

Hermie
for website

NORFOLK BRANCH WRAC ASSOCIATION

From the Secretary, Joan Awbery, 25 Meadow Rise, Norwich NR2 3QE
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NEWSLETTER No.15 June 2008

The Bad News or the Good News first?

In my last Newsletter we were full of hope that we would be able to arrange a visit to Eden Camp and to the Arboretum this year, depending on whether or not we received a Lottery Grant. First we had to cancel the Eden Camp visit in favour of joining the celebrations in London for the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the A.T.S. Several of us attended and had a thoroughly enjoyable day from beginning to end. Then we heard that "Awards for All" had rejected our claim for funding so we have decided to cancel this year's proposed Arboretum trip. It would be quite an expensive venture, hiring a coach and staying at a hotel overnight. Perhaps next year?

I have submitted an application for funding to another authority. Whether this is successful or not we aim to raise enough ourselves to contribute substantially for a party of us to attend the GRAND REUNION in Blackpool in MARCH next year (information was in the last *Lioness*) We already have a sum in hand for this purpose and will try to raise a further amount during the year. To start us off, we are putting on a "picnic lunch" in my garden on SATURDAY JULY 5th from 12.to 2 p.m. Please come if you possibly can and bring friends! We shall be having lunch at a cost of £2., and there will be a raffle and sale of garden plants (always popular!)

If you intend to take up the Blackpool Reunion (*application form for places will be in the next Lioness*) please let me know in due course. We shall be hiring our own transport from Norwich.

Our Christmas lunch in January was a great success, our guest speaker, Lt.Col.Sue Westlake was on top form, and we were very pleased to welcome Mrs Patricia Stevenson, members of the Cambridge Branch and several WRENS to swell the numbers.

HQ tells me they are issuing Diaries this year. If you wish to order, let me know quantities and I will submit a group order. Also, green fleeces bearing the WRAC badge will be available at £25.from H.Q. More details if needed.

Our February meeting was almost a wash-out, only six of us were able to get there to defy the truly horrible weather and the usual winter ailments, and we were outnumbered by our guests the "Trefoil Trillers", a group of former Girl Guides who entertained us with songs, stories and poems.

In March we received a visit from "The East Coast Truckers" Association. This was started in a small way by a group of HGV drivers who decided they wanted to do something for handicapped children. They took them to Yarmouth for the day. The Association has grown over the years so large they have had to restrict the numbers of trucks to 80 and on a Sunday in August they gather together and transport excited children to Pleasurewood Hills at Lowestoft then on to Yarmouth for a parade along the 'Golden Mile' and home to Norwich. It is well supported by the public who line the route the whole way, and according to the presentation the members gave us – it is a very noisy and riotous event giving much pleasure and happiness all round.

June 16th in Norwich sees the start of the run-up to Veterans' Day (Sunday 22nd June) From the 16th there will be an exhibition in the Assembly House plus archive film from the University of East Anglia entitled "Norfolk at War". A display by Veterans' Associations will be on Millenium Plain and in the Forum from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a Drumhead Service, a Parade and March-Past in the morning. It promises to be a great event.

All our good wishes to everyone, especially to those who are unable to join us at our meetings through distance or ill-health.

Joan

A DATE TO REMEMBER

**SATURDAY JULY 5th LUNCH IN THE GARDEN
25 MEADOW RISE ROAD, NORWICH 12 – 2 p.m.**

(If it is possible to let me know numbers,
this would help with the catering)