have joined others where possible.

Mrs Frances Smith, County Rep. for East Sussex for many years has resigned, but will continue to look after the North Wealdon branch. Her place has been taken by Miss Norah Slater who has been running the Eastbourne group.

Mrs Bright mentions a possible group holiday for East Kent members and we wait to hear if it took place.

West Kent have already solved the WRVS NEWS distribution by paying the

postage themselves to their branch leaders

West Sussex are lucky to have beautiful gardens in the county to visit

Hampshire - Isle of Wight

(Appointment Pending) No report received

SOUTH WEST DIVISION

Hereford - Worcester - Gloucester

Div Rep. Mrs J Connop

A very enjoyable lunch attended by 97 Gloucestershire members was held in June, with Dame Mary Corsar, and Mrs Elizabeth Claydon as guests. The party was entertained by Mr Trevor Hamlin, a tenor who showed a great likeness to Pavarotti.

Cheltenham members had an interesting talk by Mr and Mrs Salmon on the Furniture Project Resettlement Work, which befriends young people with special needs and gives support

Somerset - Devon - Cornwall

Temp Div Rep Miss M Scott

Members have been involved with many local "happenings", including Carnival week, but farming and the tourist industry take up members' time. These counties have had floods which involved WRVS, but thankfully no Association member suffered flooding.

Avon - Wiltshire - Dorset

(Appointment Pending)

Mrs Matthews writes from Avon, to report the death of Mrs M Forsyth, Deputy Regional Organiser for 19 years. Thirty Avon members will have their annual lunch in November

Mrs Williams has written to describe a weekend of exercise and fun organised by the Plymouth centre when they all dressed in 1940's costume and the members provided a cabaret of the period, featuring evacuees, their weeping mothers and WVS in 1940's uniforms dispensing tea, their uniforms lent by Dorset District Office. The evening ended with a wartime sing-song

Dorset, (Mrs Dunton reports), held its AGM in Lady Lanham's home when 45 members attended. They had an intriguing talk, "Talking Dogs for Deaf People" given by Mr and Mrs James

WALES

Previously run by Mrs Lorna Brotherton, Wales now has two Representatives, Mrs Edwards in the north, Mrs Travis in the south. Both were invited by the WRVS Director for Wales, Mrs Mary Gibbons, to a meeting of County and District Organisers. When invited to speak, Mrs Travis raised the Welsh Association's problem of low membership. The discussion which followed resulted in her arranging with Mrs Gibbons that local WRVS offices would post WRVS

NEWS to members if they supplied their nearest WRVS office with an envelope marked "Newspaper Request" at the top, and with name and address, and a 24p stamp

(This seems an excellent idea. Perhaps our Divisional Representatives could discuss this at their next meeting. If so, we will report their deliberations in our next issue. Ed)

Clwyd - Gwynedd - Powys Div Rep. Mrs E. Edwards BEM

Colwyn group enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with a demonstration by "Sam" the police dog. A £10 donation was presented to the Police W/B Fund.

Further meetings are arranged for September and October, at the Guide Hut in Colwyn Bay.

(One member from this group wanted the Newsletter to retain "Obituaries" I would be glad to know what members think of the present idea of putting them, not in lists, but within the reports received from each branch. Is this not more personal ? Ed).

Dyfed-West, Mid & South Glamorgan-Gwent Div.Rep.MrsD.Travis BEM

No report received.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey Assoc. Rep. Mrs E. Robilliard

Their twice-yearly lunches at a local hotel are much appreciated, with a raffle after the meal. They then visit housebound or hospitalized members with cards and pot plants, paid for by the proceeds from the raffles.

Jersey Assoc. Rep. Mrs D. Jennings No report received.

SCOTLAND

Chairman Mrs R. Nicolson

News from the Scottish Division is distributed to their members annually in December, so in future their news will be included each year in our Spring issue only.

NEWS FROM WRVS HEADQUARTERS

The Chief Executive and the Chairman visited WRVS in Birmingham and Darlington in May

In August the Chief Executive visited Central Division, the South East, Scotland, Crawley, North West Division, Wales and the South West.

In September, the Chief Executive visited the Emergency Services Conference at Easingwold. He and the Chairman visited projects and personnel in Germany. They also attended a combined Management meeting in Birmingham

The Chairman attended a Service at Lichfield Cathedral to mark "European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Nations." and also helped to judge "Help the Aged's Golden Award" WRVS Council met at HQ in September

Letter from the Editor



Dear Member,

I hope, like the ducks, you have all had a good, if wet, summer. The grandparents among us, exhausted with our efforts, will soon be freed from the visits of school-age grandchildren, pleasurable though these are to some of us. Not to all, I suspect, judging from your response to the questionnaire. Almost no-one wanted "Items on Grandchildren".

I have had lovely letters from many of you, which I welcome. Because of the cost of postage I fear I cannot reply to all, but thank you for them all.

I very much enjoyed the Norwich AGM and for a few days afterwards we were able to "discover" Norfolk, camping in our small trailer caravan. We were overwhelmed by the beauty of Norwich cathedral, liked the pleasant "walking streets" in the city centre, enjoyed the bird-life by the sea, and had a most interesting visit to Blickling Hall.

The questionnaire showed that what you most want are:

1. News from the Divisions
2. News from WRVS
3. Memories of WVS/WRVS also. Jokes, Recipes, Funny Happenings

What you certainly do not want are

1. Items on grandchildren
2. Obituaries
3. Lists of Officers and Committee.

I will try to put in more of what you want, less of what you don't, but always, there is the problem of space.

I am delighted to include the "Calman" cartoon inside the back cover. When I opened the Times newspaper on July 9th it made me laugh and I thought readers who did not see it might enjoy it too. I wrote to the Times, asking for permission to reproduce it and they replied that I could, for a fee of £50. Very sadly I replied, thanking them, but explaining that I had no funds for such purposes. Disappointed, I dismissed it from my mind, when, to my surprise, the Times replied that Mr Calman had waived his fee as a special concession. He has asked for a copy of this Newsletter, so we can say here a big "thank you" to him.

Do remember that I need your contributions and this does mean you, not just your leaders. Don't leave it all to them. Please send me all your reports, jokes, memories, recipes, by **Feb 28th 1994** .. and do keep writing.

I hope you all have a lovely autumn and keep warm over the winter months.

Ness Venables

What Readers Say.....

I would like to hear why members joined WRVS?

I would like to hear of WVS wartime experiences.

Please could we have "News from H.Q.?"

I would like to hear news of members who have moved.

How about putting in Advertisements?.

I would like a "Wanted" section.

Could one WRVS Division report on their activities in each issue ?

I want articles not connected with WRVS.

I suggest articles on fashion.

I would like household hints.

I enjoy most the News from the Divisions.

The section on News from the Divisions is boring.

How can I get rid of Dandelions from my lawn ?

I would like ideas for making inexpensive gifts

I dislike the Obituaries.

I hope you will retain the Obituaries. It is our only way of keeping in touch with who had died.

Could reports of visits please include details like access for the disabled, condition of toilets, refreshments, car parking, distance from car park, etc.

Could we have nasty holiday places reported?

Please only put Honour's Lists in once per year.

We should always know of those who have received Honours

Good holiday accommodation for the disabled please.

Good B. and B. accommodation please.

B & B "IN HOME HOSPITALITY"

Peaceful hillside village between A303/A30. Modern House. Heated Swimming Pool. Excellent for Dorset/Somerset Visits Cadbury, Fleet Air Arm Museum, N.T. Sherborne, Glastonbury, Wells Good Eating in nearby Pubs. Lovely Walks, Beautiful Views.

WRVS Member. Barbara and David Flinn

All advertisements are placed in the Newsletter entirely at the request of members, they are for the reader's judgement and cannot be included as recommendations.

Apprehensive but not Frightened, or The day I walked on air.

From Mrs Gay Bright, S.E. Division.

The family had given my husband a 75th birthday present of a ticket - for two ! - for a flight in a balloon. Everyone was to be there to watch, and if I got cold feet at the last minute I could give my place to my grandson.

So one beautiful Easter Monday at 5-0 pm at a well-known stately home we assembled at the organiser's tent. An award ceremony was in progress for contests earlier that day and we found we were lucky, for the pilot assigned to us had won the prize for the longest flight.

We followed him to the open field where ten or more balloons were lying stretched out on the ground. Our job was to hold on to the bag while bursts of hot air gave it life as the fabric danced and billowed. It was at that point that I decided I must take my chance and fly! Soon the balloon was supporting the basket into which we all climbed. It was not at all easy. I was the last of seven passengers to get in and I had to have my leg passed to me!

The next job was to practice an emergency landing. We had to brace ourselves against the basket and grip the holding ropes. Then quietly and unexpectedly we were rising swiftly above the heads of the crowd and waving to the excited, familiar faces below. I then had no fear, no apprehension, it was just bliss. As we sailed majestically over the Kent countryside, bursts of hot air accompanied us. Behind us other balloons were rising to meet us. Our pilot announced that we would head towards London and steered us on our way by giving bursts of flame.

All this time the pilot was on his mobile phone, in contact with the ground vehicle, which was shadowing us as far as was possible. He got news of an approaching thunderstorm and changed course, saying he would "take a bit of easterly". As we floated over land and water we had spectacular views: tennis players stopped serving to wave; fishermen looked up; sheep continued their grazing, but cows were more disturbed.

After about an hour we started to lose height and it seemed as if we would land in a petrified forest, caused by the 1987 hurricane. But skilfully, our pilot got more lift and the ground crew managed to get permission for us to land in the grounds of another stately home. Here the land was steep and the landing difficult and far from vertical. One passenger, feeling unwell, shot out as we touched the ground, but the rest of us waited for equilibrium before disembarking. On terra firma once more we had to help to deflate the balloon and fold it back into its basket. By this time the jeep had arrived, and also the owner of the stately home. Champagne



was produced and in the lowering evening sun we wished Bill a happy birthday and toasted another couple's anniversary

As we drove back to the children amidst happy chirpings about the flight, we wondered how they had passed the time. They had however found plenty to do. A supper of cold salmon awaited us and we will always have memories of our unique experience. Our thanks especially to Tricia and Jan for giving us such a perfect day

Quiz.

Mrs Moss has sent a quiz. Sorry, no prizes, but the names of the first three correct entrants will be published next time. All answers to Mrs K Moss



1. What was the name of Edward Heath's yacht?
 2. Who wrote "Oh to be in England now that April's here"?
 3. What animals can be seen at the gates of Kew gardens?
 4. Who was Prime Minister in 1900?
 5. What is Orris Root used for?
 6. Who said "A lie is an abomination but a great help in time of trouble"?
 7. Saffron, the spice, comes from what plant?
 8. On the 6th day, what did God create?
 9. How many years have you been married for a coral anniversary?
 10. Who lives at 12 Downing Street?
 11. What does a Fletcher make?
 12. WVS Headquarters in Tothill Street. What number was it?
 13. On what date did the Queen Mother and the Duke of York marry?
 14. Who was the second Chairman of WRVS?
-

Grandpa, on a visit to his small grandson, welcoming him home from school



"Well, John, What have you been learning to-day?" "About Apples Grandpa"

"What about apples" asked Grandpa "Well, if I had 2 apples & you gave me 2 more, how many apples would I have?"

"I know, I would have 4 apples"

"Well now, I'll give you one, John," said Grandpa "If I had 3 bananas and you gave me another 3, then how many bananas would I have?"

The boy looked perplexed "I don't know Grandpa, We haven't done bananas yet"
Another offering from Mrs Nora Lane, York.

Christmas Cake

13 1/2 oz butter	1 lb plain flour
13 1/2 oz soft brown sugar	13 1/2 oz each of currants, sultanas and raisins
7 eggs size 2 or 3	4 oz ground almonds
	5 oz cherries (halved)
	2 oz almonds blanched and chopped, (or crushed, flaked almonds)
	4 oz mixed peel, chopped. 1 glass brandy or sherry



Line a 10" cake tin with 4 thicknesses greaseproof paper, Wrap a collar of brown paper round the outside of the tin and secure with string

Cream butter and sugar (this can be done in a mixer) and add the eggs (lightly beaten) very gradually. Do not allow the mixture to curdle, adding some flour if this seems likely, using a spoon. Add rest of ingredients and lastly the brandy. Put into prepared tin.

Preheat oven to 140 or 145 (according to your oven) Put cake in centre of shelf just lower than middle. Immediately reduce heat setting to 100 or 110 (according to your oven) and cook 4 to 5 hours. Do not open the oven for the first 3 hours. Test after about 4 1/4 hours with a skewer in the centre. If it comes out clean the cake is ready. Cool in the tin. When completely cold wrap in clean greaseproof and then in several layers of clean cloth. Store on a cool place for about 6 weeks.



Memory of Lady Reading.



Told by Lady Reading at a meeting in Manchester
in 1960

Two soldiers, an Englishman and a Frenchman were talking during World War 2. The Frenchman asked the Englishman, "These ladies dressed in green, who are they?" The Englishman replied, "They are ladies from the Women's Voluntary Service". The Frenchman was staggered, but after a few moments thought replied, "Very nice for you, but I think I would prefer to pay, and get someone a bit younger"

From Mrs Elizabeth Lamb . Wallasey.

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