

THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 3.

MARCH, 1934.

Price 1d.

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Youth Movements in Bookham.

The future of this country will depend on those who are now "growing up." There can be no doubt that the various organisations which are helping to train the boys and girls, and young men and women, are doing a work of great national importance. Arrangements have therefore been made to publish a series of short articles dealing with the work of these organisations, and the first of the series, written by a gentleman who for many years has taken a leading part in local Scouting activities, appears below. It will probably be a revelation to many to learn of the vast amount of voluntary work that is carried on for the young people of Bookham.

C.H.

The Boy Scout Movement.

It was in 1908 that Lord Baden-Powell, after having held a trial camp at Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour, during the previous summer, founded the Boy Scout Movement.

The main object of his scheme was the better development of good citizenship in Great Britain, and his first pamphlet on the subject bore the following significant quotation: "The same causes which brought about the downfall of the Great Roman Empire are working to-day in Great Britain."

The principles and practices of Scouting were therefore framed as far as possible to develop the efficient individual by training in character, physical health, and handicraft.

From a small start the Movement rapidly spread, and to-day Scouting, far from being confined to Great Britain, has penetrated to every corner of our Empire, and altogether its influence extends through forty-eight nations.

Scouting has been termed "a man's job cut down to the boy's size." It appeals to the boy, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, or tongue, not merely because he is a boy, but because he is a man in the making, and aspires to manliness.

Right in the forefront of Scouting stands the Promise, which every Scout is required to make

on enrolment: "I promise on my honour to do my best to (1) Do my duty to God and the King, (2) Help other people at all times, and (3) Obey the Scout Law." This three-fold promise is the source from which the whole spirit of Scouting springs: it is the force which gives it life.

The Scout Law on which the Movement hinges is derived from the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table. Dealing as it does with Honour, Loyalty, Usefulness, Friendliness, Courtesy, Kindness to Animals, Obedience, Cheerfulness, Thrift, and Purity, it forms a self-imposed Rule of Life than which there can be none better.

The Law, in fact, comprises a series of Do's in the right spirit, not a series of Don't's under threat of punishment; and since the boy is always more ready to do than digest, the aim throughout is to give some form of positive training rather than merely to inculcate negative precepts.

The spirit of Scouting may be summed up as self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and self-control. Through the liberty that Scouting encourages and allows, the boy learns self-reliance; through the expected performance of at least one good turn a day, he acquires the habit of self-sacrifice; and through devotion to the Scout Law he learns the art of self-control.

In thus briefly outlining the fundamentals, little space remains to deal with methods and organisation; it should be mentioned, however, that a complete Scout Group consists of the following three Sections: Cub Pack for boys from 8-12; Scout Troop for boys from 12-18; and the Rover Scout Crew for boys over 18. The Troop is divided into Patrols of six to eight Scouts, including the Patrol Leader. The Patrol is the permanent unit for work, games, competitions, and camp, and this system utilises to good effect the natural gang spirit possessed by all boys, whether for good or for mischief.

Scouting was started in Bookham as long ago as 1910, and although the early history of the Troop is lost in obscurity, we know that the Bookham Troop, thanks to the then Scoutmaster, Miss Arnett, was one of the few in the district that remained in being throughout the

[continued on page 9].

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Some Local History.

Grandfather's Smuggling Days.

[Not long ago a cutlass was ploughed up at Coldharbour Farm, and a rusty pistol, on the barrel of which could be faintly traced the words "Necessity has no law," was found in Clandon Woods. In the following article, Mr. Rungary recaptures the spirit of the days in which cutlasses and pistols were a part of the average man's "walking-out dress."

The old smugglers' well on Gravel Hill, Leatherhead, was filled in forty years ago, and the house with the attic from which the warning light was shown is still there. The farm by the river bridge stood on the site now occupied by the Electricity Station.—ED.]

Early in one year I and my friend Honest John, for want of something better to do, resolved to visit the fair at Epsom, with the hope of earning an honest groat. Work was nowhere to be found, for, owing to the great taxes, the landed squires and farmers had discharged their men, and labourers were tramping the roads begging for bread.

Spring was in the air when we set out from Polesdon over the hills past the Roaring House. The larks were singing gaily, and the hares were racing over the headlands; but otherwise all was still, for labour had ceased in the fields.

At the "Rising Sun" we climbed up into a waggon, and hiding beneath the straw waited for the carter to cross the river, for the bridge had high gates at either end, and we had no money to pay the tolls. At Epsom, after strolling round the fair with its many booths, cudgel playing, and wrestling shows, we stopped to watch the post coaches arriving at the "King's Head" from London Town, full of the fashion and gallants of the times, coming to see the racing on the Downs, or to lay their odds in the cock-fighting pits in the Town. As we were looking on, four horsemen drew rein, and at a sign from their leader dismounted. Cleanlimbed sturdy fellows they were, their faces tanned by wind and weather, and all wore slung rapiers as was the fashion of the day. Their leader, catching our eye, bade us take care of their mounts, which were long-legged and speedy, full of bone and stamina.

We noticed that they carried pistol holsters on their saddles, and that there was no clanking of bits, for these were snaffled with leather; also, to give greater freedom to their mounts, the men did not ride with a martingale. It was clear that these were no ordinary riders on pleasure bent, or merchants riding to the Wool

Sales in Guildford Town. Having finished their repast three returned to the horses, with a message that their master would like speech with us within. Ordering the inn servant to place victuals and drink before us, he plied us with many questions as to who we were, what manner of life we led, and whence we came. After we had assured him on these and many other points, he offered us a life of great adventure, which might end on a rope in Newgate Gaol, or in the Penal Settlement of Great Van Diemens Land. Not caring greatly where it would end, we agreed to serve him, taking a solemn oath to serve "the trade" and its masters. So we became "Gentlemen of the Road," for fair or foul, fight or hang, a good sword arm and a clean pair of heels. He gave us a guinea each, and named a certain place, warning us to keep to the woodland rides, for the Pressgang was in Dorking and Kirk's Lambs in Guildford Town.

As to the ways we went, or what we did, there is not space to tell. Often we would strike the King's Road just above the farm close by Bookham Grove, and, finding the farm gate open (a sign that the road was clear ahead), would go into the back yard of the "Saracen and Ring," where a willing hand was waiting to give comfort to our horses, and the host anxious to unload our packs, as stocks were running low. For the parson must have "baccy" and the squire's lady is out of snuff. Then to saddle, up the old British Footpath, over the hill to the Roaring House, where we knew a chimney hatch that never split a secret. Keeping well to the right of Hawk's Hill, with our pistols at the ready, for there was sometimes danger here, we would reach the farm by the river bridge, and there wait quietly for the warning light in the attic on Gravel Hill. Forging the river we would visit the well, then on to Oxshott caves and so to London Town. If we dodged the Bow Street Runners we supped in Drury Lane.

Now I am old, and in my quiet moments I sit and dream of those days of long ago. I see the full moon sailing high, casting flitting shadows on the trees and rides. I hear the harsh call of the night birds, and the sighing of the wind through the pines, and I ride again the wild gallop across Merrow Downs, down through the dark woods of Clandon with pistols primed, knee to knee, "Hell for leather." My mind goes back to a wild October night at an Inn on the Portsmouth Road, where, with drawn blinds and the great bolts driven home, I sit with mine host in darkened room discoursing on the perils of the day. A warning finger, a smothered "ssh!" then a thunderous smashing on the door with pistol butt, and a hoarse

[continued on page 7].

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Grandfather's Smuggling Days

(continued from page 5).

voice shouting, "Open in the King's Name." Mine host creeps silently up the stairs, whilst I slip behind the high-backed settle, push back the panelling and slip through, feeling my way between the outside walls and wainscot. Then six steps down, a bend to the left, four steps up. Pushing back a trap I am in the stable at the rear. My old friend gives a gentle whinny of delight and muzzles my face with pleasure. Slipping the mufflers on her feet we cross the cobbled yard leading down the garden path. It's then I hear mine host, with a voice like a bull, demanding from the casement as to what manner of rights have they in disturbing "honest innkeepers" at that foul time of night, whilst I, a "Gentleman of the Road," bound for the hills and heather, am riding to London Town.

G. W. RUMGARY.

Case Committee News.

During the past few months the Case Committee have received many welcome gifts. It is certainly true to say that there is a place for everything, but it is sometimes difficult to find the "vacant place" when one has something to give away. The Committee endeavours to regulate the supply to the demand.

Clothes of all kinds, eiderdowns, blankets, cot quilts: all have been, thanks to generous donors, distributed in various quarters. Some furniture was offered and thankfully accepted, and passed on to a grateful recipient. Coal has been generously given for distribution, and a gift of money from the Ratepayers' Association enabled the Case Committee Secretary to administer a Christmas Fund in the joint names of that Association and the Social Service Bureau. The many grateful letters received testify to the happiness these Christmas gifts gave.

The Bookhams Ratepayers' Association.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Old Barn Hall on Friday, February 23rd, when the business of a heavy Agenda was expeditiously carried through.

Mr. J. A. Farmer was adopted as "Ratepayers' Candidate" for the Surrey County Council, and was subsequently elected as a result of polling which took place on March 1st.

Less than 30 per cent. of the electorate went to the poll, and it is hoped that this figure will be considerably improved upon on future occasions, for it is only by full use being made of the Ballot that a strong position can be established and maintained by Ratepayers' Associations. The Committee desire to thank those ladies and gentlemen who assisted on Polling Day.

Now that a refuse collection has been arranged the Committee trust that householders will assist to keep down the cost by burning all paper and similar combustible rubbish. Mr. L. Robertson, Chairman of the Finance Committee of Leatherhead U.D.C., made a strong point of this when he announced at the meeting that arrangements have been made for horse-drawn vehicles to be used in those roads which are not accessible to the motor refuse vans.

The change in stopping places for omnibuses and coaches is viewed with considerable misgiving by many residents. This matter is being closely watched by the Committee.

The Whist Drive organised by the Association in aid of the funds of Leatherhead Cottage Hospital proved a tremendous success. This was part of a concerted effort by the four Ratepayers' Associations in the Leatherhead District, which it is hoped will provide £100 for the Hospital. Bookham's contribution to this realised approximately £42—a wonderful effort! During the interval players were addressed by Doctor Easton, and, later, prizes were distributed by Mrs. Easton. Altogether a very pleasant evening.

L.G.R.

Linen Guild.

The first Annual Meeting of the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital Linen Guild will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 3.30 p.m., in the Leatherhead Institute. Admission to non-Members by invitation only. Invitations can be obtained from either of the Joint Secretaries: Mrs. Cohen, The White House, Little Bookham, and Mrs. Douglas, Ednam House, Great Bookham.

Collecting Box.

Many residents have expressed a desire to make a contribution towards the cost of the "Bulletin." A collecting box will, through the kindness of Jackson's Granaries, shortly be placed outside the firm's premises in the High Street, and as the "Bulletin" is so far self-supporting, any contributions will be devoted to Case Committee work.

C.H.

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REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Mondays—

Women's Thrift Club.

Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).

Women's Fellowship, 2.45 p.m. (Church House).

Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).

Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Boys' Brigade, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Friendly Society and Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Camp Fire Girls, 7 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Wednesdays—

Children's Guild, 7 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).

Choir Practice, 7.30 p.m. (Congregational Church).

Orchestra Practice, 8.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Scouts, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Christian Endeavour, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Will Secretaries please notify any additions or alterations for inclusion in the next issue.

OTHER EVENTS.

April.

Thursday, 5th, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 11th, at 3 p.m. American Tea, in Barn Hall (N.S.P.C.C.)

Wednesday, 11th. Annual Meeting, Surrey Congregational Union, Southern District (Congregational Church).

Sunday, 15th, at 3.15 p.m. CIVIC SUNDAY, at St. Nicholas Parish Church. Speaker:

Commander A. R. J. Southby, R.N., M.P.

Tuesday, 17th. Whist Drive, Ratepayers' Association (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 25th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society, Bridge and Whist Drive (Church House).

Thursday, 26th. Women's Institute (Church House).

Saturday, 28th, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.

May.

Wednesday, 2nd. Girls' Life Brigade Cadet Display (Baptist Hall).

Wednesday, 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Leatherhead Cottage Hospital Linen Guild Annual Meeting (Leatherhead Institute).

Thursday, 3rd, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 9th, at 3 p.m. Whist and Bridge Drive, at "Hawkwood," Guildford Road (N.S.P.C.C.)

Saturday, 12th, at 8 p.m. Recital (Congregational Hall).

Saturday, 26th, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.

Tuesday, 29th. Sunday School Demonstration and Prize-giving (Baptist Hall).

Thursday, 31st. Women's Institute (Church House).

June.

Thursday, 7th, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Thursday, 28th. Women's Institute (Garden Meeting).

Saturday, 30th, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.

The Secretary of the Bureau, whose address is "Two Oaks," The Park, will be pleased to furnish information regarding any of the Organisations mentioned in this Calendar.

The Boy Scout Movement

[continued from page 31.]

War years. In 1920 Mr. L. R. Hutchison, assisted by Mr. E. Land, took over command, and a few years later a Cub Pack and Rover Scout Crew were added to the Scout Section, thus completing the Group.

To-day all Sections are in a strong and sound position. Mr. J. Waterfield has charge of the Scout Troop, with five Assistants; Mr. H. Le Dieu has charge of the Cub Pack; and Mr. L. Hutchison, besides acting as Rover Leader, has charge of the Group as a whole.

During the coming month the Group hope to enter into possession of their new Headquarters, a building which they will share with their sister organisation, the Girl Guides. The building is to occupy a corner site acquired for the purpose adjacent to Pretoria Cottages, and almost opposite the Bookham Garage.

The Opening Ceremony will take place in April, and Admiral Yelverton, as President of the Bookham Group, invites all well-wishers of the two Movements to be present on that occasion.

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N.S.P.C.C.

It will be seen from the programme of events on page 9 that, on April 11th and May 9th, functions are to be held on behalf of this Society. The Secretary of the Bookham Branch (Mrs. Stanley Russell, of "Elmcroft") will be pleased to give further information with regard to this.



Car Rota.

The Social Service Bureau has a rota of car owners who are prepared, when necessary, to lend their cars in necessitous cases, as, for example, for conveying to hospital anyone who is clearly unable to pay for the hire of a car. Recently the Bureau arranged, through the "rota," for the conveyance to Farnham Sanatorium of a Bookham resident who was in very poor circumstances. Will car owners who would be willing to have their names included in the "rota" please notify the Secretary of the Bureau.

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