

Evacuees arrive in Mid-Sussex- volunteers

Mid-Sussex Times, September 12th 1939 **Making the evacuees in Mid-Sussex feel at home** **Arrangements for Welfare and Education of Children**

Between 150 and 200 Burgess Hill evacuees are fed daily at the canteen in the Congregational Hall..... Mrs L.J. Cox, who did similar work during the Great War, is in charge of the canteen, and is assisted by some 30 ladies. Mrs Cox pays tribute to the unselfish efforts of her helpers. "They have worked splendidly," she says. "There has been no dispute whatever, and all have slaved like charwomen."

Through the generosity of Burgess Hill tradesmen, all goods for the canteen are being obtained at wholesale rates, while many local residents have made gifts of vegetables and fruit.

The canteen instituted by the Women's Voluntary Services at the Haywards Heath Public Hall has been open since September 4th, and meals are being served to some 300 adults and children each day. Here, as in the case of other canteens in the area, a large number of voluntary workers are putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort without remuneration.

No doubt there are many women who are unable to volunteer for whole or part-time work, but who wish to do all they can to help. It has been suggested that they might start now to make or knit clothes for the children in readiness for the cold weather. Many have had to leave home bringing barely sufficient for the present time, and any help will be appreciated.

As chief organizer of the Lindfield canteen for mothers and babies under the age of five, which was opened at the former Sewell Mission Hall on September 3rd, Mrs N. S. Allen is being assisted by Mrs. Sherriff and a band of

helpers. A great need, however, is for volunteers to help do the washing up.

Hot dinners are served from 12 noon to 2pm at the price of 3d for mothers and 2d and 1d for children. A cup of milk for a baby is sold at a halfpenny. The average attendance so far is about 75.

A section of the building has been set aside as a playroom for children and a rest room for mothers, and is open daily from 9.30am. Here there is also a need for unwanted prams, clothes, toys, books and games, and gifts will be gratefully acknowledged.

At a special meeting of Hurstpierpoint Women's Institute, ways and means of helping to make the evacuees happy and contented were discussed.....

Social funtions, among other things, are to be organised for their amusement.....

Another Institute effort is the sponsoring of a market stall, from which the evacuees can purchase all manner of necessities at reasonable prices.....The stall is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10 am to 12 noon. The proceeds of the stall will be used to benefit the evacuees.

Gifts of produce and articles of clothing will be gratefully received at the stall, where they should be sent before 10 o'clock on the mornings the stall is open. Prams and push chairs, in particular, are urgently needed.

A noteworthy point at Hassocks is that every teacher of the evacuated St George-in-the-East Central School has volunteered for A.R.P. work in the district. One teacher has spent many hours helping to black-out the Report Centre.

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