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Autumn 2006

No 65

# WRVS Association NEWSLETTER

**Letter from the Chairman**  
Priory Street Centre, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

Dear Member

My main news is that the Association Office has moved. The premises in Bootham were in a very poor state of repair structurally, hence the entire WRVS York Office, including the Association had to be moved. We have kept the same phone number and it is shown on the back page

So in early July we transferred to bright new premises at the above address and we now occupy a room, on the first floor, of a large building allocated purposely for charities working in the City of York. In case anyone comes to visit, there is a lift for easy access, and payable on-street parking is nearby

I was present during the move into the new office, and must thank the staff most sincerely for their cooperation and hard work in packing, moving and rearranging our assets. We now have a modern venue from which to operate and offer assistance to our members

I hope to see you at the AGM and Reunion in late September at Bristol, when the autumnal colours will be starting to show in the countryside

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sheila Scholey', written over a horizontal line.

Best Wishes

Sheila Scholey

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## Random jottings from the Editor

Dear Members

I start by offering apologies to two 'ex' Div Reps who I have been saying have not been sending in reports, when they have actually resigned. Specifically, Mrs J M Smith BEM resigned as Div Rep for West Midlands in February 2005 and to Jean Connop who resigned as Div Rep for three counties in the SW region in June 2004. Sorry!



Do you go to the cinema? On a recent, almost annual trip, I came to realise why I am prepared to wait until whatever it is I want to see is broadcast on the television. I am sure that it was better in the old days (and I swore that I would never say that), when there was a supporting film, a few trailers, a few adverts and then the main feature. You enjoyed the whole experience, from the story line that was easy to follow to the container of Kiaora to quench your thirst. Now you sit knee deep in popcorn; because the tendency is multi screen you seem to sit close enough to touch the actors, you have to wear earplugs because the volume is so loud and even worse, the dialogue is mumbled and unintelligible. Whilst just a few months later, you can have your own comfy chair, beverages included in the price, any comfort breaks are obstacle free, and you can switch on the sub titles to follow the plot.

This summer I had my loft insulated and took the opportunity to empty it, no mean feat I can tell you! Well no, to be perfectly honest, I didn't go up there, as I am not into creepy crawlies and that imagined but perpetually creaking rocking chair was a bit too spooky even for me. But the challenge of disposing of things that had moved from the loft in the last house straight to the loft in this house (nineteen years ago!) was enlightening. Amazingly things that hadn't worked when put up there still didn't, and worse, the leg on that that little oak side table hadn't repaired itself. After all that time as well! Then there were all those empty boxes that had long outlived the goods that they had originally housed. Now I just have to get all the things I couldn't bear to throw out, out of the spare bedroom

Best wishes to you all

Paulene

Paulene Lambert

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## **OBITUARY - MRS. ELIZABETH D. CLAYDON**

With much sadness, we have learned of the death of a past Chairman of the WRVS ASSOCIATION, Mrs. Elizabeth Claydon - aged 90 years.

She became our Chairman in 1993 - through 94 and 95; at that time one of her main tasks was to bring the Association under the auspices of the WRVS, where we have been pleased to be ever since.

I first met Elizabeth when she was in charge of Emergency Services for East Anglia, based in the Area Office at Ipswich, Suffolk, in the 1980's. She often visited the Norfolk County Office and also arranged training days.

Eventually she moved to Hampshire, to be near her family, but still maintained her WRVS connections. A wonderful lady she will be much missed by her former friends and colleagues in the WRVS.

Our thoughts go out to her family at this time, and wish them every comfort when looking back at all she achieved in her busy and long life, both with the Service, and before.

Sheila J. Scholey

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## **ARE YOU IN NEED OF FINANCIAL HELP?**

The Benevolent Trust is a source of money, for use by you, the WRVS member.

If you find yourself in unexpected financial difficulties, or know of someone in that situation, you can make an application for a grant.

We rarely give ongoing payments, but regularly make single one off grants. Recent examples include replacing a washing machine, buying replacement windows, installing a downstairs lavatory and the purchase of a wheelchair.

Applicants can be retired or still volunteering, but should have been members for five years or more and are usually on a limited income

All applications for help should be sent in the first place to the Honorary Secretary at \_\_\_\_\_ and of course, all applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

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**YOU HAVE HELPED US, NOW LET US HELP YOU**

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## NORTH EAST DIVISION

### NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR

Div. Rep. Mrs Sheila McCormack BEM NB change of address

Mrs Sealey reports the Northumberland members continue to meet monthly in **Ponteland** for coffee and a chat.

From Newcastle Mrs Doyle reports that their Club enjoys meeting once a month and have had a variety of speakers since February. "How to trace your family history" was lively as four members are busy with that at the moment and had many stories to tell! Mr Tom Hazon who for many years was with "Reeds The Jewellers" in Newcastle taught us a lot about good and poor gems. April is our theatre month and we saw "West Side Story" this year, another excellent production by our local operatic group, Our speaker in May brought with her, beautiful hand painted china and explained her technique. In June, two members of The Samaritans explained the methods and aims of the organisation. July is normally our outing month but due to family illness it was difficult to arrange so we are off to the theatre again in November instead. Now we are already thinking about our Christmas Meal!

The report from the Sunderland branch is from Sarah Hardy. The first seven months of the year have been very successful. We began in January with the AGM. Mrs F Somers spoke in February of the work done in the St Benedict Hospice and accepted a cheque on behalf of the hospice for £500. In March, Lynne Summerside demonstrated armchair exercises and then involved the meeting in the exercises. Everyone enjoyed this immensely and would have liked to begin a class. (*What stopped them? Ed*). In April, Mrs. J Wayman talked about music that had made an impression on her, especially whilst at school.

We chose May to celebrate the Queens birthday, (in between the private and official birthday). The room was decorated and we had entertainment and a cake. Mrs. Somers proposed the Royal toast and one to the Association. In June Mrs B Hunter reminisced about her days as a young teacher, newly married, in a small Yorkshire village.

In July there was a quiz when everyone brought a photograph of themselves in their younger days, babyhood to 20's. This caused a great deal of amusement and the highest score was only 7 out of 20! Mrs M Vickers had a special birthday the week before and provided refreshments, which everyone enjoyed. We send our best wishes to H.Q. on their move to new premises

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## **CLEVELAND, DARLINGTON, DURHAM, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Div Rep. Mrs Rene Thompson. OBE

There has been a letter of apology from Ros Rowntree who mistakenly said that Mrs Wilks had resigned as chairman of the York group, when in fact she had stood down after having served her three years, plus an extra one. Their branch has welcomed three new members - Mrs V L Cooley, Mrs A Gray and Mrs A Goodare. In March twenty four members met when they watched a video of an 'Investiture at Buckingham Palace' followed by tea. In June twenty eight members gathered for an excellent Afternoon tea at the Blakeney Hotel, which was enjoyed by all.

The Scarborough Report comes from their Secretary Mrs Hazel Hopkinson. We have welcomed seven new members - Mrs J Barker, Mrs J Crowther, Miss P Ogden, Mrs M Pickering, Mrs M Raper, Mrs B (Trix) Robinson, and Mrs M Scott. In March nineteen members gathered at Barbara Hurfords for coffee and pleasant company. In April Mr K Hayton, a retired local dentist gave a talk entitled 'The Genesis of a Novel' attracting lively discussion among 25 members. We visited the Stained Glass Centre at Cayton for Afternoon Tea in May and in June visited Sledmere House by coach, and despite a heavy shower, 25 members enjoyed the house and gardens. Sadly three of our members have died, Mrs Selina Kenny, Mrs Betty Brown who was a founder member of the Scalby and Newby Meals on Wheels service in the early 60's and Mrs Mollie Morris, who celebrated her 100th birthday in Dec 2005, her enthusiasm for the work of the WRVS will be remembered by many.

## **EAST YORKSHIRE TO HUMBER AND HULL**

Div Rep. Mrs Robina Priestley

We were happy to welcome new member Mary Miller, who has moved to Wilberfoss from the South West, to be near her daughter and family. It was interesting to hear about her past experiences of doing Meals on wheels and we hope that our lunches will provide friendship to make her move North more pleasant. It is with regret however that I have to report the death of Margaret Sykes of Beverley. She did so much knitting and sewing of children's garments for third world countries, work that she continued almost to the last, and her cheerful presence at our lunches will be greatly missed. To end my report on a more cheerful note, we have had a 102nd birthday celebrated by Millie Grisewood of Pocklington with an 'Open House' when she was visited throughout the day by friends and family. Although blind and deaf, Millie lives in her own home and through visits from friends takes an interest in all that is going on. Congratulations!



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## **SOUTH AND WEST YORKSHIRE**

Div. Rep. Mrs June Pitts BEM

I am please to welcome two new members this year, Ms E M Middleton, Hackonthorpe, Sheffield and Mrs. Leila Hilton, Collingham, Weatherby

The Calderdale group met as usual in March, our speaker was the Rev Canon Frank Carless, who gave a very interesting talk about the life of Edith Louisa Cavell, from her childhood to her tragic death. For our May meeting, Canon Carless's wife came to talk to the group about the 'Mary Rose' the flagship vessel of Henry VIII that had been lying on the seabed for 500 years. Hearing about its building, the battles, the sinking and the finding made another very enjoyable talk. Our July meeting was to finalise details for our annual Tea Party that the members enjoy giving at the end of July for 60 pensioners. It was held in the Kings Cross Methodist Church Hall in Halifax and members of our group prepared all the sandwiches, scones, cakes and trifle. The Mayor and Mayoress attended, a pianist and singer entertained us, and four of our members performed a skit on Cinderella that was very funny and a great success. Unfortunately, that was the last tea party held at that venue as the church is closing at the end of the year.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Div Reps Jenny and Mike Smith

Once again our Bassetlaw group has had a varied and interesting programme. Our AGM was held at the beginning of March and as always was well attended. It was preceded by a "Faith" lunch that was most enjoyable. In April an "Activity Afternoon" was held at Goodwin Hall in Retford. The activity was brain power rather than physical with Quizzes and a Beetle Drive.

The members met for lunch at The Red Hart Hotel, Blyth in May and this was followed in June by one of the highlights of the year, the annual Strawberry Tea held at the home of Jenny and Mike Smith. Unfortunately the weather was not as kind as in previous years and we were unable to sit out in the garden.

The visit to Flintham Museum in July was cancelled due to the very hot weather. However the August trip to The Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield went ahead. We had an excellent guide who spoke at length about the history of the Cutlery industry in Sheffield and answered a multitude of questions. The building inside was beautiful and the silver displays were really breathtaking.

We now look forward to the autumn and winter and the remainder of the year's programme.

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Sheila Court writes from Rushcliffe - We are pleased to know that Jenny and Mike Smith have taken on the job of joint Divisional Reps. for the Area. Having known them from my days as District Organiser I am sure that they will do a splendid job, and we are looking forward to meeting them in September. In the short term they are still busy trying to contact the different branches in their Area.

During the past six months Rushcliffe have had three coffee mornings, February, May and July, to meet and chat, catching up with our members other activities. At the March meeting we had a speaker, Mrs. Valerie Henstock, who had photographs and told a wonderful tale of an old store that was prominent in the lives of many Nottingham people. Burtons store in the centre of Nottingham was a miniature Harrods food hall, long since gone and still missed by many old Nottinghamians. In April 17 members attended the AGM and the present Committee all agreed to carry on their good work.

June took us to The Country Cottage restaurant in Ruddington, just a short drive from our usual meeting places. We had an excellent lunch, and once again we were able to subsidise the cost for the 20 members who were able to come. July was another coffee and chat morning and August is left free for some of us to be busy with grandchildren or just enjoy the lovely weather we are having. The committee sends its best wishes to everyone at the York office, and also offer apologies as none can get to this year's AGM in Bristol. You never know, we may make it next Year!

Sheila Kent writes from the Leicester branch. Since our last report we have had two visits to our local museums when we were shown items that are not always on display to the general public. 24 members visited the main museum when we were shown the new exhibits and members were able to make collages of coloured paper to form lovely patterns. In June thirteen members visited Belgrave Hall museum, a house built in the early 18th Century which had had several owners but is now furnished in the Victorian style which we found most interesting. We tasted a selection of teas and were shown a variety of teacups before exploring the extensive gardens where we found bananas growing in the greenhouse! Several members then did painting on silk after tracing a pattern. We are looking forward to a visit from Jenny and Mike Smith to our November lunch.

Barbara Kiernan says the Broxtowe group welcome Jennie and Mike Smith as joint Divisional Reps., and look forward to the time they are able to visit.

Mrs. Ann Tribble, of the Vice Chairman's Committee, came to update us with WRVS News. Her talk was appreciated, as was the opportunity to give some vociferous feelings an airing

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In July, the coach driver on our outing took an overlong route to Southwell leaving only time for coffee and a quick visit to the cathedral shop before an enjoyable lunch at a garden centre nearby. After a stroll around the gardens, many of us boarded the coach with a carrier bag of "just what I've been looking for" plants.

Three of our members meet regularly for lunch and because Monica Isaacs was recovering from a severe knee operation, they went by taxi. As it drew up at the restaurant, May Stoneman alerted the driver that Margaret Simmons had suffered a stroke, so he immediately drove them to hospital. Sadly, Margaret later had another stroke and died in February. We miss her at our monthly coffee meetings and other activities.

Finally Mike and Jenny request that if there are any groups or members in the Grimsby area, they make contact

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### **THE CYCLE OF LIFE**

I think the life cycle is all backwards. You should die first, you know, start out dead; get it out of the way. You wake up in an old age home, feeling better every day. You get kicked out for being too healthy, go collect your pension, then, when you start work, you get a gold watch on your first day. You work for forty years, until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You enjoy life, you party, and you get ready for High School. You go to primary school, you become a kid, you play, you have no responsibilities, you become a baby, and then, you spend your last nine months floating peacefully with luxuries like central heating, spa and room service on tap.

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### **For those that are still querying the puzzle from the last newsletter**

Three people check into a hotel. They pay £30 to the receptionist and go to their room. The receptionist suddenly remembers that the room rate is £25 and gives £5 to the porter to return to the people. On the way to the room the porter reasons that £5 would be difficult to share among three people so he pockets £2 and gives £1 to each person. So if each person paid £10 and got back £1 they paid £9 each totalling £27. The porter has £2 so where is the missing £1?

Be careful what you add together. Originally they paid £30, then each received £1 back thus they have now only paid £27. Of this, £25 went to the receptionist and £2 went to the porter, so nothing is missing. Easy!

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## NORTH WEST DIVISION

### **CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE**

Div. Rep. Mrs Sadie Baker

The new Div Rep for this area was in France when I called her for a report, so hopefully she will have something for the newsletter next time!

### **MERSEYSIDE AND CHESHIRE**

Div. Rep. Mrs Sylvia Hatchell

The new Div Rep for this area has admitted to the editor that she has been so busy over the summer months visiting family and friends in Canada and the US; travelling England, Scotland and Wales, and tracing family history in Ireland that she has had no time to be in touch with the groups in her area. Members of those groups are invited by me to admonish her! She did however know that the St Helens Group no longer have formal meetings but do get together for lunches

### **NORTH AND SOUTH MANCHESTER**

Div. Rep. Mrs Jean Matthews BEM

Bury members again held their AGM in March and despite having to move to a new venue there was an excellent attendance. The Blackburne Hall at Bury Parish Church gave us more room and the bonus of a dishwasher in the kitchen! Members met at 12 noon to enjoy a chat and glass of wine before being served lunch - meat and potato pie made by Jean and Ken Matthews, followed by trifle provided by the helpers whose support each year is very much appreciated. In the afternoon our guest speaker gave an interesting talk about how he came to be a guest at a Hungarian country wedding, and showed some excellent slides, including some of the beautiful buildings in Prague, as well as of the wedding.

In July forty-nine members and friends enjoyed beautiful weather on our outing, first to Clitheroe for coffee, market and shops, then a superb lunch at the Moorcock Hotel on Waddington Fell with panoramic views of the lovely Ribble Valley. We then had a guided tour through some of the prettiest areas in England before visiting the "Chocolate House" for an entertaining and informative demonstration of the art of hand-making chocolates. This was followed by cups of tea and "Chocolate Tasters" - just heaven!!

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Rosemary Cooper says 'Following my return to better health I am now able to give a report of the Sale activities since Christmas'. In January we held a Bring and Buy, which was very successful - allowing a few "bob" to be placed in the bank. In February we had a slide show of three cities - Cologne, Frankfurt and Strasbourg - very interesting and super slides. In March we were expecting to have an AGM but this was postponed until April, so we played bingo and read some of the poems of Pam Ayres. For our next meeting we had some amazing memories of the war. Some had been in the forces; others had tales of awful bombings and escapes. Our outing was to High Legh Garden Centre near Knutsford. We allowed a few husbands to come this time and had a splendid lunch and a good wander round the shop and gardens. Our last meeting was taken by Joyce, a flower arranger, whose lovely displays were raffled later. We also had a good discussion and it was proposed by our leader that the formal meetings held on the fourth Monday of each month be discontinued. For several reasons this proposal was agreed by all those present. Numbers had shrunk over the twenty-five years since we started and the cost of hiring a room had gone up quite a lot. There were not always sufficient funds to cover this expense and speakers often charged a fee. I have always managed to arrange a full annual programme, but everyone welcomed the suggestion that we meet informally for a meal, an occasional outing, or a coffee morning at the home of a member.

Sadly this year we have lost several members and others have retired but we intend to meet as often as possible, God willing.

#### **STAFFORDSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE**

Div. Rep. Vacant

Derbyshire County Rep

Doreen says that she has nothing to report on the Derbyshire group, as she has not visited them for some time. (*Would anyone from Derby like to let us know if anything is happening in their area? Ed*). However, she was delighted through the Newsletter to meet up with a former Derbyshire WRVS colleague with whom there had been no contact for nearly twenty years. Lindy is now an active member of the Association in Hampshire and it was great to hear from her. So thanks for the opportunity of doing this through your pages.

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A teenage boy with spiked hair, nose ring and baggy clothes was overheard telling a friend, "I don't really like to dress like this, but it keeps my parents from dragging me everywhere with them."

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## SOUTH EAST DIVISION

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
Div. Rep. Mrs Barbara Titcomb

Evelyn Charnley writes from Cambridge. Though we have a large membership, very few have been well enough to come to meetings in recent years and we could not cover our costs. Therefore it was decided that we should hold a final Buffet Lunch in April, with donations from the local WRVS Hospital Manager (organised by our Committee member, Mrs Jean Sebon) and Miss Dorothy Walker, together with hired waitress help. I would like to thank the other members of our Committee: Mrs Audrey Steel, Mrs Marjorie Norman, Mrs Joyce Ware-Lane, Miss Pat Guntrip and Mrs Maisie Heaney for their help over many years and acknowledge the work of our Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs Elizabeth Taylor. A few of us were able to attend the funeral of our oldest member, Mrs Elsie Ellum, who died recently in her 101st year. Elsie joined WVS in 1938 and spent the rest of her life working for the community in Great Shelford.

But we must not end on a sad note because we are left with many lasting friendships and the memories of members, past and present, of happy meetings and great days out to the coast and countryside. So all that remains is for us to wish the WRVS Association every success in the future.

Following the death of Mrs. Muriel Dickman, the Peterborough group only has five members, two of whom do not manage to get to 'Senior Stop' for a coffee meeting every other month. The three had a meal together in May and hope to manage a meal at Christmas, but Barbara thinks that the next report will be the last.

Mrs C Carter of the Rushden Group in Northamptonshire, reports that they have met twice this year, in April at Mrs Allebones house for coffee and in August for afternoon tea at the home of Mrs. Bunty Garland

FINALLY - With the Cambridge Branch having closed and this, perhaps, being the final year for the Peterborough Group, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our Divisional Representative, Mrs Barbara Titcomb, for all her hard work over the past years. She has travelled the country on our behalf, reporting back to us about events and plans at national level and generally keeping us in touch with the wider activities of the Association and of WRVS. Barbara's mother was a World War 11 member of WVS and Barbara has carried on the family tradition; her mother would have been very proud of her, as are we all. Thank you, Barbara - you have earned your retirement. - Evelyn Chamley

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**OXFORDSHIRE, BEDFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Div. Rep. Mrs Jean Callaway

Farewell Mrs Minney

At the AGM in March Barbara Statham, who had done such a good job of running the County Association whilst I was ill, nobly agreed to carry on as County Representative. I promised her all the back room help I could give and presented her with a large bouquet.

In April the group met to hear Mrs Ann Misselke read letters her aunt wrote in Jersey, during the German occupation in World War II. Details of the lives of Islanders were fascinating, but I had the feeling that, like an iceberg, there was even more concealed under the surface. Barbara was pleased to welcome an association husband who had served aboard one of the ships that went to the Channel Islands as the Germans were forced to leave. Whilst he and the speaker had a good chat, the rest of the audience enjoyed the lovely cakes members had given. We try to make all our meetings a happy eating experience.

In June John & Shelagh (Gus) Deamer organised an outing to Sulgrave Manor in Northamptonshire. It seemed appropriate that in this summer, when the U.S. "special relationship" has been under discussion, we should visit the home of George Washington's family, which is now part-owned by the U.S. It was a special family day so that in addition to an excellent guided tour of the house there were extra attractions: - Punch & Judy, llamas, falcons, painting projects, extra stalls for shopping. The party enjoyed them all.

It will come as no surprise to hear that the Annual Garden Party had sunny weather – it was, in fact, the hottest day of the year (since records began). Do Vesey had yet again agreed to host the occasion and thanks to her careful planning and hard work combined with excellent back-up from the heroes of the Drinks Table, Doug and John, all 42 guests survived the heat and enjoyed the afternoon. It was an additional pleasure to welcome Isobel Cole (Luton) to the first meeting she has been able to attend since joining in 2005. Hope it was the first of many, Isobel. We were also delighted that Catherine Jacobs could snatch a few moments from her house moving activities to say goodbye. It was Catherine's support in the 1990's that helped to put this branch of the Association on such a sound base. We all hope that she and husband Barry will enjoy living full time in what was originally their French holiday home.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - Margaret McRoberts maintains contacts between herself and older WRVS members, especially May Turner (96) and Joyce Webb (85).

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May is celebrating a return to the world of books after a double cataract operation. Whilst her sight deteriorated her independent spirit thrived, and she worked on her lovely garden, maintaining a splendid crop of cherry tomatoes amongst other tasks. Her dog, Hattie, as all good dogs should, has kept her mistress fit with two good walks a day. Congratulations and good wishes to them both, and to Joyce who keeps smiling despite poor health.

#### **OXFORDSHIRE - No News**

#### **NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK** Div. Rep. Mrs Mary Taylor

Although a small branch, Sudbury always manages to keep in touch and enjoy their luncheon at 'Angel Hotel', Lavenham. If ever in Suffolk a visit to Lavenham village really is a must. A village so steeped in history, really has a tremendous amount of interest.

A spring luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed by North Norfolk members and guests from Gt. Yarmouth at the beautiful home of Mrs. Freda Tann, to whom we extend our grateful thanks, and also to members of the branch for their assistance in preparing such a very enjoyable meal.

The members of Great Yarmouth had a great day out during May. We set off at 9am on our way to Swaffham for a look round the town and find lunch. On arrival at Swaffham the heavens opened. However, our gallant members managed to occupy themselves. We re-boarded the coach after lunch to head off to 'Goodestone Water Gardens', rather appropriate for the weather. Although only 15 minutes ride from Swaffham, can you believe the sun shone, we had a wonderful afternoon around very enchanting gardens, and enjoyed home made cakes in their tearoom. All's well that ends well.

Then in July we made our annual visit to Cromer Summer Spectacular, as funny and entertaining as ever, and a tribute to 'Abba' as finale to the second half. In August we all met for our final outing of the summer (excluding all the rainy days). This time we headed for Houghton Hall, North Norfolk. A beautiful old house built by Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, during the 1720's. There is the most fantastic staircase all made of imported Mahogany and self supported (no pillars or uprights). The entire artistic interior was by William Kent. The house also has a Unique Model Soldier Collection, the largest and most comprehensive in the world consisting of 20,000 models arranged in various battle forms from "Battle of Waterloo" to "Western Desert". There are 350 acres of parkland, home of a large herd of exotic white fallow



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**ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE -**  
Div. Rep. Vacant

**HERTFORDSHIRE -** County Rep. - No report

**SURREY, EAST & WEST KENT, EAST & WEST SUSSEX.**

Mrs Joan Rosling,

Epsom members hope to start their six weekly lunches again in the near future. Their Organiser, Audrey Broderick, has not been at all well recently but she tells me she is starting to feel better so hopefully the lunches will soon resume

Guildford held their annual lunch and AGM in April. It was well attended and the lunch was delicious, especially the puddings. This is a popular event and we were delighted that a few Woking members could join us.

Woking news comes from Shirley Mason. On 21st March we held our Annual General Meeting and Bring and Buy and had to make the sad announcement of the loss of our much loved Sylvia Roach in a tragic traffic accident. Sylvia had been our Membership Secretary for many years and was a hard working member of the Committee who will be sorely missed. On 26th April we had an enjoyable coach trip to the Silk Mill at Whitchurch in Hampshire, preceded by an excellent carvery lunch at the nearby White Hart Hotel. We also have to report the loss of Vicky Woods, another long term member, who will be much missed. We are to lose another member of the Committee, Maureen Royle, who is moving to Petersfield. We will miss her help and also the wonderful cakes she made on many occasions.

West Kent

Julia Cooper hopes to arrange another lunch for West Kent members in October.

We heard from Mrs A P Thomas that her friend Miss Lesley Waldegrave- Packer of Ditchling, Sussex died in March. She worked for WRVS for many years

**LONDON S.W. -**  
Div. Rep. Vacant

**LONDON N.E. -** No report  
Div. Rep. Mrs Wynn Taylor OBE DL

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I have heard from Miss Yolande Brook, who at 86 is still doing a weekly shift at St Barts Hospital. She would love to hear from anyone else in the area, so if you would like to get in touch, write to me in the first instance

**LONDON N.W.** - No report  
Div. Rep. Mrs Dorothy Stevens

**LONDON S.E.** - No report  
Div. Rep. Mrs G Cleverly

**HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT**  
Div Rep Mrs Beryl Adams

Ever efficient, Beryl sent in her report before going on holiday in July. Hampshire held their annual dinner at the end of March, meeting at their favourite venue the Half Moon near Petersfield. The food and service was, as always, admirable and there were glowing reports of the 'syrup sponge pudding'. There was also plenty of time to chat with old friends and have the usual raffle to raise some funds

In June there was a boat trip on the Basingstoke Canal. It was a pity the weather was very dull on the day, but it was very peaceful moving along the water, chatting and catching glimpses of lovely yellow irises, the occasional heron and other water birds, as well as the back gardens of the large houses on the river bank. On the way back there was a lovely cream tea all prepared by the members from Fleet. Then as we got off the boat the sun came out – too late to start again!

Shirley Shambrook, writes from the Isle of Wight club and their report starts by welcoming two new members, Phyllis Scrivener and Janet Richards. Their intention to meet each month has been fulfilled during the first half of the year, with a varied program of outings, activities and a special celebration.

The first outing was to the Fighting Cocks Inn for Sunday lunch. All members attended and everyone enjoyed the occasion. The Apollo Theater's production of 'Theft', a comedy, provided good entertainment on a wet evening in February. In March we held a jumble sale to raise funds to help towards running costs.

Next was a visit to Rosemary's Vineyard for wine tasting (and perhaps a purchase or two). Our first trip away from the Island was a spring visit to Exbury Gardens.

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This proved very popular and we plan to return in the autumn. In June, Dorothy Guy - WRVS member for over 20 years (having served on the Emergency team, Organiser for Meals on Wheels and worked in the District Office until its closure), celebrated her 80th birthday with us at a garden party held at the home of our Chairperson's. This was a very well attended and enjoyable afternoon.

**BERKSHIRE** - Div. Rep. Vacant

**BERKSHIRE** - County Rep.  
Mrs Morag Gordon,

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One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and begins to read her book.

Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?

'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't it obvious?')

'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her.

'Possibly, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.'

'Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and charge you.'

'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault,' says the woman.

'But I haven't even touched you,' says the game warden.

'That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.'

**MORAL:** Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.

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### The English Language

We sometimes take our language for granted, but if we examine its paradoxes we find that Boxing rings are square, quicksand takes you down slowly, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. There is no egg in the eggplant, no ham in the hamburger, and neither pine nor apple in the pineapple. If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth, if the teacher taught, why didn't the preacher praught. If writers write, how come fingers don't fing? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Why do people recite at a play, yet play at a recital? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy in which you fill in a form by filling it out and a bell is only heard once it goes! People, not computers, invented English and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which of course isn't a race at all. That is why when the stars are out they are visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible, and why it is that when I wind up my watch it starts, but when I wind up this observation, it ends.

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## **SOUTH WEST DIVISION**

### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE, HEREFORDSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Div. Rep. Vacant

Mrs Jean Connop resigned as Div Rep in June 2004, but because she is very kind, unofficially still administers the division until a replacement is found. She tells us that in Gloucester, Mrs E Morris and Mrs C Ford arranged a very enjoyable Afternoon Tea for members at Frampton on Severn to which she and Mrs Norman were invited. It was a beautiful afternoon and members had a lovely time meeting with old friends

A meeting was held for the Cheltenham members in Hatherley Hall in April and tea and cakes were prepared and served by Mrs M Norman and Mrs J Vernon. It is with regret that we announce the deaths of three long-standing and hard working members. Mrs M Moore, Mrs J Stephens and Mrs C J Sharpston will be missed by all their friends

### **SOMERSET AND AVON**

Div. Rep. Mrs Sheila Scholey

Margaret Dawson writes that the Kingswood Branch, Bristol is struggling. She says 'When we first split from the then Avon County there were about 25 of us but now, due to age, illness etc we only have an average attendance of four and these are life members. To make up the numbers for our coffee mornings, we invite a few ex WRVS members to join us, but these ladies do not wish to become Association members. As has been pointed out in newsletters by other districts, the demise of District Offices contributes to the loss of contact with potential members and we feel sad about this. In the Kingswood District I feel that the future is bleak and I am sure that the situation must be reflected in other parts of the country. What has happened to WRVS? It seems to live for the present, with no thought for past members who have given years of service to help make WRVS what it is today. Having said all that, our little group enjoy meeting once every two months and the warden of a local elderly persons home is kind enough to let us meet there

### **WEST MIDLANDS - Div. Rep. Vacant**

Group Organiser: Endington \ Sutton Coldfield Group, West Midlands

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**DEVON AND CORNWALL - DORSET AND WILTSHIRE**

Div. Rep. Mrs Alice Cleland CBE

The report from the Torrige Group came from Margaret Dunn, just a week after they met in Devon, by kind invitation and at the home of the Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Lomas, where they all enjoyed a wonderful Strawberry & Raspberry Tea party. A short business time preceded a happy social gathering when there were twelve present with six apologies for absence. The group had not met since their Coffee morning AGM in November when three Members who attended the Association AGM in September at Scarborough reported on the good event. Illness among members and their families, as well as age, have contributed to make people less active. One Member has been Leader of an Over 60's Club for many years regretted to say they had had to close for the former reason. Another Member still delivers Books on Wheels but sadly reported that her first recipient back in 1982 has just died at the age of 101. It was quite demanding to find enough Cowboy books to satisfy her, she was very definite in not wanting books where they jump in and out of bed with each other! One Member sent her apologies and said she was now on the receiving end of Meals on wheels but was saddened that delivery was not now by WRVS, having been the Rota organiser in Bideford for many years. Three members are booked to attend the Association Reunion and AGM at Bristol in September. A Member will obtain information on a Local Charity to which we may make a donation from a small Bank Balance.

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**Medical Terms (wot I lernd wen I was a dok ta in tha os pit al)**

Artery	Study of fine paintings
Bacteria	Back door to a cafeteria
Barium	What doctors do when treatment fails
Benign	What you be after you be eight
Bowel	Letters like A, E, I, O or U
Caesarean Section	A district in Rome
Cat Scan	Searching for kitty
Catheter	Stringed instrument
Cauterise	Made eye contact with her
Colic	A sheep dog
Congenital	Friendly
D & C	Where the White House is
Dilate	To live long
Enema	Not a friend
Fester	Quicker
Fibula	Small lie

Rest of the alphabet to follow!



## WALES

Div. Rep. Mrs Mary Gibbons. OBE

My apologies, once again, for no report from Wales in the last Newsletter. In November, when I should have been telling myself that it was time to start reminding people to send me information, I was enjoying myself (!) at the expense of the National Health in hospital having two new knees - yes both at the same time. Great. Our oldest son, who lives in South Africa, was taken ill and on a life support machine for over a week in the run up to Christmas and we went out to see him in early January for three weeks so you can imagine the Newsletter was not uppermost in my thoughts. So I am starting this in plenty of time

I was delighted to see that mention was made in the last Newsletter, in the report from the East Riding, of Mrs. Taylor moving to North Wales. Miss Boden and the other members in Colwyn Bay were delighted to welcome her to their coffee mornings. "A very active delightful lady who, despite being 92, was only sorry there was no WRVS work she could do in the area." With a bus stop outside her flat she is often out and about. Thank you Miss Boden. One of our members in this group, Mrs Annetta Roberts, died during the early summer after a long illness - she will be sadly missed.

In Llandudno, Mrs. Olive Bocking - who is a member of the group who declared UDI - has let me know that Grace Hornby is in hospital and likely to go into a nursing home in the near future. For many years Grace, who was awarded a BEM, was the District Organiser of Aberconwy. The group there still meet monthly with about twenty five members.

The Dyfed Group had their Christmas Lunch at the Falcon in Carmarthen in early December - thanks to Elizabeth John. This is always a lovely occasion with old friends getting together, exchanging news, reminiscing and eating well. They hope to meet again in September when a trip is being organised by Anthea Evans and Mary Morris to St. David's in Pembrokeshire. Those who knew Barbara Richardson will be sorry to know that she died in June/July. They will remember the photos of her in the village carnival riding a decorated bike and going as 'Meals on Wheels'. We loved the saucepan crash helmet! There are many stories that will keep her memory alive for many years to come.

Marjorie Stinchcombe's group meet in or around Abergavenny on a very regular basis. They are 'Ladies who Lunch' and really do enjoy their lunch. Some of them still do WRVS work on a regular basis and there is always plenty to discuss about the way things are going. I try and join them as often as possible and am getting to know good eating places around their area. Unfortunately I am unable to join them for their outing which this year is taking the form of 'Afternoon Tea' at the most wonderful hotel on the

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banks of the River Usk. I think there is talk of a walk by the river either before or after - but it may be just talk.

I have contacted Mrs. Doris Travis who was the District Organiser for Newport for some years and has been the leader of a small group of Association members there. Unfortunately she has been registered blind for some time so does not find it easy to keep her group together. As they get older they become more 'house bound' (don't we all) and are not willing to go to meetings. Unfortunately one of their stalwart members, Mrs. Betty Baker, who was Doris's eyes for some while, has died recently. She will be sadly missed. Doris Travis is another of the Welsh Members who has asked about a 'Talking Newsletter'. Is there any chance that one could be considered again?

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***Try this one out loud, but without smiling!***

What do you call a donkey with one leg?

A wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye?

A winky wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye making love?

A bonky winky wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye making love while breaking wind?

A stinky bonky winky wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye making love while breaking wind, wearing blue suede shoes?

A honky tonky stinky bonky winky wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye making love while breaking wind, wearing blue suede shoes and playing piano?

A plinky plonky honky tonky stinky bonky winky wonky donkey

What do you call a donkey with one leg and one eye making love while breaking wind, wearing blue suede shoes, playing piano and driving a Bus?

Talented!!!

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**GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED**

When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair

You can't trust dogs to watch your food

Don't hit back because parents always catch the second person

Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair

No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats

You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk

The best place to be when you are sad is on Granny's lap

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## WRVS SOUTH WEST JACKPOT CLUB

This Jackpot Club has been in existence since 1999, originally only for members in Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset and Avon, (hence the name). But as it is now the only WRVS Jackpot Club in England, we are going to invite members to join regardless of where they live.

The annual membership subscription is £12, payable by cheque or standing order, and there is a monthly prize draw. With their permission, we will print the winners' names in this newsletter.

Half of your subscription goes into the prize fund and the amount of the prize draw is determined by the size of this. Currently, with 200 members, we give two £50 prizes each month, and so far in 2006 there have been 14 winners, mainly from the South West. Lets try and make it country wide! The other half of your subscription goes into a managed fund to provide small 'Thank You's' to WRVS volunteers – so we might give a contribution towards a Christmas party, send get well flowers, or pay for a retirement tea. This applies to Association groups too.

If you would like to join, or your Group would like a contribution towards specific expenses, please write for further details to Alice Cleland, WRVS Jackpot Club,

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Men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They have experienced pain and they have already bought jewellery

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I wonder why

If flying is so safe, do they call airport buildings terminals?

The sun darkens our skin but lightens our hair

Doctors call what they do practice

Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes

There isn't a mouse flavoured cat food

The time of day when traffic moves the slowest is called the rush hour

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Experience is a wonderful thing; it enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

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Learn from the mistakes of others, you will not live long enough to make them all yourself

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## SCOTLAND

**Chairman - Hilda Clow**

What a wonderful summer we have had. I cannot remember the last time we had so many consecutive days of good weather and I certainly cannot recall my garden being so dry, the earth turning to dust and the lawns turning so brown.

This year our AGM and reunion was held in Perth and attended by 62 members. Being in central Scotland we had a good representation from all areas. A formal welcome was extended to all by the Provost of Perth, who had been invited as one of our guest speakers. The business side took the usual form, the Chairman and Treasurer giving their reports. Finance was discussed briefly once again; subscriptions remaining at £5 and if Life Members wished to give a voluntary donation this would be most acceptable. There being no further business Mrs Wilma Mackay, Chairman of the Perth Branch, introduced Provost Bob Scott who gave us a most interesting talk on his own life and also his experiences as Provost of Perth, including his involvement with the G8 Summit at Gleneagles in July last year. The meeting then adjourned to partake of an excellent lunch followed by the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new members.

Thereafter the meeting resumed with the introduction of Mrs Helen Gardiner by Mrs Ailsa Blair, a former Chairman of the Association. Mrs Gardiner is the wife of a farmer and herself a chicken farmer living in Angus. She is also a regular contributor to the local Newspaper, The Courier and Advertiser, writing on "Country Matters". Her articles are wonderful as was her talk, touching on different aspects of her life. Over and above, she has a lovely singing voice and had everyone joining in the chorus of a song she herself had written. On these very happy notes, the meeting drew to a close with Mrs Isobel Spinks from Fife giving a comprehensive vote of thanks. After a cup of tea and good-byes said the members dispersed to the four corners of Scotland.

Unfortunately, since my last contribution to your Newsletter Moray branch in the northeast has folded. However Highland Branch is not too far away and some members may link up.

Over the summer months I was invited to two very pleasant functions. A service of Thanksgiving for the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service at RAF Leuchars and then to the ceremony granting the Freedom of Clackmannanshire to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; both very moving and historic occasions.

All the Scottish members join with me in wishing all your Branches a successful

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

### JERSEY

Ass. Rep. Mrs Jill O'Byrne

Welcome to new rep Jill, as Mrs Doreen Jennings resigned at the end of June

### GUERNSEY

Ass. Rep. Mrs Margaret Chilcott

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### Be very proud to be British because...

**Only in Britain...** can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance

OiB do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke

OiB do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

OiB do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters

OiB do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage

**Not to mention...** some very British statistics from recent years

3 die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue

142 were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts

58 are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers

18 had serious burns in 2000 putting on a jumper with a cigarette in their mouth

31 have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in

101 people since 1999 have had broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet

543 were admitted to A&E in two years after opening bottles with their teeth

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### RULE BRITANNIA!



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## WRVS ASSOCIATION

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Chairman WRVS

### Vice-Presidents

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Mrs Pat Copping  
The Hon. Dame Mary Corsar DBE  
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Mrs Sheila Scholey

### Hon. Secretary

Mrs Jean Pickard

### Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Maureen Hudson

### Hon. Editor

Paulene Lambert

All contributions for the next Newsletter should be with me by 31st January 2007.

Please send them via your Div Rep if you have one, or direct to me at

or I can be contacted at

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