

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY.

N. 10

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 91

SEPTEMBER 1956.

24th year



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 91.

SEPTEMBER, 1956.

24th year

The Editor "Brandreth" Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.

EDITORIAL

The following pages will show the diversity of activities that are now available under the ægis of the Community Association. September marks the beginning of the autumn session and it is hoped that our groups will have a big increase in membership. We are always ready to discuss new sections to cater for interests not already covered, and we would like to do more for the younger people of the village.

Those who do not wish to join specific groups are invited to become members in order to assist with our wider responsibilities, such as the organisation of Village Day, the maintenance of the Barn Hall and the upkeep of the *Bulletin*. We are hoping that when the school canteen moves to its new premises there will be scope for wider social contact between our members.

Will any public spirited person volunteer to take over the advertisement section of the *Bulletin*? Enthusiasm is more important than experience.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

At the Barn Hall
Jazz Club. Friday, September 7th.
First and third Fridays.
Over Sixties. Every Tuesdays at 2.45 p.m.
Over Twenties. Every Tuesday evening, commencing September 25th.
Table Tennis. Every Monday evening.
Old Tyme Dance Club. Every Wednesday evening from September 5th.
Gramophone Club. Alternate Thursdays at 8 p.m., commencing September 6th.
Camera Club. Alternate Thursdays, commencing September 13th.

Association News.

Our best wishes to our young people who have married recently: Mr. and Mrs. John Coomber (Anne Brion).

Mr. and Mrs. J. Stimpson (Joy Edwards).

Mr. and Mrs. P. Vickers (Kay Stonehill).

Congratulations to:

Mr. Tony Stimpson and Miss J. Cornish on their engagement.

Sub-Lt. Brian J. Cawte, R.N., on receiving the Admiralty Prize

for top marks in the Final Examination of the Royal Naval Engineering College, Plymouth, which is a two-year course.

Miss Elizabeth Harrison on her election as Editor of the London University newspaper, *Sennet*.

OBITUARY

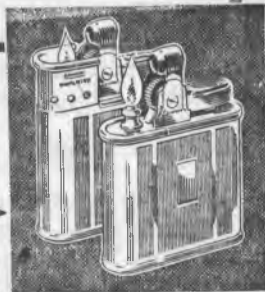
The death of Mrs. Betty Stephens suddenly, in hospital, came as a shock to members of the Community Association where she will be missed. She was a founder member of the Association and always gave it enthusiastic support. It was through her untiring efforts that the Camera Club was formed, which she served as Chairman, Secretary and Vice-President. Prior to her illness, and even afterwards, she participated energetically in many village activities. She was a long-standing member of the Women's Institute and a member of the Bookham Branch of the Women's Total Abstinence Union which she represented on the Council of the Community Association.

Although ill health had robbed her of some of her vitality, she never lost the courage and determination which was one of her outstanding characteristics.



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GARDEN TOOLS

HISTORY OF GT. BOOKHAM BARN HALL (PART I)

The history of the site and building now known as the Barn Hall is necessarily for the most part that of Sole Farm, to which it belonged until 1906. The *Little Guide to Surrey* (1910) mentioned that "a fine old 15th-cent. barn, grandly timbered, has recently been turned into a village hall", while Black's *Guide to Surrey* (1916) states that in the village "is a grand old barn, now used as a *Village Institute*".

The name Sole is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word *sol* meaning a muddy pool, and this pond still existed in front of what is now the Barn Hall until 50 years ago, when it was filled in as part of the alterations then carried out. The first mention of Sole in Bookham occurs in 1294, when Thomas atte Sole was living there. A generation later the manorial tenant was John atte Sole, who surrendered the messuage and half a yardland (about 15 acres) to the use of his son Thomas in 1337. In 1342 Thomas died, leaving a widow Alice and a son John who was under 20 years old; John was still in possession in 1347. After this documents are missing and all we know for certain is that Walter Roger held the farm in 1548 and surrendered it in 1557 to John Rogers his younger son. Sole Farm descended in the Rogers family through the 17th century, but in the 18th was

bought by the Earls of Effingham, lords of the Manor, and let to tenants. At the end of the 18th century it was being farmed by John Bennett, and from 1803 to 1812 by Richard Ellis. The freehold passed with the Manor to James Laurell in 1801 and to G. Holme Sumner in 1812. In 1823 it was sold at auction to a Mr. Bolland, being described in the Sale Particulars as a "substantial Brick and Tiled Farm House in good condition, Garden, large Farm Yard, capital Barns, Stables, Cart Lodges and other Farm Buildings." Before 1836 "the messuage called Sole or Sole Farm" had passed to Joseph Bonsor junior, the owner of Polesden, and in 1839 it was being farmed by his tenant, Stephen Wood.

The earliest description of the farm buildings is contained in Thomas Clay's survey of Great Bookham in 1614, when Robert Roger at Sole held "a Customarie Tenemente with a Barne, Stable, Orchard, etc.", while the map shows merely conventional sketches of a house and an outbuilding on the plot. The larger plan made in 1797-98 shows clearly the house and a number of outbuildings, the two largest being one behind the house and the other in the position of the Barn Hall. From the age of the timber-framing, which is probably of the 16th (rather than the 15th) century, it is reasonably certain that these two buildings are the actual

Barn and Stable described in 1614. As to which was which there has been much uncertainty, but it seems probable that the Barn Hall really represents the original Stable, though another old Stable from the farm yard was in 1906 moved on rollers to the site of The Moorings.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Bookham Gramophone Club.

The Bookham Gramophone Club is open to all who are interested in recorded music. Recitals of records take place at intervals of fourteen days; usually the programme is presented by a member of the Club, but sometimes by visiting recitalists. General and non-technical comments are given on the music and on the recording. The Club has the use of high-fidelity equipment, and the reproduction is excellent. The Club exists not only for those whose musical tastes are already formed, but also for those whose outlook is still developing. The Committee is always ready to consider suggestions from members for future programmes and on other matters.

The autumn season will commence on September 6th at the Old Barn Hall at 8 p.m. with a programme by Mr. H. R. Swetmen entitled *First Impressions*. Further details from the Hon. Secretary, Bookham 2404.

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B.C.A. Over Sixties Club.

The Bookham Community Association Over Sixties Club was formed by the Women's Committee in January, 1951, and has had Mrs. N. Cox as Chairman throughout. It meets on Tuesday of each week in the Barn Hall at 2.45. There is a good library and a monthly chiropody service.

Funds are built up from the weekly collections and the Bazaars, the preparations for which form part of the Club's many activities. The Club benefits also by the nominal charge made by the Community Association for the use of the Hall. Membership is open to all Bookham residents over the age of 60. As the numbers now stand at 100 there is a short waiting list and anyone wishing to join is invited to apply to the Secretary to have their name entered on this.

Everything is done to vary the weekly programme. Monthly whist drives are held and there are darts, cards and competitions. Socials are arranged, film shows, Any Questions, gramophone recitals, and local artists occasionally entertain. An annual day at the sea is organized, theatre parties and a visit to the Ice Shows. A river trip with a specially chartered steamer has been a feature of the activities. The year is rounded off with a Christmas Party. During 1956 a party of 15 were taken on a week's holiday to Dymchurch and a smaller group went to Bognor.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Road.

Old Tyme Dance Club.

Beginning on September 5th, the Bookham Community Association Old Tyme Dance Club will start its classes, which will be held every Wednesday at the Barn Hall throughout the season, ending on 26th June, 1957. Instruction will be given by Mrs. O. Clarke, partnered by her father, Mr. A. Smith. Monthly dances will be held on the second Saturday of every month at the Church House, commencing on October 13th.

Members old and new are welcome. Information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Butcher, The Hermitage, Dowlans Road, Bookham.

Bookham Choral Society.

As the Leith Hill Musical Festival is so much later this year, April 30th and May 1st and 2nd, the Bookham Choral Society will begin the season in October instead of late September. This also fits in well for our conductor, Mr. Ralph Nicholson, who will be with the London Symphony Orchestra in South Africa during most of September.

Our rehearsal day has been changed from Monday to Tuesday, so the first evening of the season will be on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 8 p.m., at the Congregational Church Hall, Eastwick Road.

It is hoped that all old members will be there and will do their utmost to bring along new members, particularly tenors.

It was decided at the Annual

General Meeting last September to appoint a deputy conductor to take Mr. Ralph Nicholson's place on those occasions when the L.S.O. has prior claim on him, and Mr. Clark, of Ashtead, has kindly consented to come and conduct us and we hope he will also join the Society as a singing member.

Hon. Secretary: Barbara Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive,

Football Club.

Our lads are once again anxiously waiting for the big kick-off on September 8th. The premier and reserve sides are again competing in the Surrey Intermediate League, and we have also entered a junior side in the Epsom and Ewell Youth League, so there will be plenty of football at the Recreation Ground for our supporters should they care to come and encourage their local boys.

The Club officers have all been re-elected to serve for another season. Dr. G. M. Easton is very pleased to act again as the Club President, and he will attend matches, when it is possible, shouting his usual encouragement from the touchline.

There are one or two changes in the Committee, one in particular being the return of Mr. Len Earle as the trainer. Mr. Fred Smith has again returned to his duty of five years ago—that of guardian to the juniors—and we wish him all the success that attended him with his last juniors, many of whom form the "backbone" of the present parent club.

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The Bookham Music Club.

At the end of its first season the Bookham Music Club numbers over 75 members, which shows that a real need is being met and that the "live" concerts provided have been appreciated. Many of the performers are well known to B.B.C. listeners; and all of them have been most generous in the sordid matter of fees, otherwise it would not have been possible for us to have heard such fine artists as Eric Parkin, Joan Davies, the Carter String Trio, and Maurice Bevan, Elizabeth Darbishire and Victor Yates, to mention only a few of those who have delighted us.

The second season will begin at 8 p.m. on October 5th with a viola and piano recital by Henry Myerscough and Victor Yates; Miss Green has again most kindly lent the Club her charming school hall for this concert. On November 24th an interesting programme will be given by the Guildhall String Orchestra at the Old Barn Hall. For the public concert on March 23rd next year we joyfully announce that Miss Michal Hambourg has kindly consented to play the piano for us. We hope that the Church House will be filled to overflowing to hear this brilliant and charming player. Tickets from Mrs. Waters, Vine Cottage, High Street. Other concerts will be announced in due course.

You are reminded that the membership fee is only one guinea

per year, the subscription being due on January 1st. A half-year subscription may be paid up to December 31st, 1956. (Treasurer: Mr. W. F. Waters, Vine Cottage, High Street.) Non-members may attend by arrangement with the Secretary (Bookham 3321), but will be asked to subscribe to a collection the price of a concert ticket.

Since the Club has now far outgrown the drawing-rooms that so kindly nurtured its beginnings, we would like to make the Old Barn Hall our future headquarters. The obvious difficulty is, of course, the lack of a piano. The committee proposes to borrow or hire a piano for each concert until such time as we can buy one of our own, which would be far more economical in the long run. A special "Piano Fund" is being opened, so if you would like to have a really good instrument for your concerts, please give generously and as soon as possible. (Donations to the Treasurer.)

If you appreciate "the real thing" in music, do join the B.M.C. and bring your friends. We need at least 150 members if we are to make the Club financially independent. We hope to make it a friendly, social affair, with coffee and biscuits after the concerts at the Barn Hall; and we will provide, to the best of our ability, music that will please you.

A.R.

Old People's Visit.

A coachload of happy old people made an annual visit to Bookham from the Borough of St. Pancras on June 30th. They were accompanied by the Mayor and met at the Barn Hall (after visiting Polesden Lacey) by the Vice-Chairman of the L.U.D.C. and Councillors Murrells, Bishop and Kille. Mr. Peyton, apologising for the absence of the Chairman, congratulated the Community Association on arranging this happy occasion and said that Leatherhead looked with admiration on the pioneer work done by the Association in a variety of good causes.

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OLD PEOPLES WEEK

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"TWELFTH NIGHT" AT POLESDEN

The annual Shakespeare productions at Polesden have definitely become a considerable attraction. Over 4,000 people attended the three performances of "Twelfth Night" on the open-air stage in July. Looking round the vast auditorium one was again surprised to realise that comparatively few Bookham people were in these numbers.

There are probably as many interpretations of Shakespeare as there are producers, and the test of a successful performance is its capacity to stimulate audience participation. Listening and looking, enjoyable though these may be, are not sufficient. One should be excited to search out the producer's purpose, to assess the achievement and to measure it against one's own estimate and so find new meanings in familiar lines. That Miss Elsie Green, who has now produced four plays at Polesden, can do this is a tribute to her capacity as a producer. There was a spontaneity, a gaiety and a freshness about "Twelfth Night" which gave wings to the performance, and yet there was none of that hurrying of the lines which, in so many modern productions, destroys their melody and poetry. Indeed, the inflection was so skilfully modulated that it was possible to get fresh delight in well-remembered passages.

The Polesden stage is not an easy one to work upon. The surroundings give it charm, but in itself it is a grassy mound and the large auditorium restricts the area which can be used. In effect it is an indoor stage in an open-air setting, and the problem for the producer is to combine in due proportion the scenic atmosphere with dramatic spectacle. In "Twelfth Night", however, one genuinely felt that the production had grown out of the setting and was not imposed upon it. The fact that the skies were clouded was probably an asset because attention was concentrated on the grouping of the players and the effectiveness of the columns and pavilion set against the trees.

There was a liquid simplicity about the whole performance and magnificent teamwork by the players. The comedy was handled so light-heartedly that the mischief could be forgiven. Ronald Kirkwood, who is now an established favourite at Polesden, brought to Feste, the jester, a faun-like quality of grace and cruelty, and age-old wisdom looking out through the clear eyes of perpetual youth, which ran like a theme through the play and set its tone. It was good to see Vera Shephard, who has assisted so considerably in all the productions at Polesden, play the part of Maria with such verve. There was an earthiness about her humour which recalled to mind her vig-

orous comic performance as Starveling in "Midsummer Night's Dream". Redmayne Fitzgerald, as Malvolio, gave another fine character picture to hang in the gallery he has created over the years. To the new players, who acquitted themselves so well, we say welcome. We would like to see them all another year.

Finally it must not be forgotten that this annual event at Polesden is a social as well as an artistic occasion. This continues under the new direction of the National Trust. The fact that the old patrons had come again along with many newcomers and that so many Community Association members and friends were assisting, as in other years, made one feel that the policy was as before, that audience, players and helpers were linked together in a joint enterprise in which giving and receiving brought equal pleasure.

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VILLAGE DAY

The organisers of Village Day were heartened by the crowds who came to the Barn Hall, despite the pouring rain. The exhibition of local organisations, schools, etc., was well up to the standard of previous years and aroused great interest. Considering the weather conditions tribute must be paid to the Bookham Red Cross, the Casualty Unit, the W.I. Puppet Group, the Nonsuch Bowmen, the London University Fencing Club and the Girl's Life Brigade who all put on their displays.

Thanks are due to the following tradesmen who donated prizes for the event: Messrs. A. Absalom, Bellinger, Busby, Crabtree, Drake, Fripp, Hayter, Jones, Noelle, Perry, Petherbridge, Walker Smith, Gray Wilson, Walker, Woodford, Tottman, Thrush, Vohman, Victory Press, Guildford and District Co-op.

Splendid work was done by the many helpers, ranging from the Brownies and Guides to members of the Over Sixties. Outside stalls, however, had to be abandoned and, under cramped conditions, the sideshows were very restricted. Consequently the takings, though good, were less than had been hoped for. The Community Association is, nevertheless, confident

that the village will be generous in responding to the appeal for the new boiler fund to which the proceeds of the Day were to be donated. An article on another page, contributed by our distinguished correspondent, Mr. John Harvey, on the "Old Barn Hall", gives point to the appeal. This fine, ancient building must be maintained.

DIRECTORY OF BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

Badminton Club. A. Bishop, 5a Cannon Grove, Fetcham.

Choral Society. Mrs. L. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive.

Congregational Church Guild. C. H. Arnold, Brookside, The Glade, Fetcham.

Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch. Miss A. Mattison, Clovelly, Downsway.

Football Club. T. W. Wynn, 37 Sole Farm Ave.

Grove Association. F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Rd.

Girl Guides. Mrs. Rossner, Benedict, Woodlands Rd.

Brownies: 1st Pack, Mrs. E. Cameron, Noremac, Dowlans Rd. 3rd Pack, Mrs. Norman, 33 The Mount, Fetcham.

Rangers: Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cot., Leatherhead Rd.

Labour Party, Bookham Ward. J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway.

Women's Section: Mrs. Street, St. Malo, Howard Rd.

Music Club. Miss A. Ryerson, Basil-don, Halepit Rd.

Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch. V. A. Montague, 53 Sole Farm Ave.

Poultry and Rabbit Club. Mr. Burford, 5 East St.

Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Rd.

Scouts. Group Scoutmaster, L. R. Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm. Scoutmaster, E. Sheppard, Rose-dale, Downsway.

Cubs. Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

Silver Band. W. J. Powell, 49 Oveton Way.

Women's Institute. Mrs. M. J. Brown-ing, School House.

Women's Total Abstinence Union. Mrs. Bradshaw, 22 Merrylands Rd.

Youth Club, Bookham and Effingham. Miss E. Micholls, Manor Farm, Little Bookham.

Youth Tennis Club. Miss B. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

Camera Club. J. W. Selby, 23 Nut-croft Grove, Fetcham.

Gramophone Club. Mrs. M. Everett, Brandreth, Sole Farm Rd.

Old Time Dance Club. Mrs. D. K. Dunmur, 2 Dowlans Close.

Over Twenties. A. Stent, Beechdene, Leatherhead Rd.

Over Sixties. Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Rd.

Table Tennis. Miss M. Austin, Pen-y-Bryn, Dirtham Lane, Effingham.

Hon. Sec., Bookham Community Association. Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 2702.

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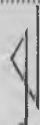
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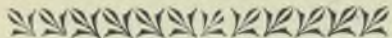


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