

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Registered under the War Charities Act (1940)

PATRON : H.M. THE QUEEN

Bulletin No. 3

May, 1944

Once again, the Committee of Management welcomes the opportunity of saying THANK YOU to all who have helped to swell the Benevolent Fund to its present total of £71,836 15s. 9d. We are now well past the half-way mark to our target of £100,000 but the calls for immediate help continue to increase and, as victory draws nearer the time in which to provide for post-war needs inevitably decreases. May we appeal to all who have already so generously given both money and effort in the past and to those who have not yet subscribed to help us to reach our target this year.

How Has the Money been Raised ? By Land Army members themselves, by Land Army County Committees, by employers and others interested in agriculture and by the general public. In addition the Treasury has subscribed £10,000.

Who Administers the Fund ? On the back page of this Bulletin will be found the names of those who serve on the Committee of Management. Among the members are included representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Headquarters and County Committees of the Land Army, the National Farmers Union and the Agricultural Trades Unions. In addition there is a Grants Sub-Committee which meets at frequent intervals to deal with urgent cases.

How Many Grants Have Been Made to Date 854 up to April 30th. Every one of these cases has been most carefully investigated to ensure that the money raised is given to those in real need.

What Kind of Cases are Helped ? Those where the applicant's income from all other sources is insufficient to cover expenses which arise from accident, illness or other misfortune. Here are some examples :—

A volunteer contracted meningitis and, although she recovered partially, she was no longer able to undertake land work. Her peace-time occupation had been dressmaking but she had no means to start up again.

The Benevolent Fund made a grant which enabled her to purchase all the necessary equipment.

A volunteer had to have a serious and urgent operation on her eyes to prevent her going blind. The particular hospital where she had to go had no bed vacant in the wards. The distracted mother agreed to pay for a private room which she could not really afford. The operation was successful and

The Benevolent Fund has helped to meet the bill.

A volunteer suffering from suspected lung trouble was at home for a long period unable to work. Owing to past illness she was not entitled to any further payment from National Health Insurance.

The Benevolent Fund helped towards her maintenance.

Last month the Committee made grants in over a hundred cases. These included help towards ambulance charges, special treatment, maternity cases, funeral expenses and maintenance during convalescence.

What Other Purpose Has the Fund ? To build up a substantial sum which can be used after the war to supplement such State-aided schemes for training and resettlement as may be available for members of the Land Army. The Fund hopes to be in a position to give grants and bursaries both to those who need help to fit themselves to remain permanently on the land and to those who will want to follow some other occupation.

INSIDE INFORMATION

County Campaigns

The special drives initiated in certain counties during the last few months have undoubtedly proved one of the most fruitful sources of income for the Fund. They have taken various forms but in every case all the spare-time energy and ingenuity of the Land Army in the county have been devoted over a particular period—sometimes a few months, sometimes a week and sometimes a day—to raising as much money as possible for the Fund.

Kent was the first and by a splendid piece of organisation was able to hand over the sum of £6,000. Of this, approximately £1,600 was contributed by the County Branch of the N.F.U. and over £1,000 by individual employers, in addition to generous support given by both to the local Welfare Fund.

Bucks by a similar effort has already raised over £3,000 and money is still coming in, whilst Hertfordshire, leaving much of the organisation to be carried out by local groups, has also achieved a total of nearly £3,000. A long-term effort extending over the winter months has enabled Northumberland to subscribe £1,000 and a flag day in Devon produced another £1,000. At the time of going to print Essex and Oxfordshire are both on the offensive and big results are expected.

The above are examples of what can be achieved by a concerted drive. The splendid efforts which other counties have made in a less spectacular manner are not forgotten but it is hoped that any county which has not yet considered a special campaign may now feel encouraged to do so.

Give Us the Tools!

From the Essex Office:—

For Sale:

100,000 emblems for buttonholes.
60,000 emblems with pins.

For Hire:

Banner 40 ft. by 2½ ft.—worded
“Please Help Women’s Land
Army Benevolent Fund.”

Two cinema slides—one with
badge and appeal for Fund and
the other with volunteer and horses.

N.B. Don’t forget that Headquarters can help by supplying large and small posters, collecting tins and labels, and leaflets.

Ways and Means

There’s plenty of scope for originality and every county will have its own ideas but here are a few of the brighter notions:—

Kent sent the following poem to every employer:—

“If your Land Girl has been good,
That is, be it understood,
Full of eagerness to dig,
Milk the cow and wash the pig,
Lift potatoes, feed the chicks,
Drive the tractor, thatch the ricks,
Will you spare some little gift
To give her Welfare Scheme a lift?”

This elicited both cash and compliments, some in rhyme. One employer wrote:—

“My Land Girls have been very good,
I wouldn’t change them if I could.
I’m pleased to send this little gift
To give their Welfare Scheme a lift.”

Oxfordshire farmers are putting the Banbury market at the disposal of the Land Army for one particular market day to raise money for the Benevolent Fund in any way they wish. A produce stall, a flag day, an auction of livestock are all being organised and there is no doubt that there will be other attractions as well.

Hertfordshire volunteers have raised a considerable sum by doing each others’ “chores.” They mended stockings, washed and ironed for each other (all for a small fee for the Fund, of course!) and an ex-hairdresser was much in demand.

Buckinghamshire raised £75 10s. in under two hours by a “Caledonian Market” organised by the County Committee and office staff. Nearly 300 people patronised it and as soon as the doors opened there was a rush for the bargains displayed. These included a collection of both new and second-hand contributions—everything, in fact, from a rag doll to a gas stove and bird cages! There were side shows and tea to liven up proceedings still further.

Essex are organising a number of cricket matches. One in particular is to be between a team of Land Army volunteers and a team of factory girls. A collection is to be taken on the ground for the Fund.

This county also held a most successful sale of flowers on a bombed site.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Miss Sackville West’s Book. One of the most exciting pieces of news is that Miss Sackville West has written a book about the Land Army and has most generously promised to give all her royalties to the Benevolent Fund. It will be published in the late summer or autumn by Michael Joseph Ltd. and will contain many photographs. Miss Sackville West writes with first-hand knowledge of the Land Army’s work as she is a member of the Kent County Committee.

Many members of the Land Army will want to buy the book for themselves and, in addition, everyone can help the Benevolent Fund by persuading their friends and relations to buy a copy. The first edition is limited but we have every hope that if it sells quickly, the publishers will be allowed to use supplies of paper for further editions. Look out for it on the bookstalls!

Posters. Two new posters are on the way! The first, now being printed, has been designed specially for the Benevolent Fund by Mr. George Stampa, the *Punch* artist. It will be used to advertise local events, such as dances, whist drives, auction sales, and a space is being left blank so that particulars of each event can be filled in as required.

The second is to be designed by Fougasse, who has most kindly promised to help the Benevolent Fund once again. It will be a small “pocket edition” poster which can be displayed anywhere—in a window, on a desk, on the wall and any available nook or cranny.

Xmas Cards. Plans are already being made for a Xmas Card this year, as last year’s was such a success. The profits will go to the Benevolent Fund as before.

HERE AND THERE

Collections for the Benevolent Fund have been made at Agricultural Brains Trusts, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in connection with the “Dig for Victory” Campaign, in London and Newport, Mon. Mr. Donald McCullough on both occasions acted as Question Master. A similar Brains Trust is to be held at Manchester on June 16th when there will again be a collection in aid of the Fund.

We would like to add a special note of congratulation to Bucks and the North Wales Area for having raised over £2 per volunteer employed, also to Devon and Norfolk, who both passed their £2,000 total by the end of March.

COUNTY LIST

To March 31st, 1944

COUNTY	Average per employed volunteer		
1 Buckinghamshire	2	5	5
2 North Wales	2	0	11
3 West Suffolk	1	18	10
4 Hertfordshire	1	14	2
5 Kent	1	13	2
6 Pembrokeshire	1	11	4
7 Cambs. & Cards.	1	10	1
8 Devon	1	9	4
9 Herefordshire	1	9	1
10 Montgomeryshire	1	8	1
11 Gloucestershire	1	6	4
12 Warwickshire	1	5	11
13 Derbyshire	1	4	8½
14 Norfolk	1	4	7
15 Holland	1	4	2
16 West Sussex	1	3	1
17 East Suffolk	1	2	11
18 London & Middlesex	1	2	0
19 Northamptonshire	1	1	3½
20 Dorset	19	9	
21 Monmouthshire	19	6½	
22 Brecon & Radnor	18	3	
23 Northumberland	18	1½	
24 Hampshire	17	4	
25 Berkshire	17	4	
26 Cheshire	16	11½	
27 Glamorgan	16	10	
28 Lindsey	16	9	
29 Shropshire	15	0½	
30 Leics. & Rutland	13	2	
31 Worcestershire	13	1	
32 Surrey	13	0½	
33 Kesteven	12	6	
34 Bedfordshire	12	6	
35 Flintshire	12	5½	
36 Oxfordshire	12	5	
37 Somerset	12	3	
38 East Sussex	11	11	
39 Denbighshire	11	8	
40 Hunts, Cambs & Ely	11	4½	
41 Lancashire	9	9½	
42 Staffordshire	9	7½	
43 Cumbs. & West.	9	0½	
44 Wiltshire	7	6	
45 Isle of Wight	6	3	
46 Timber Corps	6	2½	
47 Durham	6	2	
48 West Riding, Yorks	6	1	
49 North Riding, Yorks	5	8½	
50 Nottinghamshire	5	7	
51 Cornwall	4	2	
Essex	3	8	
East Riding, Yorks	2	7	

COMPETITION

A Rustic Romance

Rules

1. Every numbered blank space represents a word—or in a few cases two words—familiar in agriculture, which completes the sense of the story. These words include names of animals, growths and farming terms. The spelling is often phonetic and words may be in the plural. Occasionally words are divided, for example—"I'm your (60) , my girl" in which the missing word is MANURE! (man, you're).

2. There is no need to copy out the story. Take a blank sheet of paper and write down the numbers 1 to 42 and against each number write the missing word or words.

3. Put your name and address at the bottom of the sheet and send it *with* 6d. in stamps to the Secretary of the Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund, 6 Chesham St., London, S.W.1 any time before June 30th. Any number of entries can be sent provided each is accompanied by 6d. N.B. If anyone likes to send more than 6d. with their entry, no objection will be raised!

4. A prize of £2 2s. will be awarded to the person with the greatest number of correct answers.

5. PLEASE enter even if you can only guess a few of the answers as every 6d. will help the Benevolent Fund and we don't expect that anyone will guess them all!

6. The name of the winner will be announced in *The Land Girl*.

Old Farmer Hodge lived in the eighteenth century with his daughter Pauline at (1) which was on a hill then as now, though it was then in the country. He had a neighbour, Farmer Stodge, with whose son, William, Pauline played from childhood. As a boy William was a sad pickle and many a (2) -ing he got with his father's riding (3) . This Made Farmer Hodge chuckle. "I should keep a (4) if I were neighbour Stodge," he would say, "save him a deal of energy with that lad! But the boy'll do, he'll do, ye can't (5) him." Farmer Stodge would retort with a few remarks about Pauline. "Hodge can't hold that lass of his," he used to say. "I've seen her (6) under Hodge's arm when he thought he had her, many's the time."

Years passed happily and Pauline grew and learnt to cook and wash and (7) while William grew into a handsome youth and, as was to be expected, early fell in love with his childhood's friend. Pauline's friends began to (8) her

about him, but she only made a (9) face at them and would say nothing but go on turning the (10) or whatever she might be doing. As to William, his friends could (11) nothing from him of his feelings to Pauline. No one knew how much he hoped in his heart that one day he would at-(12) . Gay though he was he was no (13) , his (14) were in the soil and his love for Pauline very genuine.

Nothing occurred to test it until a foreigner appeared in the neighbourhood, a young (15) , a sailor from a nearby port who began to cast (16) 's eyes at Pauline and (17) his neck peering at her round the pillars in church. These attentions her father did notice and was much amused. "(18) (18) !" he rallied her. "I see your beau waiting for you behind the (19) , weather or fair! You've (20) -ed him well to be sure!" and laughed the more when she said her admirer might be in (21) for all she cared. It came therefore as a sad (22) when it dawned on him that it was William Stodge who was his real rival in his daughter's affections and he took it very badly. "I must and will (23) from the lout," he declared, "it's naught but (24) love anyway." So next time the young man came to the farm he was met by an angry "Now, (26) , it," and the old man (27) -med home his advice with a pitchfork. William contented himself with shouting "You'll (28) pretty reward for this! (29) -ing yourself into a rage over nothing," and took himself off, obliged to (30) up his resentment for the present.

The result of the incident naturally was that his feelings for Pauline flared up and they arranged a secret meeting. Under the old (31) in the churchyard he declared his love, telling her as he stroked her (32) -en hair that he had no idea if it was returned. He heard her (33) and murmur "Of course it is—let' (34) that Father relents." This was satisfactory as far as it went, but Farmer Hodge proved very (35) -headed and vowed to his friends in the (36) and Bush that he would never allow the marriage.

The young people were not to be daunted, however. One moonlight night Pauline stole out to climb beside William into a fast gig and away they (37) to Gretna Green. A stroke of the (38) , the blacksmith's blessing, and they were man and wife! This high-handed behaviour so altered Farmer Hodge's idea of William that he forgave the runaways handsomely and promised them a honeymoon in lovely (39) as a wedding present. They had (40) of presents from other people when the news became known and gave a wedding party at which Pauline cut the (41) , and Bill himself handed the sugar and (42) . Needless to say they lived happily ever after.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT: The Lady Denman, D.B.E., Hon. Director, Women's Land Army (Chairman). Lady Briscoe, Chairman, W. Suffolk W.L.A. County Committee. The Hon. Mrs. Burrell, Chairman, W. Sussex W.L.A. County Committee. Mr. J. K. Knowles, President, National Farmers' Union. Mr. T. H. Hodgson, National Secretary, Transport & General Workers' Union. Mr. W. Holmes, National Union of Agricultural Workers. Mrs. F. C. Jenkins, C.B.E., Assistant Director, Women's Land Army. Mrs. T. Lea, O.B.E., Chairman, Worcestershire W.L.A. County Committee. Mr. Donald McCullough, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Countess Spencer, O.B.E., Chairman, Northamptonshire W.L.A. County Committee. Mrs. Stevenson, Chief Officer, Women's Timber Corps. Mrs. Sackville Owen, Chairman, Pembrokeshire W.L.A. County Committee. Miss V. M. M. Cox, Secretary, West Kent W.L.A. County Committee. Attending by invitation, Mr. J. Clayton Young, Ford Motor Co. and Mrs. Pyke, Editor, "The Land Girl."

SECRETARY AND TREASURER (to whom all communications should be sent): Miss J. Moncrieff, 6 Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.