

# WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

This copy of the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine has been downloaded from the Royal Voluntary Service Archive & Heritage Collection online catalogue.

This copy is distributed under a [CC Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs \(CC BY-NC-ND\)](#) Creative Commons licence.

This work is copyright © Royal Voluntary Service 1939-2015 or third party contributors (where credited on individual articles).

You can find more information on the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine and the digitisation project on our webpage [www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/bulletin](http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/bulletin)

Any enquiries regarding use of the material contained in this copy, not covered by the Creative Commons licence, or the principals of fair dealing should be directed in the first instance to: [archive@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:archive@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

Public sector information in the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Registered office:

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RP.

Registered charity no. 1015988 & SC038924, Registered in England 2520413



No. 48

## THE BULLETIN

October 1943

## W.V.S. AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

*"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. . . . For every man shall bear his own burden."*—Gal. vi.

THIS was the text of the inspiring address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a special service held at Canterbury Cathedral on 19th September to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the formation of W.V.S.

## PERFECT SPIRIT OF SERVICE

The Primate said that, taken together, those two sentences expressed the perfect spirit of service. The first need was to be sure that we bore our own burdens and next to see who was in need of help within the range of our own activities and to give that help.

The great organisation which had brought so great a company together in that Cathedral that afternoon illustrated that principle in a most conspicuous degree, for nearly all, if not quite all of them who were giving voluntary service through the W.V.S. were first of all carrying their own burdens. Apart from the organisation, they were people with their own responsibilities in life, with their own homes to manage and their own duties to perform. That voluntary service was something over and above anything that could be described as an obligation. They carried their own burdens and then sought to find those who, because of the circumstances of life, and especially because of the action of the enemy, might have found their burdens more than they could carry—and it was to those that the W.V.S. members offered their help.

## THE TEMPTATION

They needed, in these times, to keep that side of the question in mind if their service was to be complete. There was, no doubt, always a temptation in that group of people who had a special bent for service to others to diminish their immediate responsibilities and not to bear their own burdens—to become passengers in the boat. They were not likely to contribute much unless they pulled their weight and then took the fullest share of whatever additional effort was needed—in the common burden.

## CREATED FELLOWSHIP

True service always produced fellowship and was impossible without it. As they came together in a company dedicated to a common cause, the true spirit of service appeared and the true spirit of fellowship with it. And when it was service of a great cause like that of the nation or any part of the nation like a county or a city, that fellowship became one that overleapt what had hitherto been barriers between men.

It needed something beyond that to which to dedicate themselves if there was to be true fellowship. They all of them had had experience of that spirit in a way which they had found most precious to themselves and in a way which was of supreme value to the nation. The W.V.S. had brought together women of every type of outlook and of every background of life, united in dedication to the one great cause.

## SPARE TIME SERVICE

It was a voluntary service and, therefore, for most of the members was a spare time service—in time which would otherwise have been leisure. It was often the kind of service which won comparatively little applause—the need for help at a British Restaurant, or a canteen, for washing up—one of the most necessary but least spectacular of services, given with as much ungrudging willingness as for any kind of service

in which there was great popular glory involved or for which some great distinction was given.

It was the spirit which enabled the nation to become great and without which the greatest achievements could not have been won. It was the readiness to do dull hard jobs with a willing spirit.

### CHANNEL OF HUMAN KINDNESS

After all, the W.V.S. had been the channel through which sheer human kindness had flowed in great abundance to those who, from time to time, had been in peculiar distress, especially in helping in the re-housing of bombed-out families. That was worth much in itself, but the effect of it on the morale of the people had proved of incalculable value. There was no limit to the extent of the benefits given in that way.

Referring to the future, when the claims of war would no longer be pressing upon them, the Archbishop asked "Can we retain this spirit of service in the days that follow?" He had no idea whether or not there would be a permanent form of the W.V.S., but he confessed that he hoped that there would still be an organisation such as now, interested in other people's needs that might still exist and in their own way be just as pressing.

### REMEMBER WAR'S LESSONS

"Let us be sure in our hearts," he urged, "that the lessons learnt in war shall not be lost, and that the old barriers shall not again begin to divide men."

How were they to prevent that? He emphasised that much of what had been done was prompted by a kind of self-interest, for none of them could bear to face what a Nazi victory would mean, and he warned them of the danger that would follow, once peace came, from succumbing to the temptation to relax, rest and indulge themselves as far as the resources of the world would allow. Much of what had been gained would be lost and they would be without the spirit which might carry them from great achievements of war to still greater achievements in peace.

The spirit of service would not have a lasting measure of success without a spirit of dedication—the spirit of the Divine Love, that spirit which had already guided their movement.

The Primate urged that they should help make their country an example to the world of a nation which was happy and prosperous within itself because it was dedicated to the God of Love. The spirit of the W.V.S. was the spirit of Christ and from Him they should, in the years to come, receive the inspiration to service as complete as they were now rendering.

## W.V.S. OVERSEAS

### W.V.S. IN IRAK

W.V.S. was started in the British Embassy, Baghdad, in the summer of 1940, and its activities have been very diverse. They include canteen work, parcels for prisoners of war, providing and running libraries for hospitals and soldiers' clubs, entertaining the troops, knitting comforts and a working party, which makes anything needed by the hospitals and also clothes for refugees. They were able to send a large number of garments to Iran for the Poles who came out of Russia, and are now working for the Greeks. Although only British women are entitled to become W.V.S. members, many Iraqi ladies help with the knitting and sewing, and French, Poles and other nationalities give W.V.S. most valuable assistance.

### W.V.S. IN TURKEY

W.V.S. in the British Embassy in Ankara was started by Lady Knatchbull Hugessen in the spring of 1940, and consisted of a work party of twenty-seven with a branch work-party in Smyrna, and three packing centres—at Ankara, Smyrna and Istanbul. Large parcels of clothes began reaching W.V.S. Headquarters in August 1940 and continued until 1942 when owing to more urgent local demands the consignments stopped. The W.V.S. then turned their attention to enlarging their help to British Prisoners of War to whom they sent nuts, dried fruits, figs, sultanas, prunes, apricots and Turkish cigarettes. They provided 1200 parcels a month and sent these largely to individual prisoners with relatives living in Turkey, until the authorities decreed that the parcels should be sent to Camp Captains to ensure more equal distribution.

W.V.S. in Turkey also knits ceaselessly for the R.A.F. in Cairo, and for Greek, Slav and Russian refugees. There are work parties in all foreign Embassies also and, as the Ambassador says, "we all go to each other's work parties, so it savours of taking in each other's washing, but at any rate it all promotes solidarity."

## W.V.S. IN PALESTINE

The following is an extract from a letter written by a soldier serving in Palestine to his mother in the W.V.S. :

"MY DEAR FOLKS,—Here's Friday of my week's leave and I have only written an Air Mail card to you—so all my good resolutions of getting my correspondence up to date.

"Chiefly to blame, or I should say to thank are the W.V.S. here. They have a very fine system of "invitations." Any of the forces who wish to be invited out, leave their names and call later. From a list they compile "Invite cards," and at the time and place stated one duly presents oneself. The aptitude of those people to make one feel at home is amazing. . . . I have actually been out five times on such invitations and each time thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Although invited for 'Tea at 4.30' we have never been able to get away before 7.30.

"... besides the "invites" already mentioned different social activities are held, including dances, bridge, Brains' Trust, garden fetes, etc., in fact something different every day. In addition to which they organise sight-seeing excursions to places of interest and we booked to Jerusalem on one of these. This trip, as you can well imagine, was intensely interesting but very tiring. The large photograph is of the party, taken on a hill overlooking the town. I am afraid the group, and myself particularly, is not at all flattering, but it's a grand view of the old walled city. . . .

"That was one complete day of the leave. The others have been spent all more or less as follows: Up at 8.15, after breakfast down to the beach there to swim and sun bathe until 12.30, then to lunch at the W.V.S. and back for a nap in the afternoon; tea at our 4.30 'invite,' dinner at Toc H. at 7.30, then back to W.V.S. for whatever is going on in the evening. So you see that the W.V.S. plays quite a large part in the enjoyment of our leave. I would really like you to write to the lady in charge, Mother, who is a Mrs. —, they are really doing fine work. . . .

## A MOBILE LIBRARY IN EAST SUSSEX

WE serve four sites of English troops and four of girls; the men are C.M.P. and A.A. and the girls A.T.S.

When we took over, the system had been to deliver a box of 40 books at each site and collect the box previously issued, but I found that 40 were really more than the men could get through and we reduced the number to 20, getting some smaller boxes of manageable weight. (These, incidentally, do not lend themselves so fatally well to use as tables, cooking-stove rests, food stores, dart boards and so on, as internal evidence showed that the big boxes with strong lids had done !)

At first we had only men in our rounds, small groups working searchlights or other unearthly contraptions in wet fields, or C.M.P. guarding unmentionable stores. Their tastes are simple—almost too simple. "Westerns" and easier murders are popular and return late and tea-stained. "The Four Feathers" is regarded as really fine reading for the serious minded but above the range of the majority.

The inclusion of girls in our rounds meant quite a new range of books, and we were able at once to take down the unused biography, travel and history books from the upper shelves in our storeroom. One group went so far as to say that they were "tired of love muck," could do with a nice murder occasionally, but would prefer history, and so on. They balked at "Science" however, but another unit was found purring over a mild work on the starry heavens and we are putting them through a course of Jeans.

The girls are altogether easier to serve; they have a more highly developed sense of property and, unlike the men, do not try to palm off on us books belonging, say to the Worthing Free Library, the Y.M.C.A. or individual members of the unit. The men, on the other hand, feel that a book is merely a book and regard me as an unreasonable being when I refuse to regard *The Love Nest* as an adequate substitute for *A Fort in the Jungle*. The girls do not lose their books; perhaps because they have officers to keep them up to scratch, but also no doubt because they do not move about so often. We may get a corporal on an A.A. site nicely trained in our ways and he is then posted elsewhere, and the newcomer disclaims all knowledge of our books and responsibility for them.

In some ways it is a heartbreaking job; books get lost and then turn up in another unit; the really popular ones become torn, if they do not disappear altogether, and our card-index seems never to be entirely accurate. But there are gleams of consolation, as when a request for gardening books can be met, and that leads to a present of

raspberry canes, and a successful crop just harvested on a very unlikely spot ; or when we get a heartfelt address of appreciation of the *Four Feathers* or a crowd of delight from a roomful of A.T.S. (who have usually just washed their hair when we call) as they fall, brush in hand, on Noel Coward's *Present Indicative* or Wyndham Lewis's *Hitler* (pronounced hopefully, "Mean Camp").

## PORTRAIT OF A LADY

MISS C—— is tall, gaunt and of uncertain age. Her dress, the flower-trimmed hat and the way she walks (she will tell you about her bad legs) suggest at once that she is one of the "ladies who oblige" . . . a charwoman.

She presented rather a problem when she came into a W.V.S. office some weeks ago, stating she wished to take up voluntary work. She explained that she had several brothers in the Services, and when home on leave they were always telling her that she was not doing anything to help the war effort. She had pointed out to them that she worked hard all day, but they had waived that aside. "That's your ordinary work, which you are paid for." So she had come to the W.V.S. to offer her services in her spare . . . very little spare . . . time.

The Centre Organiser cautiously put forward the suggestion, "Canteen work" . . . the only suitable occupation she could think of at that moment, but seeing Miss C——'s eyes, with a professional gleam in them wandering over the office, she hastily amended the suggestion to "Would you come here to help us? We have no domestic help, and all of us have to tidy and clean the offices before we can get down to our ordinary work. It would save so much valuable time if you would help us."

Miss C—— nodded happily. Yes, she would clean the offices, if they did not mind the hours she kept. She would have to fit it in with her other duties.

The new recruit is seldom seen, but there is much evidence of her work done between seven and eight in the morning and late at night. The offices appear miraculously clean each day, and one might think the "little people" of the Hans Andersen story had been there were it not for notes that are left on the desk. . . . "I didn't have time to do all this floor this morning, but will finish it to-morrow. I've taken the dusters home to wash." Note of thanks and any messages are pinned to the mop Miss C—— will use when next she comes.

She has been asked to call at the office during the daytime that she may be officially enrolled as a W.V.S. member and given a badge to show that she is a member of the organisation, but up to the present Miss C—— has been too busy to call. We doubt if she realises what a grand piece of work she is doing . . . this lady of the mop and duster.

## EMERGENCY LAND WORKERS

PLYMPTON North Area started land work at the beginning of June with five or six members, who volunteered to do four hours work on two afternoons a week. They set forth one Monday from the Court House, Plympton, with spirits willing, but anxiety lest the flesh should prove weak, and taken to a market garden some four miles away. They were returned again at 6 p.m. tired but happy. The experiment was a great success, and their employer expressed his satisfaction and asked them to come again. Each time they brought more women with them, until now they have gangs of fifteen to eighteen operating on Mondays and Thursdays, and anything from five to ten on Wednesdays and Fridays, and instead of a Vauxhall 10 they now crowd into a huge lorry, which has been fitted up with wooden seats—if the road is specially bumpy they sometimes land on the floor, but they love it! Their flesh is no longer weak, their appetites are enormous, they have made friends with people they had not met before, and they get a tremendous lot of fun and amusement out of it all. The only anxiety now is whether the soap ration will last out!

All sorts of jobs come along, first the harvesting of peas and beans, and one afternoon eight members picked over a ton of beans in four hours. Then there is potato picking, rather a back-aching job, and not quite so popular, though one day the men who were scuffling the potatoes said they could not go fast enough to keep ahead of the women who were picking them up! Twenty bags were asked for and thirty filled! Some have sprayed apple trees, to kill the mealy bug, and others picked tomatoes, hoed potatoes and helped with the hay harvest. Each gang has a gang leader, who deals with the employer on behalf of the others, and as far as possible the employer arranges from day to day with the gang leader as to when he will next require them and also about transport and wages. Their minimum rate of pay is 10d. per hour, but they are often paid 1s. per hour. They *have* to be paid, as it is a rule of the land, but they can of course hand this over to charity if they wish. Sometimes additional payment is made in kind—one or two lbs. of tomatoes!

## CENTRE FLASHES

10,000 pies a week are distributed in **St. Thomas R.D., Exeter.**

Two food decontamination squads have been formed at **Kingsbridge**, at the request of the R.D.C.

Out of a total of 218, 217 members of **Winsford, Cheshire**, have taken all their Basic Training lectures.

**Portsmouth** was given the vegetables from a Harvest Thanksgiving Service for their vegetables for the Navy Scheme.

**Ipswich** at the request of the Ministry of Labour has sent out 48 concert parties to entertain civilian workers in construction camps since January.

**Portslade** has an eighty-four-year-old member who attends the British Restaurant regularly for washing glasses and silver.

**Ross-on-Wye** has been told that they are the only W.V.S. Centre which supplies volunteers for watch-room duty at the N.F.S. Station during the day time. They have been doing this for two years.

One unit of soldiers the **Nant Conway** canteen visits has presented the canteen with a plaque with their Divisional Crest. Wonderful results were achieved with a box lid, a nail and some crude paint.

Over 4600 garments have been mended by the same four women attached to an evacuee hostel in **Camborne-Redruth**, which has just closed after having dealt with 3000 children.

**Exeter** was asked by a R.A.F. sergeant if they could repair a very badly torn sports cardigan, with a specially beautifully embroidered regimental badge. A member took it home and practically remade it most successfully.

Recently **Rugby** received a letter from a Petty Officer asking them to go to a garage in the town to retrieve some books and photos of his wife which he had left there a year ago. The parcel was sent off the same day!

**Edgware** received a letter from a factory thanking them for saving 2400 working hours of their employees (this represents nearly 500 men's work for a week) by dealing with the ration books and identity cards of their employees.

**Birmingham** provided 4 food leaders and 4 members to meet the American and Canadian food delegation who when in that Region, wanted to discuss rationing problems with women whose income was in the £4 a week category.

The Centre Secretary at **Littleborough**, took charge of a sub-post office for two and a half days during the holidays at home week in order to relieve the usual staff. Fortunately she had had previous experience in this work.

When the milk ran short at an agricultural show at **Neath** a W.V.S. helper

suggested that a cow be milked. The Prize Cow and others obliged and W.V.S. were able to serve hundreds more teas.

One of the features in the **Erdington** Hostel for Women is the laundry, which may be used by any girl in the Forces, whether she has slept in the Hostel or not. Many girls are glad of the opportunity to do a little personal washing and ironing.

At **Weston - super - Mare** a Com-mando, having to find his own billet, enquired at a house with a Housewives' window card for accommodation. After making arrangements he told our member that he chose her house because he had never been refused any request he had made to the W.V.S.

**Eye** canteen keeps in touch with some of the regiments now serving overseas, and in a letter to one of the staff, one man said that in the middle of a North African battle he had a sudden vision of one of the canteen salads, and only wished someone would bring him one on a tray!

A Canadian Sergeant called on the **Alton** Centre and asked if they could find some very small beads to send back to the Indians in the Cree Reservation in Saskatchewan, who depend on the making of toys and ornaments for a living. An enormous quantity of beads were duly collected.

**Waddesdon** School children bring to school on one pre-arranged day of the week the salvage from their own homes, in an empty sandbag allocated for the purpose. These sandbags are marked individually with the address of every cottage in the village. As a result nearly double the monthly average of salvage is produced.

**Dorking Rural** has made plans to open a Toy and Book Exchange for children for the Christmas season. The toys and books will be "pointed" on their condition and the vouchers issued in connection with this exchange have to be spent by a certain date, after which they will become invalid. Toys left over are to be given to a war nursery for Christmas.

The Services Canteen at **Peterborough** has now been open day and night, 7 days a week for four years. There is a W.V.S. organiser for each day in the week who is responsible for seeing that all the five shifts are filled during the 24 hours for which she is responsible. Five of the six organisers (one takes two days) have done this work since the canteen first opened in 1939. Altogether during this time over 7000 shifts have been staffed.

## SIX MONTHS OF SALVAGE IN BELFAST

AT the beginning of this year the Belfast Corporation asked us if we would co-operate in their intensified Salvage Scheme for the city, and the chief job that the Corporation Salvage Committee has so far given us is the organisation of a Street Steward Scheme for the whole city. There are approximately 3000 streets in Belfast, and by means of our decentralised organisation it was possible for the District Salvage Officer, through the Sub-District Organisers, Group and Street Leaders, to make contact with someone—generally a member of the Housewives' Section of W.V.S.—in each street who would become a Street Salvage Steward. This is pre-eminently a job for Housewives and in many cases the Street Housewife has become the Street Salvage Steward. I am very sorry that we don't have Housewives everywhere. In some places we have had to find Stewards who are not members of W.V.S., but all the Stewards are organised by the W.V.S. District Salvage Officers.

In six months we have enrolled over 1000 Stewards, in twelve months we hope to have 2000. The scheme has worked—so far—extremely well; the contact between W.V.S. and the Local Authority is very happy and very close. The Belfast W.V.S. Salvage Officer and her Deputy are members of the Corporation Salvage Committee. Our District Salvage Officers meet the Cleansing Superintendent every week in his office to discuss problems and difficulties as they arise. Our District and Sub-District Salvage Officers know the drivers and collectors on the vans and at intervals they go with the vans on their rounds. While this does certainly keep the collectors up to scratch, our women are a real help to them—smoothing out difficulties with irate and tiresome householders.

One very pleasant outcome of this co-operation was seen in the recent Book Drive. W.V.S. arranged that they would take lorries out through the residential areas every Wednesday evening in May to collect books—whereupon the drivers said that they would drive the vans voluntarily, and the collectors came too. The streets were canvassed by Stewards the week before, and co-operation on the van was so keen and so persistent, that the crews could only be persuaded to stop for the night when somewhat peevish householders were “knocked-up” out of their beds. Over 300,000 books were collected in this way—part of the 1½ million collected in the city during the Drive.

The Salvage results in Belfast have gone up and Salvage has become quite spectacular. This is our *first aim*. At the same time our “by-product” achievement has value of its own, *viz.* the simple lesson in civic responsibility and city management that we are all learning, and the evidence of the value of co-operation between official bodies and voluntary groups.

## TRAINING POST LEADERS IN A LONDON BOROUGH

From a narrative report

IT is now eight months since our first weekly meeting with our Post Leaders, and looking back it is amazing to see how they have developed, and how much ready they are to accept responsibility.

“During the eight months we have tried not only to keep them informed of W.V.S. work, and to suggest to them lines on which they should work in their own Posts, but we have tried to train them in leadership. This we have done by setting them problems which might arise in their own areas, and by making each of them write out the way they would deal with them; we have given them talks on how to run a meeting; we have let them bring their own problems, and discuss them in groups of threes; they have recently had a paper exercise to which our Controller came as one of the judges (and at which we invited the winning Basic Training team to take part); we have set them questions on subjects such as “rebuilding London” and have taken them to an exhibition set up by the Bethnal Green school children showing how they would like their own borough rebuilt, and a discussion which they found most helpful.

“It is interesting to note the difference in their attitude at their weekly meetings—at first we could not get them to say a word, but now they have lost their shyness and are ready to discuss anything at all. They tell us that they look forward to their Monday evening meetings and would not miss them for anything, and certainly the attendance is extremely good.

"In addition to these weekly meetings, each Post Leader takes her own Post meeting of Street Leaders and members, and in some cases takes a second meeting in the afternoon for those who cannot come in the evening.

"R" Post, which up till now has had only an afternoon work-party on the Post, has this month started an evening meeting, when the Post Leader was able to take the chair properly, and did it most successfully."

## ECONOMY SECTION

### CHRISTMAS MAKE DO AND MEND COMPETITION

A COMPETITION open to all W.V.S. Centres in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is to be held this Autumn for the most ingenious and original exhibits, which will be judged on their utility, ingenuity and workmanship. A challenge shield will be presented to the winning Centre to be held for one year.

The rules are as follows :

1. The exhibit must be made from something that is useless or of no practical value in its present condition.
2. Only one exhibit can be sent in from each Centre.
3. There must be no ancillary expenditure above 1s.
4. The exhibit must be clearly marked (a) with the name and address of the W.V.S. Centre from which it was sent, (b) what it was made from and (c) how it was made.
5. The Centre Organiser will be responsible for the authenticity of the exhibit.

As only one exhibit can be sent to London from each Centre it is suggested that if necessary an eliminating contest might be held by the Centre, County or the County Borough. Centres will be receiving a C.N. about the competition, including such information as the closing date, which is to be 6th December 1943.

### GARMENTS FOR EXHIBITIONS

As it is so very difficult to borrow samples of Make Do and Mend work for exhibition purposes, Region 2 have asked work parties and Make Do and Mend Classes in the Region to send in contributions to a central pool or supply the necessary raw materials which would enable a permanent exhibition to be set up. They have supplied the work parties with a very comprehensive list, copies of which can be obtained from the Economy Section at Headquarters. Below are a few examples :

**HOUSEHOLD LINEN.** A tray cloth and table napkin made out of a worn tablecloth. Two worn huckaback towels cross machined together. A turkish towel patched.

**BED LINEN.** Pillow cases—two made from a double bolster case, showing side opening strengthened with tape. Under pillow case made from part of worn sheet. Two worn blankets joined sides to middle showing (1) Darn and (2) Patch.

**FURNISHINGS.** Repairs to net curtains. Loose cover turned and showing extra arm protection for easy-chairs and chesterfield. Exhibit illustrating repairs to matting and door mat.

**PERSONAL LINEN.** A shirt patched and renovated. Overall or apron made from discarded cretonne curtains. Ready-made children's wear re-inforced.

**DRESS RENOVATION.** Knitted garments made from unpicked wool. Re-modelled sleeve to square shoulder line.

**TAILORING RENOVATION.** Garment turned. Re-inforcement with leather patches for binding.

## NOTES OF THE MONTH

### W.V.S. CIRCULAR NOTICES

The following notices have been issued to Centres since the middle of July :

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| CN A15/43     | Control of Employment (Notice of Termination of Employment) Order, 1943. |
| CN C4/5/43    | Replacement of lost 1943/44 Clothing Coupons.                            |
| CN F3/43      | Addendum. Pottery Permits.   |
| CN M8/9/10/43 | Utility Furniture.   |
| CN S1/43      | Salvage—sales and disposals.   |

### W.V.S. AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

We are grateful to the Editor of the *Kent Herald* for allowing us to reprint the report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's address in the *Bulletin*.

## FOOD NEWS

### SUPPLIES OF SOFT DRINKS IN PUBLIC HOUSES

IN a letter to Lady Reading, Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, says :

"I have seen several recent complaints that supplies of soft drinks have been reduced and that there is a shortage of them in public houses and Service canteens. This alleged shortage is, however, more apparent than real, and arises from a policy which we have deliberately adopted.

"In order to economise transport and labour, and to make the best use of the limited supplies of raw materials now available, we have reduced the output of mineral waters which consist mainly of water and gas. We are, however, making up for this by doubling the output of squashes and cordials to which the consumer adds water himself. In this way, we are obtaining the total quantity of soft drinks in the form in which they are finally consumed at the level which obtained in 1940-41.

"This is a very reasonable provision and will cause little or no hardship to people who are prepared to change over from fizzy to still drinks. From your particular reference to ginger ale and lemonade, I would conclude that the difficulties your Committee have in mind are experienced by people who have not yet accustomed themselves to this necessary change. I would, therefore, welcome any assistance which your organisation can give us in making the position clear."

### FOOD VALUE OF NUTS

Nuts are of a very high nutritive value, and bulk for bulk dry nuts are amongst the most nutritious food we possess. Nuts contain protein, the body building factor, and when suitably prepared they can form substitutes for meat. They are an even more concentrated food than cheese.

Of the members of this class of food chestnuts are of the greatest general use in diet, due to containing a high proportion of carbohydrate along with the protein and fat. The almond is another valuable nut to be included, as it contains a large amount of protein and is also a rich source of fat. It should be picked at the beginning of November when the outer husk cracks and the nuts fall free. Hazel nuts and cob nuts should be gathered early in October and about two weeks later further north. Damp weather delays the crop, so wait until good weather before going "nutting." These nuts are best dried in their husks; allow to dry in the sun for a few hours and then lay on a shelf in a dry, airy room. If the husks have been removed they can be stored in stone jars. Covered with a layer of sand and kept in a cool, dry place they should be in good condition for Christmas.

Beech nuts should be shelled when ripe. Shake out the kernels, sprinkle with salt and bake until crisp. Store in jars. Almonds are stored in the same way. Chop or put through the mincing machine and use for soups, savoury dishes, cutlets, cakes and sprinkle over milk puddings or eat whole.

### RECIPES FROM WALES

**WAR-TIME TEISIEN-LAP.** This cake used to be made with thick, sour cream; but it is almost as good mixed with sour milk.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. self-raising flour, 3 oz. lard, 3 oz. sugar, pinch of mixed spice, any fruit available, not much of it, 1 reconstituted egg. Sift flour, etc. into basin, rub in fat. Add fruit and then mix to a soft, wet dough with the sour milk. Bake in a shallow, greased tin in moderate oven (Regulo 4) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. (till firm to touch in middle). Serve cut in thick squares or wedges.

**CHEESE DREAMS.** Slice cheese very thinly and place between two slices of bread and margarine. Then fry these very slowly in hot fat. Serve very hot with a slice of bacon, or some scrambled egg on top of each. The cheese should melt and run, and bread be just golden-brown.

**WELSH POTATO PUDDING.**  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. cold mashed potato, 3 tablespoonfuls flour (heaped), 2 tablespoonfuls sugar (level), pepper, milk to mix to the consistency of thick batter mixture—should drop easily from the spoon. Mix flour, pepper, and potato well together, add milk and put into a greased pie-dish. Dot with margarine and bake till golden brown. Serve with a small piece of margarine on each helping—very hot.

**WELSH ONION.** This member of the onion tribe is as valuable in mid-winter as chives during spring and summer. It is a perennial that forms no bulbs, the foliage being used for flavouring salads, soups, etc. This foliage is very abundant and can be gathered even through the worst weeks of the winter. It is best raised annually from seed sown in drills a foot apart in March and April. Established plants can be divided every three or four years.

There is also a *Perpetual Onion* which is equally hardy and continues throughout the year. This one forms a bunch of scallions which can be broken off as required. This is very often called *Welsh Onion*, but is actually Japanese. Dig up the bunch, break off those you need for use and replant the others. They are rather like daffodil bulbs, and one or two will flavour soup, etc. deliciously. Very easy to grow!