

THE MINUTES OF THE WOLVERTON RED CROSS SEWING MEETING 1915-18

The Wolverton Wesleyan Work party Reg. No.1905 for supplying garments for the wounded formed June 24th 1915. An urgent appeal having been received from the St. John Ambulance Association for garments for wounded soldiers and =sailors. Mr. Kewley met members of the Thursday class on June 24th 1915 and recommended that a Red Cross Work Party be formed. The meeting entered into the scheme very sympathetically and decided to arrange for a tea party to raise funds. Several members promised contributions of cash and provisions for the tea and decided to wait upon other ladies of the church to solicit their help. It was decided to meet on Monday evening June 28th to report progress. On Monday evening there was a good attendance and it was reported that 50 shillings had been received in cash and sufficient provisions for the tea. The following appointments were then made. Rev. J.Kewley, President. Mrs. Kewley, Secretary, Mrs. G. Holes, Treasurer, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. G. Holes and Mrs G. Grant Cutters and buyers, Mrs. E. Holes, Mrs. E. Pacey, Mrs. S. Tew, Mrs. E. King, Weekly Collectors.

The first was held in the school room, July 1st when there were over 60 ladies present. Proceeds of the tea amounted to £1.14s.6d. The total amount, including donations was reported to be £5.5s.4d. Mr. Kewley informed the meeting that he had received patterns of garments from the Association. It was decided to merge the Thursday Class into a sewing meeting for othe next few weeks, the first meeting to be held on July 8th 1915. Several ladies met on July 2nd to make preparations for othe first sewing meeting on July 8th, when it was decided to order 50 yards of flannelette from London according to the pattern sent by the Association, also to order from Mr. Sharp 2 doz. Yards red flannel, 6 reels of cotton, 9 reels of silks, pins and needles, 1.lb of wool and ¼ lb of knitting cotton. The first sewing meeting was held July 8th. There was a good attendance and much interest =shown in the work. At this meeting it was decided to meet fortnightly. After working 2 months another team meeting was held when the finished garments, ready to be sent off, and were on exhibition. This tea realised £5.15s.9d. On Sept 21st the first parcel containing the following articles was sent off.

12 pillow Cases
8 Bed Jackets
6 nightshirts (flannel)
7 day shirts (flannel)
2 suits of pyjamas
3 pairs of day socks
4 pairs of bed socks
3 night shirts (calico)
Total 45

On December 16th 1915 another parcel was sent off containing

4 night shirts (flannelette)
2 night shirts (calico)
6 day shirts
12 pairs of socks

2 bed jackets
4 helpless case jackets
2 pairs bed socks
Total 34

On April 26th 1917 an important communication dated April 24th was received from the joint war committee of the British Red X Society and the Order of St. John, relating to the necessity of receiving a licence under the War Charities Act 1916 for collecting monies for charity, enclosing therewith the necessary licence requiring "an account of all receipts and expenditure with the balance of the monies collected to be sent yearly!" On June 27th 1917 the Work Party received a second donation of £2 from the Wolverton Committee of the Alexandra rose Day Collection. Received on August 8th 1917 from the Wolverton Wesleyan Cricket Club £1.19.3d., the proceeds of a charity cricket match. Summary of work done 14 parcels sent to headquarters containing 94 garments and 101 other articles. August 27th 1917. On Monday August 27th a special meeting of workers was held. The President was in the chair and there was a good attendance of members. The Secretary read the foregoing statement which the meeting approved and adopted on the motion of Mrs. Holes, seconded by Mrs. Cook. The Treasurer's statement was presented which showed an income of £96.10s.7d., and expenditure of £73.1s.2d., leaving a balance in hand of £23.9s.5d. The President had audited the account and found it correct and on the motion of Mrs. S. Clarke, seconded by Mrs. Collins, the account was accepted. The meeting considered the financial statement and the work done, highly satisfactory. On the motion of Mrs. Holes, seconded by Mrs. Cook, the Secretary was thanked for her services and as she was leaving the town, on the motion of Mrs. Hyde, seconded by Mrs. Cowley, Mrs. Howard be asked to take on the duties of the Secretary, and it was arranged for Mrs. Holes and Mrs. Grant to wait on Mrs. Howard and make this request. Badges were received from H.Q. and were then distributed to the workers. The summary of the work done from July 8th 1915 to February 17th 1919. The first sewing meeting was held on July 8th 1915, presided over by the Rev. and Mrs. J. Kewley. The total number of parcels sent was 24 and there were 1402 articles in them.