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EDITORIAL NOTES

AT this season of the year work on the land begins to increase and as they get that springtime feeling, some members of the Land Army begin to wish they knew a bit more about what lies behind their work. Most of us realise that there is a very good reason for doing even the dulllest job and if we knew that reason much of the backache and heartache would be removed.

For those with high educational qualifications the way is comparatively simple through a university or college degree or diploma course. For the rest, who have no desire to fly so high but would still like to improve their knowledge of farming, there are two ways open. Each year the Ministry of Agriculture allots to the Land Army a certain number of training vacancies under the Vocational Training Scheme. These vacancies are available for members with a minimum of two years' satisfactory service who wish to make a career in agriculture or horticulture and who are capable of assimilating the theoretical and laboratory instruction given at the training centres. Students take a written examination at the end of the course and a certificate is awarded to successful candidates. Several hundreds of Land Army Members have passed through these courses and the percentage of certificates gained is gratifyingly high. Applications for these vacancies should be made to the Land Army Secretary.

The second channel of advancement is through a Local Education Authority or Ministry of Agriculture scholarship. To qualify for one of these a reasonable period of satisfactory service is necessary and the intention to take up permanently some branch of agriculture or horticulture. It is best to apply for both Ministry of Agriculture and Education Authority scholarships through the Secretary of the County Education Committee, and applications must be made before the 30th April. Those who apply for any type of training would do well to sharpen up their brains and re-acustom themselves to book work by beginning now some serious reading in the particular branch of agriculture in which they wish to specialise.

SUCCESS STORIES

We report the following:—

Hants. E. K. Field, 56350, is still wearing gum boots issued in November, 1941. They have been in frequent use all the time.

Norfolk. 22 Land girls lifted 87 tons of carrots in 6½ days. The farmer was so pleased with their work that he has asked for their services from April onwards.

Warwickshire. Twenty girls from Wolverton Court Hostel working at Thelsford, completed the potato picking so quickly and successfully that their employer arranged for them all to go to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, in Stratford-on-Avon, to see a performance of "The New Moon."

W. Suffolk. Ten Land girls and six men threshed, carted and stacked 103 sacks of yoeman wheat in 6½ hours. The most remarkable fact about this achievement was that seven out of the ten Land girls were new recruits.

N. Wales. E. Jones, 103855 who has hitherto been known to us as a good all-round worker with a special emphasis on calf rearing has started a spare time poultry enterprise on her own. Out of 100 cockerels she bought in October, 98 are still alive and her 100 day old pullets, also bought in October are due to lay any day. She is adding to her stock by 100 per cent. in the spring.

HAVE A GO

At 3.30 p.m. the great day began for the girls of the W.L.A. Hostel Pollington, the show for which they had waited for weeks was just about to start. There was an audience of about 300 friends to "Have a Go" with Wilfred Pickles, and did they have a go?

For about an hour and a half before the recording began the girls were entertained by celebrities whom Wilfred brought with him. All this put the girls in a very good humour.

During this time the officials of the W.L.A. arrived including Wardens and girls from various other Yorkshire Hostels. We were delighted to welcome Lady Bingley among the guests. There was a moment's silence as Wilfred himself appeared and we all broke into the show's signature tune, "Have a Go, Joe" Wilfred had a few words to say to us and then the Quiz began.

The first girl at the mike was Marjorie Holmes from Leeds, who answered questions on "unfinished quotations," got all the answers correct and so was the recipient of the first 38s. 6d. The next was Diana Appleby from Guisley, who made everybody roar with laughter when she said she would like to be her Auntie Lucy. Of course Wilfred wanted to know who Auntie Lucy was. Diana also won the Jack-Pot question. A great reception was given to the next girl for it was Johnny Purcell, our forewoman. Johnny answered questions on Radio Personalities, which were quite tricky but she got through them very well. One of Johnny's pleasantest memories is of receiving her four year armlet from the Queen. She got a big laugh when she told us that her most embarrassing moment was when she fell off the "muck cart."

We had a great surprise when the "Big White Chief" as Wilfred called our Warden, walked on to the stage. Wilfred wished her the best of luck as she will be leaving shortly to get married. She caused great merriment by saying her favourite drink is champagne and her greatest ambition to have two boys and a girl. Miss Kenden answered questions on gardening, her favourite hobby, collected her money and made way for the next contestant amid loud cheers, from her (good) girls.

Margaret McNicholas, who hails from Rotherham, followed; she caused great joviality all through her turn. She has a very deep voice and the audience was much amused when she said her favourite nick-name is "Porky" because she is on the plump side. She answered questions on personalities and received 38s. 6d. from "the man with the money."

Then came Flossie White in full uniform, complete with hat. Flossie told Wilfred she would rather have been a boy than a girl so that she could indulge in her favourite hobbies which are cobbling and carpentry. She answered questions on Land Army songs and we all joined in and "Give her the money Barney" was there again.

May Green was last on the programme, everybody laughed when they heard she would like to be "Eve in the garden of Eden" and like other volunteers, she won her money.

The show ended with Wilfred Pickles shouting "Cheerio everybody" and the strains of the signature tune ringing out once again. "Have a Go" will live long in the memories of those at Pollington Hostel.

PASTURES NEW

Berkshire. Girl required to take complete charge of kitchen garden to be run as market garden. Greenhouses, fruit trees, small vine and peach trees. Help given by old but hard-working gardener. Salary according to experience.

Cheshire. Land girl, experienced in vegetable production required to take charge of school garden with occasional supervision from Principal. Boy available for heavy work. Cottage billet. Meals in school. Salary according to experience.

Essex. Excellent opportunity occurs for girl with tact and an interest in all methods of farming to become relief milker in Essex. She is required to start new unit.

East Suffolk. Land girl required for care of sows, fattening of pigs and to look after poultry. Will be required to fill up time on general work. Bonus will be paid to an efficient worker. Hostel billet.

Surrey. Excellent Employer, market gardener in Surrey, requires experienced girl to act as a forewoman to 20-24 girls. Pay according to experience, maximum £5. Can be billeted in hostel or privately.

Wiltshire. Senior member required for dairy work with herd of 50 shorthorns. Milking bail and modern dairy. Isolated post some distance from village of Hindon. £4 weekly, interview required. Cottage billet.

KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING

By Mr. R. F. C. Webb, Deputy Senior Machinery Inspector to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

While passing through a well known Midland town on market day a few years ago I stopped to look at a number of farm implements that had been sent in to the market to be sold. They were a mixed lot but very similar to the types to be found on most farms to-day. In the main these implements were good for many years useful service if given a little care and attention, but my examination of them caused me to ask myself whether the previous owners and operators would consider that these implements, as they now stood, were in a fit state to go straight into the work for which they were designed. Although the majority had received some sort of attention from a paraffin rag or paint brush, there were obvious signs that oiling and greasing in the right places had been sadly overlooked. With so much good-looking live-stock around me, it seemed that the correct feeding of machines must be considered as of very secondary importance and yet, a machine, if it is to be kept in really good condition, needs to be "spoon fed" with a grease gun or oil can every bit as much as the heifer needs hay and cake.

There are two aspects of this important business of keeping machines in first class order, and in both cases the responsibility rests almost entirely with the driver. The first is to see that all implements receive regular attention with the cleaning rag, grease gun, oil can, and paint brush just before they are first brought out for the season, and this followed by regular attention whilst at work; the second, to use them carefully both on the land and on the road. You may be inclined to say that this all sounds too simple, but it is because it is so simple that it is often considered relatively unimportant. Yet in these days when materials for making new machines and spare parts are so difficult to obtain, even more and still better care of machinery of all kinds is needed.

Some members of the W.L.A. will have already spent many hours during the winter preparing implements for the work ahead. Even so, it is to be hoped that a few notes on this subject may still prove useful.

Implements are generally stored closely together in some dark corner of a barn or shed during the seasons they are not required. It is quite impossible to give them the necessary attention under these conditions, although one has to admit that it is sometimes rather more comfortable than a place with good light and plenty of room to move around which are essential if the job is to be done properly. After all dirt and rust has been removed from the implement with the aid of a wire brush and paraffin rag, if a little paint happens to be available this should be used on the wood and sheet metal parts since these are most affected by the weather and are generally found to deteriorate first. The next step is to examine all bolts and nuts carefully to see that none are loose. It may be found that although the nut is tight, it still does not hold the parts of the machine tightly together. This indicates that a washer is needed under the nut, so after painting a little paraffin all around the nut and on the threaded end of the bolt, unscrew the nut, put on the washer and after applying a little oil on the threads of the bolt, replace the nut and screw up tightly.

We can now assume that the machine looks in reasonably good fettle and so we come to the most important part of the operation which is to see that all the working parts receive lubrication. There are several ways of providing bearings with the oil or grease they need. The commonest is just simply a hole drilled into the bearing which generally has a cap to keep out the dirt; another is the grease nipple on which it is necessary to use a suitable grease-gun; thirdly, there is the screw top greaser.

Since our machine is nice and clean it should not be difficult to find all the oil holes and grease nipples, although it is always advisable to follow the moving parts of the machine either from the travelling wheels or from the power take off of the tractor, and examine each bearing where movement takes place to see what provision has been made by the manufacturer for lubricating that part.

If this happens to be an oil hole or well, see that it is clean, and that oil runs freely into the bearing. Points to note when cleaning out an oil hole are to try and get the dirt out of the hole and not push it down into the bearing, and where the cover or cap has been lost, to fit a small wooden peg in the hole which will prove just as serviceable in keeping out the dirt. The amount of pressure required to operate a grease gun generally gives some indication whether the grease is entering the bearing, but more often than not grease will come out at the ends of the bearing which is a sure sign that everything is well. Grease nipples need to be treated with the utmost care because the slightest damage will cause the grease to squirt out between the gun and the nipple instead of entering the bearing. The top of a screw-on type of greaser should be filled and screwed right down then unscrewed, refilled with grease, then screwed on just far enough to ensure that it cannot come off while the machine is at work.

Before finally leaving the machine it is necessary to make sure that all working parts are free. This can be done by moving it a few yards by hand, or better, still by lifting it with a jack and turning the wheels. This operation is very important on all types of manure and seed drills, since it often saves serious breakages just at the time when the machine is most badly needed.

When at work every machine should be lubricated and examined for loose bolts at least twice a day, and if the first preparation was done as thoroughly as it should have been, this will not take up much time when all the points requiring attention are known to the operator. On large machines, such as combine harvesters, it is advisable to know the number of lubricating points and to count them as they are dealt with during each daily service so as to ensure that none are overlooked. Over and above this essential work it should be remembered that any odd moment spent cleaning a machine is well worth while particularly if a look-out is kept for bearings that are inclined to get hot through some defect that can then be put right instead of being allowed to continue unnoticed with perhaps a major breakdown later on.

On the completion of the season's work, all bright parts that come in contact with the soil should be cleaned and heavily coated with grease and on large surfaces such as plough mould-boards, a piece of paper stuck on top of the grease is beneficial. Clean all chains and gear wheels giving them also a light coat of grease. Roll up all belts and binder canvases and see that they are placed in a dry place.

As a final word it should be remembered that far more damage is caused by under than by over lubricating machines. Therefore, without actually wasting oil and grease, see that they get a big dose as often as possible.

R. S. C. Webb.

CARNEGIE HERO AWARD

The Carnegie Hero Trust Fund has awarded an Honorary Certificate for Bravery together with a cheque for £10 to Miss Hazel Austin, W.L.A. 162667—Pembrokeshire. During the course of her employment at Pantyderi, Hazel saw the bailiff being attacked by a bull. The animal had pinned him to the ground and with complete disregard for her own safety she managed with the aid of a pitch fork to distract the bull's attention which enabled Mr. Jenkins to crawl to a place of safety. Had it not been for Hazel's prompt action he would have undoubtedly been gored to death.

IN . . .

It is 7 a.m. in Devon and it is raining! Devon's very personality seems to spring from rain, showers and sunshine.

The cows are patiently waiting to be milked and the calves—not so patient—are calling for their breakfast. Sometimes I envy them in their dry stalls as I hurry backwards and forwards across the farmyard about the early morning jobs and, despite oilskins, get very wet!

After I have deposited the milk churns at the top of the lane for the Milk Marketing Board lorry to collect, then fed the hungry calves (the older ones with mixed gruel and the babies up to five weeks old with warm, whole milk), I return with a very healthy appetite to a good farmhouse breakfast.

My next job is to feed the poultry and give them fresh water to drink. Then comes the turn of Mops and Slops, our two young pigs, who are eagerly awaiting their breakfast of pig swill.

Now I have to turn to the dairy work that awaits me—to the washing and sterilising of the dairy equipment. By the time the last milking bucket is taken out of the steriliser and stood in its place, it is time for my lunch-break.

The washing, drying and packing of the eggs usually take up the rest of the morning.

The rain having fallen in light showers only, my afternoon is spent hoeing the root crops, mangels and turnips. It gives one a glorious feeling of freedom, working out in the fields—rolling hills and rich, red Devon soil around one; blue sky and fleecy clouds above and that happy sense of comradeship with the other farm workers nearby.

Tea is always very welcome after the afternoon's outdoor activity.

Once again it is milking time and the animals have to be fed and in next to no time Mops and Slops are happily immersed in their supper.

The rest of the evening is my own. It is a very lovely evening too. The showers earlier in the day have brought out the warm sweet fragrance of the hedgerows, the honeysuckle and wild briar rose.

I feel impelled to take a walk through the orchard when dusk is falling and as I bend my head to avoid the low and heavily laden boughs of the old gnarled apple trees and shut in the sleepy fowls and hear the last twitter of a nightjar through the stillness, I realise the beauty of seeing life "through a green window."

Devon.

J. I. Hinde, 145437.

... AND OUT

I am settling down here, that is in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada and having a wonderful time. There is so much to say which will possibly be of interest to you. My late fiancé's brother-in-law is secretary and treasurer to the Farmer's Union of Nova Scotia, he has taken a great interest in me and the first week I was here he entered me for a ploughing match. I was the only woman and I won \$10, i.e. £2 10s. My name was in two or three papers and quite a long piece about my work in the "old country."

Each year they have a large Winter Fair, lasting a week, we had a booth there—a sort of lounge for the Federation of Agriculture, where the officials could have meetings, we thought it would be a grand opportunity for me to meet all the agricultural people, I was more or less a hostess and made tea for all who would like it. I met many influential people including the Minister for Agriculture for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in fact I chatted with them over a cup of tea.

One of the days I made a broadcast to the Maritime Provinces on the Farm Broadcast from the centre of the Cattle Arena, I certainly let them know what a grand job the W.L.A. are still doing. Since then I have made a recording for the Junior Workers' Club, but the highlight is, that I have also made a recording for a broadcast over the B.B.C. I hope you will hear

it. Last Saturday I addressed the Farmers at their annual meeting.

I am hoping to find work in agriculture out here, a farmer here is looking for the right job for me and for the time being I am going to help on his fruit farm, pruning and spraying, etc.

I must add I miss my job terribly, I enjoyed every moment of my five years in the W.L.A. My one regret in leaving England was my work with the Committee at Basingstoke and I miss all the girls at Hook Hostel, however, the letters I receive from them, including my forewoman, help a lot.

Edwina M. Applegate,
Ex. Hants. Member.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The problem of embarking upon a career after several years' illness is not an easy one. Sometimes this is a difficulty ex-Land Army members have to face and one over which the Benevolent Fund is ready to help. One example is Miss — who spent two years in hospital and a further year's convalescence with relations. Throughout this time the Fund assisted with her expenses. She has greatly improved but the doctor has said she must not return to agricultural work and, therefore, she has to choose another career. Now, assisted by the Fund, she is taking a secretarial training and goes to college two days a week. As she becomes stronger she will train more intensively and hopes that in a further year she will be earning her own living again.

Several counties have organised winter activities to raise money for the Fund's work. The two largest amounts sent in recently are £324 raised by a Christmas Draw in Somerset, and £194 9s. 3d. from North Wales Area who ran a Sale of Work and a Bridge Drive in aid of the Fund.

LANDGIRLS' LIBRARY

If you belong to the Postal Section of the Landsman's Library, Applegarth Studios, Augustine Road, London, W.14, you may like to add the following to your book list.

Pastoral New Zealand, Alan Mulgan, 7s. 6d., a descriptive survey of the Dominion's farming. *I Bought a Farm*, Roy Genders, 10s. 6d., the record of an ex-Service man's first year on the land. *Smallholdings for Pleasure and Profit*, W. V. Ball, 10s. 6d. *In Breeding, What is it and What it does*, C. A. House, 2s. *The Tractor*, Ford Motor Co., Ltd., 2s. *First Principles of Horticulture*, R. P. Faulkner, 7s. 6d. *The Grafters' Hand Book*, R. J. Garner, 15s. *Bees for Beginners*, J. H. Taylor, 4s. 6d. *Our Trees and Woodlands*, R. Gurney, 8s. 6d. *Natural History in the Highlands and Islands*, F. Fraser Darling, 16s. *Watching Birds*, James Fisher, 1s. *It's My Delight*, Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, 10s. 6d.

If you have read Mr. Webb's article on farm machinery you may like to know of these magazines: "Farm Implement and Machinery Review," monthly, 1s., and "Farm Mechanisation," every other month, 1s. 6d.

YOUTH

Speed the plough, for the wind is keen
In the bright western skies,
It whines and sings, and sighs and brings
Freshness and wild birds' cries.
There's music in the jingling reins,
There's music in the air,
I plough the drills, and on the hills
Is beauty everywhere.
I feel the strength beneath my hands,
And laugh to think that now
I'm young and free, and yet can be
The power behind the plough.

Norma Devereux, 162044.

STATE PAID HOLIDAY

In response to many inquiries we announce that there will be no state paid holiday scheme this year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

The past three days, five Land Girls and I have been working near the Queen's brother's home, "Staghoe Hall," so I am going to write a short description of His Majesty's visit to the Bowes-Lyon home for some shooting.

The time is ten on Friday morning, so far we don't know when the King is expected to make his appearance but we have been told he will cross our field about eleven. The beaters are in a distant wood and in a few minutes we shall probably see the pheasants flying across. We can see about thirty or forty walking in a straight line towards our field, the shooters are following in different directions in twos and threes. There is quite an audience, Harry, foreman, and now two Germans. The shooting begins, the birds are falling like flies, the noise reminds us of a machine gun; feathers are flying in all directions. A game-keeper has just passed us and said "If you young ladies would like to see His Majesty you ought to walk to the opposite side of the wood. Of course we do, feeling pleased and excited about it. We come to an opening from the wood where the King and his friends are just emerging, the shock leaves us speechless and we walk on considering whether we should have said "Good morning." We follow into the field, the King is sitting on his shooting stick, his two companions standing ready, he looks very nice and friendly. From behind a hedge, where we have a clear view, we watch.

In these few minutes the King has shot four or more birds. The shooting is extremely fast and the King is a superb shot, firing one rifle after another, and up until now only missing one, the first one. The shooting lasts nearly ten minutes and we can hear His Majesty say "We've done very well to-day." The birds are scattered all over the field and in the lane, we watch the beaters sorting them out. The King leaves a few minutes later, he comes along walking slowly and lighting a cigarette. He looks across towards us and we say "Good morning Your Majesty" and he smilingly returns the "Good morning." I thoroughly applaud the King's shooting, it is really exciting to watch.

Harry has been watching with us and now he brings us back to reality by the mention of "work" but it is fortunate that we have very little to do on "this day," 14th November, 1947.

Herts. Sheila M. Lancaster, 177927.

Dear Editor,

I am a new recruit to the W.L.A., although I have since ceased to feel "new" and I think the experience of a novice may be of interest to members of the W.L.A. present, past, and yet to come!

It is six weeks since, on a foggy December day, I first entered the training hostel, in a small Essex town which for four weeks was to be my home. On that day I had many doubts, for, although country life was familiar to me, I had never worked on the land before; it was a cold day, and I found myself wondering if I had been wise in forsaking my snug office for the open fields in this bleak winter month. I think other heads were occupied with similar thoughts as we—a dozen odd new recruits coming from such varied walks of life, crossed the threshold of our new life.

Our fears were soon forgotten, however, as the hostel Warden came to meet us. We were given steaming cups of tea and a few helpful words of advice. It was a grand beginning.

Our training was to be in general field work, and at seven o'clock the next morning, we were taken by lorry to the farm where our work was to begin. There we met our foreman and the gangers who were to instruct us, all were men, country bred, knowing the land as intimately as the palms of their hands; we had much to learn. On this first day we were shown the intricacies of hedging and ditching and we looked with apprehension at the frosted trees

and our strange new tools. We soon learned how to hold and use them, however, and we glowed in the frosty air as we worked.

The first week was planned so that we worked in the fields in the morning, returning to the hostel in the afternoon, where we heard lectures on field and farm work, and were shown films dealing with the same subject.

During the second and third weeks we worked in the fields all day. Some of us learned to riddle and sort potatoes for the market and thresh the grain from the straw stacks, and bind the straw into bales for the farmers use. During the final week, we visited several dairy farms, and a seed dressing factory.

Appetites had expanded tremendously, and the fresh air and good food resulted in glowing cheeks, and bright eyes, which could not pass unnoticed; we all agreed we had enjoyed to the full our four weeks of training—thank you W.L.A.

Essex. M. Josephine Stollery, 189611.

On the 18th February the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 25,377.

COUNTY NEWS

MONMOUTH.—Since the last County News Letter, I am sure you will be glad to know that the County Welfare Fund statement shows a balance of £55. Miss Maisie Scott, W.L.A. Supervisor for the Monmouthshire Agricultural Executive Committee, has sent £5 10s., the proceeds from a raffle of a cloth which she embroidered. Ynys Hafod Hostel divided £10 10s., proceeds from a dance, between the County Welfare Fund and Benevolent Fund. The three girls who attended the eight-year long service party were given £1 pocket money from the Welfare Fund. Two girls were unable to attend the party, and out of the four Committee members who have been with the Land Army for eight years, two attended. At Fields Park Training Hostel the second batch of 18 trainees completed successfully their course, and congratulations to Gwyneth Compton, Kathleen Jones and Owen Williams, who did so well that they are returning to the training hostel with 15 other girls who have been chosen by the M.A.E.C. to take a fortnight's course for gang leaders. We are sorry to say good-bye to Nora Poole, who has been in the Land Army since October, 1939, and wish her success in her new venture as a smallholder. Our best wishes go to Mrs. Tompkin (nee Doreen Pruden), Warden at Raglan Hostel, who was married in December, and who served six years and two months as a land girl before taking up her present appointment. We are very glad to welcome Mrs. Fookes back as Assistant Secretary. She left us about 18 months ago, but was previously Finance Officer for four years.

NOTTS.—Congratulations to Hawksworth Hostel for raising £1,000 in savings. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Street as Sutton-cum-Lound's new Warden; also we thank this hostel for its recent effort on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, and look forward to the really big event planned for April. A film showing members of Hawksworth Hostel at work was shown by Mr. Bendall recently when he also talked on India. A marvellous post Xmas party and dance took place at Tuxford Hostel in January, which was attended by our Chairman, Lady Sibell Argles, and members of the Notts. A.E.C. and W.L.A. administrative staff, past and present.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—We are all very sad at the thought of saying goodbye to Mrs. Simpson, our county Secretary since 1939, and to Miss Allen, our chief organiser, who are both leaving us this spring. No words can express our regret at their departure, nor can we adequately convey to them our gratitude for all they have done for the well-being of the Land Army in Northamptonshire. We wish them both the best of good luck in the future, and hope so much we shall not lose touch with them wherever they may be. Miss Newell, who is well known to us all, is to be our new county Secretary, and we are delighted by her appointment. Although there are to be some alterations in the administration of the Land Army after 1st June, the county office will be working on much the same lines as formerly. Hostel activities have consisted of "Keep Fit" classes, "Make do and Mend" classes, table tennis competitions and also, a "Brains Trust" at Desborough. There has been a weekly course at Marholm Rectory for 24 girls, for five consecutive weeks, also N.A.A.S. films and lectures.

NORFOLK.—A very successful proficiency test in machine milking was held at Gurney's Manor, Hingham, on 27th January, by kind permission of Captain and Mrs. Denny. E. Grigg, Shotesham, gained distinction and D. Liddament, L. Cartwright and J. Freebury all passed. The judges were Captain Denny and Miss Gordon, Milk Production Officer. We should like to thank all concerned for their help and kindness and Mrs. Denny who provided tea for both competitors and visitors.

Already we are making preparations for the Royal Norfolk Show to be held at Keswick, Norwich, on 30th June and 1st July. There will be a Land Army marquee and we hope a W.V.S. Mobile Canteen. Long service awards will be presented and the competition for the Suffield Cup for hand milking will again take place.

Good amounts have been raised recently for the Benevolent Fund, and further events are arranged. There will be a whist drive and auction at Tharston on 18th February, organised by E. Holmes, and also a dance at Swardeston on 21st February. J. Fransham is responsible for this.

A second series of health talks is taking place this month in all hostels. Mrs. Harkness Browne is the lecturer and we are pleased to welcome her on her return visit.

Three Arts Council concerts have been arranged for 5th, 6th and 7th. Hostels will be invited to unite to attend the concerts which will take place in local village halls.

Seven members of the Land Army in Norfolk have qualified for their eight-year armlet. Their names are J. Caldwell, J. Fletcher, F. Hood, Mrs. Lake, Mrs. Long, P. Stimpson and P. Walpole. Unfortunately only two were able to attend the party in London in January. Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Peacock, both members of the County Committee and Miss Tillett, County Secretary, were present, but the County Chairman, Lady Suffolk and three other members of the Committee, Miss Betts, Miss Burgess and Mrs. Keith, were unable to attend.

OXFORD.—During February, Mrs. Godfrey Phillips from the Central Council for Health Education, has been lecturing at the majority of hostels. Make-Do-and-Mend classes and cookery demonstrations have been held and Chesterton Lodge is at present having a most successful series of dancing classes. Cokethorpe have just acquired a netball pitch and hope soon to have games in full swing. Looking far ahead, Woodstock and Cokethorpe have arranged several Sunday outings to the sea during the summer months. We are hoping that they will not have to cancel any owing to the petrol situation. We are very pleased with the interest shown in the Young Farmers' Club. Several girls from Shotover Hostel have joined the Oxford branch and Chesterton Lodge are having their first meeting of a new club next week. Clubs will be started later in the other areas.

PEMBROKESHIRE.—We are all so thankful that the weather this year has enabled us to commence the planting of the early potatoes. Pembrokeshire is noted for its "earlies." Solbury Hostel leapt into action on the 10th February, eager to begin the season's work and determined to put all their energy into planting this year, as we all realise that the "humble potato" is now food of major importance. The county branch of the N.F.U. kindly invited 35 of our long service girls to attend their annual general meeting on the 21st January. The Lord Lieutenant, Colonel L. H. Higgin presented the girls with their armlets and spoke of the work the W.L.A. had achieved in this county. It is interesting to note that this year's Chairman of the N.F.U., Mr. Edward Gibby, of Upton Farm, Pembroke Dock, has employed the same three land girls for the last six years. Our Chairman and committee gave a tea following the meeting to the girls, their employers and various agricultural officials. Mrs. Tamplin from the Central Council for Health Education visited the hostels during the last month and gave the first of her talks. Her visit was much appreciated and we look forward to seeing her again in the near future. We give a warm welcome to our new recruits from Cheshire and hope they will settle down to farm life and be happy in their work in this county.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—We are very disappointed that our only eligible member, Jane Hayhurst, 5621, was unable to attend the eight-year party in London given by the National Farmers' Union, but we congratulate Jane on the splendid service she has rendered to the Women's Land Army and the agricultural industry since September, 1939. Our Vice-Chairman, two Committee members, and one district representative represented Staffordshire and gave us a glowing account of a very happy gathering. Many enjoyable parties were held in the hostels over Christmas and the New Year, and other parties, film shows and dances have taken place since. Many invitations to dances have been extended to hostel members from camps and training centres near the hostels, and have been greatly enjoyed. Anne Bastone organised a monster whist drive in Penkridge just before Christmas and raised the excellent sum of £40 for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds. Keen whist players from the surrounding districts supported Anne, and we congratulate her on the splendid result and thank all who helped her. Carol singing at Christmas raised £13 2s. for the Benevolent Fund and Social Clubs—four parties participated, Dunston Hall venturing as far afield as Wolverhampton.

During this slack period, members in committee employment are receiving a course of lectures in the various branches of agriculture. These are being received with great interest and we hope the knowledge gained will prove helpful in the abundance of work lying ahead.

SHROPSHIRE.—Our volunteers, Wardens and many of our Shropshire friends spent several busy weeks preparing for the bazaar which was held in Shrewsbury on 7th December in aid of our County Welfare Fund and the Benevolent Fund. We had eight needlecraft and fancy work stalls, and a prize of £1 was offered in respect of each stall for the best article submitted and made by a member of the Women's Land Army.

We congratulate the prize winners who were:—A. Fenton, K. Davies, C. F. Kynnersley, C. E. Manson, E. Machin and B. Blakeley, especially C. Manson who was awarded the special prize of £2 for the best articles submitted to the bazaar. A great variety of articles were submitted, clearly proving that the W.L.A. is not lacking in ingenuity and artistic ability. Father Christmas's visit was a real joy to the children, despite the fact that he underestimated the number who would be there. Final proceed figures are not yet available, but up to date we are showing a profit of £419. Stanton Hostel closed on 14th December; real credit must go to Miss Parry and Miss Jones who for over three-and-a-half years made a not too satisfactory building into such a happy home. We are glad to think that the people of Stanton village will once again be in possession of their village hall; and hope that the work carried out locally by the Land Army is some compensation for this deprivation of a social centre throughout the war period.

SURREY.—Ten members of the Surrey W.L.A., each with eight-years' service, were invited to attend the long service party given in London by the National Farmers' Union. Two were unable to attend, but those who went had a most enjoyable time.

One of our volunteers, B. Lee, attended, and thoroughly enjoyed, the Farm Machinery course held at Winchester. Members of an Airborne Unit from Aldershot, and some of the agricultural trainees from Byfleet were invited to, and attended, the Valentine party given by the Deanwood Hostel. Dancing and games, together with an excellent buffet supper all contributed to a very pleasant evening. One of our girls, Pat Hill, took part in the television programme at Alexandra Palace on 14th January. Reception was excellent in the London area and regular viewers tell us that the programme was very interesting. Peggy Edmond, Mary Hopkins and Pat Hudspeth will be heard in the B.B.C. programme "Down Your Way," to be broadcast on 14th March. The interview was recorded by Richard Dimpleby on 18th February at Blackwell's Farm, Guildford. By the time this is in print, no doubt many of you will have listened in to our land girls when they "take the air." M. Hopkins is going to Denmark, and D. Keogh and A. A. Adams to Holland under the Student Employees Exchange Scheme, organised by the National Farmers' Union to facilitate the international exchange of ideas and methods used in agriculture. Quite a number of our members who have served in the W.L.A. for some time have taken advantage of the facilities offered by Rest-Break House, and have spent a period of rest and recuperation there before the commencement of the busy season.

EAST SUFFOLK.—On 28th January we held proficiency tests in hand and machine milking. There were eight entrants, and though none of them achieved a distinction, the standard of work was very satisfactory. We congratulate Miss D. Backhouse, Miss J. Francis, Miss C. Hobson, Miss P. Hurren, Miss E. Raphael and Miss D. Seaman, all of whom passed. We are very sorry to say that during March our smallest but long-established hostel at Wickham Market will have to close down. We hope that the girls will soon be as happily settled in other hostels. We are hoping to open a large new hostel at Blundeson, in the north of the county, in the not-too-distant future. A very successful course of agricultural lectures and informal quizzes is being held each Monday evening at the county office. Private farm girls attend from quite considerable distances, and not only appear to find the evenings enjoyable, but are becoming increasingly brave at springing to their feet and "having a go." For their part, many girls employed by the A.E.C. are enthusiastically attending classes in leather work, country dancing and physical training which are being held weekly in their hostels. Miss Escriut Atkin is also visiting every hostel to give talks on health and hygiene. After a somewhat slack time, we are having a sudden increase in the demand for girls for almost every type of farm work, although the chief need seems to be for a responsible type of really experienced dairy worker.

WEST SUFFOLK.—We are very busy with our annual county agricultural "quiz" tournament. Eight teams are competing for Lady Briscoe's challenge cup. Surprisingly large audiences have attended the first round matches, showing the great interest there is in this county for the "quiz." Mrs. Custerston's and Mrs. Wilson's teams, Shimpling and Risby are in the semi-finals. The finals will take place at the Old Town Hall, Bury St. Edmunds on 24th March at 7.30 p.m. A large contingent from this county, 13 in all, attended the final training course at the Homecraft Centre. They all agreed that a most enjoyable and instructive time was had by all. We are sorry that future land girls will not have the benefit of this training. We welcome Miss Dudley our new Warden at Lakenheath and Mrs. Roberts who has joined the county staff as Assistant Secretary. Plans for augmenting our Welfare Fund are developing everywhere. Lakenheath, with the aid of our popular farmer, Mr. Thomas, are running cinema shows with land girls operating the cine machine. The county committee with the help of their district representatives, land girls and county office, are organising a sale in Bury St. Edmunds in May, so we hope everyone will start now to collect their gifts, new and old.

EAST SUSSEX.—On 27th February the East Sussex Women's Land Army took over from the Agricultural Executive Committee the hostels at High Hurst, Newick and Gorselands, Chelwood Gate. We welcome Miss Cockland and Miss Morgan as the Wardens. It is hoped to open another hostel at Hollington in May for 40 W.L.A. and a further hostel is under consideration at Forest Row. The Lewes Club has been meeting regularly throughout the winter and has had many interesting talks and parties. The club is helping Mrs. Brooke with "Cries of London," part of an entertainment organised by her for the Benevolent Fund which is to take place at Lewes Town Hall on 14th April. The club are planning to finish the season by a trip to London and a theatre on 8th May. It has been suggested that this should be an East Sussex week-end at the Land Army Club and we have provisionally booked all the accommodation for Saturday night, 8th May, and would welcome any East Sussex girls who would like to join the party. We feel it would be a good opportunity for those W.L.A. who haven't seen the club to come with us, and, also, be a great chance of seeing London. Further particulars can be obtained from the county office. Congratulations to Hazel Hobden who has completed two years as a relief milker in the Hailsham area. Hazel, who will complete her eighth year in the Women's Land Army in May, has done two B.B.C. broadcasts on relief milking and become a well-known person in the Hailsham area. Congratulations also to Valerie Rolfe doing a one year vocational course at Plumpton Agricultural College. Valerie came out top of the whole school in the end of term examinations at Christmas. This in competition with men.

WEST SUSSEX.—Twenty Land Army members, the County Chairman, County Secretary, Assistant Secretary, one Organiser, four Committee members and seven representatives were eligible to receive their eight-year armlets from Mr. Turner at the N.F.U. party. Fifteen members were able to enjoy the delightful party and afterwards a party of 12 girls and staff went on to see "Annie Get Your Gun," ending a delightful day with supper at

the Criterion. In January, Forest House and the Battine House Hostels gave really delightful parties to the children from their village, complete with Father Christmas, Christmas Tree and presents for all. There were club outings to Christmas pantomimes at Bognor, Brighton and other enjoyable Christmas parties. Our hostels and our club enjoyed a really wonderful Arts Council tour of concerts given by Joan Spencer and Michael Head to most enthusiastic audiences. Hostels and clubs are busy preparing for the inter-hostel and club exhibition which takes place at the beginning of March. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Gribble as part-time County Organiser. Miss Gribble worked as an organiser in Hertfordshire up to 1946 and therefore has an extensive knowledge of the Land Army.

NORTH WALES.—Our final total sent to the Benevolent Fund, as a result of the Christmas Fair, was £194 9s. 3d. Since then, the Denbigh Hostel have sent forward £8 17s. 6d., proceeds of their very successful whist drive on behalf of this Fund, while Gresford Hostel organised a dance realising £11 3s. 3d. for our Local Welfare Fund. A number of volunteers from Eryl Aran are studying German, while two others at the same hostel are starting their study for the R.H.S. Examination. Miss Jagger, committee member, and the following volunteers:—R. Robbins, L. Robinson, A. M. Laycock, M. Thomas, G. Satchwell and L. M. B. Bacon were present at the N.F.U. party in London. They brought us back a vivid account of this celebration, and we only wish that more of our volunteer workers had been able to attend. There are in this Area, 21 committee members, and district representatives who have worked for the Land Army since the very beginning. We think this a proud record.

WARWICKSHIRE.—Volunteers will have read already in the leading article of the February issue that the Land Army is being continued but that the re-organisation which takes place from 1st June will mean that the present Chairmen and County Committee will no longer act as such. Land girls in Warwickshire will, I am sure, appreciate the tremendous amount which has been done for them by Mrs. Fielden and speaking from the office point of view, I would like them to know that a very great deal of time and energy have been, and is still, freely given by the Chairman and members of the County Committee in the interests of the land girls in this county. This news will, I am sure, be received with mixed feelings by everyone. The Chairman, four Committee members and eight members of the W.L.A. attended the eight-year armlet party in London in January and they enjoyed the whole day there, and went to the theatre in the evening.

Our congratulations go to Miss P. M. Walton, who was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours. Miss Walton joined the W.L.A. in 1939 and has been employed on the same farm ever since. This must surely be nearly a record for continuous employment. The Ministry of Information sent us an excellent set of films for the hostels, which appeared to be very much enjoyed by everybody and individual hostels are now occupied with raising contributions for the County Welfare Fund. Our congratulations go to the girls at Idlicote Hostel who had the initiative to obtain their own motor coach to take them over to the pantomime in Coventry and this was so much enjoyed that I gather they are arranging a further expedition to see the Ice Revue at the same theatre. Congratulations also go to the girls at Wolston Hostel who have offered to do odd-jobs, sitting-in, etc., in the village, free of charge during Lent.

WILTSHIRE.—Social activities have not been much to the fore since the end of the Christmas festivities, but we should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Warden and girls at Bromham on the result of the dance, reported in our last County News, when a sum of £12 2s. was handed into the Benevolent Fund. We understand that another dance is to be held at Bromham in March. We are pleased to report that our girls have been kept at work during the winter months; quite a large number of them have been employed on clearing scrub land. On Friday, 13th February, we held a Wardens' conference at the Cafe Rendez-vous, Devizes. There was a full attendance and we think the Wardens appreciated the day out. They also got through a considerable amount of work in the discussion at the conference. We are now busy on plans for increasing accommodation to house our extra quota of volunteers, and also, for improving the existing accommodation. Our most interesting venture is a hostel at Ramsbury near Marlborough, which it is hoped, will be opened in a month or two. This is to be run in conjunction with the Wiltshire A.E.C.'s calf rearing centre and the girls will be employed on calf rearing for the Committee and will also provide labour for the surrounding farmers.

NORTH AND EAST YORKS.—Congratulations are due to the five volunteers, one County Organiser and seven voluntary workers who qualified for the presentation of armlets at the eight-year party in London in January. All who were able to go very much enjoyed the party. Our thanks are due to the Wardens and staff of our hostels who arranged Christmas and New Year parties and for all the extra work that this entailed. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Robinson as Warden of Driffield Hostel and Miss Mitchison as Warden of Easingwold Hostel and hope that they will enjoy their work with the W.L.A.

GLAMORGAN.—We are all very sorry to have to say goodbye this month to Mrs. Clayton, County Organiser, and also to Mrs. Terry, Assistant Secretary. Both are very well known to all Glamorgan girls. To Mrs. Terry we send our very best wishes on her marriage; we hope she will be very happy. Mrs. Clayton has acted as County Organiser for almost five years and she will be missed by all. She is leaving shortly for a long holiday in America where we hope she will have a very enjoyable time. Through the good offices of Mrs. Richards, the Warden, the Y.W.C.A. Players are visiting Bonvilston Hostel on 8th March, when they will present "The Stranger Within," a play, written and produced by Miss Hilda Banwell, A.L.C.M. Mrs. Richards has also been able to obtain many new books to augment the present collection of books in the Bonvilston Library.