

Land Army News in Warwickshire

OCTOBER, 1944.

DEAR LAND GIRLS,

The following is an extract from a letter received recently from a Warwickshire Land Girl:—

"It surely is amazing the sights one sees on a visit to the city, and in my case even more amazing are the remarks passed by acquaintances and strangers.

For the former I must give a description of some W.L.A. volunteers whom I saw in the 'Big Top' last week. From all appearances they were together, and as I recognised one whom I knew slightly I had a good idea where they hailed from.

A W.L.A. official had evidently spoken to one 'bright young thing' about her appearance as she was saying in a loud voice that she had better hide when passing her again. This specimen was wearing uniform with coat flying open, her armlet cut into a fancy pattern and decorating her sleeve. To add to the effect, a W.L.A. badge was pinned to each shoulder where the tabs should be! Yet another volunteer had a red tab with a white 'Warwickshire' across her shoulder. Maybe I am misjudging this one and we are being issued with the additional ornament, but it looked suspiciously like a military tab to me!

For the rest, most I think were respectable enough, but past noticing beside their companions.

Now I am not saying that any Land Girl should be made to wear her uniform off duty or that she must be spic and span while working but surely if she wears her uniform in such places as Birmingham she should do herself and the W.L.A. credit by wearing it correctly?

That's one point. The other one 'gets my goat' just as much.

Here are some remarks I had said to me on one day out.

1. It's nice work though isn't it, milking the cows and collecting the eggs?
2. You have a lot of time off don't you?
3. You're lucky being in the country and having what you want to eat without worrying about rations!

(All these were from entirely different people).

I have a sense of humour and was amused by these, but feeling slightly dazed I turned my weary steps to the direction of the station, and back to the land and my beloved cattle.

Next morning, at 6.15 a.m. I trudged across the fields in the pouring rain, I wondered what those three people were doing and whether they would like to change jobs. I wouldn't change for any money, for looking after a herd of 36 cows, to say nothing of calves, pigs and His Lordship the bull, is just the job for me.

This is not a model farm, the cows are not pedigree, but somehow it has a hold over me. The land is well farmed and yields good crops, the cattle look well and give good milk. We have received an Award of Merit for producing over 10% more milk last winter than the previous one, and we look like doing the same again this year.

Now that I have almost completed 2½ years on the land and on the same farm, experiencing ups and downs, joys and sorrows, if anyone asked me who was the happiest, most satisfied Land Girl in Warwickshire (or in England

for that matter), I should consider myself in the running. By the way, should you want to print any of this stuff would you mind missing my name off, please?"

NOTE.—After reading this letter we hope that no more "hale" hats and uniform frocks will appear at the Benevolent Fund Parades!!!

BENEVOLENT FUND WEEK APPEAL.

Up to October 2nd a total of £1,057 4s. 8d. had been received towards our target of £3,000 for Warwickshire's Benevolent Fund Week, and a list of the sums already received is given below.

We send special congratulations to K. Spaul and E. Bunney who have organised a series of dances at Stratton and have sent in the grand sum of £44 11s. 8d. as the result of their efforts; to Mrs. Cornish and the Shrewley District Land Girls who raised over £28 by their dance; and the Brinklow W.L.A. Club who sent in a contribution of £20.

The outstanding hostel efforts so far are a Fete at Temple Grafton which raised £33, a dance at Clithrow hostel which raised £21, and the Studley Hostel which has already collected £8 18s. 9d. in its collecting tin since July.

County Draw £820 18 0

Dances:			
K. Spaul and E. Bunney	44	11	8
Shrewley District Land Girls	28	2	4
Clithrow Hostel	21	0	0
Brinklow W.L.A. Club	20	0	0
Salton Colliery Club	7	16	0
Mrs. Selon, Welford-on-Avon	6	13	3
Kington Hostel	6	10	0

Other activities:			
Temple Grafton Fete	33	0	0
Mrs. Stanton, Concert collection	8	2	7
Lillingdon Whist Drive	2	13	7
Regular collecting tins	12	14	3

Donations:			
R.A.F. Welfordbourne	10	0	0
Mrs. Cornish	3	3	0
Mrs. Rhye	2	2	0
Misses. F. Winter	1	1	0
Donations under one guinea	6	13	0

A further list of contributions received from October 2nd onwards will be given in next month's news-sheet.

W.L.A. BENEVOLENT FUND WEEK EVENTS.

The date of the W.L.A. Parade in Leamington Spa has now had to be changed from October 20th to Saturday, October 21st, and there will be a Concert given by the Lockheed Fragments Concert Party at the Town Hall that evening, after the Parade. The W.L.A. Bazaar and Fun Fair will still take place at the Regent Hotel, Leamington, on October 20th, and the opening ceremony will be performed by Lady Wiltoughby de Broke at 3.30 p.m.

A notice has already been sent to every Warwickshire volunteer giving details of the Birmingham and Leamington Parades and it is hoped that every Land Girl will try to take part in one of them if it is possible for her to be present.

A list of some of the future events arranged in aid of the Fund is given below, but we regret that some of the dates were not yet to hand when this list was printed.

October 5th.	Llannington, Dance at Village Hall.
" 6th.	Kathage Hostel Dance.
" 7th.	Welford-on-Avon, Fete at W.L.A. Hostel.
" 9th.	Wasperton, Whist Drive.
" 10th.	Stratford-on-Avon Hostel, Dance at Town Hall.
" 11th.	Wasperton, Dance at School House.
" 12th.	Sidhall, Dance at St. George's Hall, 7.30 p.m.
" 13th.	Blackwell, Whist Drive.
" 14th.	Peany Common, Whist Drive at W.L.A. Cottage.
" 15th.	Leamington, U.S.A. Army Concert at Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.

"	17th.	Leamington. Whist Drive at Pump Rooms.
"	19th.	Kenilworth. U.S.A. Army Concert. Talisman Theatre, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Hampton Lucy. Bring and Buy Sale.
"	"	" Dance.
"	"	Brailes. Whist Drive and Dance.
"	20th.	Coventry. U.S.A. Army Concert. Little Theatre, 7.0 p.m.
"	"	Fenny Compton Hostel. Dance at Village Hall.
"	21st.	Leamington. Bring and Buy Sale. 21 Regent Grove, 11 a.m.
"	"	" Parade to Town Hall.
"	"	" Lockheed Fragments Concert Party, 7 p.m.
"	24th.	Atherstone. Stall in Market.
"	25th.	Shenstone Club. Dance at Little Aston Parish Hall, 7.30 p.m.
"	26th.	Kenilworth. Dance at Abbey Hotel.
"	"	Binley. Whist Drive.
October	27th.	Baxterley. Dance at Miner's Institute, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Barford. Dance at Memorial Hall.
"	"	Bronson Hill Hostel. Dance.
"	"	Kingsbury. Whist Drive at New Hall, 7.15 p.m.
"	"	Rugby Hostel. Dance at St. John's Hall.
"	"	Salford Priors. Dance at Park Hall, 8 p.m.
"	28th.	Leamington Spa. Dance at Palais, 8 p.m.
"	"	Bazaar at Regent Hotel, 3.30 p.m.
"	"	Southam. Dance at Assembly Rooms.
"	"	Marston Green. Dance at Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Northfield. Bring and Buy Sale at Rathvilly School.
"	"	Nuneaton. Stall in Market.
"	"	Rugby. Stall in Market.
"	29th.	Stratford-on-Avon. W.L.A. Church Service, 6.30 p.m.
"	30th.	Knowle. Produce Stall in Guild Hall.
"	"	" Stall in Market.
"	"	Stratford-on-Avon. Whist Drive at Girl Guide Hut, Grove Road.
"	"	Barford. Whist Drive and Rummage Sale.
"	31st.	Birmingham. Stall in Market.
"	"	Shipston-on-Stour. Whist Drive.
"	"	Stratford-on-Avon. Stall in Market.
"	"	" Dance at Town Hall.
"	"	Alcester. Stall in Market.
"	"	Marston Green. Social.
"	"	Sutton Coldfield. Harvest Home at Wyndley Cafe, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Birmingham. Harvest Home at 67 Broad Street, 7 p.m.
November	1st.	Birmingham. Whist Drive, at 67 Broad Street, 7 p.m.
"	"	Ladbroke. Whist Drive.
"	"	Marston Green. Whist Drive.
"	"	Hampton-on-the-Hill. Whist Drive.
"	"	Wellesbourne. Whist Drive.
"	"	Coleshill. Stall in Market.
"	"	Coventry. Stall in Market.
"	2nd.	Birmingham. Stall in Market.
"	"	Coleshill. Dance in Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Kineton. Alcester W.L.A. Club Concert.
"	"	Shipston-on-Stour. Dance.
"	"	Knowle. Dance and Cinema Show, St. George's Room, 7.30.
"	"	Leamington. Dance at Palais-de-Danse.
"	"	Ansley. Dance at Ansley Hall.
"	3rd.	Coleshill. Market Stall.
"	"	Warwick. Stall in Market.
"	"	Henley-in-Arden. Dance and Stall in Public Hall.
"	"	Stratford-on-Avon. Stall in Street Market.
"	"	Harbury. Dance.
"	"	Coventry. Dance at Masonic Hall, 7.45 p.m.
"	"	Hampton-on-the-Hill. Dance at Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
"	"	Marston Green. Auction at Village Hall.
"	3rd.	Fenny Compton. Dance, 9 p.m.
"	"	Cherrington. Dance.
"	"	Barford. Dance at Memorial Hall.

" 4th. Birmingham. W.L.A. Parade.
 " " " Alcester W.L.A. Club Concert, 4.30 p.m.
 " " " Dancing at Y.W.C.A. until 10 p.m.
 " " Kingsbury. Dance at New Hall, 7.30 p.m.
 " 7th. Hampton-in-Arden. Dance and Bring and Buy Sale at Institute.

Other Dances or Whist Drives are being held at Hartshill First Aid Post, Little Compton, Dorridge, Northend, Balsall Common, Alcester, Kineton, Temple Grafton, Tysoe, Wellesbourne, Hillmorton, Monks Kirby, Willoughby, Quinton, Priors Marston and Oldberrow.

PERSONAL.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to the following volunteers who have been married recently:—

D. Pitt	who is now	Mrs. Wilkes.
K. B. Higgs	" " "	Mrs. Shew.
H. Hopkins	" " "	Mrs. Holmes.
J. Donaldson	" " "	Mrs. Wood.
V. Clutterbuck	" " "	Mrs. Hickman.
E. Bayliss	" " "	Mrs. Haynes.
E. Fitter	" " "	Mrs. Winfield.
G. Craig	" " "	Mrs. Mathew Connor.
R. Cartwright	" " "	Mrs. Dorward.
E. Stone	" " "	Mrs. Owen.

We are also pleased to say that two more Warwickshire volunteers have been awarded their certificates after completing W.L.A. Correspondence Courses and send congratulations to M. Radcliffe and M. Townsend.

CLUB AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES.

Ilmington. A most successful dance was held at the Ilmington Village Hall on October 4th, and although full details of this party have not yet been received we are delighted to hear that the proceeds from the dance are expected to be about £100. We send all congratulations to the organisers of the dance on making it such an outstanding success.

Leamington. This W.L.A. club had an interesting demonstration on making flowers and novelties at its meeting on October 2nd. Extra club meetings have been arranged for October 9th and 23rd in preparation for the Leamington Bazaar.

This club is working very hard for the Stall it is having at the Leamington Bazaar and it would like to send out a challenge to any other club or hostel to make more money on its stall at this Bazaar than the Leamington Club makes! What offers?

Salford Priors. This new club for W.L.A. members was started on September 27th. Ten Land Girls were present at the first meeting which was held in the Recreation Hut at Park Hall Hostel. Kathleen Brew was elected Secretary to the Club and it was decided to hold meetings every Thursday during the winter.

Stratford-on-Avon. This club celebrated its Third Birthday with a special party at the Club Room on October 2nd. A most enjoyable evening was spent and the guests included the Mayoress of Stratford (Mrs. P. Baker), Mrs. Waldron, Mrs. Quinney and other friends of the W.L.A. Everyone was sorry to know that Mrs. Fielden was unavoidably prevented from coming. Future events are the Church Service to be held by the Rev. Anderson at his Church in Shakespeare Street on October 29th, at 6.30 p.m. The Whist Drive at Grove Road on October 30th, at 7.30 p.m., and the Dance at the Town Hall on October 31st. Tickets for the dance, price 4/- each, are obtainable from Hansons, High Street, Miss Barnett, 102 Loxley Road, or Miss Joseph, Bishopton Hill.

COMPETITION.

A prize is being offered for the best article sent in for sale at the Leamington W.L.A. Bazaar made by a W.L.A. member. All entries for this competition should be clearly marked "competition" with the name, number and address of the volunteer, and they should reach the W.L.A. County Office not later than Tuesday, October 24th. The winning entry will be on exhibition at the Bazaar on October 28th.

W. S. WALPOLE-BROWN,
 Coombe Abbey,
 nr. Coventry.

October 15th, 1944.