

TRANSCRIPTS

**WANTED! MONEY SPINNING VOLUNTEERS
FUNDRAISING FOR THE ROYAL VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**



ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Together for older people

WHY WERE SOME MEMBERS RELUCTANT TO FUNDRAISE?

LILY CARLING

I was going to the meetings in Dean Road where all the other local organisers and district organisers met, and people would sit there and they would say 'Well I could use some more volunteers'. And so of course, I would say 'Well why don't you ask the paper'? Or 'Why don't you publicise or let somebody know, if they don't know they can't volunteer'? 'Oh no, no, no, no, we don't do it like that, we, we, we, we don't publicise', and I said 'Why not'? Well this went on for quite a while and in the end I'd, I'd, I think I used the phrase 'Well I'm afraid we're going to have to publicise or die, because you can't manage without volunteers and you can't manage without money and if we're not getting either then we're done for'. So, so one lady turned round and said 'Well if you feel like that about it why don't you do it but don't expect me to do it'? [Laughter] So I said 'Well does anybody mind?' And one or two sort of tut-tutted, and the others said 'Well give it a go'. But it had never been done as a planned thing I suppose, or an organised thing, and it just sort of grew. So every now and again I would send out letters when we needed to fund raise. But by the time it all changed and we lost the Home Office grant we were told that we couldn't do it, it was all going to be done from head office so we were told not to do it anymore, so it just finished us like that. And so far as I'm aware nobody was ever approached directly after that, not in this area, because I'm sure somebody would have told me. And it all became rather different didn't it? And so that, that was it, that was the, that was the way it worked.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR A VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING FOR ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE?

MOIRA TROTTER

[Interviewer] When did you first start fundraising for WRVS?

[MT] Well, it would have been when we were first told that the government grant was being cut. Mm, yes, definitely and that was when we first started so you'll know when that was. And, as I say, as a, as a District Office we were given a target to raise, not just in Elgin but Moray WRVS, so we used to hold coffee morning in Forres and Elgin and [Pause] do various other things. And then, as I say, in 1999 I think it was WRVS that first suggested the Jackpot Club because they used to have a national one themselves for a short time, it didn't seem to go on very long and they encouraged us to do these things locally so we started that and we've built it up over the years, we've got about three hundred members and, mm, they're very loyal, they're very loyal. And I'm a great believer in sharing, mm, I don't approve of these millions they give in lotteries I think we could share it round and give so many more people some happiness, although money doesn't always bring happiness but anyway. So we don't give a big prize, we do six prizes every month, the biggest one is fifty pounds and then there's three twenties and a couple of, two fifteens or something like that.

FUNDRAISING TARGETS

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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

KATHLEEN POYNTER

So the first thing I thought about putting on a show at The Wyvern. So we got a little team up together and we thought 'Well what shall we do'? So the first thing I did was contacted Sheila Howard, the, from the choir, her choir, Sheila Howard's Choir, and she said 'Yes, I'll put my junior choir in'. Then I contacted Judith Hockaday School of Dancing, 'Yes, I'll put some of my girls in'. So then I contacted the Commonweal School and they, he said 'Yes, I'll put my steel, steel band in and I'll come and conduct, conduct it'. And I thought 'Well, I need a compere'. Well, by this time I'd been awarded, unknown to me The WRVS had put me forward for the MBE so I'd just been awarded by our Queen the MBE so I, and I'd been interviewed by, by the Wiltshire Radio. So I thought 'Well, I'm up there I'll ask the DJ to be the compere', so I asked Sandy Martin. And I said to Sandy at the end of the interview would he come and compere our show? He said 'Well, yes', and I said 'Well, you won't get paid, I'm not paying anybody, this is for charity'. And he said 'Won't I'? I said 'Oh no, you won't get paid'. But Sandy, bless Sandy's heart he came along and he compered it and we raised a lot of money. And we also did a big raffle and I wrote round to Dyson's and Sainsbury's and different people and then I got a friend to go round the shops in Swindon to get raffles and we did a big raffle as well and it was a success.

WVS/WRVS FEEDING THE NATION FOR 75 YEARS

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

For a long time I'd planned to become a, a Meals-on-Wheels lady. My mother's cousin, who lived to well into her eighties, she had Meals-on-Wheels in Loughborough, which is where I originate, and it, they were so helpful to her that I always planned that I would do Meals-on-Wheels at some stage in my life. And when the time came I, I saw a piece in the local paper asking for volunteers so I, I went along to join up.

My first day they sent me out with a lady that had done it for years. She's quite high profile in Scarborough so I won't say any more than that. But she was a delight, and she, she knew everybody, everything and she gave me a run down on all of them. She told me the ladies on Meals-on-Wheels that had been Meals-on-Wheels lady that, before, you know, that had done it themselves. In those days we didn't have packed meals, they were delivered in little containers, metal containers with lids on, one for the main course and one for the pudding. And so they were told to have a hot plate ready, so when we went in we dished it up on the hot plate and then we took away the containers, we washed and dried them and put them in the van.

LUNCH CLUBS

[GH] I was free in the mornings. So, with a friend, we looked round and we decided we would start this Luncheon Club. It was just about, it was just about 1973 when we had changeover of the local government areas, and Halifax took in a lot of the outlying areas and we became Calderdale. So with their help and a small grant and the help of the local church, the local Methodist Church, we started with twelve people, and a nice team of volunteers, because we had four WRVS people and the local church where we were working made us a team of volunteers.

[GH] I would like to say that after the, two years of grant money from the council for the Luncheon Club we became self-financing, we didn't need the money, and it became easier not to take the money because then we were entirely free to do what we wanted to do. When we took the grant we were constrained in some respects by what we could do with it.

[Interviewer]: And how did you manage to self-fund the club?

[GH]: Well, we made the money for the Luncheon Club out of the lunches. And it wasn't because we charged a lot of money for them it was just because I could shop locally and the shopkeepers nearly always gave us ten per cent off or something like that. Later on when I started, I started a second Luncheon Club down in town at the, at a centre built specifically for elderly and disabled people and we had a grant there again, and then somehow, I don't know, the grant sort of disappeared. We had a grant and we bought a deep freeze with it. With the first club we bought the cutlery I remember with the grant. Because all the rest of the things were provided, we didn't need saucepans or anything. And that applied also when we went down to Maurice Jagger Centre, which is very well known in Halifax.

KATHLEEN POYNTER: MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY

Well, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, that was a general thing from The WRVS. They, we all had to organise a Mad Hatter's Tea Party and send it to head office and we all got little teapots from the Mad Hatter's.

I've got three of those. And that was good. We had one at The Landmark, I think I did one at The Landmark, one at church hall and one in Swindon I think I did. That's right, we did one at Great Western, Great Western Hospital, we all dressed up. I did a, yes, I did three. I did one at The Landmark down here that was when it was a hotel. I did one up at Chiseldon Church Hall and one at Great Western Hotel. I did it in the foyer and we had a big raffle and it all went back to head office - the money.

I don't know what they, I think they just did it in a general pool but we made quite a bit of money, over a hundred, you know, a hundred pound each. And we had like a bring and buy and raffle at each one. And I got, there again I, and teas and coffees but I, I got like the hotel to give, do the tea and coffee free, and we did the coffee, tea and coffee at the others. We got the hospital to do the tea and coffee free. [Laughing] And it went off very well, you know, so. And we all dressed up in... What did we do? For, for the hospital we dressed up as Alice, in Alice In Wonderland because I dressed up as Alice, a blue dress and Alice standing there. And Alice dressed up as the rabbit, I shall always remember that.

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