



# THE LAND GIRL

No. 10, Volume 3

JANUARY, 1943

Price 3d.

## NEW YEAR

**G**OOD news for 1943 is that our uniform troubles look like passing away with the old year. Headquarters have regretted exceedingly the shortages from which the Land Army has suffered during the last months and also the fact that oilskins have not always stood up well to the job for which they were intended. In the middle of 1941, when the Land Army numbered about sixteen thousand, Headquarters had to guess what numbers would be at the end of 1942 so that orders for uniform might be placed by the Ministry of Supply. The estimate made was 55,000—the actual number is almost 53,000, so that guess was a pretty good one.

Uniform orders were placed accordingly but war shortages, war conditions and war needs upset all calculations. Sources of supply were unexpectedly cut off just as demands increased and you need not be good at mathematics to work out the answer to that one. But there is one misunderstanding which should be cleared up. The Land Army is not the only Service which has gone short—the others have had their troubles but, being state-employed they are not perhaps so free to talk about them—and there are ways in which the Land Army has been specially favoured.

Volunteers can be sure that everything that can be done to meet their needs will be done and Headquarters would like to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the way in which the large majority of members of the Women's Land Army have accepted the fortune of war. Few things in this world are perfect. The new heavy oilskins which will be issued will keep the rain out but they will also keep the perspiration in. Also tastes differ (one man's tie may be another man's pain in the neck), so it is obviously quite impossible to please 50,000 Land Girls all at once. It is generally agreed, however, that the Land Army uniform is attractive and smart and one of which its wearers may well feel proud—in the opinion of Headquarters they may feel prouder still of the cheerful patience and good humour with which they have carried on their work, wet or fine, hot or cold, throughout the past year. The first 50,000 members of the Women's Land Army have set a fine example to the second 50,000 who are expected to join them in 1943.

M. A. P.



## BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

The whole idea started, I think, with pigs . . . . It was while we were feeding Junior, one of the smallest of them, that Audrey said,

"You know, pigs are profitable animals once you have enough money to buy the first few and breed from them."

"To buy the first few!"

"I know," replied Audrey, "how about an allotment?"

An allotment, I thought—we could grow everything ourselves and sell all our produce; then whilst the crops were growing on one we might even try another. The idea seemed to burst with opportunities.

That evening we mentioned our idea to Ruby, one of our friends who is also a keen gardener. She at once wanted to be a partner in this new venture, and so we all jumped on our cycles and proceeded full steam ahead to where Mr. Willis, our Allotment Foreman, lived. He was soon fired with a little of our enthusiasm and immediately came with us to arrange which particular piece of land would be most suitable. We found it after much discussion, a field covered with grass over two feet high, it looked so wild and unkempt that even our high spirits flagged a little when we thought of the hours of hard work which we should have to spend there. But we quickly recovered and dug the first spit, turning over a lovely rich, dark piece of soil, quite the best we had tried and just asking to be allowed to grow produce.

The next day the deeds were drawn up, three separate allotments next to each other, and that afternoon being our half day, we all sallied forth with a wooden rake, turfing iron and half moon. I started by raking out the grass to which Audrey set fire along the further edge of the field, there was a slight wind and the fire licked happily over the dry grass so that soon the flames were spreading over our allotments, going on and on till quite half the field was on fire. It was when the flames were catching a piece of fencing round the edge that we began to worry . . . . after two hours we eventually had it under control and, amidst wild cheering from a few local lads, extinguished the last smouldering flames. It was now nearing the end of April, and we were hurrying to catch up with the times of planting and so every available moment was spent in lifting turf and digging. We put a notice up in our messroom at work asking for volun-

teers to help, with a pint of beer as payment. Three of our most worthy inmates (after much persuasion) answered our plea, one our tractor driver whom we call the Hurricane Ploughman, and our two waggoners. They lifted yards of turf and helped us considerably with advice. Several members of the R.A.F. whom we had met in the Y.M.C.A. were delighted to call and sample a few radishes. Carrots also seemed to be popular to say nothing of the peas when they were ready.

Audrey and I soon began to make profits and before long we had made 10s. each on radishes. Ruby, who was mainly growing winter greens, gained on spinach, and later, cauliflowers, and then when the lettuce was ready, hot cakes could not have been more profitable. During the summer, when we wanted to transplant or sow more seeds, oh! how we prayed for rain, and how when it came we almost fought anyone who grumbled about the weather. By the end of June everything was growing to perfection, the pods were filling with peas, the early potatoes were ready for lifting, radish and lettuce still produced a good demand and the onions were being thinned out with relish. We planted a few outdoor tomatoes about this time, transplanted the cabbage, cauliflower and savoys, etc., hoeing almost every night during the dry weather and dusting everything with various insecticides. The beetroot were making good sound globes and the leeks were showing signs of becoming a success.

During the middle of July we had our holidays and when we came back were amazed at the change which had taken place. My peas were ready for picking and they totalled over 50 lbs. The broad beans were not very good but made a little money. I think we had all made well over £1 before the main crops came.

Then came the lifting of maincrop potatoes; this was done with great success and my three cwt. brought a distinct increase in my particular profits. The tomatoes were ripening quite well until the early frosts caused us to take them indoors for later use. But now the season is almost finished for this year, the ground at present being mainly used for winter greens, cabbage, sprouts, savoys, kale, broccoli, spinach and parsnips to be cut when needed, together with a bed of spring cabbage. So now



our only job is to get on with the ever needed digging before the severe frosts.

Up to the present our profits have been good, although not terrific; we have all exceeded the £3 mark, taking into consideration money spent for tomato plants, stakes, fertilisers, etc., and also the fee for the allotment next year which has all come out of the credits. We entered with the rest of the local War Time Allotment Holders for a competition with prizes and certificates for the most well-planned and well-kept allotments, and find to our immense satisfaction that we have all three been awarded a Certificate of Merit, a very agreeable conclusion to our first year's work.

We all agree that the summer, although a busy one, has brought us more fun and amusement than we had anticipated and that at this rate Audrey's first idea of a small holding will be easily tackled, together with pigs and poultry to eat the produce we can't sell to the public, and the tops of various vegetables boiled down for swill.

D. COLTMAN, 41604 (Warwicks).

## Conversation with a Cow

(With acknowledgments to Nathaniel Gubbins of the "Sunday Express.")

"Cor!" said the cow, "Wot, you 'ere agin?"

"I'm afraid so," I said.

"They don't 'arf drink some milk, don't they?"

"The country needs it."

"No one can say I don't do me bit for the War Effort, can they?"

"No more than others."

"But I'm only a lady—and a mother at that."

"So I've noticed."

"Wot d'you mean by that?"

"Nothing."

"Mr. Bevin couldn't compel me, could 'e?"

"No."

"Only direct me?"

"That's right."

"Same blooming thing though, ain't it?"

"I suppose so."

"Cor blow my 'orn!" said the cow.

"A girl can't call 'er life 'er own! Cor!"

"Cor!" I said.

"That there little milking machine you've got. Now that's what I call handy."

"It certainly saves time"

"Saves me too. Yer knows what to expect with that. Not like some of these 'ere novices, one day gentle, the other day rough. All depends on whether 'e turned up the night before, I expect."

"That's got nothing to do with it."

"That there little old 'Itler, now. If 'e'd 'ad a drop more milk, 'e'd 'ave bin fatter, wouldn't 'e?"

"I suppose so."

"More contented like. Then we wouldn't 'ave 'ad this 'ere bit of bother."

"Perhaps not."

"'Adn't thought of that before. Us cows could 'ave saved the world. But it's too late to think of that now."

"Definitely."

"About this fire-watching for women."

"What about it?"

"Do you think they'll rope me in?"

"That is hardly likely."

"I don't do 55 hours a week, yer know. But when we **do** work—it's concentrated like."

"You mean condensed?"

"Cor, chew me cud! Being funny agin!"

"Not particularly."

"Now that there Ellen Wilkinson. She's a coughdrop and no mistake. She does more than 55 hours, I'll bet."

"I'm afraid we've talked enough."

"And Mr. Churchill—there's another."

"Come on. There's work to be done."

"Wot's the 'urry? They've got plenty of dried, 'aven't they?"

"That's not the point. Move over."

"'Ow's Mr. 'Udson?"

"Don't try and change the subject."

"Cor chase me round the stack yard! You Land Girls don't 'arf treat a girl rough!"

"Keep quiet."

"Talk about them there Nazis!"

"**Don't** talk about them!"

"Orl right. Got enough room?"

"Plenty."

"Orl right. Let's go!"

T. J. H. (N. Wales)

## Poster Competition

A prize of three guineas is offered for the best design for a poster for the Benevolent Fund. Space must be left for the announcement of the event or events for which the poster will be used. All entries must be addressed to the Editor, THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex and must be received by February 15th.



## COLLECTIVE FARM CRECHES

*The following article was cabled to THE LAND GIRL from Moscow by the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee.*

Dressed in his holiday attire Ivan Nabatov, together with his wife, called on the management of the collective farm. Tractor driver Ivan Nabatov in a few words explained that he was volunteering for the front. He, participant of the Civil War, couldn't work in rear, he must drive a fighting machine. His wife, however, was a good tractor driver and would replace him successfully on the collective farm.

"Well, good luck," said the president vigorously shaking Nabatov's hand. "Don't worry about your wife and children, we'll take proper care of Varia and see that the children enter the kindergarten."

Along the bank of the river Tsna stands a tidy little house. A sand-strewn path leads up to the porch and a small entrance hall. The floors are immaculately clean, along the walls hang snow-white towels beneath which are small wardrobes containing rows of ironed pink dresses and blue suits. This is the crèche of the village Kopobeyevo of the Ryazan Region.

On their way to the fields the collective farm women drop their children at the kindergarten and don't need to worry about their youngsters since they know that they are in trustworthy motherly hands, well cared for, well fed.

The strictest routine is observed. Each child knows perfectly well that until the nurse has taken off its home clothes and until it is washed it may not enter the play or dining room.

The food in the kindergarten is simple

The National Federation of Women's Institutes is anxious to help the Land Army in every way possible, and local Institutes welcome Land Army volunteers to their meetings either as members or visitors. Any volunteer who finds herself in a new job and who would like to take part in village activities should ask her Land Army Representative to introduce her to the secretary of the nearest Women's Institute.

The Land Army song, "Back to the Land" which was broadcast a little while ago, can be obtained from THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex, for 2d. a copy (post free) or 1s. for a dozen copies.

but of good quality. Here is the typical daily menu. Breakfast—a glass of milk and white bread; dinner—meat, potato soup, milk porridge, jelly; tea—white bread with honey and a glass of milk; supper—potato soup.

The collective farm is concerned about the children's health, providing them with the best food, for they know that most of their nurslings are children of Red Army warriors defending the country's honour and liberty. The child's daily ration consists of three-quarters of a litre of milk, fifty grams of meat, eggs, milk, fats, sugar, honey, cereals vegetables, fruit. The bakery provides twice daily white and rye bread for 150 children.

Recently Varia Nabatova wrote to her husband from the field: "The machines on the threshing floors keep rattling away uninterruptedly. Every one working in the fields keeps one thing in mind; to gather rich harvest to the last grain, to give the country, the front, the utmost amount of bread. Don't worry about me, I work honestly and am giving satisfaction. During his two months' stay in the kindergarten Kolia has put on 2 kilograms and Taniushka has blossomed out like a flower. Return soon victorious."

From morn till evening, healthy cheerful well-fed youngsters frolic about in the kindergarten. The defenders of our native country rest assured that the state is taking care of their families, knowing that their children are developing like fruit in an orchard.

I. KORABELNIKOV.

As members of the Land Army are so often unable to get holidays in the summer, they were specially favoured at Christmas. Although generally speaking, facilities for free or assisted travel were suspended or drastically restricted during the Christmas holiday period, a special arrangement was made for members of the W.L.A. who were still allowed to have leave vouchers for which they were due in connection with Christmas travel except between December 24th and 28th.

Can any family beat the record of the Wright family of Yorkshire? Three daughters and one daughter-in-law are all in the W.L.A.



## Reminiscence

It was March, 1918, and my family had decided that I, aged 19, was too young to drive an ambulance in France, my only ambition at the time. I had no aptitude for nursing so I had to look round and see what there was for an able bodied young woman to do. An intense desire to ride on one of those little iron seats on a long stalk, on which one sways perilously above most farm implements, decided me for the Land Army. This decision met with no opposition and I headed straight for the nearest Labour Exchange.

It seemed that the most urgent need was for suitable people to send out in charge of gangs of girls planting potatoes, hoeing, fruit picking, etc., and for this a smattering of farming knowledge was essential, and I was sent to the University Farm at Cambridge for a seven weeks' course. The course consisted of two weeks with the cows, a week each with the horses, pigs and sheep, and two weeks in the fields. Incidentally my week with the horses provided me with the only opportunity I ever had of riding on a little iron seat!

On arrival at Cambridge we first had to pass a medical test, and were then fitted out with clothes. As far as I remember these consisted of breeches, smocks, a felt hat, two pairs of boots, and puttees. There were no such things as gum boots in general wear in those days so we did not realise what we were missing. We were billeted in a cottage at the gates of Girton and our landlady kept our enormous appetites at bay with huge dishes of stew made of what I now know to have been horse.

The course was most enjoyable and during the seven weeks I lost all fear of cows, realised that I was no use at all with horses, and gained much useful experience in other ways. At the end of the time the authorities told me that I was too young to be sent out in charge of large gangs. (Dear me! Is it possible that the family were right about my extreme youthfulness?) I was therefore posted to a home farm attached to a large country house in Northamptonshire.

I attributed my strange qualms on the journey thither to nervousness about the new job, but it turned out to be a sharp attack of Spanish flu which laid me low for a fortnight after my arrival, in a semi-furnished cottage which I was to share with the poultry and garden girl, a hefty lass from Shropshire, born and bred on a farm, who regarded my amateur efforts

with suspicion and scorn. It was a very shaky Land Girl that presented herself for the first day's work.

By this time the hay harvest was in full swing. I was not expected to help, but when the men left the yard at 8.30 a.m. I was left in sole charge with an occasional visit from the bailiff, until I went home at 6 p.m. I had under my care six cows, some pigs, fourteen calves and one bull. The bull was loose in a shut off part of the yard all day, but he had to be penned before the cows came in for the evening milking. I soon learned to entice him in by dangling a bag of food before his nose. This was tipped hastily into the manger, then I rushed out, slammed the door on him, and leaned weakly against the wall outside to recover my nerve. None of this panic was in the least necessary as he was the mildest of creatures. Baby calves bought in the market were handed over to me to feed until they were old enough to turn out into the park, and this was the part of the work I enjoyed most.

Armistice was signed in November but it was well into the following spring that the men began to drift back to the land, and I left the Land Army for other work. Now, 25 years later, I have been drawn into it again and am working as a District Representative. Farewell to the old W.L.A. and good luck to the new.

C. HUSKISSON.



*His First Walk—with D. Redstone, 71319, I. of Wight.*



## NEW YEAR MESSAGE

*from Mr. Allan Chapman, M.P., Joint Under-Secretary for Scotland, to the W.L.A. in Scotland.*



*Allan Chapman*

WHEN the history of Scottish agriculture in war-time comes to be written, there will be no prouder page of achievement than that of the W.L.A. There were a hundred of you in Scotland in 1939. To-day you number five and a half thousand. By next harvest we hope you will be ten thousand strong—an army indeed. We shall also hope to double the present number of a thousand serving in the Women's Timber Corps of the W.L.A.

There is no more eloquent tribute to the success of your work than these facts and figures. It was no easy matter for you to go straight from the office, the factory and the counter to the rougher ways and weather of the farm. Yet two hundred of you wear the coveted badge for two years' meritorious service. Some have even longer continuous service stretching back to the first days of the war.

You have won your place. You are holding a vital stretch of the line in the food front. Your work is not easy. But as you drive the tractor, muck out

the byre or do the thousand and one back-breaking and humdrum jobs about the farm there is a double satisfaction in the war work you have chosen.

You are producing food and releasing men to fight at the same time; thus you are helping to hit the enemy by air, land and sea.

Shipping was never more important. On the one hand the enemy is banking a great deal on his intensive U. Boat campaign. On the other, Lord Woolton said recently "the colossal armada that had been able to land troops and munitions in N. Africa had previously been carrying food. It was right that the ships should have been taken off carrying food and thus used to hasten the end of the war." There is your text. In speeding the plough you are helping to hasten the end of the war.

In Scotland in 1942 we have had a prolific grain harvest whilst the potatoes lifted represent the largest acreage ever grown north of the Border. You have your share in this achievement. But it is because you have done so well that



the Secretary of State for Scotland, in thanking you for the past year's work, counts confidently on your utmost endeavour with the still further increased tillage of 1943.

It is my privilege to wish you the old wishes that are new with each New Year. May you and those, near and far, of whom you will be thinking at this time, enjoy all health and happiness in 1943.

N. Ayr has sent £12 (per Mrs. Kennedy) and Miss Tullis £5 to the Scottish Benevolent Fund.

Two small boys in Lancashire were overheard discussing the identity of a Land Girl.

"I know," said the first, "she's a Land Girl."

"What?" asked the other, "a land mine?"

## In Praise of Susan

*A little white goat*

See, with what nimble grace she goes!—  
Her pretty head—her dainty toes—  
Her snowy coat so smoothly laid—  
Her slender legs, for fleetness made—  
The furry dewlaps at her throat—  
Was ever seen so sweet a goat?  
With ears pricked wide for every sound  
Her gentle gaze now strays around:  
She comes in answer to my call,  
Back to the warmth of hay-filled stall.  
But soon her voice, without restraint,  
Is lifted in a loud complaint—  
What volume from so small a frame!  
And when I would my Susan blame,  
She stares with bold, unwinking eye,  
As if to say, "It was not I,"  
Yet if I'm cross she does not mind  
For though I scold she knows I'm kind.  
With cheeks puffed out, so busily  
She chews the cud, "Just look at me!"  
She seems to say,  
"I'm quite a grown-up goat to-day!"  
And oft she'll leap up on the manger,  
Light of foot, unheeding danger,  
And so, from that precarious height,  
Gaze down with impudent delight,  
Regardless of my anxious pleas,  
Thinking it rather fun to tease!  
Such countless pretty ways hath she  
Capturing the very heart of me.  
Her tiny form doth well impart  
The skill of her Creator's art.  
Surely, so sweet a goat as she  
Hath claim to immortality!

G. M. Gordon, 51557 (Middx.)

## Waltzing Matilda

"Music!" barked Barleycorn. "Why music?"

"Everybody has it," said the Land Girl.

"So soothing and satisfying," reported Copperwheat.

"Improves the yield," proclaimed the Squire.

"No trouble at all," stated Hayseed.

"Stuff and nonsense," retorted Barleycorn. "I'm a farmer, not a dance band leader." He hated improvements.

"We'll see," said the Land Girl, but the cows were unconcerned. They chewed the cud and gave their milk and the uproar passed over their heads. Then, suddenly the yield fell. Barleycorn sacked his second cowman. "Incompetent," he snapped.

"Music," said the Land Girl.

"Stuff and nonsense," came the retort. Nails and wires were appearing in the cowshed.

"Stuff and nonsense," laughed the Land Girl.

Buttercup was interested; Dandelion was touchy; Meadow-sweet was angry. Marigold IV attempted to chew the wire and Pennywort got a nail in her foot. Matilda, the Queen of the herd, preserved a superior indifference.

The great had fallen before. Napoleon had retreated from Moscow; Mussolini had retreated from Egypt; Barleycorn had retreated from the bull. The Land Girl liked to think that the numerous pails Matilda had ruined were now pursuing the enemy in Libya, with better results than when she had avoided the onslaught. Salvage had its moments.

"Music!" spat Barleycorn. "What's music?"

"So soothing and satisfying," murmured the Land Girl, and switched on the wireless. Ping went the milk into the pails; swish went the flourishing tails; up went the yield of a dozen cows. "No trouble at all."

"Bah! My wireless, my batteries . . ."

"Your cows," said the Land Girl, and fixed her eye on the queen of the herd. "Are you playing this game?" She was very firm and very determined.

"Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda, 'You'll come a-waltzing, Matilda, with me.'"

And she sang as she watched and waited till the pail was full.

"I've got you waltzing, Matilda, with me."

FRANCES TURK.



## Demonstration by Kent



We hoped, oh how we hoped that it would be fine. It was. A misted golden morning rose over the Garden of England, more like an autumn than a winter day. Crowds of people were arriving; farmers, distinguished visitors, Land Girls in their hundreds, and the public. Large placards advertised the demonstrations; arrows pointed: Horses, tractor-work, dung-spreading, cabbage planting, pruning, fruit spraying, threshing, thatch-making. Lord Woolton arrived, and I am assured that a Land Girl showed him to a seat, not knowing him from Adam, with the remark "You had better sit there." He replied that he always did what he was told. "Ho!" said the girl, "if you always do that you won't get far in life."

There were no other mistakes, as far as I know, unless you count the tar-wash which was put into a tractor instead of petrol, and that wasn't done by a Land Girl. It was an entirely successful day from every point of view. 594 entries for competitions were received, representing 265 individual competitors, and the gangs were busy from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Ploughing, both with horse and tractor, attracted much attention; and so did the thatch-making set (housed in a glasshouse), and the two threshing sets manned entirely by members of the W.L.A. There was only a brief interval for luncheon, when Lord Woolton addressed the girls from an open-air stand, expressing not only his personal

thanks as Minister of Food but also in the name of His Majesty's Government, to the Land Army for the indispensable help they had rendered, were rendering, and would continue to render. Lady Denman, who had honoured us with her presence, also spoke, with welcome promises of an improvement in uniform, both in quantity and quality. She also presented good service badges and two-year armlets to a number of girls; and Lord Cornwallis presented Courage Badges to two East Kent members, Miss Marion Pine and Miss Maisie Lark, for conspicuous courage during a raid on Canterbury and for continuous courage in the Dover area during enemy action.

The value of such demonstrations is obvious and two-fold. They convince any sceptical farmer (and there are still some of these) of the efficiency the girls bring to their tasks, and they give to the girls themselves a sense of belonging to a corporate body. The W.L.A. differs from the other Women's Services, in that its members live separate and often isolated lives, with only rare opportunities of seeing their fellows, wearing the same uniform and pursuing the same aims. No girl at Allington Farm on that sunny December day can have failed to feel that fellowship, nor, as she listened to Lord Woolton's grateful words, have failed to realise that her part in the war was vital if not showy.

V. SACKVILLE-WEST.



## Sugar Production

After having had a share in producing a crop of sugar beet, it was very interesting to pay a visit to Peterboro' Beet Sugar Factory with the local Young Farmers' Club, of which I am a member, and to follow the beet through the various stages of its journey from the farm to our sugar bowls.

We were taken first to see how the sugar beet is weighed on delivery at the factory, each lorry or truck being run on to the concrete table of a weighing machine and a record made of the weight. The vehicle is weighed again on leaving the factory yard and the weight of the unwashed beet can thus be ascertained.

Lorries are unloaded in various ways, some being run under a very powerful stream of water which washes the beet out of the lorries, others being tipped and the beet allowed to fall into channels. Trucks are emptied either by water or by a crane grab. From each delivery a sample is taken and put into metal tubs which are taken to a building to be tested. The test is made on 28 lbs. of beet, so, as the tubs are brought in they are weighed and passed on for washing. The beets are washed in hot water, counted, the tops trimmed and the scraps weighed. They are then put in a machine which takes out a wedge and pulps it. The pulp is mixed up and finally arrives at the laboratory where it is tested for its sugar content. Here the pulp is weighed and mixed with calcium carbonate and free lime, shaken up and then filtered. By this means the amount of sugar is ascertained.

Let us now return to the yard to see the beet being conveyed into the factory by a stream of flowing water which passes under a machine to extract the leaves, and rubbish. On entering the factory, any stones, etc., are removed and the beet elevated into tanks where it is washed in hot water, then again elevated to the top of the factory, where it is weighed before it falls into hoppers above the slicing machines. These machines slice the beet into strips. These strips then pass into vats and are submitted to hot water and steam; this process is called "diffusion" and is the process which actually extracts the sugar from the beet.

From the vats the juices are pumped into carbonation tanks which consist of a number of cells. In these tanks carbon dioxide is produced by burning limestone

which, with other impurities, afterwards goes to the bottom. At this stage the mixture is a greyish mass as it is passed on for the next process which consists of filtration under pressure, when the lime and other non-sugar substances are extracted. These substances pass out of the factory into a huge pool in the grounds.

The resultant juice is a yellowish liquid which passes into boilers and is boiled to evaporate the water. It then passes up into other vessels, each time becoming more concentrated, and finally into vacuum pans where it is formed into syrup and then crystals. From here it is run down into tanks fitted with stirrers which revolve at a terrific speed, spinning the crystals rapidly, each spinning lasting only a few minutes. During this process the crystals are changed in colour and become white sugar. From here the sugar passes on a conveyor band to the bagging plant, where it is automatically bagged up, weighed and then transported to store.

In the earlier part of the process, after the extraction of the sugar from the beet, the remaining mass is pressed, dried and passed out as pulp for feeding cows, etc.

As one tours the factory the atmosphere gets hotter and hotter and one cannot but admire the people who work under such conditions. As a member of the Land Army, I am quite content to help grow the sugar beet, although it means backaches, hoeing, singling and, later, pulling, knocking and carting.

G. WEBB, 83422 (Hunts.).

In some counties there appears to be some misunderstanding about the dates of publication of THE LAND GIRL. This comes out in the *middle* of the month. New subscriptions are taken to apply to the *next* number of the magazine if they are received after the end of the month of publication of the last number, unless some special date is mentioned when the order is sent. *Receipts are not sent out for subscriptions received—the next number is regarded as a receipt.*

**The next Land Army Broadcast will be on Thursday, 28th January, in the Home Service Programme during the "Farming To-day" period which begins at 6.45 p.m.**



## Correspondence

Dear Editor,

In answer to Volunteer Haslett's letter I am also a member of the Women's Timber Corps and have been doing forestry work since October, 1940. When I first joined the Land Army, I was partnered with another member as a pole selector; after 12 months of that, I automatically became a measurer and have now reached the position of Forewoman, only I am over men, not girls. When I first took on as Forewoman there were 17 men, 15 of them cutters, now I only have 8 men, 4 of them cutters. I know of three other girls in similar positions

Cheshire. M. H. Carmichael 36457.

Dear Editor,

Herewith a cheque for £18 for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. The 26 volunteers in Coln-St.-Aldwyn and surrounding villages set themselves a target of £30 to be raised this winter by local entertainments and individual donations. The £18 is our contribution for 1942. £14 10s. was the profit on a Whist Drive and Dance held in Coln-St.-Aldwyn Village Hall and the balance is donations from volunteers and others. We hope Gloucestershire will put up a better show than was the case for the Spitfire Fund. It is much more interesting when a group set a target. We have such fun meeting and arranging these things.

Glos. R. D. Judge 13813.

Dear Editor,

A good fuel and time-saver is to make boiled apple pudding in the following way. Put your apple, sugar and water (the apple cut in fairly large slices) into a saucepan which has a tight lid. Make a blob of stiff dumpling paste, press it out to approximately the circumference of the saucepan and have it about an inch in thickness. When the apples boil place the paste on top of them. Put on the lid tightly and boil gently for at least 20 minutes. Spices, prunes or other dried fruits added to the apples make a variation. I know that this is good stuffing for Land Girls!

Somerset. E. Wells, 86575.

Dear Editor,

One of my friends in the N.A.A.F.I. being home on leave too, this week-end, she and I went to a club for members of the various Forces. As we were making our way out, two sailors sitting

at a nearby table stood up and held out their hands to me and one of them said: "Excuse me Miss, I don't know you but I'd like you to know that we appreciate what you Land Girls are doing, its a fine job of work and we, especially, are proud of you." So, actually, we know even more now, that the W.L.A. is helping more than many people realise.

Yorks.

E. Dransfield 81817.

Dear Editor,

After 3 years in the W.L.A., I have yet to see or hear of the two girls either side of me—i.e., Nos. 6319 and 6321. I should like to correspond with them and compare jobs. If no volunteers own those numbers, perhaps those nearest will write.

May I recommend that those who wish to keep a record of Agriculture and the W.L.A. should purchase a cuttings book. There is a very good one published by one of the weekly farming papers. In this I paste all cuttings of any interest, including some of those from the local paper in which I am mentioned! Also included are some good cartoons pertaining to the Land Army.

Herts.

G. Wansbrough, 6320.

Dear Editor,

Having read A. Gatehouse's remarks and Alice Cox's reply, I feel I would like to express my opinion on the matter. Opinions differ, and what might appear objectionable to some, could easily please others. I, personally, consider that British people should be free to wear what they choose, and compulsion of any kind should be avoided whenever possible.

Cheshire.

C. Read, 99273.

Dear Editor,

I was in Exeter today and saw two Members who let the L.A. down. One was wearing a Land Army overcoat with navy trousers, bare legs and fancy shoes. The other was wearing L.A. hat and overcoat with a dress, silk stockings and high heeled shoes. Our uniform is nothing to be ashamed of and looks as good as any other when worn properly. I wish it could be a rule that we should either wear uniform or civvies, not a mixture. We would be the first to laugh if any of the other Forces mixed uniform and ordinary clothes.

Devon.

B. Good, 13467.

(We have also received other letters supporting Miss Gatehouse who originally raised this subject.)





*W.L.A. v. W.R.N.S. —teams and trainers—taken when the Land Army won a tug-of-war in Hampshire.*

Dear Editor,

I must tell you how tremendously interesting and helpful a F.A.N.Y friend and I find THE LAND GIRL. We both look forward to it each month and I hear my copy goes the round of her colleagues.

After three years in private gardens I am "posted" to a recently built Hostel in Bucks as gardener-in-charge. Needless to say I look forward to starting. Beside the garden in which I have been officially employed, I gave a few hours weekly to the care of one attached to a house in which French personnel are quartered. I heard about French methods of cultivation. Quite recently I had the exciting experience of seeing General de Gaulle when he inspected the premises and personnel.

I have been in the Land Army for over three years, and wouldn't change for all the tea in China. Here's wishing THE LAND GIRL and fellow Land Girls all the very best.

Bucks.

E. Kerr, 9243.

Miss D. V. Smith, 47416, has been corresponding for the last two years with an American girl who now writes that she has an aunt and also a cousin (aged 15) who would like to correspond with members of the L.A. Will anyone interested write to Miss Smith, c/o The Police Station, Preston, Hitchin, Herts.

January, 1943

## Thermos Flasks

These are precious belongings and difficult to replace and the following hints may help to lengthen the life of yours. When in use, rinse out your flask every evening and stand it upside down to drain in an empty jar kept for the purpose. Store flasks empty and clean without the cork and top; this prevents mustiness. If the inside gets stained or furred, eggshell and tea leaves with a little water well shaken inside the flask will clean it. If the furring is very bad put in a tablespoonful of vinegar, fill up with water and leave overnight. As soon as the case shows rust spots give it a coat of Jap-lac or quick-drying enamel and leave it 24 hours before using. If the case is cracked with rust apply strips of adhesive tape and enamel over them.

If your thermos flask breaks and you cannot replace it for a time here is a substitute. Take a pair of really worn out land army stockings, cut off the feet, place one leg inside the other and seam up the bottoms from inside. Measure a lemonade bottle and cut cardboard or corrugated paper the same length. Roll into a tube and slip between the two stocking legs, forming a container with wool inside and out. Put the hot drink in the lemonade bottle, slip into the stockings, pin over the top and it will keep hot for several hours.

B. Puzey, 1453 (Dorset).



## Women's Farm and Garden Association

There has been a great deal written in certain sections of the Agricultural press, about instruction for Land Army workers. I am of the opinion that it isn't only instruction which is needed but an opportunity for members of the W.L.A. to meet women who have been in agricultural work for a number of years. There are many women who have chosen farming, dairying, poultry keeping or gardening as a career and have had training and years of experience in the work. These women are united in the Women's Farm and Garden Association.

One of the local groups of the W.F.G.A. recently arranged a most successful residential conference at St. Albans, Herts. They were enterprising enough to take over an industrial hostel for the week-end. This was a well appointed house capable of housing about 40 people. The difficulties of domestic help were overcome by the members themselves, who divided the work of washing up, laying tables, dusting and sweeping between them.

There was a full house for all sessions about 30 people stayed throughout the whole week-end with others coming in for occasional lectures and meals. Non-members of the Association were invited and it was good to see that about eight members of the Land Army took advantage of this and came for the whole course. Some of the lectures given were "Recent Advances in Farming" by a member of the staff of the Herts Institute of Agriculture, "Soil Fertility" by Lady Eve Balfour, "Market Gardening" by Miss G. Proctor, F.L.S., garden steward, Girton College, Cambridge, and "The Future of Dairying" by Miss D. M. Peacock, N.D.D. and Miss A. A. Nichols, Ph.D. N.D.D.

A practical demonstration and talk on Bee-keeping and a visit to the Herts Institute of Agriculture, and Messrs. Ryders seed testing grounds, were also included, as well as an informal concert arranged by the members of the L.A.

The cost of this week-end was kept down as low as possible, the inclusive charges varying from 12s. to £1 according to length of stay. This group was determined to overcome all difficulties which might prevent anyone from joining in with their programme, and made concessions whereby members of the

W.L.A. in uniform could attend all lectures and meals, or stay the whole week-end at half the inclusive cost.

On Sunday afternoon the whole party turned out to work in the garden, and Land Army girls worked side by side with experienced women gardeners, many of whom possessed the National Diploma in Horticulture and many years of experience.

Other groups will be starting similar meetings in other places, and if any W.L.A. member would like to know the name of her W.F.G.A. regional organiser she should write to the general secretary, Women's Farm and Garden Association, Courtauld House, Byng Place, London, W.C.1.

ELIZABETH HESS, N.D.H.

## Proved in Practice

*K. Rawkins (W. Sussex)* had some excellent ideas on clothing. She cut her old oilskin to hip length and wears it under her good one as a double protection in heavy downpours, or when the dew is on the trees early but the weather doesn't call for a full length mac. She uses the cut-off part of the old oilskin to patch the other one. She also got the local cobbler to stitch a strip of leather over the heel seam of her shoes and has found this most effective. Wanting an extra pocket for her hoe-file, she used the cut-off turn-ups of her dungarees (which had been too long) to make one—also her shoes were half a size too large so she cut up an old W.L.A. hat into socks, which never wear out and always remain flat.

*D. Hudson (Essex)* is adventurous over food. Among wild foods she recommends elderberries for pies and, (dried) for currants—also lepiota and beef-steak, two types of fungus. The latter grows on trees and looks like its name and the lepiota is a kind of mushroom of a creamy colour. She has tried dandelion coffee and herb tea, neither of which has proved exciting but they are a change and save rations. She finds horse meat very tasty, especially steak and kidney pie; while soya bean flour has proved a definite discovery. With a little almond essence it is a remarkable substitute for almond paste and can be used in very many other ways—sweet or savoury.

*R. Robinson (Glos.)* finds half-and-half witch hazel and rose water a substitute for cold cream and also excellent in place of a foundation cream.



## Benevolent Fund

This month has brought in no less than £1,185 9s. 11d. Among individual efforts top place goes to Miss Whittaker and Miss Ellery, of Glos., who raised £55 12s. by a sale of work; this has raised their County to the head of the County totals. N. Wales had the best monthly total, over £126, with 6 whist drives and dances while Menai Bridge Hostel raised no less than £28 10s. through making toys and Christmas cards and by hairdressing and other activities. Kent did splendidly—the weight guessing competition at their Demonstration brought in £70. Raffles of everything from a travelling rug to a Teddy Bear (made by a volunteer on sick leave), sales of apples, chestnuts and soft toys, whist drives and socials have made this the best month so far. We are also very grateful for generous donations, notably Mrs. Pearson's £200, from other than county sources (many sent in appreciation of the Land Army's work); for the gift of half Warwickshire Welfare Fund's receipts for the month, for £5 from Urmston Voluntary Land Club and for £3 from Bucks W.A.E.C. labour Department. Miss Judge's letter on p. 10 sets a splendid example—if every area follows it we shall have a wonderful Fund by the Spring.

The total Fund now stands at £2,518 9s. 9d. Donations received up to December 25th follow:—

**Beds:** £20 12s. 10d.—Xmas Party Collection; £4 2s. 6d.—Misc. **Berks:** £32 6s.—Whist Drive, Sale and Raffle per Mount; £5—Henley & Dist. Club; £10 1s.—Misc. **Bucks:** £21 5s. 6d.—Dance, Aylesbury Dist. per Mackay; £5.—Fellowes, Henley & Dist. Club; £11 1s. 6d.—Misc. **Cheshire:** £6 14s. 9d.—Ashton L.A. Social per Isherwood. **Cornwall:** 10s.—Misc. **Cum. & West:** £20—Dance per Bath & McKissack; £17 3s.—Dance per Mounsey; £12 5s.—Whist Drive and Dance per Carruthers; £7—Whist Drive in Eskdale; £5 7s.—Collins; Sale of Calendars; £6 12s. 9d.—Misc. **Devon:** £3 4s. 6d.—Misc. **Dorset:** 15s.—Misc. **Essex:** £12 2s. 9d.—Essex Co. Welfare Fund. **Glos:** £55 12s.—Sale of Work per Whittaker; £20—Sinclair; £14 10s.—Whist Drive & Dance Coln St. Aldwyn; £8 10s.—Whist Drive & Dance per Forestry Workers; £7 10s.—Sale per Booth; £7 10s.—Whist Drive per Montanden; £4 5s.—Misc. **Hants:** £10—Woolmer-White; £5 10s.—Clark; £1 12s. 6d.—Misc. **Hereford:** £14—Dance per Kane & Rothwell; £3 6s.—Misc. **Herts:** £5 15s.—Brent Pelham Hostel Dance; 4s.—Misc. **Hunts:** £14—Thorney Hostel Dance; £5 18s. 6d.—Whist Drive per Davies & Bushbridge; £5—Whitlesey Dance per Cranbrook; £10 0s. 11d.—Misc. **Kent:** £70—Weight Guessing Competition at Demonstration; £15—Dance per Sheldrick; £7 14s. 6d.—Tenterden L.A. Dance; £6 5s.—Misc. **Lancs:** £8 5s.—Dance per Major; £7 2s.—Raffle per Gibbon; £6—Misc. **Leics:** £2 14s.—Misc. **Lincs, H. & K:** £10 15s.—Whist Drive and Dance per Thompson; £9—Dance per Ashall; £5—Swineshead Hostel Dance. **Lincs, Lindsey:** £12 7s. 6d.—Whist Drive and Dance per Lidgard and Lofthouse; £6—Owston Ferry Hostel Social; £4 16s.—Misc. **London & Middx:** £6 10s.—Misc. **Mon:** £8 12s. 10d.—Misc. **Northants:** £4 2s. 6d.—Misc. **Northumberland:** £8 12s.—Wooler Hostel Dance; £8 1s.—Raffle per Rea; £7—Dance per Rumbold; £5 10s. 3d.—Whist Drive and Dance per Ritson; £11 19s. 8d.—Misc. **Oxon:** £5—Henley & Dist. Club; £2—Misc. **Salop:** £5 5s. 6d.—Misc. **Somerset:** 10s.—Misc. **Staffs:** £14—Dance and Sale of Soft Toys per Irving and Welch. **E. Suffolk:** £14 16s.—Loudham & Pettistree Whist Drive and Raffle; £6 8s.—Misc. **W. Suffolk:** £13 6s. 8d.—Whist Drive per Custerson; £4 12s. 6d.—Misc. **Surrey:** £7 11s.—Misc. **E. Sussex:** £5—Misc. **W. Sussex:** £10—Hancock, Sale of Apples. **Warwicks:** £30—Half month's Co. Welfare Fund; £7 14s.—Misc. **Wilts:** £5 5s.—Swindon L.A. Club Dance per Dearlove; £1 10s. 6d.—Misc. **Yorks:** £2 3s. per Hill. **Denbigh:** 5s. Jones. **Flint:** £3 10s.—per Warren. **N. Wales:**

£28 12s.—Menai Bridge Hostel Sale; £23—Coed-y-Dinas Hostel Dance; £15 5s. 9d.—Port Dinorwic Whist Drive; £14—Llanstundwy L.A. Club; £11—Llanerchymedd Hostel Dance; £8 8s.—Whist Drive per Bower; £6—Whist Drive Llwydiarth Hostel; £5—Duff Asheton Smith; £3 8s. 6d.—Misc. **S. Wales:** £4 2s. 6d.—Misc. **Glam:** £5 0s. 6d.—Misc. **Individual Donations:** £200—Pearson; £25—Graham-Watson; £20—Musgrave; £16—Penkridge Farm Institute; £5 5s.—Urmston Voluntary Land Club; £5—Clarke, Hodgson; £6 5s. 6d.—Misc.

## County News

**London & Middx.**—70 volunteers attended a Christmas Party which included a Brains Trust and plenty of games. Will volunteers please send news for this column to Miss Albrecht, 46a, Heathcroft, Hampstead Way, N.W.11.

**Notts.**—Miss Beaumont, 60653, forewoman of Collingham hostel, writes: "Ours was the first 'hutment' hostel to be opened in Nottinghamshire and we celebrated our first birthday in October. There were 50 girls at first but after last Christmas the numbers were reduced to 40 to make room for a sick bay at the end of the dormitory. Now we have 44 and in this district, where carrots, potatoes and sugar beet abound, we have been hard at work with our root harvest. About 12 of us are now going to work about 7 miles away in the "Buggy," a covered motor vehicle of the army utility type, and the rest whose work is nearer use bicycles. Mrs. Slack, our first Warden who is still with us (fortunately) gave a festive birthday party to the present and as many old girls who could come, about 60 altogether. We were pleased to see Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Crocker of the Notts W.L.A. Committee, Mrs. Woolley and the Rev. A. J. Meek, the vicar of the parish. Joyce Berrington, one of the old girls, cut the 2 tier birthday cake which was adorned with one candle and tartan ribbons in honour of the Warden. Another old girl, Vera Wilson, presented Mrs. Slack with a cut glass flower vase and a bouquet of chrysanthemums as a token of our appreciation from the present and old girls and the staff. Dancing ended a most enjoyable and successful party.

**Oxon.**—Of our many energetic clubs, *Henley and District* which meets every Wednesday evening at 37 Market Square, Henley, serves the three counties which meet at the old bridge over the Thames—Berkshire, Bucks, and Oxon. It has just raised £15 by a dance, for the Benevolent Fund. Henley girls have collected the wood for their Club Room fires. A party of 12 went out, with two horses and carts, loaded the carts with logs, filled the sacks with brushwood and cones, built a camp fire, picnicked, and then drove back to Henley, poised on their loads of wood. They have since spent many hours in the Club cellars, chopping and sawing up their booty—which, I hasten to add—was a free gift. They have also raised funds by various sales, etc.—horse chestnuts, mushrooms, and Christmas cards included in the stock-in-trade.

*Benson and District* have formed a weekly Club. Theatricals, Keep Fit classes, book-binding for the Red Cross Fund and making things to sell for the Benevolent Fund, are some of their planned activities. Benson, too, had a most successful dance for the Fund, which raised £20. A big W.L.A. badge, painted by the girls, was a feature of the decorations, and the R.A.F. were very much in evidence.

"In answer to an enquiry from a volunteer, door-to-door collections should not be undertaken by members of the W.L.A."

This month's cover design is by Miss J. Salisbury, 72819, of Warwickshire.





## *A Job for the Stalwart—in Worcestershire.*

(By kind permission of Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News)

Most of them spend one or two nights a week helping at the local Canteen. As one of the girls says, "our winter evenings will certainly not be dull!"

Burford also has a weekly club and Easington has one in view. The coming months provide a good opportunity for starting little Clubs all over the county which will provide meeting places for Land Girls in outlying small towns, villages, and on scattered farms. Eventually we hope to link up all these small Clubs so that inter-Club events can be arranged.

Norfolk.—We are glad to report that a very promising start has been made for the Benevolent Fund. Over £50 have come in, and we keep hearing of more Dances and Whist Drives being arranged. Longlands House hostel raised £3 3s. 0d. by a dance at which they were fortunate enough to have the band of the West Yorkshires to play for them. £8 5s. 0d. was the splendid result of a Whist Drive arranged by D. Robertson, C. Whittingham, and D. Booth; their employer helped by presenting a brace of pheasants which was raffled.

Three clubs have been started at Walpole St. Andrew, Terrington St. Clement, and Bungay, the latter being for both Norfolk and East Suffolk girls. Walpole had a splendid start and were fortunate in having the County Drama Organiser at their first meeting. She brought some short plays with her, which the girls performed under her direction. G. Blanchard, of Great Plumstead, is not only pulling and heading sugar beet, but helps to take it to the beet factory. She says in her letter—"We had a great surprise there about the second time I helped to unload; one of the supervisors came to tell us we had broken the record of the factory by unloading a six ton lorry of sugar beet in twenty-one minutes; he made the remark that it usually takes two men twenty-three minutes."

North'Td.—Northumberland has raised £89 5s. 8d. for the Benevolent Fund by a variety of efforts. Two Harvest Home dances organised in Glendale by Mrs. Rea brought in £6. Another dance organised by two men friends of Wooler Hostel made £8 12s. and Iris Ritson's whist drive and dance raised £5 10s. 3d. A knitting party in Middlesbrough sent £3 3s. through a friend of a member of the County Welfare Committee—altogether splendid work in many directions. The Red Cross Agriculture Fund has also benefited this month through a dance organised by R. Knox, L. Smith and M. Simpkin at Warenford. Various activities for the winter are being planned at the hostels and it is hoped that volunteers in billets will be able to join in these, which include Agricultural Brains Trust evenings (to be run with the help of the W.A.C.), Keep Fit classes, First Aid and Home Nursing lectures, handicrafts, lectures on Current Events and on Health. An inter-hostel drama competition is to be held in Newcastle in April. An essay competition will begin after New Year with a prize for the best sent in and also prizes for the best essay from each Rural District. Particulars will be given at hostels and may be obtained from the County Office.

Our volunteers in employment now number 1,000. The most urgent demand is for dairy workers, not necessarily with experience but willing to learn. Women have proved that they are exceedingly good at this work and we hope for more volunteers for it.

The N.F.Y.F.C. asks us to correct an error which appeared in the County News in November, where it was stated that Byker had started a Young Farmers' Club in connection with the Girls' Training Corps. The Byker Y.F.C. has no connection with the G.T.C.



## THE LAND GIRL

**Salop.**—Another Hostel has recently opened, bringing our total up to eight. Arrangements have been made for a regular supply of books to each hostel from the County Library and it is hoped that non-resident volunteers in the various districts will make use of these new library centres. We wish to thank Messrs. Lever Bros. for their courtesy in sending Mrs. MacPherson for nearly a week to Shropshire. During her stay here Mrs. MacPherson gave knitting and dress renovation demonstrations and many useful hints on 'make up' at five centres, and the appreciation of the volunteers quite dispels the rumours that Land Girls are not interested in feminine matters. At Ellesmere she spoke jointly to W.L.A. and G.T.C. members. Dorothy Barber, W.L.A. 28014, Mayoress of Bridgnorth, has asked us to thank the 97 volunteers who supported her on Civic Sunday by taking part in the Church Parade, which was her first public function. Great concern was felt earlier in the day when we learned that Miss Barber had a temperature of 102. Fortunately in spite of the cold day she suffered no ill effects and it was a real thrill to see a Mayoress in W.L.A. Uniform.

**Somerset.**—The principal event of the last two months has been the opening on the 9th Nov. of Steambow Farmhouse, Pilton, as a training centre for members of the W.L.A. The farm is a very large one in the ownership of the W.A.C. and with their co-operation a dairy instructress has been appointed, and relays of volunteers are being taught to milk. The number of trainees is at present limited to 8 at a time, but side by side with them are 12 girls doing field work on the farm. The farmhouse makes an attractive hostel, and we hope that Steambow will become known before long for the excellence of its training. Another new departure has been the provision of 12 girls to form gangs for the spraying of orchard trees. Two sets of volunteers have already received training at the Long Ashton Research Station and we wish them luck when they start out on their new work, clad in protective oilskins and sou'westers. A new hostel for workers for the W.A.C. was opened on 16th Nov. at The Limes, Williton. It speaks well for the courage of the London volunteers that they have not been daunted by weather conditions on the Brendon Hills. We also have 3 members working a Cub Excavator in the Ilchester district. We would like to give a special welcome to the many Lancashire members now coming into the County. The Yeovil Club had a most successful dance on 24th Oct., putting the Club on a sound financial basis and providing £10 for the H.Q. Benevolent Fund. Yatton L.G.'s dance raised £16 for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund; Beckington Hostel raised £2 16s. 0d. at a whist drive on 16th Dec. North Petherton as carol singers raised £2 15s. 0d. for the Prisoners of War Fund. Christmas parties were held in the hostels, and 50 L.Gs. and their friends enjoyed a splendid evening at Yeovil on 19th Dec. On the same day, members in Bishops Lydeard district were entertained by their Representative.

Clubs have been started at Bridgwater and Brew-ham, and we hope shortly to open one in Taunton and to amalgamate with other war Services at a club in Crewkerne. We are very glad to welcome Mrs. Amor as our second County Organiser, in addition to Mrs. Young.

**Staffs.**—December has been notable chiefly for the number of parties. On 5th Dec. the girls at the Wall Heath Hostel gave a party, which was excellent in every way, from the marvellous decorations, music and refreshments to the Christmas tree lit with electric lights. All praise to Laura Whaley and the other girls who ran it so ably. Of a party on 6th Dec. at Brewwood Hostel, K. Cooper, 67,463 writes: "A very happy crowd of Land Girls from miles round gathered together for the first anniversary of the opening of the hostel. Tea was provided by our hostess, Mrs. Hatton, who is Representative for Brewwood and the surrounding

area. A speech by Col. Hatton was heartily applauded. The birthday cake was made by Miss Ashworth, our Assistant Warden, and cut by J. Foster. We are all very grateful to Col. and Mrs. Hatton, and our Head Warden, Miss Holmes." On 22nd Dec. a party was held at the Loggerheads Hostel. A large Xmas dinner was miraculously provided, and was followed by games and dancing. Miss Webb, the Warden, is to be congratulated on her efforts.

Staffordshire had the honour of a visit from the Victory Calf this month, and large sums were raised for the Red Cross. Many thanks to the Land Girls who helped in the collection at Wolverhampton.

**E. Suffolk.**—The chief item of "news" from this county concerns the Clubs which are springing up. Whether for entertainment or education, or merely as opportunities of meeting fellow Land Girls, there seems to be a real demand for these Clubs. With the aid of our new Welfare Sub-committee we hope to be able to help launch several more early in the New Year, and that they will be as successful as those already started in Eye, Bungay, Woodbridge and Copdock. We also hope that our hostels will be used more and more as "social centres" where girls from private farms can join in whatever dances, socials or film shows, etc., are being arranged.

On November 25th there was a very pleasant party at the Trefoil and Triangle Rest Rooms, Ipswich. This was on the occasion of the presentation of £5 in Award Money kindly given for distribution to Land Girls in E. Suffolk by the Suffolk Agricultural Association. Our Chairman, Lady Cranworth, invited the 40 volunteers who had been chosen by the W.L.A. Committee as award winners or eligible for special commendation, to tea. There were amusing and encouraging speeches by the director of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, and an American officer, in command on an aerodrome "somewhere in East Anglia," and games to end a happy evening.

There seems to be no falling off even at this so-called slack season in the demand for Land Girls. We have heard excellent reports from many sides of the way our volunteers have stuck, almost literally sometimes, to their jobs in mud and rain, such as are seldom experienced in this part of England. One Land Girl, who must be nameless, has earned what must surely be the highest possible praise, her farmer's wife announcing "Honestly, if we had had the whole of the Land Army to choose from I don't believe we could possibly have got a better girl."

**West Suffolk.**—We have had rather a lot of resignations just lately due to various reasons. Marriages are one of the nicest causes and account for seven this month. To all these volunteers we send our heartiest congratulations and wish every happiness.

Shimpling hostel has just completed its first training programme, and thirty Cockneys are to be replaced by thirty Yorkshire lassies. To celebrate the end of a very happy period the hostel gave a farewell party, which the County Secretary and County Organiser attended, and which the Army helped to enliven.

**W. Sussex** L.Gs. living near Chichester, will be glad to hear that their Representative, Miss Bray, has been appointed to the Committee in place of Mrs. Bailey who has become part-time Organiser for the county. Parties and dances have been plentiful and County Council classes are very popular. Bury has started a very successful club although it is in an intensely rural area—we hope every village will have one in 1943.

**N. Wales.**—Land Girls nowadays partake in many activities and are prominent on so many occasions. Just at present everybody seems to be engaged in making special efforts to support the Benevolent Fund. A very large number of girls



have made individual contributions and from all accounts almost every district intends to arrange activities. Hostels have done excellently, Llwydiarth sent £6, the proceeds of a whist drive, Llanerchymedd £11, the profit of a hostel dance and the dance at Welshpool organised by Coedyddinas realised the splendid figure of £23, a sum which I believe the girls at Menai Bridge intend to beat. Miss Williams, our Port Dinorwic representative, arranged a most successful whist drive which with individual contributions has meant a total of £21 6s. 9d. from that district. Llanstymdwy W.L.A. Club have been very active sending £14 to the Fund and also assisting to form a new Land Army club at Pwllheli. Llanstymdwy Club have been very fortunate in receiving a most welcome gift of a gramophone from Mr. Lloyd George, who spent his boyhood in the village where the club meets. We would like to thank Miss Griffith for her hospitality to well over a hundred Land Girls who met at Menai Bridge Hostel to receive good service badges, and also Miss Wilkinson for the party she gave to the Llandudno girls at which good service badges were also distributed. Sincere congratulations on the work you have done in 1942, the very best of luck to you all in 1943.

Miss Dobie, 59736, Chairman of Llanstymdwy club writes: "We have now 16 members and meet regularly. We have had lectures on agriculture, clean milk, the convoy system, travel, National Savings groups, and Burma. We invited several members of the W.R.N.S. to a social evening and we are going to visit their camp. We have raised £14 for the Benevolent Fund through a whist drive. We hope to start the New Year with an inter-Services party.

**Wilts.**—G. Thompson, 60618, writes "An employer of two of our members gave us a fine tea party the other day. As we approached, a man was sweeping away the mud from the drive so we concluded the red carpet must have the moth in. . . . After glamourising ourselves as only Land Girls can, we ate with relish the good spread prepared for us—I must make special mention of the jam tarts, they were super! After tea, we had a jolly good pow wow in front of a lovely fire with a box of cigarettes. Going home our Representative squeezed 8 of us into her car—we reached the local dance hall in grand style and there disposed of our surplus energy."

**Worcs.**—Threshing has now been in full swing for some weeks, after an uneasy start when new recruits for this arduous work were enlisted and the harvest rhythm stood in danger of becoming disorganised. This important work has gone forward splendidly and the time has come to congratulate the threshing gangs now hard at work, on the way they have tackled this new work and proved, in the teeth of criticism and apprehension, that women can not only do the work but do it well and enjoy it too: in spite of the physical skill and endurance needed, the dirty nature of the work and the very great difficulties of transport and organisation. We congratulate them heartily.

Worcestershire is enthusiastic about the Benevolent Fund and amongst its efforts to raise subscriptions, arranged a stall at the Cattle Market on Monday, 14th December. The stall was a great attraction as it offered anything from toys made by many L.Gs. to cakes and live stock presented by employers, and looked most attractive decorated with boughs of holly and mistletoe. In the afternoon in brilliant sunshine a large crowd gathered for the auction and against the baa-ing of sheep and squealing of pigs, the auctioneer's voice and the gusts of laughter from the crowd rose into the keen winter air. Live poultry, two calves and a small indignant pig brought good bidding, while six guinea pigs provided £4 for the Welfare of the Women's Land Army.

Many Land Girls gave valuable assistance to Committee and Office Staff who organised the stall; which exceeded all expectations and realised £72 10s. 0d.

## County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Employed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	24	7	0	3752
Kent	133	9	6	3091
Essex	14	4	9	2510
Hants	26	2	9	1786
Leics 1453	39	1	6	1709
Rut 256	17	8	3	1690
Herts	25	0	0	1660
E. Sussex	37	3	9	1521
Surrey	29	7	8	1471
Northants	32	0	0	1365
Worcs.	103	6	6	1343
Warwicks	52	17	6	1328
Bucks	35	13	0	1321
Somerset	25	13	6	1275
Holl. & K.	81	1	6	1237
W. Sussex	11	14	9	1203
Cheshire	28	17	0	1179
Lancs	24	2	6	1167
Wilts	145	19	0	1148
Glos.	11	2	6	1094
Norfolk	115	10	0	1059
Berks	48	1	1	1058
Devon	8	15	0	1018
Notts	70	12	5	958
North'l'd	5	5	6	872
Salop	6	0	0	834
Cornwall	49	17	5	818
Hunts 243	27	0	0	799
Cambs 406	70	16	9	770
Ely 169	48	10	0	760
Oxon	11	5	0	737
Cum. & West	24	19	0	663
E. Suffolk	4	3	6	622
Dorset	(nil)			613
Staffs	100	15	0	575
S. Wales	5	0	6	570
Durham	126	9	3	565
Lindsey	43	14	1	510
Glam	15	10	4	496
N. Wales	53	1	5	510
W. Suffolk	25	0	4	506
Monmouth	10	5	0	404
Herefords	17	13	6	360
Beds	3	12	0	360
Bedbig	2	6	0	339
Lon. & Middx.	—			291
Flints	—			275
Derbys				
I. of W.				
Brecks & Radnor				

On 31st Dec., 1942, there were 52,945 volunteers in employment.

### "THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly.

3d. per copy, 3s. per year, 1s. 6d. per six months, post free. Cash with order. Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.