

YMCAs OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND
AND WALES



The Forgotten Angels (Part Three)

History of the YMCA Women's Auxiliary
Researched and written by David H Smith

09

INDEX

PAGES	HEADINGS
03	AGM OF THE YMCA NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OCTOBER 1981
07	NWA OF THE YMCA. 18th January 1990 Special NWA Meeting to discuss the Draft Report and Recommendations on the 1986 Assembly Resolution
08	NWA OF THE YMCA Executive Meeting 9th May 1990
10	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA NOVEMBER 7th 1990
12	NWA OF THE YMCA Executive Meeting May 15th 1991
14	CENTRAL REGION WA Report to the NWA at the AGM 19th November 1991
15	AGM NWA OF THE YMCA 19th November 1991
16	NWA OF THE YMCA. Executive Meeting 31st March 1992
and	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA October 13th, 1992.
17	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA OCTOBER 1992
19	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA 19TH OCTOBER, 1993.
23	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA HELD AT NOTTINGHAM YMCA ON 11TH OCTOBER, 1995.
25	EXECUTIVE MEETING - NWA OF THE YMCA. LONDON CITY YMCA - MARCH 13TH 1996
26	AGM OF THE NWA OF THE YMCA HELD ON OCTOBER 2ND, 1996 AT NOTTINGHAM YMCA
28	EXECUTIVE & AGM – NWA OF THE YMCA 12TH NOVEMBER 1997 - NOTTINGHAM YMCA
31	AGM OF THE NWA WED 4TH NOVEMBER 1998 AGM OF THE NWA 20TH OCTOBER 1999

**AGM OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA
OCTOBER 1981**

AGM OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA

PRESIDENT: - HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT

VICE-PRESIDENT:-THE LADY MERRIMAN

CHAIRMAN: - WPS D. TILLOTSON

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-THE LADY JOHN MANNERS

OCTOBER 1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EASTERN COUNTIES	MRS H HOWARD
LONDON METROPOLITAN	MRS H STEVENSON
MIDLAND REGION	MRS R BENNETT
NORTH-EAST REGION	MRS J. BERRIMAN
NORTH-WEST	MRS J GRIFFITH
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE	MISS EA STRAY
WALES	MRS J PARRY
HON. SECRETARY	MRS P HAWORTH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since our last AGM at the Barbican YMCA when **Lord Rupert Neville** was gracious enough to come along and present **Mrs. Baskcomb** with her retiring present, in spite of having another engagement on the same afternoon. We had a very happy afternoon and much enjoyed the social chatter over tea. It was especially gratifying to have a representative from BAOR and we welcome the opportunity of meeting **Pat Boulstridge** from the Berlin shop.

Nationally 1980/81 has been quite a year but there has been quite a bit of activity throughout the country in Regions and local Associations. We are so pleased that the Welsh WA has decided to send a representative to the NWA meeting although they will no longer have a member on the YMCA Board. Although it goes without saying that the late **Anne Davies** will be sadly missed it would have made the loss even greater if Wales had severed their connection altogether.

I am concerned when I hear that some YMCAs have large numbers of women giving invaluable help but are not members of the NWA. I do hope you will all do your best to encourage such groups to join us so that by attending Regional meetings they are able to pool their ideas. I was happy to attend the AGM of the Yorkshire and Humberside WA's and it was very heartening to meet such a splendid crowd of willing supporters so ably led by their Chairman and recently appointed President. It would be more than gratifying if we could come to our next AGM with the knowledge that there were new recruits in all Regions. Thank you for all you have done during 1981 and for what you are planning to achieve in 1982,

DAPHNE TILLOTSON

SOUTH WEST REGION

1981 has continued to be successful from the point of view in raising money and providing any help needed by local YMCAs. Membership is dwindling due to increasing age and other problems and the recruitment of new members is extremely difficult. **Mrs Dow, Regional Chairman**, always pays tribute to those WA's with only 5 or 6 members but who continue to give tremendous support to their own YMCA. In Cheltenham we are fortunate to have 71 members and in November of last year gave £650 to the Cheltenham YMCA. We hope to do likewise this year, if not better.

Paignton members continue with the manning of the coffee morning and also raise money by Jumble Sales and various other events. The second-hand clothing shop run by Plymouth YMCA continues to be a great success and members provide any assistance needed by the General Secretary. Bridgwater and Bristol Kingswood with very few members maintain to give much appreciated help in catering and the raising of money and the members of Bath continue to help in any way they are needed. Despite the distances within the Region and the expensive travelling incurred, two meetings are held each year when we have lunch together, exchange points of view and aired any problems and have an interesting speaker. Our Chairman and Secretary having served for three years are standing down but will continue to give the South West Region their continued support.

PEGGY BLACK

EASTERN AREA MIDLAND REGION

The AGM was held at the home of our President, **Lady Bridget Somerleyton** on the 1st October 1980 In Lowestoft the 'Nearly New' shops continue to make a good profit. The takings this year were £1486. Despite the fact that £700 goes on rent, rates, they were able to undertake repairs to the guttering on Clifford House. Ladies meet occasionally for coffee and discuss any problems that arise. Ipswich WA meet regularly each week, the programme divided between having speakers and demonstrations and money raising efforts. During the summer months walks are arranged which are very popular. The Buffet Bar continues to be manned two nights' per week. £60 was donated to RAID. **We were sad to say farewell to Mr Raymond Onions. He was a good friend and supporter of the WA. He, it was, who formed the WA in Ipswich in 1950.**

NORTH EAST REGION

Attendance at our Autumn meeting (October 1980) was 47 and 32 members were present at our AGM in March this year when all officers were re-elected and meetings arranged for the ensuing year. At our Annual Rally held in Morpeth YMCA in June we had an excellent attendance of 133 when Canon Hinckley was our guest speaker. Mrs' Hinkley presented long service awards as follows: -

1x 50 years (Bible provided by our Region)

2 x 40 years

6 x 30 years

2x 20 years

2x10 years

A number of members attended the National WA's AGM in November 1980, including **Mrs Berriman** who currently represented our Region on the National Committee. Financial reports have been presented at each meeting, as have reports from WA's on a rota basis.

Mr Peebles, the present Regional Secretary attended, acquainted us with all aspects of the re-organisation programme and kept us informed of the most recent regional developments. We are nine WA's at present, Bedlington having recently been disbanded. It is hoped that a new group will be formed to replace those ladies who no longer feel able to continue.

We have had the pleasure of meeting **Mr Goodall, the new Regional Secretary** and look forward to a similar relationship to that which we had with Mr Peebles. Everyone worked extremely hard with regard to Refugee Year and well exceeded our target.

MOLLY MOIR

NORTH WEST REGION

The culmination of the years work and the stepping into a new beginning. The AGM was held on Saturday 11th April 1981 at Craigavon Hotel St. Annes. Mrs Tillotson our president tribute to the ladies we had lost by death during the year. **Mrs Clay Wallesey, Mrs Owen Bolton and Mrs. Richards the mother of Harry Richards the General Secretary of St Anne's.** We were glad to hear of the four new members at Bolton. 'A goodly company of 50 were present at the AGM, 27 of whom stayed overnight. They came from Chester, Carlisle, Birkenhead, Bolton, Wallasey and St Annes WA's. We were delighted **Graeme Angus the Regional Secretary was our Guest Speaker and his address was an amusing and light one.**

The Report From each WA was very well received. It was amazing and most gratifying to learn that in spite of the WIND OF CHANGE playing such havoc in the NORTH the cumulative sum of over £3,000 has been raised through the organisation of various efforts, the proceeds for which have been of great help to the Association. In addition to which, blankets have been sent to a Children's Hospital in India. Visits between Auxiliaries have been exchanged.

For the valued and continued voluntary service, 7 Long Service Awards were presented by Mrs Tillotson. May they be blessed to continue the Good Work

JESSIE GRIFFITHS

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

There are still 9 WA's in the area and these all continue to work with considerable success. Despite problems with dwindling numbers, money raising seems to continue with increasing achievement and reports from groups all show the very satisfactory degree of friendship and enthusiasm created within the membership. At our AGM we were delighted to welcome the **Vicountess Downe** as our President. She and her family have long connections with the YMCA and we were most honoured that she had consented to accept the appointment. With great regret we said goodbye to **Mrs Sugden as our Secretary**. Over the last few years with her hard work and efficiency she has done much towards the smooth running of the Regional WA affairs.

E.A STRAY

METROPOLITAN REGION

Our members have had another busy year in this Region and fortunately membership has increased slightly although we still only have 6 WA's. The new hostel and club at Kingston is now functioning. It has 150 Study bedrooms, with one especially adapted on each floor for a disabled resident and when I paid my first visit a few weeks ago my impression was that this Club equalled the facilities available in a 4 star Hotel! We are very hopeful that a WA will be formed at Kingston in the near future.

The emphasis has been on the International Year of Disabled People and a symposium was held at the German YMCA last February to encourage YMCAs to undertake a variety of programme work suitable for the disabled. So far the response in our Region has been very encouraging.

Likewise, the speaker at our Regional WA Dinner last November was a Yoga Teacher who runs a class for Multiple Sclerosis victims at Romford YMCA which has proved to be most beneficial, especially in improving the sufferer's morale and mobility. It is a very simple thing to organise. All one needs is a suitable room in a YMCA building, a good Yoga Instructor and a liaison with disabled organisations in your area. I have been very happy to represent the NWA at the quarterly WRVS Advisory Council Meetings held at the Home Office in Westminster and have found them to be of great interest. The emphasis this year has again been work for the disabled.

MARY STEVENSON

CENTRAL REGION OF THE YMCAs

During the past year our Region like many others has come under "The order of re-organisation", Now our Region is called the Central Region. Instead of two Regions Eastern Counties and the Midlands. In fact our Region now extends from the North Sea to the Welsh border - quite some area, However, at the moment we are endeavouring to continue in the same way with our WA's remaining in the previous Regions except we now call them areas. Having said that however on 5th October, 1981 we held a most successful meeting at Derby YMCA at which well over 100 ladies were present from the Central Region, plus our very loyal friends from the Grimsby WA who in actual fact are no longer in our Region.

Unfortunately some of the WA's in the West Midlands area are experiencing some difficulties in continuing the work and I have just heard that the West Bromwich YMCA has decided to call it a day although should a need for Auxiliary arise in the future they will rally the ladies together again. The ladies at Leicester are also experiencing great difficulty in continuing their work owing to the lack of co-operation from their Association.

Nevertheless, all is not doom. During the past year the ladies in our Region have raised almost £3,000 for their respective Associations as well as giving much valued service in the way of cafeteria coverage helping run Sections in their YMCAs and generally doing things to forward the work of the YMCA. Contributions are also made locally and regionally by the Auxiliaries to the World Alliance of YMCAs and some Auxiliaries also support the work of other Charities.

Our President, **Her Grace, the Duchess of Portland**, is no longer able to attend meetings although her interest in the work of the YMCA has not diminished at all. We are extremely fortunate in having **Lady John Manners** as our Vice President' and she is so helpful in the way in which she attends meetings and gives us encouragement in every way.

Support from our Auxiliaries is also given to Regional Events of the YMCA with some ladies serving on the Regional Council. Delegates make every effort to attend YMCA National Assemblies and events organised by the NWA. During the year, our YMCA **Regional Secretary, Mr Arthur Rowell**, retired and he is very greatly missed, as he gave so much help and support to the Auxiliaries, however, our new **Regional Officer is Mr Sam Johnston** who is well known in our Region, and already he has given help and support to our Auxiliaries. We realise how much the YMCA locally, regionally, nationally and internationally needs our support and we do try to give constructive thought to the valuable opportunities which are presented to us, to help continue God's work through the YMCA.

NAN BENNINGTON

NWA FOR WALES

Unfortunately our report must commence with the great loss of the Welsh NWA who were greatly saddened by the death of Mrs **Anne Davies, our Honorary Secretary**, last year. Anne was a person of great drive and enthusiasm and was so competent in all she undertook. She is sorely missed. This sad note continues as several of our Auxiliaries have been depleted due to the deaths of members. But in spite of this the ladies are 'battling on and some of their achievements are set out below:



In October of last year a new YMCA building was opened at Barry by **HRH the Duchess of Kent** and In addition to their fund raising efforts, the Barry WA helped with the refreshments for that special occasion.

Cardiff Auxiliary has worked under difficulty for over two years whilst the construction work for an exciting new building had been going on. This is now completed except for the usual 'teething' troubles which appear for such major project. The WA had to stage some events 'outside' but nevertheless raised sufficient money to purchase curtains for the entire three storeys of the front of the building.

The new building consists of a new youth and community centre, and a 72 bedroom Residential Club and the Auxiliary activities also embraced help in fund raising events in connection with the Public Appeal for money to furnish the Residential Club.

The Welsh WA raised sufficient money to purchase the curtains for the newly re-opened Rhayader YMCA, which has no Auxiliary of its own, and to donate the money to purchase a new carpet for the National Secretary's Office at the National Council offices in Cardiff. Llanelli WA have continued their splendid record of fund raising and assistance both to their local Association and to World Service and the local YMCA Secretary speaks very highly of them.

Llantwit Pardre WA, although small and without a local Association to support, continue gallantly to raise funds for Overseas Work each year. Mountain Ash WA coped with all the catering on the special 'This Is Your Life' Presentation to **George Vater**, who had been the YMCA Secretary for very many years, on his retirement earlier this year. The Neath 100th Good Friday morning breakfast was prepared and served by the local WA. The Newport May Morning breakfast was again prepared and served by the local WA. Swansea WA helped to raise sufficient funds to enable a ladies new toilet to be installed at their YMCA. In all WA's recruitment proves difficult but in spite of this the ladies who are dedicated to the Movement press on and are never found wanting when called upon to render service.

BETTY WILLIAMS

NWA OF THE YMCA. 18th January 1990
Special NWA Meeting to discuss the Draft Report and Recommendations
on the 1986 Assembly Resolution

Welcome from the Vice Chairman - Mrs. Rosemary Bennett.
22, Ladies present, with Mr. Rodney Stone and Mr Sam Johnson attending.
Apologies from Lady Mary Manners whose absence was due to illness.
Also apologies from Bolton, Chester, Grimsby, North East Region and Wallasey.
Also Mrs. Berriman, Mrs. Davies and Miss Mountfield.

Mr Rodney Stone who has given us a great deal of help in all our discussions started the meeting with a prayer.

Miss Barbara Kendle gave a brief report of progress to date with the sad news that while 33 WAs had been invited to this special meeting, 19 did bother to reply, showing there was a certain amount of feeling of not caring what happens to the National WA, although other groups were still enthusiastic. **Miss Kendle** also expressed our grateful thanks to **Mr Rodney Stone** and **Mr Sam Johnston** who have worked hard on our behalf.

The Draft Report gave a clear precise of the findings of the Special Working Party and it was time now to either accept their recommendations or submit an interim report to the National YMCA. The meeting was then thrown open for discussion.

In answer to a question of how the Resolution started, **Mrs Brassey** gave a brief summary, some members were unaware of the history although Regional Secretaries had been informed of progress. **Mr Stone** gave a summary of the Report and Recommendations, which had also been sent to all Regions.

Mr Johnson told the meeting he would need an interim Report of our decision at the present time within two weeks or a new Resolution or amendment.

After a lively discussion **Mrs Holroyd** proposed the following:-

"The Summary of Recommendations are not accepted, we would like to see the National Women's Auxiliary of the YMCA with its Regions and local Auxiliaries continue and maintain their position within the YMCA."

This was seconded by **Mrs Brassey** and put to the Vote. 7 for, 5 against, 1 abstention, the Chairman did not need to use her casting vote.

It was then decided that a new Resolution be sent to the National YMCA National Assembly as follows :-
"The concept of a National Y Volunteer Force should be pursued by National Council and supported by local Associations."

This was proposed by **Mrs Holroyd** and Seconded by **Miss Kendle** and put to the Vote - 10 for, 2 against.

Mrs Haworth was to present this at the Assembly, to be seconded by **Miss Kendle** supported by **Mrs. Tillotson** and **Mrs. Wilson**.

Mr Johnson suggested we then state that **"The Working Party feel they have, therefore, acquitted themselves of the task given to them at the 1986 Assembly."**

Mr Stone also suggested we might have another Special WA Meeting where small Buzz Groups could be formed, discussions and ideas to be exchanged, the findings to then be passed to the whole meeting. An Executive meeting with Regional Representatives invited was to be arranged by the Secretary after consultation on dates with **Lady John Manners**.

A WA prayer was recommended and **Mrs Bennington** was asked if she would formulate this. The meeting closed with tea.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASS
NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.
Executive Meeting 9th May 1990 at the YMCA Errol St, London. 1

The meeting was opened with a prayer and a welcome from the Chairman.

Apologies - received from Mrs. Tillotson, Stevenson, Davies, Brassey and Goulding.

A copy of a prayer composed by **Mrs Nan Bennington** was discussed, it was agreed a copy should be sent to each Region for their use should they so wish. Thanks were to be sent to **Mrs Bennington** for her effort. **(please see appendices)**

Mrs Bennett gave a brief summary of the World Alliance Meeting on the 14th Oct. 1989. There were no matters which related to the NWA.

Mrs. Haworth and **Miss Kendle** reported on the National Assembly. It was apparent that the interim report had been misunderstood and taken as fact as many people had spoken of "when the NWA disbands". The Assembly were told that "The WA will carry on and while a WA Member is alive the WA will live"

Also our Resolution was not accepted. Mrs. Wilson queried the fact that at the Service on Sunday morning it seemed that every section of the YMCA, except the WA were given a part to play. The Secretary would write to Reverend Ron Ingamells on this point.

The Executive were dismayed at the lack of response from some Auxiliaries to the Special Meeting on the 18th Jan. 1990. Nineteen did not even reply although expenses were to be paid. A full report of the meeting had been sent to all Regions.

The AGM was provisionally arranged for the 7th November at the Barbican unless the Duchess of Kent agreed to attend and the date and venue needed to be changed. No further Executive Meetings would be called if the Duchess was not coming. Lady John would write and invite **Gerald Ward** and ask if he would be our Speaker. If he was unable to do this, other names suggested were **Lord Grimthorpe, David Trippier, Mr. Bennett or Mrs Holroyd.**

There was to be a Special Assembly Meeting of the YMCA on the 17th November at Westminster Hall. **Mrs Bennett and Mrs. Wilson** would represent the National WA.

Mrs Davies was given permission to purchase 10 Bibles for Members who had served for 50 years, it was hoped they could be presented with these at our National AGM's.

The Secretary would ask YMCA Services to supply Membership Cards. The Affiliation Fee of Auxiliaries to the National WA is £3.00. A Bring and Buy Stall would be held at the next AGM.

As the National WA was to continue the future was discussed. A pamphlet and poster was considered the best approach to attract new Members. It was suggested these should be put in Libraries, Doctors and Dentists Waiting Rooms, Citizens Advice Bureau and the like. Suggestions for material to be used to the Secretary i.e. can we use your Talents? Have you time to spare for Service to Youth?

As there was no other business to discuss the Meeting closed, **Lady John** thanked the members present for attending.

**Almighty God may the Spirit of our Saviour Jesus Christ enable all that we do for the National and Local Women's Auxiliary of the YMCA. Inspire us with the faith that, in ways beyond our knowledge, our work is a blessing to others. From day to day may there be nothing in our work of which we can be ashamed. We thank you that the Women's Auxiliaries of the YMCA, was brought into being, and has been sustained though the long years with your strength and guidance. Give us inspiration to go forward into avenues as yet unknown with clear vision and understanding of your will so that we may see our lives as holy and every job we undertake as work done for you. Help as to serve you in whatever way you show us to further your work both through our Movement and elsewhere, looking away from ourselves to the 'hopes and needs of others, though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Nan Bennington - CENTRAL REGION WA**

**Report to the National Women's Auxiliary
at the Annual General Meeting, held on 7th November, 1990, at the German YMCA.**

This past year has been quite eventful, not only for the Central Region, but also for the National WA, as those of you who attended this year's National Assembly will know. After accepting the theme "Going for Growth", I think that the Central Region Women's Auxiliary has gone some way - perhaps small - in achieving progress, although we must continue to strive even harder in whatever way God shows us. However, we are rather disappointed that as yet the promised leaflets to help promote the work of WA from the National WA have not materialised.

We have had two Regional "Get togethers" this year. The first was our Annual Meeting, which was held in Nottingham in April, at which our President, **Lady John Manners**, presided. There were approximately 65 ladies present, which was rather disappointing, as usually we have an average attendance of 100. We ascertained that the reduction in numbers was due to the expense of travel, and when it was reported that one Local Association subsidises WA's travel expenses to Regional Meetings and another Association is prepared to do so in the future, we hope that this matter is being discussed by Board's of Management in the Region, with a helpful result for their WA's.

Then in October, we held a "meeting less" get together at Derby, which was a super day. **Lady John Manners** and over 60 ladies from Lincoln, Nottingham, Grimsby and **Mrs. Boston** from Leicester, attended. The ladies had lunch at the YMCA, where I must tell you, Lady John was most helpful in assisting the Derby WA to serve teas and coffee - in fact, we don't know how we would have managed without her. After lunch, some ladies visited the Royal Crown Derby Factory, and others visited Derby Cathedral, all coming back to Derby YMCA for tea. A very happy day.

One sad note, the Tuesday Group of the Wellington ladies has had to disband, but the good news is that some of their members have now joined the Wednesday Group of ladies, who now jointly form the Wellington WA.

Some Auxiliaries have recruited new members during the year, which is encouraging and during the same period £4,500 has been raised by the WA's in Nottingham, Lincoln, Derby, Grimsby and Wellington for the YMCA. work connected with their Associations. This is an increase of £500 from last year, and additional financial support has also been given locally and regionally by the WA's to Y-Care International.

There are YMCA's in our Region who do not have an "Auxiliary", or a group of "Friends of the YMCA". We wonder why, and this is a challenge to us for the future, as we are sure there must be "volunteers" in those areas, who could help to further the work of those Association's in so many ways raising money, giving service, and we hope that general Secretaries will help us to increase our service by their support and encouragement, as we feel that with more co-operation from both professional and lay members of the YMCA, our contribution to our great Movement can be greater and made more worthwhile*

Nan Bennington. (Secretary).

**Present ... The Lady John Manners in the Chair
Mrs. Daphne Tillotson Vice President, and 33 members as per list.**

Mrs Rosemary Bennett opened the meeting with **Mrs. Nan Bennington's** prayer especially prepared for the WA.

Lady John Manners welcomed the ladies and hoped they had not had too much difficulty travelling through London in spite of the extra traffic for the opening of Parliament and Underground stoppages. She was pleased to see so many had made the effort to attend the AGM.

Mr. John Naylor sent his best wishes and hoped we had a good AGM - he was unfortunately committed elsewhere and could not attend.

The Duchess of Kent sent her apologies and best wishes to all connected with the WA. Apologies also from Lady Merriman, Bolton and Chester Ladies, both of whom found the travelling difficult. Wallasey ladies regret they have disbanded but send best wishes to all. Yorkshire and Humberside ladies had their own AGM today although three ladies from Sheffield were here.

The Minutes of the AGM 1st November 1989 were read, accepted and signed by the Chairman.

The only 'matter arising' was **Dame Joan's** plaque... National Council knew very little about her but the Secretary was gathering as many facts as she could to send them.

The Secretary gave her report, as attached, stressing the fact that the WA had over the past five years raised over £60,000.00 for the YMCA and this was only the WA's affiliated to National WA, we should stress, whenever we could that we were not a liability to the YMCA. There was regret that two WA's - Wallasey and Leeds, had disbanded. Publicity for the WA must be stepped up.

The Treasurer gave her report, regretting there was a discrepancy of £1.00 but had had difficulty transferring the Account from St. Helens to Wallasey even though she requested this eight weeks ago, however it would be sorted out when she had all the relevant papers. WA had £327.00 in hand.

Reports were given by the Regions, as follows, all speaking of renewed efforts to help the WA to grow.

Eastern	Mrs.Hilda Howard.
London Metropolitan	Mrs.Mary Stevenson.
Central Region	Mrs.Nan Bennington.
North East	Mrs.Frances Berriman.
North West	Mrs.Marjorie Wilson.
Yorkshire & Humberside	Miss Wheatley.

As there was no National Assembly in 1991 it was agreed that **Mrs. M. Wilson and Mrs. D. Tillotson** attend the Gt. Britain and Ireland Conference.

Representatives to National Board held in abeyance as there was a special meeting on the 17th November to discuss the Board's future and structure, **Mrs.M. Wilson and Mrs. Nan Bennington** were attending this meeting.

There were no nominations for the Officers. **Mrs. Jean Leyland** proposed that all serving members be elected en bloc, **Mrs.Nan Bennington** seconded and as the Officers agreed to this the proposition was carried.

Long Service Awards - **Lady John** handed Bibles for **50 years Service to Miss Wheatley** for members of the Yorkshire and Humberside Region

Mrs. A. Gill,
Mrs. I. Richardson
Miss Unne.

The Chairman would prefer old style Bibles instead of the new version now in stock, the Treasurer would see if they could be changed.

Lady John welcomed **Mr Gerald Ward CBE** our speaker, and he told us an interesting and amusing story of his attendance as a page at the Queen's Coronation including his meeting with **Sir Winston Churchill**. He also said he was very grateful to groups like ours for their service and fund raising, 45% of participants in the YMCA were now women.

Mrs. Daphne Tillotson gave the vote of thanks.

The Secretary reported she had received Building Society papers and passbook made out in the name of Scunthorpe WA long disbanded, it was agreed to pass the papers to Lincolnshire ladies. The Christmas Cards for Y Care International were discussed but as Regions already had provisions for selling their own could not take an more commitments. The Yorkshire and Humberside Region Resolution to disband the National WA as It had outlived its usefulness and did not get sufficient support from the Regions was discussed but it was agreed that the decision taken at the Special meeting in January 1990 could not be overthrown and that this Resolution could not be accepted,

Lady John closed the meeting and tea followed.

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA,
NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 1990**

My first year as Secretary has been a busy and interesting one starting with the Special Meeting in January to discuss our future. You all know from my report that we agreed to carry on the NWA and work towards a brighter future. In some areas this is already happening, indeed I had to order new membership cards and hope I will have many requests for these.

On a sadder note, I have to report that Wallasey and Leeds WA have had to disband. However, the ladies from these WA's will be keeping in contact with each other and should the opportunity arise for the WA to re-emerge, they will be there to give support and any advice asked for. I asked all Regional Secretaries for a total of money raised by their WA's over the past five years and am delighted to report the total is £60,000. Can you imagine how much money we have put into the YMCA Coffers over the past 75 years and this is only WA's affiliated to the NWA? I have asked if this can go on record at the National YMCA especially when finance is being discussed and would be interested to know if any other voluntary sector of the YMCA has raised more.

We know we are not a liability to the YMCA and this point should be pressed home. Will you publish this information locally please? On the question of publicity I have written to two Women's Magazines but far have had no reply or even an acknowledgement, however I will try more.

At the YMCA assembly in Brighton the YMCA European Secretary gave a description of life in East Germany and Lithuania as he had been able to visit these countries when the Berlin Wall came down. Life was rather desperate and I feel guilty about the amount of paper I have used for this meeting when it is impossible to obtain paper there. This was one small point in their lives but I took the opportunity to speak to him and asked him to take the best wishes of all the WA's in Britain to the women he came into contact with in his work for the YMCA. At the Executive Meeting in May we agreed we must press on with the publicity campaign in the form of a leaflet which we could leave in libraries, doctors and dentists waiting rooms and other places where we could reach people not already connected to the YMCA. Please send your ideas and suggestions in order that they can be discussed at the next Executive Meeting. We may seem to be taking a long time in getting going but we have a life-time and more before us and we want to get it right. In conclusion many thanks for the friendship and help I have received from all the Officers and Members, it makes my task so much easier. I am always pleased to hear from you.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the YMCAs
Executive Committee Meeting May 15th 1991. at the YMCA Errol St, London.

The Meeting was opened with a prayer from Lady John who also welcomed the Members present Mesdames. F. Berriman, G Bond, K Broadbent B. Davies H. Howard C. Watson. M Wilson.

The Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the 9th May 1990 were read and accepted.

Mrs Wilson reported on her visit to the Great Britain and Ireland Conference, also on the Special Meeting In November where the YMCA were to discuss the future structure of the Board of Management. Unfortunately the WA would not be automatically asked to send a representative. The Members on the Board were being drastically reduced in the interest of economy and unless a WA Member was elected by her YMCA Region she would not be eligible to serve.

Dartford WA were pleased to report they had several new members and were looking towards a brighter future . Sadly Ipswich YMCA was being restructured and possibly the WA would not be able to continue.

Mrs Bennington had written to suggest that all YMCAs without an Auxiliary be contacted and given a resume' of our work, this to be done through a letter to the **YMCA REGIONAL SECRETARIES**, asking them to pass the letters to their YMCAs when sending out their monthly notices, thus saving expense of postage. This was discussed and as Mrs Bennington had offered to undertake this task it was agreed to accept her kind offer with many thanks.

Although we had asked WA's TO SUBMIT IDEAS FOR A LEAFLET advertising our work In the YMCA so far the Secretary had had no ideas forwarded to her. She had tried to contact several Women Magazines but although one Freelance Journalist had shown interest nothing further had been forthcoming.

With regard to the **Plaque for Dame Joan**, Mrs Catherine Watson would look into the possibility of having this made.

The Secretary was to write to the Duchess of Kent to invite her to our AGM giving a choice of two dates - the 13th and 20th November, at the London City YMCA. If the Duchess accepted a further meeting would be arranged, if not a MEETING WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

Lady John closed the meeting.

National Women's Auxiliary YMCA. Report at Gt. Britain and Ireland Conference

This is to tell you about Brenda's and my weekend in Nottingham for the Great Britain and Ireland Conference of the YMCA. The theme Renewing 'Gods World together'.

We both thoroughly enjoyed it, this was more social than the normal English Assembly as there were no Resolutions to be discussed, always rather serious matters. We just had different workshops - groups discussing various subjects, I chose Renewing Gods World in the Environment, Brenda chose Multi Faith.

A few people told me I am known as the Y front lady after my 'faux pas' last year when I stated I had been asked for help 'to form a National Y Front' instead of Y Force. They wondered what I was going to do this year as a follow up. I had an opportunity as in my workshop on Saturday afternoon I excused myself as I had been sitting so long and told them about my hip. **Paul Boateng, MP** for Brent spoke in Assembly about general problem and mentioned little old ladies with hip replacements being deprived of special help. One of my team saw me later and said he expected me to get up and heckle **Mr. Boateng**, so next time I saw him in the Foyer, I tackled him and told him how good the operation was, so he gave a special mention in Sunday Service to ladies with hip replacements.

The best Speaker was on Friday evening, **Mr. Colin Morris** of the BBC. A most entertaining talk, giving us plenty of laughter as well as serious thought provoking ideas. We had a good laugh at the Saturday night dinner, it was in a marquee and you know what a cold and windy night it was, we were cold too, and sitting next to us was Colin Derry and Mike from Southport and Eddie from Lancaster. When the warm plates came round I put it inside my cardigan and the men copied me and we all warmed up a bit, then the hot baked potatoes came round and I put that in too, I think laughing warmed us up as well.

The top of the marquee was blowing about and almost ready to take off. **One of the Speakers a Scot and previous President of World Alliance of YMCA's named Jim Love**, looked up and said, 'No you're not going to stop me speaking'. He was an excellent speaker and really entertained us. The only sour moment was when we were talking to a lay member and his son from Halton YMCA and we were telling them about the WA. They thought it would be a good thing if they had one. Just then **Doreen Shotton** came along and they asked her if they could have a WA.

"No" She says, "I don't want one."

Brenda said "Why Not".

"No" she said, 'I said I wouldn't have one in 1972 and I haven't changed my mind".

Brenda said "Why not!"

Doreen said "I don't want to be just a woman in the YMCA, I want to be part of it,"

So I said "Well we are, surely you have a football team and others who are separate?".

"No" she said, "We don't, we are all members, anyway I like men and want to be with them, not with women!!".

Then she pranced off.

Most unpleasant. However it didn't bother us as everyone else we spoke to of the WA were interested and pleased. We tried to spread the word of the WA and make our presence felt. In fact **Lord Remnant** did that for us when we weren't seeking it. We sat right at the back and top of the theatre, so that we could get up and move about if necessary, and when he started speaking he asked if everyone could hear him and mentioned the two ladies right at the back and hoped they hadn't tried to get away from him. The weekend seemed a great success in heightening people's awareness of God's World and the YMCA's part in helping to cope with the problems affecting today's society. It was stressed that the YMCA's most precious resource was its people.

The welcome which is given to delegates was very moving. When we were asked to stand for our Regions a piece of a map was put on a big board, different colours for each region and when the British Isles were all there we each had a candle lighted and the lights went out and we sang a hymn while doing so candles were put on the map in the form of a cross - really lovely. The YMCA British Conference finished with the rousing YMCA hymn, written for the YMCA – "Thine be the Glory."

The last AGM in London was quite a hairy experience for me. To start with I had a panic over the venue due to Mr. Swan not letting me know he couldn't let me have a room, giving 3 weeks to find somewhere else and let everyone know. That settled, when we arrived at the German YMCA the receptionist had the wrong information and sent Brenda and I to the wrong room, which wasn't ready.

We were in the middle of putting chairs and papers out when another woman came and told us we were in another room and thankfully that was all ready. I was fuming, but happily all turned out well and we had a very good meeting. I was able to tell the members that the WA's affiliated to National had raised over £60,000 during the last five years and I think this should be publicised. Other WA's have also raised a great deal, the ladies in Plymouth for example had raised £20,000.

Gerald Ward, Prince Harry's Godfather was the Speaker, and he told us about his experiences at the Queen's Coronation.
Officers.

Closing prayer

Irish Blessing.
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

CENTRAL REGION WA
Report to the NWA
at the AGM held on 19th NOVEMBER, 1991, at the LONDON CITY YMCA

Once again, the Central Region has had a happy and successful year. We have had some successes, and some disappointments. Our biggest disappointment was that with the exception of Derby and Nottingham YMCA's, the Boards of Management in Grimsby, Lincoln and Wellington, felt unable to assist their Auxiliaries with travel expenses towards Regional Meetings. We feel that some help in this way would have been of great assistance to the Auxiliaries, both financially and encouraging fellowship between individual YMCA's especially in view of the quite substantial amounts of money raised by the ladies for their Associations. We also wish that the promised leaflets to help promote the work of WA's from the NWA had materialised, but perhaps this is in hand.

We have had two Regional activities this year. The first was our Annual Meeting, which was held in Nottingham YMCA on 22nd April. at which our **President, Lady John Manners**, presided. There were 75 ladies present, as well as **Messrs, Roy Blacker, Arthur Rowell, Arthur Bennett, Ken Mountfield, and David Smith (our new Regional Secretary)**. We find the support of these gentlemen very helpful and it is nice to see some male faces in our midst.

Our second "get together" took place in Grimsby by kind invitation of the Grimsby Auxiliary on 2nd October. A very happy day was enjoyed by 26 members of the Central Regional WA's, with some of the ladies visiting the Museum, and others looking round the Grimsby shopping precinct, and all joining together for a very nice tea at the Grimsby YMCA before returning home. We find these social Meetings very helpful in getting to know one another and sharing informally experiences.

At our Annual Meeting, the Grimsby ladies reported an increase of six members during the year, and they join with the local Churches in events, which brings the Christian fellowship of other Churches into their Meetings. Their fund raising efforts have resulted in a substantial sum being invested in Grimsby's YMCA account to purchase necessary requirements for the Hostels. They have also helped with a Flag Day and other events*

The Lincoln Auxiliary has also increased their membership, and have provided new duvets and curtains in Lincoln's new Hostel, as well as donating £700 to their YMCA. Their most recent effort has been the provision of net curtains for every window in the old Residential block.

Nottingham's 'Friends of the YMCA' as they are now called, have worked hard and their financial efforts this year have resulted in raising £600 as well as providing crockery for the Restaurant, and stage curtains for the Hall, and bedroom furniture for the Hostel. The Nottingham ladies also support their YMCA's 'Help India' project, and **Mrs Jackie Rowell** joined in a trip to India to see how much is being done by the YMCA out there and how much more needs to be done. The Regional WA has also supported this effort by providing materials and clothes for the needy girls in India.

The Wellington WA continue to work hard for their Association in fund raising both for their YMCA and local charities, such as the Mayor of Wellington's Project towards the Orthopaedic Ward of the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

Derby YMCA sadly lost two members who passed away during the year. **Mrs. Elsie Burton, the President, and Mrs. Joyce Burgess**, a most valued member of their Auxiliary. They will be greatly missed. However, the ladies work very hard, and this year have raised £1,186 and purchased curtains for the lounge area costing over £1,200. The ladies continue serving in the Cafeteria every week night, including Saturday evenings, when Roller Skating takes place, open to both members and the general public.

Altogether the Auxiliaries have raised well over £4,000, for their Associations, and the Central Region WA's continues to support Y-Care International, and this year have donated almost £100, in addition to the separate donations sent from individual Auxiliaries.

Despite efforts made, we still have not increased the number of Auxiliaries in the Region, and we still wonder "why". Is it too easy for YMCA's to obtain money through Hostel Deficit Grants, etc.? I feel very strongly that with God's help the work of the Auxiliaries should continue, not only in money raising, but in service to the many young people in our country, who so often respond to women when in need. We appeal for more co-operation from both professional and lay members of the YMCA, so our contribution and commitment to our great Movement can be made greater, and more worthwhile.

Nan Bennington - Hon Secretary

Present - Lady John Manners in the Chair, Secretary Mrs M. Wilson, and 23 ladies as per attendance book,

The planting of the Plaque to Dame Joan Marsham was discussed and it was hoped we could arrange our AGM for April 1992 at Forest Road for this event.

The Treasurers Report was read by Mrs. Wilson - the discrepancy had been resolved, the Bank had not advised us that £5.00 had been donated by the Duchess of Kent. National Council were paying most of our expenses.

Reports from the Regions were given, even though some had smaller membership all were working hard raising money and helping in their YMCA's where possible. Our mood of optimism was still good.

Mrs. Tillotson and Mrs Wilson were elected to go to the National Assembly.

The Election of Officers - Mrs. Boston proposed that the Officers be elected 'en bloc'. Seconded by Mrs. Watson and agreed.

Long Service Awards. Mrs. Boston spoke of her long standing association with Lady John and of all the excellent work she had done and still does on behalf of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Boston had great pleasure in presenting Lady John with a 20 years badge with our grateful thanks. **Miss Ethel Smith was presented with a Bible for 50 years Service. Mrs. Gladys Mackney had a 30 year badge.**

Mr. Bill Leyland gave us a lively, interesting and humorous speech about his years with the YMCA. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the WA.

He told of his first encounter with us when a small boy during the 1926 strike he helped with soup and bread at Bolton YMCA. During the war the YMCA and WA worked side by side at the Railway Station serving the forces who passed through Doncaster. He would never forget "Cakes from Scribner of Smethwick". He remembered a YMCA in India which had a Red Triangle sign tied to a tree by an electric light bulb wire.

The village had no toilets and disease was rife, he helped this YMCA by coming back to "raise money for 'Bills Bogs'. He had many more interesting reminiscences. He regretted that the YMCA was now too professional, there was not the same spirit today although the work of the YMCA was still important, not only for the young people of Britain but all over the world. Y Care International was doing an excellent job there. Mrs. Mary Stevenson who had known Bill for many years gave a Vote of Thanks.

There was no other business and the ladies retired to the Restaurant for Tea and Talk.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA.
Minutes of the Executive Meeting 31st March 1992 at London City YMCA.
And
NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the YMCA
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in London City Y.M.C.A. ON October
13th, 1992.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA.
Minutes of the Executive Meeting 31st March 1992 at London City YMCA.

Present;- Lady John Manners in the Chair. Mesdames Davies, Wilson, Ogden, Watson, Berriman, Tillotson, Brassey, Stevenson, Howard and Bennington.

The question of the **Plaque to Dame Joan** was discussed, it had been proposed that this should be put in the Rose Garden at our AGM but after discussion this was vetoed. It was felt that the extra travel from London to Waltham Forest would not be practicable for all the members we hope will attend the AGM.

It would take approximately an hour from London Victoria Station and cost about £3.00. Any ladies who would like to be at the 'planting' Ceremony were welcome to join Mrs. Daphne Tillotson, our Vice President, on **May 7th, at 2pm at the National Council of YMCA's, Forest Road.**

Another reason for not having the AGM there was that they did not have suitable rooms for a meeting and always held their own at London City. The Executive hope the members will not be too disappointed at their decision.

The AGM 1992 was discussed and it was agreed to hold this at London City YMCA Errol St. on the 13th October, 1992 at 2 pm.

The Brochure for advertisement of the Women's Auxiliary was discussed and it was decided that each Region should prepare and print its own as a National leaflet would not suit all purposes. Invoices for the work to be sent to the Secretary. A copy of the original Brochure was given to each Executive as a general guide.

There was no other business and a further meeting would be arranged later when necessary.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the YMCA
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in London City Y.M.C.A. ON October 13th, 1992.
The meeting was opened with a prayer by Lady John, who then welcomed the members.

Apologies from The Duchess of Kent, Lady Merriman, Mrs. Berriman, Mrs Bennington, Mrs, Bennett, Mrs, Catherine Watson and ladies from Bolton, Chester, Dartford, Grimsby, Hornsey and Ipswich.

The Treasurer gave her report and instead of a typical balance sheet gave a running total of expenses and Income from October 1990 which gave a clearer picture of the state of our finances.

Reports from the Regions were given and these showed that we were still active and intent on keeping our image alive.

It was proposed by Lady John and seconded by Mrs. Howard that Mrs. Tillotson and Mrs. Wilson be elected as our Representatives to the YMCA National Assembly.

The Election of Officers - it was proposed by Miss Ashton and seconded by Mrs. Stevenson that the Officers at present be elected en bloc, provided they were willing to continue, Mrs. Davies wished to retire, but as there were no volunteers Mrs. Wilson agreed to help her if she was not well enough to carry out her duties. This was agreed.

The Speaker was our Vice President Mrs Daphne Tillotson who gave us an entertaining and informative account of her visit to Lakeside where she met many old friends from all over England. One memory was of how the bedrooms had no keys and they needed a spoon to get out. The dining room was now 100% efficient. The outdoor chapel in the woods most inspiring with tree stumps in front of a wooden cross for people to sit on, The Dedication of the new Chapel was the main event, this had glass at the altar end showing the trees and the lake,

There was a Thanksgiving Service for **Stan Charlesworth** for his life with the YMCA and help he gave to the Women's Auxiliary was mentioned. "He was a good man".

Mrs. Tillotson also regaled us with a description of the outing to lay the Plaque for Dame Joan and all our adventures to get to Forest Road and VIP treatment while there, especially memorable was the visit to the Strong Room and being allowed to handle George William's Diaries and Bible.



**The unveiling of the memorial plaque, to
Dame Joan Marsham by Mrs.Daphne
Tillotson (Chairman) National YMCA
Women's Auxiliary, outside the offices of
the National Council of YMCA's, Forest
Road, London.**

AGM OF THE YMCA NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OCTOBER 1992

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I wasn't sure I would be with you this AGM as I am expecting to be called for a replacement hip operation anytime and had a hiccup when they found a shadow on my lung, thankfully nothing more than inflammation, but it did put back my hip while they waited for results of tests. Hopefully I shall be 'done' and up and dancing by Christmas. The happy fellowship we have together at our meetings is, to me, something to look forward to.

Daphne and I had a good weekend representing you at the YMCA National Assembly at Warwick this year, although there are plenty of good debates, some quite heated, giving different views on various subjects the whole weekend is full of laughter and goodwill to 'fellow man' and I wish these good things could be publicised more widely instead of all the bad things the TV. And papers seem to focus on. I once again managed to bring the WA to the attention of the Assembly when the question of fund raising came up.

The Speaker used 20 minutes telling us how important fund raising was without once mentioning us. I got more and more annoyed as he went on and when the Chairman asked for comments I stood up and told them I'd try not to make any 'Bloomers' this time which got me a cheer - as you know I'm known as the Y front lady. I reminded them we had raised over £60,000 in 5 years for the YMCA and if they wanted to know anything about fund raising they should ask the Women's Auxiliary.

I know we had talked of going to Forest Road for our AGM this year, but after discussion at the Executive Meeting it was found to be inconvenient and they also hadn't enough room for all of us. However four of us went to Forest Road for the Plaque Ceremony and Daphne will tell you all about that. I'm sure you are all continuing the good work as far as you are able and hopefully gaining a few new members. Let us hope we can get to our 100th Anniversary!!! Thank you for the support you give to the Executive and to the Women's Auxiliary.



(left image) 60th Anniversary service of the national YMCA Women's Auxiliary, June 1979. At the Church of St Lawrence Jewry. The Verger leads the procession. HRH The Duchess of Kent, with the Rector, the Reverend Basil Watson, and William W Leyland (YMCA Metropolitan Regional Secretary).

(right image) Lady in waiting, William W Leyland (Preacher), Duchess of Kent, Lady Merriman (Chairman NWA), Mrs Vera Hills presenting posy (Romford YMCA WA), Reverend Basil Watson (Rector of St Lawrence Jewry)

CENTRAL REGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Once again, the Central Region has had a happy and successful year. We have had some successes and some disappointments. As I reported the Board of Management in Grimsby, Lincoln, and Wellington, felt unable to assist their WA with travel expenses towards Regional Meetings. We feel that some help in this way would have been of great assistance to the WA but financially and encouraging fellowship between individual YMCAs especially in view of the substantial amounts of money raised by the ladies for their Associations. We also wish that the promised leaflets to help promote the work of the WA from the NWA had materialised but perhaps this is in hand.

I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Lady John for the way in which she continues as our very able and helpful President as well as working so hard for the NWA and we are more than grateful to her for her encouragement and assistance.

Our second "Get Together" is to take place in Derby on 19th October 1992, when the ladies of the Central Region will meet at Derby for lunch, and then visits to both the Mayor's Parlour in Derby, and the Royal Crown Derby works will take place, culminating with tea at Derby YMCA before the ladies departure to their individual towns.

During the last year, all the Auxiliaries have worked very hard. The Meetings at Grimsby have been well attended, with around 20 members at each Meeting, and they have been pleased to welcome two new members during the year. As well as raising money for their YMCA, the Grimsby ladies are involved with other Organisations such as the Salvation Army and Churches in the Grimsby area. The ladies have provided shower curtains for the Hostel, with other money raised being put into the deposit account for when other things are required for their YMCA. Their Christmas Fair raised almost £600.

Lincoln ladies reported another successful year, with an average attendance of 26 members at each monthly Meeting. Fund raising efforts during the year have enabled the Lincoln ladies to make a direct donation of almost

£800 to their YMCA. They have also assisted at functions where the proceeds have gone directly to the Lincoln YMCA. Two of their members entered the Lincoln Annual Half Marathon and other ladies pushed a small child in a wheelchair. The Wellington ladies also continue to work very hard, and once again have raised a considerable amount of money for both their YMCA and local Charities.

Nottingham "Friends of the YMCA" have bought 67 bed covers for the Hostel, and have also purchased 150 cups and saucers for the joint use of the Restaurant and their members. Several social events have been held, which have been most enjoyable, and Mrs. Rosemary Bennett's Committee once again held a Faith Tea last January. Also the Nottingham "Friends" are joining in the sponsorship of a young girl on an Outward Bound Course in celebration of the (Queen's 40th Anniversary). The total amount of money raised during the year by the "Friends" was £526.

The Derby ladies continue also to work very hard, both in money raising and service. They run the Cafeteria each week night, including Saturday nights, when Roller Skating Sessions are held, which are open to both members of the YMCA and the general public. Very sadly, three of their members have passed away during the year, and they are very greatly missed, and now the number of ladies in the Derby WA is only seventeen. However, during the past year, the Derby ladies have raised just over £1,044, and have purchased new curtains for the Dining Room/Cafeteria/Lounge area, which cost over £1,000. The ladies have also made donations to the Junior Clubs of their YMCA, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, a local Church Organ Appeal, and the Derby City Hospital's Heart Beat Appeal as well as Y-Care International. Fortunately, they still have some money left in the kitty. The Derby WA have also helped with many other YMCA activities, including a YMCA Publicity Day held in the City Centre and a Cake Stall at the Derbyshire Festival held at Alton Manor, Idridgehay, in July.

Altogether the WA's in the Central Region have raised well over £4,000 for their Associations, and the ladies of the Central Region WA continue to support Y-Care International and during the past year have donated approximately £100 to this cause over and above the contributions made by individual WA's. However, despite efforts made we still have not increased the number of WA's in the Region. We hope that this failure will be remedied before long. **Mr. David Smith the Regional Secretary** and Mrs. Nan Bennington are working to produce a leaflet for distribution to all YMCAs in the Central Region and will be happy to share this with other Regions if they would like us to. I feel strongly that with God's help the work of the WA should continue not only in money raising but in service to the many young people in our midst who so often respond to women when they are in need. We appeal for more co-operation from both professional and lay members of the YMCA, so that our contribution and commitment to our great Movement can be made greater and more worthwhile.

Nan Bennington (Hon. Secretary of Central Region WA)

AGM OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA 19TH OCTOBER, 1993.

Madam Chairman, Friends - the National AGM last October was one of the nicest I have attended. We were made very welcome by the Nottingham ladies and YMCA Staff. Most of us had lunch and an informal chat together before the meeting and I was very pleased to see that 1st June our Secretary had been able to come to her first visit to an AGM.

The meeting took place in a large pleasant room and being in the Central Region there was a good attendance, the WA in that area is thriving. Ladies who normally couldn't make the trip to London where we usually meet were able to come. There were also several men present as they are 'Friends of the YMCA'. We were welcomed by **Mr. Roy Blacker, the Secretary**, who told us of his experiences in the YMCA and of how we were the first to give assistance in the Bombay earthquake, in manpower, money and gifts, as in other disasters, facts which are not always broadcast. He also thanked the ladies of the WA for their excellent help given to him and if each YMCA had the same help, debts would be very few.

The North East reported they had six WA's, numbers were down, but those they had were constant and faithful.

The North West had three WA's - June reported on our activities of which you already know Yorkshire have 100 members giving the usual help. London Metropolitan and Eastern WA sent apologies and reports that they were still ticking over.

The Officers were elected for a further term.



Mrs. Boston gave a tribute to Lady John for her support and help in the Central Region, also thanked Mr. Rowell for his kind words and interesting speech.

Mr Arthur Rowell of Nottingham 'Friends' gave a very amusing speech of his experiences in the YMCA. He started his YMCA career some 50 years ago by writing to the National Council of YMCAs, in reply to an appeal on the BBC for workers to go abroad to serve the HM Forces during the war.

On his first job in Croydon he spent 5 hours washing up. He had a crash course learning things he would have to do working in Mobile Canteens; having inoculations, vaccinations etc. He served in North Africa and onto Italy. One time at 6.30 am on a Station in Taranto a train pulled in and 100 soldiers alighted all wanting a cup of tea, (that reminds me of the Canteen in Wallasey when the footballers had finished playing and all came together). However **Mr Rowell** managed to cope although towards the end the cups of tea were wet and warm. He had lots more interesting and funny stories, and having served in the YMCA all his life knew of the work done by us, which was greatly appreciated.

Lady John thanked Mr. Blacker for letting us come to his YMCA and have the use of the room and a lovely tea which followed the meeting.

Marjorie Wilson.

Report on the National Assembly of the YMCA 25th March 1994. 150th Year.

The Assembly was held in Warwick University, as usual well attended with a full and interesting programme. As Daphne could not make the meeting I was accompanied by Nan Bennington from Derby, she has been connected to the YMCA since she was a little girl, as her Father was a Secretary and served in many YMCAs Nan therefore knew many of the people attending and helped bring the WA to people's notice.

One of the main reasons we are there is to keep our name alive. There were very few resolutions to debate this year, a fact the Board deplored and asked for more next year. I spoke on one, which was a suggestion that the name 'Young Men's Christian Association' be changed, because so many different people were now using the YMCA facilities. **I WAS AGAINST A CHANGE AND SAW NO NEED FOR IT**, making the point that if I didn't like the name of an organisation I wouldn't join it or I would start my own, as George Williams did 150 years ago and on this Anniversary we should vote to keep what he started.

I got a good ovation and quite a few people came to me afterwards and said well done. There is a book called 'The Vision that Transforms'. It is a report from a Working Party to look into the work of the YMCA. I'm afraid I haven't read it all, but the last page sums it up very well.

The workshops were mainly about young criminals. I was in a workshop chaired by a Police Supervisor on Young Criminals, I was horrified by some of the statistics he gave us, for instance one in four young men have a conviction before they are 21. If they have three offences before 16, they will carry 'a criminal record' for the rest of their lives. The only good bit of news was that the ratio of offenders male and female is 8 to 1. I didn't go back after the first session as I had spoken of my feelings to one or two and could see they weren't too happy. I suggested they bring back the birch, instead of mollycoddling those who attacked defenceless people. I could see that if I went back to the session I might give the WA a bad name. However it didn't spoil my enjoyment of the weekend.

I was very sad though to find that **Sam Johnston, the Acting National Secretary at National Council of YMCAs** was retiring in a few months time. Sam has been good to us and is a fan of ours. The after dinner speeches were in his honour and we laughed for half an hour or more at some of the words spoken about him and his journey through various YMCAs as Secretary. All good hearted ribbing, but the love and respect for him showing through the teasing.

The Service on Sunday morning was very moving as ever. I always have a lump in my throat when we sing 'Thine be the glory' the YMCA hymn and the rafters really ring leaving us with a lovely memory of a good Assembly.

Marjorie Wilson.

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA - Annual General Meeting
26th October 1994 held at the YMCA Nottingham.**

The meeting was opened by a prayer and Lady John welcomed the members and guests.

The Secretary gave her report for the year telling the members of her visits to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and the 150th Anniversary Celebrations at Westminster Hall, both invitations to these events, she felt, were an honour for the WA and not for herself personally. Also she reviewed the National Assembly in March, the report is attached.



**Women's Auxiliaries from the
Central Region of YMCAs, on a visit
to Chatsworth Derbyshire, with the
Duke of Devonshire in the middle of
the picture.**

The Treasurer gave her report, as attached, this was accepted and it was agreed that £150 be sent to Y Care.

The Regions gave their reports, very much the same as last year with only the Central Region showing any growth, but we were still keeping on with our task of supporting the YMCAs both in body and spirit. Mrs. Catherine Watson and Mrs. Marjorie Wilson were elected to represent the WA at the National Assembly in 1995.

The Election of Officers: As there were no nominations or volunteers the Serving Officers were elected 'en bloc'. Proposed by Mrs Boston and seconded by Mrs Watson.

Our Speaker **Mr Sam Johnston** told us he had come back from a golfing holiday in Spain to be with us, this was much appreciated. He spoke of his meaningful association with the WA over the years and how he has got to know us very well and reflected on many past experiences. He told us of the amount of work which had gone into the 150th Celebrations, this took in all 5 years of planning, as at the same time there was a World Council and a Young Peoples Convention, these delegates joined in with the celebrations at Westminster Abbey and Lambeth Palace.

He reminded us how the YMCAs survive with the Secretary, Staff and volunteers; we reflect the work of the women of long ago. We do need warmth and a welcome in the YMCAs and these are not always there today. At least 40,000 youngsters stay in YMCAs every year. We are trying to combat crime with the programmes which are unique in meeting the needs of young people today. We must keep true to the Christian message and our Aims and Purposes and must find ways of expressing our religious beliefs in a manner acceptable to today's youth. He said he had been very fortunate to work for the YMCA and to have us behind him.

Mrs. Nan Bennington, who had known Sam for many years, gave the vote of thanks, saying that Sam's words inspired us to continue, she also told us that he had been awarded the OBE Many congratulations from us all.

It was decided that we should have a display stand at the National Assembly in 1995 and Secretaries of Regions were asked to let Mrs. Wilson have any photographs, newspaper cuttings or memorabilia which could be used. Mrs Watson had brought a board already made up which gave a good idea of a presentation. Mrs. Wilson was to write to **David Pendle** asking for a space to be kept for us.

It was noted that there was to be a Joint YMCA/YWCA Service of rededication in Central Region at St. Chad's in Birmingham on the 19th November in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the YMCA.

Mrs Boston had a birthday yesterday, she was a 80+ young we were all very pleased to wish her Happy Birthday.

The meeting ended and tea was served by the Nottingham ladies, it was agreed that the NWA. should pay for this.

NWA of the YMCA - Secretary's Report October 1995.

Another year gone by so quickly, not a lot of work for me to do other than for the National Assembly, which was as usual a friendly and happy time. Jessie Ogden, the Regional Secretary from Yorkshire Region came with me as Catherine Watson was unable to make it, Jessie enjoyed the experience as it was her first Assembly. Daphne was there too backing us up. I think we had a good Display, thanks to those who sent me memorabilia; I have them with me to return to you. I couldn't use everything for lack of space, but made one side the Olden Days and the other present times.

We took several photographs which I have also brought with me; please take some if you wish. I brought as much as I could of the Display but could not carry the big Boards with all my the other papers. We did create some interest. Several people took our leaflet but I have not heard from any of them. One comment, however, was why don't we finish while we are still a notable Association instead of just fading out into nothingness. He may be right.

I heard this year that North Shields had closed down, and I attended the last AGM of the North West region in April, although Chester and Bolton ladies are still working to raise funds for their YMCAs. Sadly there was no one prepared to take Office so the North West Region was disbanded, with regrets.

I'm sorry to say we cannot get any long Service Badges, unless of course we commissioned them ourselves, this I think would be rather expensive and hard to calculate how many needed to be ordered. We can, however, have Certificates signed by the President for 40 years. One Resolution made at the National Assembly was that at least one of the Delegates from any participating Association must be under 21 years of age. Any takers?

I wrote to **Nicholas Nightingale, National Secretary of YMCA England** regarding the **VJ Celebrations and the lack of the YMCA presence**, also mentioned the **Remembrance Day**. His reply was about costs!!!! I can't see how expenses would come into it, as I am sure plenty of youngsters in the London Area would have been pleased to walk down the Mall displaying our colours and for the WA too, not enough publicity is given to all the work the YMCA's do, we need a good Publicity Agent. I thought that was the reason we had a Public Affairs Department.

Thank you for your support, I wish my successor will enjoy being Secretary as much as I have. Yes, it is time for someone else to take over. Please.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT NOTTINGHAM YMCA ON THE 11TH OCTOBER, 1995.**

Lady John Manners opened the Meeting and welcomed our Guests.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Tillotson, Wellington and Lincoln. The Minutes of the AGM on 26th October 1994 were read and accepted.
The Secretary gave her report for the year.

The Treasurers report was presented, it was decided to send £100 to Y Care and to pay for today's Tea.

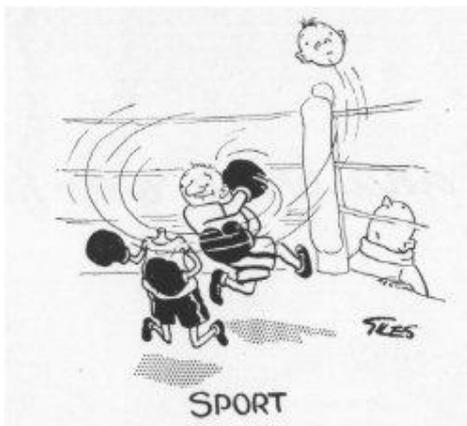
The Reports from Central, North East and Yorkshire were given, all active and with a good membership. A letter from Ipswich showed no progress over the last year, London Metropolitan - no report.

Mrs. Catherine Watson and Mrs. Audrey Johnson were elected to represent us at the National Assembly, Mrs. Daphne Tillotson would also be attending.

The Officers were elected en bloc with the exception of Treasurer. Mrs. Catherine Watson was proposed by Miss Pat Matthews and Seconded by Mrs. Johnson and duly elected as Treasurer. Thanks were given to retiring Mrs. Davies for her work as Treasurer.

Miss J Dorehill was our Speaker and she told us of her escape from France where she had been living when the 1939 War started. When France fell she was given a few days to report to Cannes to leave and did so with one suitcase and three friends. Her subsequent travel to Liverpool on a Cargo Boat was fraught with dangers and hardship, taking 11 days from Gibraltar with Fifth Columnists on Board, cold food mostly raw onions, biscuits and bully beef. Two Destroyers escorted them 800 miles into the Atlantic to avoid German Bombers from France and many more trials. She was given £10 on arrival and medically examined before she was allowed to return to Derby where she was so pleased to see her family. Unfortunately she was bombed within three days of her return, however she lived to tell us the tale which we all found most interesting.

Mrs. Nan Bennington gave the Vote of Thanks to Miss Dorehill.



DAILY EXPRESS CARTOONIST, GILES DREW
THIS FOR THE YMCA

Mr. David Smith, Area YMCA Officer for East and West Midlands and East Anglia then spoke to us on the progress of the 'Friends of the YMCA and gave us copies of his written report, Mrs. Wilson to send to interested parties. The WA's were to discuss this and make a report to Mrs Wilson before the end of February 1996 an Executive Meeting would be held to discuss the reports and any decisions made would then be presented to the next AGM. Lady John thanked David and his Committee for his efforts on our behalf.

**National Women's Auxiliary at the Annual Business Meeting,
held on 11th October, 1995 at the Nottingham YMCA.**

Lady John, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Central Region WA is very pleased to once again hold the AGM of the NWA here in the Nottingham YMCA. We are also very pleased to welcome Miss Dorehill as our Speaker, Miss Dorehill lives in Melbourne Derbyshire, which is situated In Central Region, and we very much appreciate Miss Dorehill coming to join us today.

The Central Region WA's have continued to work hard since we last met here on 26th October last year, both in fundraising and service for our individual YMCAs, and have continued to support Y-Care International, both locally and regionally. Sadly however, the work has continued with some increasing difficulties not least of which is the fact that we do not seem to be very good at recruiting new members. This reflects on the fact that support for our work is not always appreciated or assisted by some Associations. Despite difficulties I still feel very strongly that women have an important role to undertake in these days of homelessness, unemployment, abused and lonely people of all ages and we look to our Executive Directors of each individual YMCA in our Region to support us and include us in as many activities as possible so that with His help, the work of women through the WA's and "Friends" of the YMCA should continue.

We had a very successful and happy Annual Meeting held on 3rd May this year when approximately 50 members attended. Sadly our President Lady John, was unable to be with us, so we are more than pleased to have her with us today.

The Grimsby ladies continue to work hard holding regular tombola's, Bring and Buy Stalls and often have interesting speakers at their Meetings. During the year, the ladies have purchased a clock for their YMCA and a considerable amount of money was raised, which has been put into a deposit account for the YMCA when required,

The Lincoln ladies have had a very good year, but like most WA's find difficulty in attracting a younger age group to join them. Funds for their YMCA are raised with monthly teas, lunches raffles, bring-and-buy stalls, and coffee mornings plus a very successful Garden Party held at the AS a result of their hard work a cheque for home of Mr. & Mrs, Hutchings. £950 has been handed over to Lincoln YMCA The Derby WA have had a successful year despite their membership reducing. Jumble Sales, giant raffle, a coffee evening, and their Annual Bazaar, have resulted in the ladies raising over £700 during the year, and it is hoped that their project of installing a Chapel in Derby YMCA, will be completed before Christmas.

The ladies continue to support the Adriana Dobre Fund - the girl from Romania who lost both her legs in a train accident. Sadly, the President of Derby YMCA Colonel Sir Peter Hilton, passed away during the year but Lady Hilton still held the Annual Derbyshire Festival, at her home Alton Manor, which the Derby WA supported by running a Cake Stall. The ladies have continued with staffing the Cafeteria most evenings, helping with the Roller Skating programme every Saturday night and running a Crèche for the Keep-Fit Class held In the YMCA on Tuesday mornings.

The Wellington ladies have had a difficult year, in so far that they can no longer meet in their YMCA and have now to meet in the Methodist Chapel. However, during the year the ladies have handed £250 to the Wellington YMCA to help the homeless and have raised funds with running raffles and an auction of Harvest produce. The ladies have also sent £100 to the Stay" Fund and £50 to the Children's Hope Hospice in Oswestry

Despite some difficulties the "Friends" of Nottingham YMCA have continued to meet and work together. A large amount of money has been raised to put into their project of supplying cooking facilities for the young residents on low incomes. Sadly, some of their very supportive members were taken quite ill during the year, and some of their programme had to be cancelled. However the "Friends" continue to support and assist their YMCA in many ways,

I would like to thank **Mr. David H Smith, our YMCA Area and Regional Secretary** for the continuous support he has given the WA's over the years and for providing **Long-Service Certificates to some of our members**, who have loyally served the YMCA for so many years. This arose as a result of the difficulties in obtaining the Long-Service medal so and the ladies are more than pleased to have received these Certificates. Lady John has been more than kind In signing each Certificate and to date these must number well over 50 Thank you Lady John very much.

We still appeal for more co-operation from both professional and lay members of the YMCA so our contribution can be made greater.

Nan Bennington. Hon. Secretary to the Central Region WA.

**NATIONAL WOMENS AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA.
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
HELD AT THE LONDON CITY YMCA MARCH 13TH 1996**

Present Mrs. Rosemary Bennett in the Chair. Mr. David H Smith in attending.

Mrs. Bennett opened the meeting and Mr. Smith offered the prayers.

Apologies Lady John Mrs D Tillotson, Mrs M Stevenson, Mrs E Berriman and Mrs I Goulding.

Mrs Wilson reported on the Display Stand at the 1995 National Assembly. The date and venue of the next AGM would be decided later. The change of name to "Friends of the YMCA "was discussed and Mrs. Wilson read the feedback letters she had received regarding this. Mr Smith presented a paper showing the plan of action a working group had formulated at a meeting in January. This was discussed and it was agreed it was a good start. It was also agreed that "YMCA Friends" was a better title.

Miss Wheatley proposed that the National and Regional WA's be dissolved and local WA's be free to decide to remain WA's, dissolve, or join a local YMCA Friends. There would be no National body. This was seconded by Nan Bennington and agreed by the majority.

A further meeting of the Working Group was planned and it was decided to have a further Executive Meeting in September when it was hoped a final decision could be formulated to put to the next AGM. Mr David Smith would keep us informed of progress made.

It was hoped to have "Friends 97" Badges for the National Assembly and Mrs. Watson and Mrs Ogden were prepared to be available to talk to any interested people about the change, with a questionnaire.

FEED BACK ON CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs Tillotson hoped all would change to "Friends"

Huddersfield already had a pilot scheme going

Nottingham already has a "Friends" group

North East are on the point of dissolving

Romford wish to continue as a WA

Dartford are in favour of "Friends"

Central Region WA are still debating the issue

Leeds think that "Friends" is a good idea

Halifax do not see themselves as "Friends" - The WA has finished but they still help their YMCA

Sheffield feel that National and Regional WA's should be dissolved and that local WA's decide their own future.

Ipswich are in favour of "Friends". Eastern Region will be joining with Central Region.

Grimsby want to stay WA.

Chester - no reply.

**AGM OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA
HELD ON
OCTOBER 2ND, 1996 AT NOTTINGHAM YMCA.**

Lady John opened the Meeting with a welcome to all and Will Wakefield gave the Opening Prayer.

The Secretary read her report with regard to the Resolution made at the Executive Meeting on March 13th. Mrs Bennington said she did not vote for the Regions dissolving only the National. Miss Wheatley agreed with this. Mrs Wilson apologised for her error. She also told the Members she was resigning as Secretary.

The Treasurers Report was presented. It was agreed to send £100 to Y Care. Mr Arthur Bennett told the Meeting that Y Care had the same status in the World as the Missionaries of the Churches and do need our support.

The Reports from the Regions were given and it was heard with regret that the North East Region had now closed and Mrs Moir, a long time Secretary had died. Central Region were still strong and Eastern Region had now joined them. In Yorkshire Region four Auxiliaries had closed, two help their YMCA's individually Huddersfield now being 'Friends' and Sheffield will probably have 'Friends' although likely to close.

It was agreed that the Election of Officers be left until after Miss Angela Hall had spoken to us and we had debated the Resolution to dissolve the National WA.

Miss Hall had many fond memories of what WA's did to help her during her career in many YMCA's, and asked for her best wishes to be given to Mrs Hilda Howard as Ipswich had been her first post. She was here to tell us we lead the way to encourage people to help the YMCA. Very little money was spent on publicity although in a crisis the YMCA was always there. The WA were already Friends and if we are prepared to change, the official launch needs our help to go forward together to show how help can be active in the YMCA with fund raising and the like. It was hoped the Launch would be in October 1997. She told us of her experiences at Sutton Coldfield.

A lengthy discussion ensued where many questions were asked. It was envisaged that a Fee of £5 would be charged although Miss Hall said time given was as important as money. Although we all pay a subscription it was felt that £5 was a little high. Each "Friends" group would be autonomous. Unfortunately not all YMCA Secretaries were in favour of Friends as they had not been for WA's, it was asked if National Council could encourage YMCA's to support Friends.

Miss Hall said she was sorry there was so much apathy from YMCA Secretaries some of whom thought it was another task for them to deal with or more forms to fill in, so ignored it. They would be advised that Friends was not taking over from WA's but a continuance of their work. It was asked if Friends would be supported by National Council. Miss Hall was looking into a National Friends.

Mrs. Bennington said that the National WA should stay until there was something else to take its place. Miss Wheatley said that as Central Region was the only one still going it should not be the reason for carrying on with the National WA. Miss Hall disagreed and said we need 'Friends' to go forward and every YMCA would be encouraged to take part. Mr Arthur Bennett hoped that those in National Council would give credit to the long work of the WA's or they would fail us.

After more discussion it was finally agreed a proposal should be made regarding our future. Mrs. Bennington proposed that " The National Women's Auxiliary remain in being for a further year pending the launch of YMCA Friends."
This was seconded by Mr Arthur Bennett and agreed by a majority, 18 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions. There would be an AGM in October 1997.

Election of Officers - this was agreed en bloc with the exception of Secretary, Mrs. Wilson resigning and Mrs. Bennington taking her place.

Mrs. Bennett thanked Mrs Wilson for her work as Secretary.
Lady John thanked Miss Angela Hall for coming to speak to us.
It was agreed that the cost of tea be taken out of funds and the meeting closed.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA.
SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM 2ND OCTOBER 1996.



DAILY EXPRESS CARTOONIST, GILES,
DREW THIS FOR THE YMCA

My Report this year deals mainly with the Executive Meeting held in London on 13th March 1996 and the Friends of the YMCA.

First I will thank all of you for sending me your Memorabilia, I will have quite a task sorting through it all, but happily David Smith has kindly agreed to help.

Now the Executive Meeting, most of which was taken up on discussion of the progress of the 'Friends' given to us by David Smith who also presented an excellent paper, copies of which were taken by all Executives and I also sent one to Officers not present.

Feed Back read from Executive Meeting Minutes.....

Miss Wheatley proposed that the National and Regional Women's Auxiliaries be dissolved and local WA's be free to decide to remain Women's Auxiliaries, dissolve, or join a local YMCA Friends Group. There would be no National body.

This was seconded by Mrs. Bennington and agreed by a majority. I must stress that local Women's Auxiliaries are FREE to decide what they would like to do, for instance Grimsby have written to tell "- they are definitely staying as WA, it is the fate of the National and Regional Bodies which have to be decided by us all.

I will read you a letter I have received from Mrs. Watson Chairman of Huddersfield WA.

I think it only fair to leave any decisions until after we have heard from Miss Hall when you can all have a chance to say anything not said in your reports, we can then put the Proposal to the Vote. I hope you agree. I do hope we can resolve this matter today.

We also have ' to decide what to do with the money we have. The Treasurers Report follows and I suggest we leave decisions until we have voted on the resolution.

Before we come to the Election of Officer's I must tell you I am resigning as Secretary. I feel that I am so far away from any action that I cannot help as much as I would like, apart from the fact that I am having to cut down on some of my many commitments, age and memory the main reasons. Of course if it is decided that the National Women's Auxiliary be dissolved I will not have a job anyway. I will of course see to the minutes of this meeting.

Thank you for your kindness and friendship. I have enjoyed my life as a WA and all it entailed, it is so sad to see such a wonderful organisation dwindle to so little. God bless those who remain.

6th October, 1997 - Dear Friends

It was so lovely to see so many of you last Monday at Derby. Thank you for coming. It really made our day for our 107 Birthday party. However it was so sad a strange without Lady John - we all missed her so much, and will continue to do so. I'm sure you will all remember that the last time we had a full day meeting at Derby, Lady John was with us, serving at the tables and working so hard. Not only is Lady John going to be terribly missed as the President of the Central Region of WA's, but also as Chairman of the National WA.

I do not know whether I was able to inform you all, but HRH, The Duchess of Kent, has resigned as President of the NWA. Her Royal Highness has had to relinquish her involvement with several Charities, and the NWA is one of them.

Nan Bennington

NWA the YMCA
Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee,
Held on 12th November 1997 in the Nottingham YMCA at 1.15pm

Presents Mrs Rosemary Bennett (in the Chair), together with Mrs Daphne Tillotson, Mrs I Goulding, Miss Pat Matthews and Mrs Nan Bennington.

The Meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs Rosemary Bennett, followed by a one-minute silence in memory of Lady John Manners.

Welcome:- Mrs. Rosemary Bennett welcomed all present to the Meeting saying how strange and sad it was without Lady John'.

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Jane Merriman, Mrs Catherine Watson Mrs. Frances Berriman Mrs Hilda Howard and Mrs Mary Stevenson.

A full and comprehensive discussion followed which has arisen following the sad death of our Chairman, Lady John Manners and the resignation of our President, HRH The Duchess of Kent
The Question of the launch of "YMCA Friends" was discussed. This was due to have taken place in October 1997, but owing to lack of support at this time from the National Council of YMCA's for the introduction of "YMCA Friends" it was obvious that there would be no National Voluntary Organisation acknowledge by National Council for the time being, except the National WA. Consequently, it was unanimously agreed that a recommendation be given to the Annual Meeting that for the present time, the National WA remain in being.

Discussion then took place regarding the appointments of a President and Chairman of the NWA during which two names were seriously considered as President. The question of the correct way in which to appoint a Royal President was discussed but the Committee were not clear at this stage of the procedure to be followed.

It was felt that the time was not opportune to appoint a successor to Lady John, and it was agreed that a proposal be put to the Annual Meeting that for the time being Lady Jane Merriman and Mrs, Daphne Tillotson remain as Vice-Presidents and Mrs Rosemary Bennett as Vice Chairman.
It was also reported that the minutes of the NWA prior to 1987 had been sent to the National Council of YMCAs, and were not in the possession of the NWA.

Discussion then took place in connection the production of the History of the NWA.

Miss Pat Matthews reported that she had been In touch with the Central Regional office regarding this matter and had been informed that Mr John Williams of Stoke YMCA was now in receipt of all the information appertaining to this matter.

The Secretary was asked to write to Mr Williams to ask what progress had been made regarding the production of this History.

Remarks of the Hon Secretary to the AGM of the held in the YMCA on Wednesday, 12th November 1997.

"There is very little I have to say which is not covered by the agenda. It has been a very sad time this year for both the NWA following the untimely passing of our friend Chairman of the NWA and President of Central Region WA, Lady John Manners. Lady John had served over 27 years with the YMCA and was so looking forward to receiving her 30-year medal in the year 2000. Her death is something we are all having difficulty in coming to terms with, as Lady John is, and will continue to be, so very much missed."

"Some of us in Central Region were privileged to be at her funeral, held at St Mary's Church Bottesford on 22nd September. After the lovely service, some of our ladies were able to help in the transferring of the many flowers and wreaths from the church to vehicles which then took them to the family burial at the Mausoleum at Belvoir, and we felt that Lady John would have approved of our help. In the funeral notice, it was suggested that flowers or donations to the YMCA and Cancer Research could be given. As a result of this over £800 has been sent to the Central Region WA's with the approval of YMCA England. This is rather overwhelming. We now have to discuss next meeting the best way in which to use this money."

NWA OF THE YMCA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD IN THE NOTTINGHAM
YMCA ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 1997 AT 2.15PM

Present:- Mrs. Rosemary Bennett (in the Chair) together with Vice-President Mrs Daphne Tillotson, and 25 members, including from the Newport WA

Prayers:- were led by Mrs Nan Bennington followed by a one minute silence In memory of 'Lady John Manners'

Welcome:- Mrs. Rosemary Bennett welcomed all Present to the meeting, especially Mrs. Daphne Tillotson, and Mr and Mrs Elliott. The Chairman's place had been left vacant a single rose in front, in memory of Lady John. Mrs Bennett said how sad it was not to have Lady John with us, but felt that Lady John would not want us to be unhappy, but to proceed in the best way possible.

The Secretary read her report, making reference to the sad loss of Lady John Manners, and the resignation of HRH The Duchess of Kent. Mrs Nan Bennington reported that a donation of £856 40p had been received by the Central Region WA, following suggestions included in the funeral notice of Lady John, that flowers, or donations to the YMCA or Cancer Research may be given. This donation had been approved by the National Council of YMCA's. The Central Region WA will have to discuss the best way in which to use this money when they meet probably in April next year. Mrs Bennington also reported on the recent contact developed with the Newport Wales, WA with whom we look forward to sharing friendship and fellowship both nationally and regionally in the future.

Treasurers Report

In the absence of the Hon Treasurer, Mrs Catherine Watson, copies of the Accounts from 1st Oct 96 to 30th Sept 97 were distributed to each member present, showing £531. 24. at the Woolwich BS and £654 63p in Barclays Bank, plus £38.31p in hand, making a total of £1224 18p. In Mrs Watson's letter accompanying the Financial Statement, Catherine asked that a proposal be made, seconded and adopted and minuted "to close the Woolwich A/c and transfer the monies to the Barclays Bank Deposit A/c.

Mrs Watson reported that the NWA had been unsuccessful in gaining from the Woolwich BS conversion, as the previous Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Davis, also had an Account in her name at the Woolwich BS and was still the named person on the NWA Account at the time. Mrs Watson also reported that some money from a legacy of the late Mrs Crossley of Leeds, is also expected.

Discussion then took place with some concern being expressed that no money was forthcoming from the Woolwich BS conversion and it was suggested that Mrs Watson make further enquiries on behalf of the NWA regarding this matter. It was, then proposed' by Mrs Daphne Tillotson seconded by Mrs Margaret Hutchings and unanimously adopted as stated in this Minute, "That the Woolwich Account be closed, and the money transferred to Barclays Deposit Account. It was felt that in future the Account No. should be included in the Statement. Mrs. Watson very kindly in her letter stated that she was prepared to continue as Hon Treasurer until the impending changes are completed. It was then proposed by Mrs Gwynn Shaw seconded by Mrs Ruth Archer and unanimously agreed that when Mrs. Watson relinquishes her position as Hon Treasurer, Miss Pat Matthews take over the appointment. It was then proposed by Mrs Jackie Rowell seconded by Mrs Gwynn Shaw that £100 from the NWA Account be sent to Y-Care International. Mrs Watson was thanked for all her work.

Letters

Letters and reports of activities were received from Mrs. Hilda Howard of Ipswich Mrs. Frances Berriman of Fence Houses Lady Jane Merriman of Bangor Mrs Mary Stevenson of Hornchurch, Miss Peggy Wheatley of Sheffield and read to the meeting,

Remarks by Arthur Bennett

Mr Bennett spoke of his work with four Women's Auxiliaries during his YMCA career since 1950 as well as when he was in North Africa during the war. Arthur felt that the NWA had reached a point of no return, and must look to the best way in which to forward voluntary work in YMCA's in the future.

Sadly, WA's are dwindling and YMCA Friends must be encouraged with WA involvement as the work of WA's must not be forgotten.

Mr Bennett distributed a leaflet produced by the West Bromwich YMCA, which included the progress and usefulness of YMCA Friends in that Association. Mr Bennett then spoke on similar lines as had been discussed at the NWA Executive meeting held before this AGM that owing to lack of support at this time from the National Council of YMCA's for YMCA Friends, it was obvious that there it was obvious there would be no National Voluntary Organisation acknowledged by National Council, for the time being except the NWA Mrs Tillotson reported on what had been discussed at the Executive meeting and consequently, it was unanimously agreed that for the present time, the NWA remain in being.

Mr Bennett also felt as did the NWA that the time was not opportune to appoint a successor to Lady John, nor a new President in place of HRH The Duchess of Kent and that these appointments be left in abeyance for the time being and that Lady Jane Merriman, and Mrs Daphne Tillotson remain as Vice President and Mrs Rosemary Bennett as Vice-Chairman.

Election of Officers

The appointment of the Officers en bloc was proposed by Mrs Margaret Hutchins, seconded by Mr Richard Barraclough and unanimously agreed.

Memorial to Lady John

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at a later date, but it was suggested that perhaps a tree could be planted either at Haddon Hall or Belvoir Castle with a suitable plaque. This matter to be discussed with Lord John Manners at a suitable time.

Presentations-

Mrs. Daphne Tillotson then presented Mrs Gwen Elliott of the Newport Wales WA with a Bible for her 50 years' service to the YMCA through her work with the WA. As Mrs Elliott was suffering with a loss of voice, Mr Elliott spoke on her behalf thanking everybody for their friendship and for the presentation made to his wife.

Vote of thanks

A vote of thanks to the Nottingham YMCA for the use of the "Charles Beedall" Room and to the Friends of Nottingham YMCA for their hospitality was given by Mrs Nan Bennington.

The Meeting then closed with all present joining in the Benediction

**HON SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO THE AGM OF THE NWA
HELD IN NOTTINGHAM YMCA
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1998 AT 2.15PM**

There is not lot that I have report which is not covered by the agenda

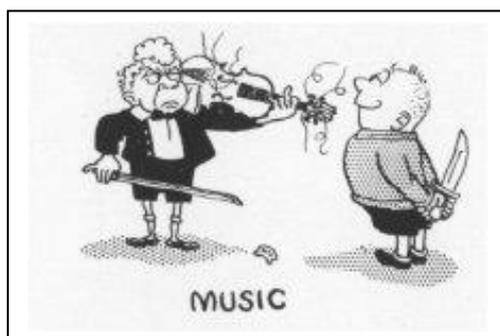
As previously reported the Central Region WA received £856.40p following donations received after the funeral of Lady John. Lord John Manners has fully supported the way in which this money has been allocated the details of which are as follows:-

1. £100 to the Lincoln YMCA for their work among young people with drug problems.
2. £100 to the Nottingham YMCA for their work with the "Double Impact" project.
3. £100 to Derby YMCA towards the purchase of a new minibus
4. £100 towards the YMCA Y-Care project of the Coventry Rotary Club who agreed to increase the money 8 fold.
5. £156 40p to Y Care to assist with street children
6. £50 each given to Chesterfield, Hinckley, Sutton Coldfield, Worcester, Wellington and Burton on Trent YMCA to finance modem connections.

Unfortunately, because of the late notice from the YMCA England it was not possible for the NWA to send the two official representatives to the National Assembly this year, but David Smith, the Area Secretary has kindly agreed to give us the relevant details.

I must end with a joyful and sad note. I have recently heard that Jackie and Arthur Rowell will shortly be leaving Nottingham to take up residence by the sea in Eastbourne. We are going to miss them both very much.

We are now small in numbers but with God's help we will continue as long as we are necessary towards the work of our great Movement - the Young Men's Christian Association.



NWA MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE GERMAN YMCA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1999

Chairman Rosemary Bennett remarked that the last Meeting of the NWA held in London was 13th October 1992 at the City YMCA. Since then it has been held annually in the Nottingham YMCA.

Hon Secretary's remarks

Mrs Nan Bennington stated that the Central Region WA had been invited by Lord Manners to visit Belvoir on the 10th August to visit Lady John's grave and see the Magnolia. Lord John was very kind to all. The Magnolia was doing very well and Lord John expected it to flower in five to six year's time. In Westminster Hall on 16th October the two WA representatives put forward the resolution regarding the future of the WA and the possible formation of a National YMCA Volunteer Force affiliated to YMCA England, but this resolution was not accepted.

It was unanimously agreed to send £500 to Y Care

Mr Elliott from Newport Wales spoke of the 22 youth workers from abroad who had been training in the Newport YMCA..

Mrs Mary Stevenson of Romford WA said how pleased she was that the meeting was held in London this year and thanked Bill Leyland in being instrumental in making arrangements for this meeting in the German YMCA.

Dartford WA had just recently celebrated their 100 years anniversary. The new Dartford YMCA has rooms where 17 WA members meet monthly.

Hornsey WA is small but still runs a cake stall several times a year.

Hilda Howard's brought best wishes from Ipswich WA. The ladies meet for lunch and raise small sums for the YMCA.

Mrs Daphne Tillotson informed the meeting that at long last progress was being made regarding the book on the History of the NWA. Daphne reminded the ladies of the difficulties encountered to 'hurry on' the publication of this book. However she was pleased to report that on the 19th October that a basic draft had been received by Nan by special delivery from Mr John Williams. He had said there was still much 90% still to do and that he would need assistance. He hoped to complete the work by Christmas 1999. Daphne was taking the basic draft home to read and hoped to meet Mr Williams in due course to finalise 'The History of the NWA'.

Mr Eddie Thomas was warmly welcomed as the new National Secretary of YMCA England. Mr Thomas said that he was pleased to be at the meeting and to be working for the YMCA. He said he was discovering new facets of the YMCA every day.

Mr Thomas is married with four children aged from 13 to 23 years. Mrs Thomas does voluntary work for their church in Twickenham and their home is always full of young people. He said he was really enjoying his work with the YMCA and that progress was being made to give time and love to many people in real need.

The YMCA must respond to help people get into proper relationships. Mr Thomas informed the ladies that he had visited many YMCAs over the last year and was impressed with the work which is being undertaken especially the work done by volunteers. He visited Preston YMCA where a young girl had been helped from a very sad past to a bright future.

Mr Thomas brought copies of a new National YMCA Magazine called 'Focus' which enclosed many issues that the modern YMCAs were tackling. Mrs Tillotson thanked him for his interesting talk and on behalf of the NWA, wished him every success in his YMCA work,

Mr Arthur Bennett spoke to the ladies telling them of the work undertaken by the YMCA with German prisoners of war during World War II.

In 1945 a camp was established in Nottinghamshire by the YMCA to help these prisoners. For three years this camp was in being and in 1995 some of the ex prisoners came back to celebrate the 50 years anniversary. Much work was achieved during this time and two ex-prisoners became YMCA Secretaries in Germany after the war. There is to be a broadcast on radio 2 on the 9th November in connection with this anniversary and Mr Bennett hoped that as many as possible would listen to it

Remarks by the Hon Secretary to the AGM of the NWA held at the German YMCA Craven Terrace, London on Wednesday 20th October 1999.

Many of us still feel very deeply the loss of our dear Lady John Manners but Lord John Manners very kindly invited some of the members of the NWA and Central Region WA to visit Belvoir on 10th August this year to visit Lady John's graves and to see the Magnolia which the NWA and the Central Region WA have purchased in memory of Lady John.

We had a lovely day, but in many ways, so very sad. The weather was superb and Lord John was so kind and made us very welcome. The Magnolia is doing very well and Lord John told us that it should flower in five to six years and not twenty years as had previously been anticipated. Apparently it is a new version of this special Magnolia. Lord John invited us back to his home - Reservoir Cottage - for tea which was really lovely.

The Central Region WA continues but our numbers do not increase. Lincoln have recruited a few new members this year. We still have contact with the WA in Newport Wales. It is a long way for Mr and Mrs Elliott to make the journey to London.

There are YMCAs in the country who now do not have a WA, but Nottingham, Huddersfield and many others have integrated into "Friends of the YMCA" However, "Friends of the YMCA" groups are still not recognised as a national accepted body by YMCA England as a Volunteer Force, as the NWA is still now. Mrs Nan Bennington and Miss Pat Matthews attended the YMCA National Assembly on 16th October in Westminster Hall where a Resolution regarding the future of WA's and the formation of a National YMCA Volunteer Force affiliated to YMCA England as the NWA is now, was put forward.

Sadly, this Resolution was not accepted, but we all know that we are troubled about the future of the volunteer work with lay people, either in the NWA or under another banner.

However we will continue to 'press on' and as we pray in our prayer, we ask God to give us inspiration to go forward into avenues as yet unknown, with clear vision, and understanding of His will. Thank you all for coming today - we are small in number, but with God's help we will continue as the NWA as long as we are necessary towards the volunteer work of our great Movement - the Young Men's Christian Association.

