

Wartime West Sussex 1939 - 1945 WOMEN AT WAR - VOLUNTEER WORK

Bognor Observer, June 22nd 1940

HOW WOMEN CAN HELP

----- WORKERS WANTED IN BOGNOR -----

Now more than ever, women are saying to themselves "I must do something to help the nation, but what can it be?" So many of them have jobs or household duties which occupy them all day, but leave them the evenings in which to offer their services, while others have more free time but yet do not want to join one of the regular services such as the W.A.T.S, W.A.A.F, etc. For such people there is plenty of part-time work to be found if they know where to look for it. To begin with there are the -

A.R.P Services

Here telephonists, trained and untrained, are wanted at the report centres, both part and whole-time. Messengers are also wanted for the report centres, preferable people with cars, who are especially welcome.

An inter-district messenger service is being inaugurated in case of any lines of communication being broken down, and cyclists are needed for this.

More women wardens are also wanted, and a basic training course is commencing on Wednesday, June 26th, for such volunteers. After this there will be a series of more specialised courses. These women wardens to not do the more dangerous work but their object is above all, to make contacts with the people in their street - for example, that there is an old lady in No. 5 who is more than likely unable to help herself, or that No. 11 has an air raid shelter and therefore need not be worried about - all this knowledge before, during and after air raids will be of vital assistance to the casualty and other

services, and to the wardens themselves. Any woman who becomes a warden may feel she is doing a most praiseworthy and necessary form of National Service.

All applications for any of these A.R.P. duties should go to Mr Hitchcock at Colebrook House.

Women's Voluntary Services

Again telephonists are required, but here only experienced ones. These have four-hourly shifts from 8am to 10pm. People with cars for messages are again acceptable, and also for transporting the blind, for maternity and blood transfusion work and for evacuation transport.

Bicycle messengers are urgently needed.

Canteen workers, people who are willing to cook, serve or wash-up are wanted for the canteen for evacuated mothers and children held at the Pavilion every day. Clerical work of any sort is practically unavailable at present in any of the services, and the W.V.S. wish to make it clear that for THE TIME BEING they have very few vacancies in any of the branches except perhaps transport and definitely the cycle coprs. However, Miss Waller at Colebrook is always willing to take the names of anyone who is willing to wait until there is a vacancy or until they need more personnel, which might conceivably from one day to the next.

NEXT WEEK - What women can do in the Red Cross.

© Bognor Regis Observer