

# WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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# WVS BULLETIN







Patron: H.M. The Queen

President: H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Chairman: The Dowager Marchioness of Reading, G.B.E. Vice Chairman: The Dowager Lady Hillingdon, D.B.E. Chairman for Scotland: Mrs. Purvis, O.B.E.

MAY Christmas this year be the happiest ever, happy for those you serve, happy for your families and happy for yourselves in the knowledge that you are surrounded by the atmosphere created through the things in which you believe.

May tangible things abound: good food, thoughtful gifts, fine weather, and above all may the things you mind about spiritually and ethically dominate everything else.

The most beautiful Christmas tree is the one which, whilst appearing the simplest in form, is in fact the best grown—the most upright, the fullest developed. The only additional beauty is the sparkle of the colour added to it. So may it be with this Christmastide. May that on which we build be beautiful in the true sense of the word but may we have the vision, the forethought and the will to supply the sparkle to what there is—so that all can enjoy the benefit.

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State (eating

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

# FAREWELL

### to the Tristan da Cunha Islanders

Letter to the Chairman from Mr. Nigel Fisher, M.G., M.P. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State



Colonial Office, Great Smith Street London, SW1 1st November, 1963

### ' Dear Lady Reading,

' I am writing to you on behalf of the Secretary of State to say how immensely grateful we are to the WVS for all that they did for the welfare of the Tristanians during the two years they were in this country. Right from the moment of their arrival to that of their departure the WVS have been quite wonderful in the way they have cared for these people and I do not know what we should have done without their help.

'I went down last week to see the main party off from Southampton. The WVS were, of course, there in force. They had borne the brunt of seeing 200 people, including many old people, sick people and children from their homes on to the boat, as well as giving them meals all that day. I think many of them had grown to have a great affection for the Tristanians and it was sad for them to see them go.

'I do assure you that we are most truly grateful for all that has been done for them by your headquarters staff, by the people who helped at Merstham and by those who helped at Calshot.

'Thank you so very much for the truly wonderful work which you and your remarkable organisation have done."

THE Tristan da Cunha Islanders have gone home in the spirit of determined independence which characterises them.

The parting was sad, for them and for WVS, who since their arrival in England in November 1961 have looked after them and become their friends.

In the early 19th century, Tristan, a remote South Atlantic island, was an army outpost for the main guard on St. Helena, where Napoleon lived as a captive. The community was founded by a corporal—William Glass —who stayed with his family on the island after Napoleon's death

The islanders are a very religious people who say a prayer in Church before starting their day's work. They do not gossip and are often unaware of what others in the tiny community are doing. The elderly are not left to pine alone and are marvellously looked after by relations, and the younger members of the family take it as their duty to comfort and visit them. 'Wherever Tristans are together' they say, 'no one goes without.'

There are no social differences among the islanders although a great deal of respect is paid to their head man, Mr Willie Repetto, and head woman, Mrs Martha Rogers. Time is not important—only the rising and setting of the sun: visitors often stay a whole day. This attitude, which seems so delightful to us, caused the Tristans much anxiety in England where buses had to be caught and where they had to be on time for work.



Three months after arrival in England the islanders moved from Pendell Camp, Surrey, where WVS had prepared their reception and looked after their welfare, to Calshot, on Southampton Water, where the houses of a disused R.A.F. Station had been prepared for them by the Hampshire WVS. The Tristans appreciated their new homes, but could not conceal their homesickness and longing to return.

In January, 1962, a Royal Society Expedition, accompanied by two of the islanders, landed at Tristan to make geological observations. They reported that they had been able to live in the settlement and that the boats were still intact. Hearing this news, the islanders began to agitate to return, their two main reasons being homesickness and illness: their first winter in England had taken a heavy toll in colds, coughs and chest complaints

Thus it came about that in September of the same year a party of twelve of Tristan's strongest men left for the island, who were joined six months later by an advance party of 52 islanders with the express purpose of preparing for the return of the whole community Accompanying the party were a chaplain, a teacher, an administrator, a doctor, an agriculturalist and a radio operator. So was the departure foreshadowed

The following letter was written by members of the advance party:

Tristan Da Cunha South Atlantic. 30.4.63

'Dear Mrs Thomas,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and happiness. Also I hope you are having some lovely summer weather over there now.

'The weather here is lovely, with plenty of sunshine and very little breeze.

'The volcano is quite big but not smoking. Some of the younger ones November 1961. Do you remember?

including Margaret have been down inside the crater. The only time it may smother a bit is when the wind comes from the East. The twelve who were out here before we came had a road made over the volcano, so now all of the men are busy making it larger.

'Thank you very much for going down to see my mother and sisters.

' Also thank you for all that you did (Continued overleaf) for us while we were in England. We are always thinking of you and your family and will never forget how kind you were to us, even coming all the way to Tilbury with us.

'When our boat came in the boys were coming out to meet us in one of the Tristan long boats and waving. When they got alongside the *Bossevain* they gave three cheers. They were all looking very well.

'Well dear friend. Take care and God bless. Lots of love.

Maggie, Dick, Margaret and Rupert.'

Before the islanders left England a service was held by the Bishop of Winchester in St George's Chapel, Calshot, after which WVS held a farewell party. The guests much enjoyed the conjuring and a rhythm band and showed great proficiency at the twist.

Part of the cargo of the steamer Bornholm, on which the islanders embarked in 1960 for their journey home; consisted of a harmonium presented by Her Majesty the Queen; 6 sheepdogs owned by the islanders; 175 week-old chickens presented to them by a Market Harborough breeder; 7 tons of seed potates, 27 tons of eating potatoes; a ten-man inflatable boat with an outboard motor; X-ray apparatus and other equipment for the island hospital; a steel-framed storehouse and 2 longboats. Transistor sets were also taken as well as plastic flowers to brighten the thatched homes, for few flowers grow on the island; and for the girls, cosmetics.

On the last day the head woman, Mrs Martha Rogers (who had recently lost her husband and been sunk in her grief) after visiting the emergency kitchen which had been set up by WVS to feed the islanders during the move, said that she had been inspired to make a speech to the WVS ladies who had been so kind and helpful: 'I have seen and felt the love in their hearts which makes them do all these things for us without thought of any reward.' A Tristan farewell to the WVS was then proposed which raised the roof.

We hear that the Tristans are very happy on their island. We send our love and Christmas greetings and wish them all good fortune.



### SUGGESTIONS FROM LADY READING FOR VISTING OLD AND LONELY PEOPLE

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LISTEN as well as talk. But remember that they may enjoy hearing about what you are doing.

BRING the coal up if the coal merchant has left it downstairs, or bring some shillings as change for the gas meter. See that the stove is safe and that old people cannot trip over the carpet or light flex.

LOOK for the little things to do. For may need cleaning. When taking flowers, take a vase as well if you know there is only a jam jar in the place.

TAKE prescriptions to be made up and fetch medicines and do odd shopping.

OFFER to post letters and stamp them too. And see if you can sharpen an old person's pencil; or get a new pen if necessary.

Do not try to solve difficult problems. Take them to those whose responsibility they are.



# A Country Christmas in Latvia

N<sup>•</sup>Silent Night' echo from loudspeakers some two months before Christmas, it is hard to believe that one or two wars ago Christmas was something exclusive and special.

Anyway it is so up North in the Baltic States and I would like particularly to tell you about a Latvian Christmas in the country. By the second part of December the snow has usually settled and the days are short: dusk sets in in the late afternoon.

The first sign that Christmas is near comes at the beginning of December when in nearly all homes the dough for ginger cake is being prepared. It fills the house with a lovely spicy smell, something like that which permeates an English home when the Christmas pudding and cakes are being prepared. The dough is left in a cool place until a few days before Christmas, when the delicious little cakes are baked. This sets everyone really in a Christmas mood. The 24th of December is a very hard day for the housewife and a delight for the children. This is the day of the two Ps (abbreviation for 'pirts' and 'pirags'). The first P means sauna and the second P a very special breadroll filled with a mixture

of chopped bacon and onions. Every country house and farm has its own 'pirts' or 'sauna', a type of special bath: while the women are still cooking the men go to the 'pirts' and the women follow later. But up to the 19th century the men and women bathed together in some districts, and I believe this was done in Finland too. After that came the Christmas Eve First Supper: pig's head with dried peas and 'pirags'.



Christmas trees were only for decorating Churches and the townspeople's homes. The most picturesque and moving part of the Christmas celebrations came after the supper—the drive to Church in horse drawn sleighs complete with jingle bells. Latvian (continued overleaf)

### A Country Christmas in Latvia (continued)

people are not really village dwellers. Farms are scattered, next door neighbours are hardly within seeing distance, so the drive to Church in the night is sometimes through woods and forests. The roads are full of traffic and the sound of all kinds of jingle bells is terrific. After the Carol Service in Church, all go home to the second supper, which is rather more elaborate than the first.

The next day—Christmas Day—is a day of rest. In the afternoon in some districts there is a fancy dress show called 'Kekatas': a group of people dress up and disguise themselves going from farm to farm with a fiddler or some other musician who plays dance tunes. When a 'Kekatas' group arrives at a farm it must be let in, fed or stood drinks. Dancing and merriment go on for an hour, then the group proceeds to the next farm and so on until the morning.

This 'Kekatas' tradition is supposed to have started in the days of old when the 25th December was only the turning point of winter, and from then on the days got longer. The 'Kekatas' were supposed to 'frighten the winter away'. V.K.

### DRONING ON

However dark the days may be, however charged with grief or dire calamity, though I be cumbered about with cares, I thank God daily in my prayers. I am not one in authority, but, like the vast majority, the great unknown, I am content, more than content, to be a drone. Thank heavens I care nothing for administration

or legislation. I do not know how to organize or decentralize. No, in happy humility

I have relinquished every responsibility, and have joined the serried ranks of those

who stand in patient rows; the nameless ones whom no man knoweth, to whom they say go and we goeth. Oh, but there is a peace that passeth understanding

of waiting several hours on a landing while those in higher spheres, solemn and tense,

grapple with Civil problems of Defence!

But should you call

for a messenger, a driver, or a cup of tea,

you will find me

leaning somewhere, inert,

in my smart green uniform and cherry shirt,

dead from the neck upwards; and in a monotone,

thanking God daily I was born a drone.

Virginia Graham

PAGE ARE YOU LIVING DANGEROUSLY?

HOME

WRITING as a mere man I am fully aware that women possess a strong element of caution in their outlook on life. This is, of course, a most commendable quality, for every woman in the capacity of mother and householder, undertakes quite onerous responsibilities in the home.

Caution and precaution against dangers in the home are essential, for without care and attention from the woman in charge the thoughtlessness of children—and their father—may lead to many an accident.

The natural instinct of woman for tidyness, cleanliness and domestic hygiene automatically eliminates the threat of injury to children by infection, insecure fittings, loose staircarpet, the accessibility of saucepans containing boiling liquids and so on. There are, however, causes that her husband should obviate if he is anything of an electrician, plumber and carpenter. For instance loose gas taps, faulty electric switches and worn insulation on wiring —in fact there are innumerable hidden dangers that arise in what are believed to be well organised households.

I do believe, however, that fire is the worst danger of all: every home is constantly threatened by fire resulting from several different causes, for example:

Coal fires	Wiring
Cigarette ends Electric fires Candles	Television and radio sets
Chimneys	Gas cookers
Electrical Short Circuits	Electrical house hold applianc
Oil burning appliances	Matches



Combustible rubbish

The use of petrol and other flammable liquids

Through one or other of these causes, over 260 homes catch fire every day—96,000 per annum!

All fires are small fires at first—and it is the first few seconds that count so much—they mean all the difference between a fire stopped right at the start or a spread of flames that could well lead to destruction, loss, disaster and possibly the loss of life.

It is obvious therefore that each and every home should be protected with the right means of extinguishing any fire outbreak instantly.

Normal fire precautions should always be rigidly carried out in every home.

Encourage your husband to use ashtrays even if that pungent reek of nicotine offends your nostrils. If he uses matches, be brutal and make him break every spent match in half before he disposes of it—in the ashtray of course! Naturally you don't let the children play with matches—and you are so careful yourself—or are you?

Please do not use petrol in the house for cleaning—and do be careful of paraffin and oil burners. Never be tempted to put washing up cloths or towels on the rack over the gas cooker. Beware of unguarded electric fires and the clothes sometimes placed adjacent thereto!

Winter comes with a vengenance in this country, so we home lovers revel in heat and stuffiness in the belief that we are enjoying the luxury of utter domestic cosiness. Fires are built up, hot drinks are prepared, electric blankets placed in beds (and sometimes forgotten) electric fires switched on and, in fact, we delight in an orgy of overheated comfort surrounded by blazing coal, flames, white hot filaments and elements, little realising that the risk of an outbreak of fire is steadily increasing!

Then comes Christmas and party time. Christmas trees and decorations, pretty little candles longing to consume those colourful streamers; children play and dance and forget until the inevitable accident happens—and it could be very serious—for little girls' frocks, like paper decorations, soon blaze up, and the tragic penalty for carelessness has to be paid.

There is no need to run these risks. Sensible precautions must always be taken. If after all that fire does occur, then be sure that you have the right answer—a really good dependable home fire extinguisher—preferably the general purpose dry powder type that puts out every kind of fire—quickly



and safely. Stores and ironmongers have them in stock.

I do in all sincerity, ask you ladies to think on this thing, then be absolutely sure that your home is safe in all ways. Wherever you see any fault that could lead to danger—correct it.

With this thought in mind I wish you happiness, comfort and security against all dangers throughout Christmas, the hardships of winter and the coming year.

### ONE MORE PLACE AT THE

### CHRISTMAS TABLE

DURING the Christmas period the Freedom from Hunger Campaign is staging a 'One More Gift' drive. The appeal will be for housewives to set 'One More Place' at the Christmas table and give the approximate cost of this place to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

### What will our 'adopted' refugees be doing

### this Christmas?

WVS is busy with plans for 'adopted' refugees in Germany: many gifts of money to buy coal, beautiful toys, and clothes (which have to be carefully sorted and wrapped in Christmas paper) have already been sent and more are expected.

At Hanau camp a Christmas party will be given for the children who will have hot dogs, cakes, ice cream and chocolates. After a film show Father Christmas will give out toys from a huge Christmas Tree. At the end of the party the carol 'Silent Night' a great favourite of Germany—is sung, and the children will each be given a bag of sweets, fruit and 'cookies' to take home with them. The party is arranged by our WVS member in Germany and is paid for by the American Wives Committee.

At Gauting Sanatorium there is to be a big Christmas party for the patients, arranged jointly by the various Voluntary Organisations.

In the Munich area our WVS member there is arranging for poor and old refugees to have 1 cwt of fuel each; and for food parcels for needy families. Our member in Frankfurt is also arranging for gifts of coal.

In every home, no matter how poor, there will be a Christmas tree, even though it may only be a tiny one. Often several families join together for their Christmas feast.

Large numbers of refugees will go to Midnight Mass and have a special meal afterwards. The Russians, of course, will not be celebrating their Christmas until January 8th.

Parties are also given for Ukrainian and Russian children arranged by Caritas and by the Tolstoy foundation respectively.

Adoptions through the WVS scheme now amount to 1,050.

Some ideas for parcels: What to send as well as what not to send.

### Knitting wool

Knitting wool in Germany is of poor quality and very expensive.

#### Soup packets

These are much better than those obtainable in Germany.

### Food

Tinned meat and fish are very welcome; meat is terribly dear in Germany. Chocolate and biscuits usually arrive broken and are cheap in Germany.

#### Men's Socks

Cheap in Germany.

### Initialed handkerchiefs

Very much appreciated because of the thought involved.

### Clothes

May we again stress that only the best type of good second hand clothes are sent to refugees. No clothes should be given which the senders would not wish to wear themselves. Refugees are very proud and one should try to imagine the excitement when a parcel arrives and the bitter disappointment and hurt pride when the presents are found to be the sort of garments which would at once stamp the wearers as refugees.

### Christmas puddings

These are not understood: last year many were eaten cold by the refugees, who wondered why the British liked them.

### Warning

Small gifts of money for those who do not want the trouble of packing and posting parcels are always most acceptable to the refugees and, moreover, give them the rare luxury of choice. Old people and those in Sanatoria and Old People's Homes crave for such things as fresh fruit and fresh eggs. But those intending to send gifts of money are warned that, if not already posted, the gift is unlikely to arrive in time for Christmas



## Ideas

### for **Christmas Shopping**

I is easy enough to find presents for women and children, but it is those for men which call forth the groan: 'what on earth ...? '-

We have expected them to be tolerant, and even grateful, for presents of ties, socks, handkerchiefs, blotters, corkscrews and paperknives, but how much have they enjoyed them? Husbands and sons are fairly easy, but what about the man who is interested in one thing and one thing only, or the bachelor uncle who 'has everything'?

For the man who is interested in one thing only a gift token is the answer; unless you know his tastes well enough to choose, be careful. For the reader, five Penguins could cost less than £1, yet would make up a satisfying parcel.

For the bachelor who has everything, a gadget is best. A useful possession is a flat, oblong magnifying glass for use with telephone directories (9/-); or be on the safe side with a miniature fire extinguisher 71 inches high, with press-button action, which could be fitted neatly to the inside of your car.



Great pleasure is given by the gift of an electric drill: one enthusiastic owner decided to put castors on all the furniture, and his son, returning home late at night,

leapt into bed and found himself sliding across the room (£6 19, 6d.).

For home Printed linen cloths are gayer than ever this year, and there are some excellent designs from Sweden. Some are long and narrow, for table runners; others squarer, look delightful as wall hangings, particularly a large fat green caterpillar;

many have Christmas motifs (7/6 to 9/6). For the hostess a wrought iron

stand for hotplates is practical and attractive 960 ner



(6/9). Plaited rush mats.

4. 6 and 8 inches in

diameter cost 3/3 4/3 and 4/9. For a Christmas party a well known chain store has chocolate figures, coins, bottles to hang on the tree, from 3d.; toy departments have

rubber face masks from 5/11; packets of assorted balloons from 1/-. For the hostess who has everything: a musical box in the form of a bell about 4 inches high, in red, gold or silver,

which plays 'Silent Night' (37/6 and 42/6).

To attract helpers into the kitchen on Christmas Day give them a real

glass

chef's cap (8/6) and a butcher's apron (12/6); keep the helpers there by making them unscrew jars that are

stuck with a grip jar opener which they can give you. (2/6). For a cheerful kitchen. storage jars with stoppers

make it easy to see what is inside: 10 oz., 1 and 2 lb. sizes, (2/9 3/9 4/9). 'Anniversary' English vitreous enamel cast iron ware milk pans with a lip on both sides and a wooden handle, to tempt the serious cook, are in pale blue or yellowish green, in 1, 2 and 3 pint sizes (27/6 36/6 41/6).

For the young. Party goers will like a plastic ' Fresh'n up ' double pochette in pale colours fitted with 2 flannels, soap box, toothbrush in box and nail brush (7/6). For the very young, an animal toothbrush holder and brush might prove encouraging (2/6-4/6).

Junior umbrellas in gay colours fit easily into suitcases (16/11-19/6). If you hope for snow, have a toboggan ready; grown-up size 75/-, small children 55/-. Tartan stockings would be appreciated, snow or no snow: at any large stores for 12/6. For little girls, 'Sindy, the doll to dress' (22/6) is the doll to buy, for many varied wardrobes can be bought separately from 14/11 complete. Separates are from 2/6, nylon stockings 3/6.

Boys could have great fun in camp or at home sending messages with a



Signal Lamp run on two batteries with red, green and blue bulbs (5/9). There are yachts from 8/11; a clockwork sub-

marine which dives and surfaces (13/6) or a hand (bulb) controlled water boat which operates on or under water (8/3). Miniature wheelbarrows would keep small children happily occupied: red or blue plastic from 23/6 or of wood from 32/6; also lawn mowers, from 9/3 and 'porter's' barrows from 10/6. Kites, made in the form of a fish (from Japan) are very unusual: small 3/6; gigantic, to hang on your ceiling



(about 12 feet long) 39/6. Two boomerangs in a box (2/6) would please anybody. A chain

store has lavender bags for 6d.; tiny Christmas puddings 1/4.

Even if your grandmother has told you what she wants, include a magnifying glass for reading in your parcel (12/6).

**Books:** Tutankhamen (Michael Joseph  $\pounds 3$ ) is worth it: a glorious book, describing the discovery of the tomb in 1922, and its contents, which are now to be seen in the museum in Cairo.

Not every woman enjoys cooking: *I* hate to Cook Book by Peg Bracken (Arlington Books 15/-) shows how to spend as little time in the kitchen as possible and the art of dishing up delicious tinned food.

Two Middle-aged Ladies in Andalusia by Penelope Chetwode (Mrs John Betjeman) is a description of her journey across Spain on a donkey (the other woman). (Murray 21/-). All Done from Memory by Osbert Lancaster, an autobiography with drawings (Murray 16/-). Small children love the Beginner Books Series, graded according to age. Try The Big Ball of String or The Cat in the Hat (Collins 8/6). Achilles the Donkey by H. E. Bates and Carol Barker and its sequel, Achilles and Diana, are great favourites (Dennis Dobson 15/-). If in doubt, buy Pears Encyclopaedia (21/-).

Lists of stockists obtainable on request to Bulletin Dept WVS HQ, 41 Tothill Street, London SW1.

### SUGGESTION

Why not give the 'Report on 25 Years Work of WVS' as a Christmas present? (Published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 2/6.) Order it through your local bookshop.

# **CHILDREN** at the Play Centre, Rotherham

Children under the age of five years may be left in the care of WVS every Friday afternoon so that mothers may shop in peace



### Glasgow Herald

## in **Glasgow**

A WVS member keeps a group of children amused while their mothers attend the class at the Department of Extra Mural Education in Glasgow

# at Amersham Baby Club

Left: Tufty road-safety instruction

Below: just playing

Photographs: The Bucks Exami



# Christmas Decoration



Draw the pattern and cut out, taking care round the head.

Pull the piece of paper where marked over the head. Roll the end of this piece round a pencil to make scroll.

Bend the figure into a cone and fasten at back with seccotine. Bend the wings slightly forward. The halo is cut out and fixed behind the head. The trumpet is fixed to the body behind the scroll.

These angels look delightful as table decorations or for the Christmas tree.



### SERVICE at the CENOTAPH November 10th, 1963 own services—the Cit

NINE Welfare Section members were invited to represent WVS at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

We gathered at the parade ground in the Foreign Office Ouadrangle at half-past eight in the soaking rain of a bleak November morning. We huddled under archways or stood bravely in the open trying not to look as miserable as we felt; but not for long. We were soon in the capable hands of the Civil Defence detachment commander, who formed us into three ranks with the WVS members in a body on the right. With gentle humour he had us right dressing and open order marching, he brought us to attention, stood us at ease and easy. We began to feel like veterans and the rain stopped and we stopped for a cup of tea. Fall in again for inspection; we were old hands by now and there were sounds of martial music in the distance. We were inspected by the detachment commander, by the parade commander and finally by the Home Secretary, who reminded us of the sacrifice made by the members of our

own services—the Civilian Services and urged that we go forward from this ceremony with a resolve to follow the same high sense of service. We marched past the Home Secretary, out of the quadrangle into Whitehall where the band of the Scots Guards was playing. We marched to our position near the Cenotaph and waited.

A heart warming wintery sun shone through the plane trees, the Queen Mother and Princess Marina looked down from the balcony and the maroons boomed out. Two long minutes of private memories, proud recollection and strengthening resolution. We of the Civilian Services have a torch to carry and the means of service open to us. The Last Post sounded, followed by all the traditional ceremony-the wreath laving, the hymn, the prayers, Reveille and God Save the Queen. The Old Contemptibles marched off, each of the Services marched off and we too were on the move, round the Cenotaph and then smartly out of Whitehall and dismissed. Nine WVS members have returned, each to her separate Region, but bound together by a link forged in a moving moment of remembrance.

### He didn't Bury His Head

A story from Overseas has reached us of a Serviceman bringing back to camp after an exercise two ostrich eggs which had been abandoned by the mother. He had to stay in bed for a couple of days so he kept the eggs in bed with him. He was awakened one morning to great knocking and decided he should remove the eggs, so he placed them on a pillow. He is now the foster father of a young ostrich as only one egg hatched out. The bird comes when the boys call it.

The boys have gone on a 'scheme' for 10 days and the ostrich has gone too—obviously a camp-follower.

#### FUDGE

- 2 lbs sugar, brown or white
- 1 lb butter

1 teacupful of water

1 tin of Nestles sweetened condensed milk

HEAT sugar, butter and water together slowly until sugar is completely melted and the mixture is boiling. Add condensed milk, bring to the boil and boil fairly rapidly for about 20 minutes, stirring all the time. Pour into greased, shallow pans. Mark in squares with a knife and allow to cool. The Christmas Party held in 1962 at Grange Farm Holiday Home, Chigwell Essex

### WVS WINGED FELLOWSHIP for the DISABLED

WVS London Region is having a Christmas house party for 16 disabled people, to be looked after by 10 volunteers who will be giving up their own Christmas for the purpose. The house party will consist of disabled folk who live alone and have no one to whom to turn at a time of year when most people have a lovely family jollification. Two of the male volunteers are even now writing a Pantomime with parts for the disabled. Some of the women volunteers are planning to make the costumes. The Jewish Youth will come as they did last

Christmas to take over all duties on Christmas Day to allow the Christians to get off to church. A WVS member from Stockport is coming as volunteer cook, because at Christmas the main camp kitchens are closed and our band of volunteers improvise a kitchen with calor gas stoves in one of the dismantled bedrooms. Carol singing, Church services, and entertainments will fill all the other evenings and we expect that all, guests and helpers, will say as they did last year, that it was the best Christmas of their lives.

# REPORTS FROM EVERYWHERE

#### It's not only the Meal

As all Meals on Wheels helpers know, the value of this service is often demonstrated in unexpected ways. The life of one old lady in Bexhill was undoubtedly saved by the arrival of the Meals team. There was a leak in the gas supply to her cooker and she was on the point of becoming unconscious when she was roused by the WVS banging on her door. The members got a doctor and contacted the Gas Company; the rest of Bexhill Meals recipients got their Meal rather late.



One Friday in the Romford Centre was so chaotic, with only half the usual number of helpers during the holiday season, and an absolute flood of 'clients', that a painter gave up painting and applied himself to fitting a large lady with a pair of shoes and a coat.

### We know her

WVS have recently managed to obtain the necessary furniture for a woman and her five children in Leamington Spa having been given many of the articles unexpectedly. WVS Leamington add that they have also found a Rest Home for a tired old horse. Might this be a WVS member?

### Combined service

WVS Beverley was approached for help in the filling up of forms for the record request programme which is put out to all hospitals in the East Riding of Yorkshire on Sundays, WVS was able to incorporate the filling in of forms with the taking round of the Tele-Trolley. This request scheme also extends to the children's wards.

#### Happy on Holiday

On September 14th, members from Haltemprice WVS set off from Cottingham with 72 old people for a week's holiday in Llandudno. Everything was wonderful, including the weather. The hotel was extremely comfortable, the trips out were delightful among the Welsh scenery, and everybody kept well and arrived home, happy and safe.

#### Overheard

Hospital Trolley, Marple, Cheshire: Patient 'I'd like a birthday card please.'

Member 'Is there anything here you like?'

Patient 'Yes, they're all right, but I'd like one without words.'

Member 'I don't think I've ever seen one without words.'

Patient 'Well you see, I want it for my sister-in-law, and we're not speaking.'

### No Catch

A dear old man at Ware Park Sanatorium, Hertford, chats almost with-

Bury Times

Mr Bernard Braine, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, samples the cooking in Bury Meals on Wheels kitchen

out stoppping to his WVS visitor, yet she discovered recently that at first he was rather dubious about her. He had confided to one of the nurses that maybe she was looking for a husband. However, since the weeks have gone by and she hasn't rushed him off to the altar, his mind is now at rest.

#### A taxi-driver's gift

On the last, pouring wet, day of October, a member alighting from a taxi at WVS Headquarters in Tothill Street after a long hold up in a traffic jam, gave the taxi driver the correct fare plus tip. He handed her a two shilling piece saying: "Put that in one of your Christmas boxes for me, please."

### Achievements

The highest number of youngsters sent away under the Children's Holiday Scheme was Scotland's impressive total of 569. At the end of September last the figures were: for Adoptions and Rememberances 663 and 148 respectively.

### Evening Citizen Housewives' Club

The sight of a large and opulent birthday cake is heart-warming to even the austere among us. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Glasgow Evening Citizen Housewives' Club a magnificent cake was presented to WVS by the Club. More than 200 senior citizens received a slice of it during Old Folks Week in Glasgow. This was a splendid gesture in every sense of the word.



A long weekend in Copenhagen for the 1st Battalion the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, led by WVS member Miss Alwyne Midgeley

### The Soroptimist Van

Soroptimist Clubs are composed of professional women who, generally speaking have reached the top of their profession. ' Profession ' singular, is written advisedly, because one member only of each profession is admitted to the Club. In addition to Branches operating of Great Britain, the Soroptimists are known in all the larger towns internationally.

On a somewhat inclement day at the beginning of October, Mrs Purvis, Chairman-Scotland, accepted a van for general purposes on behalf of WVS as a gift from the Edinburgh Soroptimist Club. Members of the Club are seen in the photograph standing in front of the

### Edinburgh Evening News

pillars of the Royal Scottish Academy in Princes Street with a reflected glimpse of the Scott Monument on the right, during the handing over ceremony of this most welcome and generous gift.

### Not Through a glass Darkly

Visual aids to help people with failing sight to read make a special appeal to us all. This specific aid is a magnifying glass which fits over a book or paper for the use of bed-patients. The price is high for an individual, but the existence of the new aid was brought to the notice of our member in charge of Health and Hospital work in Scotland as a possible gift to hospitals from profits from trolleys and canteens. One can appreciate what a boon and a blessing this new magnifying glass could be to those with poor or receding sight and the possibilities of supplying it are being explored.

### Lucky patients

A concert arranged by Oldham WVS was given for the patients of Oldham and District General Hospital on October 15th, the performers being vocalists, a pianist and a guitarist.

#### Appreciation

"WE were asked if we could visit a small boy aged 12 in a local Children's Hospital as he was a long way from home and his parents could only visit at the week-ends.

'He was recovering from a skin graft operation as a result of a bonfire accident. I was the first member to visit him. He was most interested in my uniform and reflected a long while on the WVS. 'Is it Women's Visiting Society? ' he asked. ' No ' I said, ' but the first word is right.' After a few more guesses he got 'Service' but was stuck on the 'V'. I told him, 'Oh' he said, 'so you don't have to do it? Do they pay you for this lark?' I answered to the contrary. 'Blimey' he said, 'I think they ought to pay you '! 'But who do you think should pay us? ' I asked. More deep reflection -then he decided that perhaps it was he who should pay me! He looked at the comics and few sweets I had brought-'I ought to pay you for these,' he said. We laughed and changed the subject but I could see that he was still thinking. Later, when the tea came round, he waited until the nurse serving it was out of hearing range and then, in a stage whisper said, 'Would you like my tea?' If I had not seen two large spoonfuls of sugar go into it, I think I might have been tempted, at least to have shared it!

'A most rewarding afternoon. I look forward to my next visit.'

D. E. Berry, Banstead, Surrey.

### WVS Green Angels

Headquarters has received a letter from Africa addressed as above!

### Angels in Green

<sup>6</sup> My praise goes to WVS for their kindness and attention to us old people living alone. They provide us with lovely meals at a cheap price and regular attention. No praise is too high. *H. Sommers, Brighton.* 

(Evening Argus)

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### STOP PRESS

NOVEMBER 21st 1963

WVS TEAMS IN WEST SUSSEX, WEST KENT AND GLAMORGAN WERE CALLED OUT AFTER THE FLOODING OF HOUSES. THE EAST SUSSEX TEAM WAS ALERTED.

### W.V.S. BULLETIN

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