

Societies

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WOMEN'S VILLAGE COUNCILS
FEDERATION

for

State-Aided Housing and Social Reform

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
1918



*"Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land."*

AIMS

- 1 To assist the State-aided Housing Scheme of the Government by obtaining first-hand information on rural housing, and the present acute shortage of cottages, and bad conditions; to promote Maternity and Infant Welfare, and the cause of Education.
- 2 To enable working women to educate themselves to take their place on Parish, Rural District, and County Councils.

Hon. Secretaries

Mrs. HAMILTON

Miss M. R. R. MACKENZIE

92 Victoria Street London SW1

PRICE ONE PENNY

383-5850604/MOM

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Miss A. Churton	Miss Halford
T. Dove Keighley	Miss Gertrude Eaton
Ernest W. Jones, M.D.	J. J. Mallon
Francis M. Jeboult	H. R. Marshall
<i>Hon. Press Secretary</i>	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
Miss G. Home	Miss Douglas

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (*pro-tem*)

Miss Douglas	Mrs. Garrett-Rice
Mrs. Hamilton	Miss Mackenzie
Mrs. Harold Parker	

WOMEN'S MIDLAND COUNCIL

Members representing:

Aldridge	Bromsgrove	Solihull	Walsall
Birmingham	Coventry	Warwick	Worcester

WOMEN'S SUSSEX COUNCIL

To represent Sussex W.V.Cs.

WOMEN'S VILLAGE AND WARD COUNCILS

Voluntary Undenominational Non-Party

<i>SUSSEX</i> ...	Findon, Storrington, Washington, Wiston, Durrington, Rustington.
<i>NORFOLK</i> ...	Runton, Letheringsett.
<i>CORNWALL</i> ...	Flushing.
<i>HANTS</i> ...	Sarisbury.
<i>STAFFS</i> ...	Aldridge.
<i>SURREY</i> ...	Walton-on-the-Hill.
<i>WARWICKSHIRE</i>	Solihull, Warwick Ward Council.

The Federation is affiliated to:

The National Housing and Town Planning Council, and Rural Sub-Committee. The National Baby Week Council.

The Women's Local Government Society.

Women's Working Council.

REPORT.

MEMBER'S PLEDGE: *I join the Council to work with other women for the good of our village.*

ACTING together for the common weal in the State-aided Housing crusade women have unconsciously formed a League of Villages, they are linking up interest and breaking through that paralysing sense of isolation and fear which haunts the country side. North, South, East, and West, village women are working in a practical way for good homes.

Several Councils have carried out exhaustive Housing Enquiries followed by letters and Resolutions to Rural District Councils, and in some cases the result has been to double the proposed number of new cottages, and to secure suitable sites and plans.

VILLAGE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH.—Resolutions have also been sent in asking for pure and sufficient water supplies, Isolation Hospitals, repairs to roadways, and the removal of nuisances.

Deputations have been received, and village women have spoken in public to those who act in the double capacity of Local Authorities and Landlords.

A gift of three acres of good building land for state-aided cottages has been presented to the R.D.C. by Miss Petre, Hon. Sec. Storrington W.V.C. Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres are being worked for, and School dinners, soup and cocoa are supplied to children by many W.V.Cs. A successful Jam Factory has been started by Mrs. Allen, and a sub-committee of the pioneer W.V.C. Findon; Communal Kitchen Gardens, Boot, Clog, and Clothing Clubs are subsidiary interests, and members generally have voted that all such amenities should be for the good of the whole village.

Educational work is carried on by lectures. Nearly every W.V.C. has chosen candidates for the Parish Councils March elections, and at least one local Hon. Sec. is nominated for a Rural District Council.

Independence and thrift mark the methods of the W.V.Cs. Members are showing what good housewives can do with small means by co-operation. Thanks for generous help are due to those Hon. Secretaries who acted as temporary Bankers for local schemes, to Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones, Mrs. Allen, Miss Douglas, Mrs. Keep and others for hospitality, and to Mr. Aldridge, Miss A. Churton, Miss Scovell, Mrs. H. Parker, Mrs. Garrett-Rice and various speakers.

APPEAL FOR WORKERS AND FUNDS

Village women are ready, rural needs are pressing, village slums must be abolished, opportunities for good are limitless.

The committee ask with confidence for personal help in the country and for money to organise fresh Councils in response to the urgent cry from the villages:

“COME OVER AND HELP US.”

Subscriptions and Donations may be sent to Miss Douglas, Hon. Treasurer, Salvington Grange, near Worthing.

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