

**War Widows Association of Great Britain : member of Council of British Service and ex-Service Organisations, affiliated to National Council of Women : [introductory letter].**

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Council of British Service and ex-Service Organisations.  
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**Publication/Creation**

[S.l.] : War Widows Association of Great Britain, 1990.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/j2ddhz7u>

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# WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Member of Council of British Service and ex-Service Organisations

Affiliated to National Council of Women

President - The Baroness Strange

Dear

Thank you for your interest in this Association which was founded in 1971 and now has a membership of nearly 4,000. It is recognised officially as the organisation which represents all War Widows from 1914 to the present day.

We divide the country into regions, each with its own organiser. There is a National Committee which is elected at the Annual General Meeting - the venue for which varies from year to year.

The Association's main aims are:-

1. To work with various organisations on behalf of members - keeping them informed of any problems of which it becomes aware - and doing the same for the Government of the day.
2. To give members, through its newsletter - COURAGE - information about current legislation affecting them, and to help members in matters concerning their welfare - putting them in touch with those who can assist financially or in other ways.

Members meet in London in November for a Service at the Cenotaph on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday - and many attend the latter day's Service and Procession. Other meetings are held throughout Great Britain, and all members are welcome to attend them.

There is an entrance fee of 50p. There is only Life Membership at a cost of £5. There are two categories of membership. Full membership is for War Widows. Associate membership is for anyone interested in the welfare of War Widows.

Please return the following tear-off slip together with £5.50 to your local Regional Organiser who is:-

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\_\_\_\_\_

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby apply for Full/Associate membership of the War Widows Association of Great Britain, and enclose Postal Order/Cheque made out to the Association for £5.50 in respect of the entrance fee and Life subscription.

Surname (block letters please) ..... Other names .....

Address .....

..... Post code ..... Telephone .....

Pension Number ..... Year of birth .....

My Husband/Father/Other served in the ..... (please name

branch of Services) Ship/Regiment etc. .... Date of Death .....

1. This Association was formed to improve conditions for War Widows and their families.
2. War Widows may be entitled to rebates on Community Charges. The present statutory disregard of pension is £10. The extra £40 recently given is to be completely ignored.
3. War Widows who have paid National Insurance contributions are entitled to a State Retirement Pension. (O.A.P.)
4. This Association and fellow members of the Council of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations are pressing for an end to various anomalies in pensions. (There are still some among Ex-Service people.)
5. Representatives of the Association serve on the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions; on the Council of COBSEO; and on the National Council of Women.
6. The War Pensions Welfare Service (D.S.S.) was set up in 1958 to look after the welfare of all War Pensioners. When a widow becomes 70 she should receive a visit from a Welfare Officer. Help is available at all times to all age groups if necessary.
7. Achievements so far:-
  - a. Removal of tax from pension.
  - b. Extra age allowances for elderly War Widows.
  - c. Medical care in E.E.C. for all (including non - War pensioners).
  - d. Notification by D.S.S. of existence of this Association and others which work for War Pensioners - Pensions Supplement Leaflets.
  - e. Traffic stopped during our Saturday Remembrance Service in Whitehall.
  - f. Inclusion in Remembrance Day Parades - especially at the Cenotaph.
  - g. Inclusion of Government sponsored visit to Normandy in 1984 - D.Day.
  - h. Renewal of opportunity to visit War Graves at 1/8th cost on Government sponsored pilgrimages.
  - i. Inclusion in V.E. Day Service at Westminster Abbey in 1985.
  - j. Inclusion in Special Remembrance Display at the Royal Albert Hall in 1989.
  - k. Better pension for Pre-1973 War Widows, under auspices of O.P.S.
  - l. Better disregard of pension for Housing Benefits.
  - m. Became a Registered Charity in 1991. No.1002656
  - n. Celebrated 20th Birthday in 1991.

This Association has no funds of its own available for distribution since its income is dependant upon subscriptions, donations and fund raising events held by members - but it does know where to apply for help where necessary.