



LUNCHTIME by Joy Tobin, Bookham Camera Club

Bookhams Bulletin

SUMMER 2001

LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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1951-2001

THEATRE AT POLESDEN LACEY



The first production in 1951 - 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.
No scenery, no covers for the orchestra.

At the time of going to press the Polesden Lacey Festival, known until recently as 'The Open Air Theatre', (PLOAT), has been given the go-ahead to perform in June. Efforts to contain the Foot and Mouth Disease have affected most of us, National Trust properties and nearly all footpaths on the North Downs were closed. Surrey was fortunate that by late April it was free from this terrible affliction and Polesden Lacey was reopened, though the more extensive walks are still closed. Booking for the Festival was opened on this special year - 50 years since the theatre performed its first production.

But to start at the beginning - through the enthusiasm and dedication of Betty Harrison of the Bookham Community Association, a pageant production of Merrie England was performed in the grounds of Polesden Lacey in 1949. With the success of the experiment, the BCA sought for a way of celebrating the 1951 Festival of Britain and conceived the idea of building a permanent outdoor theatre for 'the people'.

It was ambitious in concept, but did not lack willing volunteers, and preparations began in 1950 to build the open air stage we recognise today - set against the lovely background of Surrey Hills. Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream was chosen for the inaugural performance, which took place on 30th July 1951. The tradition of Shakespeare at Polesden was born.

The theatres reputation grew steadily due to the unstinting commitment of Elsie Green, who became its Resident Director from 1953 until her retirement in 1988. With success established, the concept of the season began to change. A second week was introduced to include the work of other dramatists, and then, by extending to a third week, a wider variety of entertainment became possible. Gilbert and Sullivan, light operetta, grand opera, ballet, classical concerts, jazz, big bands, music hall, folk dancing and a spectacular firework finale have been enjoyed at the festival.

A Shakespeare production has always been performed, and to celebrate the 50th birthday of the theatre, Peter Halo, himself a veteran actor and director, is to direct a special production of 'The Taming of the Shrew' with a cast including many previous Polesden actors and actresses.

With major changes in the overall programme and the introduction of more concerts and jazz, two years ago it was decided to change the name to 'Polesden Lacey Festival' as this would more appropriately describe the choice of entertainment for the programme.

A list of events is given in this edition of the Bulletin. Details are available in brochures and can be obtained on the Bulletin Web. Do come and support us so that we can entertain you for many years to come.

Bookhams Bulletin

64TH YEAR

ISSUE 259



WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAY

Thursday 24th - Bookham Commons National Trust Wine and Cheese Event with an illustrated talk by Linda Heath on "Bookham in the time of Fanny Burney" - Old Barn Hall - 7.30 pm. Tickets £7 from Granary Crafts on 458600 and Ron Smith on 452361.

JUNE

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th - P.O.S.E. present 'Abigail's Party' - Old Barn Hall - 7.45 pm. Tickets from Fiona Whitehead on 450698.

Monday 25th - Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society - Open Garden at 3 Childs Hall Road - 7 to 9 pm.

JULY

Saturday 7th - Bookham Choral Society Summer Concert - including Haydn part songs and items from the Leith Hill Festival - St. Nicolas Church - 7.30 pm.

Sunday 8th - Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society Summer Show - Old Barn Hall - 2.30 pm.

Sunday 15th - The Grange Centre Summer Fête - Rectory Lane - Stilt man, magic show, duck racing, Pilgrim Morris Dancers, strolling jazz band, barbeque! - 12 noon. For further details phone 452608.

BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bookham Community Association was established in 1947 to advance education and provide facilities for the leisure time of the communities of Great and Little Bookham and the immediate neighbourhood. This is achieved by encouraging organisations with various interests, managing the Old Barn Hall, publishing Bookhams Bulletin four times a year and organising the annual Village Day and Village Week. See page 22 for full details.

EDITORIAL

At the time of writing, we have mercifully avoided the foot and mouth disease in Surrey. For several weeks, with the closure of National Trust properties, the open air concerts in Polesden Lacey were in danger of being cancelled. Fortunately, we have had a reprieve and our 50th session will go ahead.

I am grateful to Sheila Warner, a member of the theatre committee, for writing most of the front page article and to Tim Jenkins for giving me the photograph of the first production on a floppy - such is modern technology! Tim's mother was wardrobe mistress during the early years and he has memorabilia from year 1 to 49. Sheila would be very pleased to hear from any one in the photograph, on stage or in the orchestra (374567).

Was it by chance that Howard of Effingham chose 'Oliver' for their recently performed musical? A sell out for 4 nights, it was a superb performance, and six of the cast have been chosen to be in the Polesden production. However, Polesden will not be able to match the 120 members of cast on stage for the finale.

Bookham offers a wide variety of interests as shown by the list of clubs in the Bulletin. Some clubs are finding it difficult to continue functioning since a chairperson, secretary or treasurer are not coming forward to replace those who have served for many years. The Residents Association is in danger of closing unless volunteer officers are found. The BRA performs a vital role in Bookham. They are in touch with Mole Valley Council, our MP and the police performing quite a different role from the BCA. Bookham will be a much poorer community if the BRA ceases to exist. If this happens, I am concerned for the long term future of the BCA. No Bulletin. No Old Barn Hall!

After many months of wet weather, causing potholes in our roads, resulting in expensive repairs for many motorists, let us hope that we have a good summer, a sunny Village Day, but not too hot.

Eric Lloyd Jones

NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSIONS BY 30st JUNE

Articles and Bulletin Board

Eric Lloyd Jones, 27 The Spinney, KT23 3PZ. ELLOYDJONES@email.msn.com

'What's Happening' Notices to
Joy Tobin, 4 Downs Way (453340)

CHURCHES

All Saints, Little Bookham Father Charles Lawrence, 4 Fiona Close
KT23 3JU (458314) - Parish Office: (451697)

Bookham Baptist Church Rev Ian McFarlane, Church Office, Lower
Road KT23 4DH (811313)

Bookham United Reformed Church Rev. Brian D. Treharne,
Christ Church Manse, Epsom Road, Leatherhead KT22 8ST (372968)

Churches Together in Fetcham & Bookham Miss M. Denne,
7 Blackthorne Road KT23 4BN (453894)

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit Father Michael
Benjamin, 5 Bell Lane, Fetcham KT22 9ND (373387)

St. Nicolas Church Rev. Penny Fleming, The Rectory, Fife Way
KT23 3PH (452405)

Weekly Events at The Old Barn Hall

Citizens Advice Bureau - Monday Afternoon in Office at rear of Old
Barn Hall

Afternoon Bridge Club - Monday & Thursday

Players - Monday & Thursday Evening

Bookham Toddler Group - Tuesday Morning

Over 60s - Tuesday Afternoon

Evening Bridge Club - Tuesday

Welfare Day Centre - Wednesday Morning & Afternoon

Bingo - Wednesday Evening

Old Time & Modern Sequence Dance Club - Wednesday Evening

WI Market - Friday Morning

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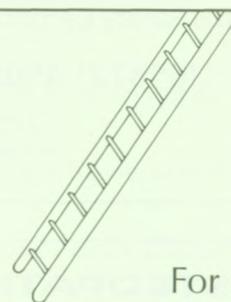
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the time of writing this article my attention was drawn to the article in the Leatherhead Advertiser concerning the situation of the Bookham Residents Association with whom the Bookham Community Association has worked closely since Brenda de Bruin has been Chairman. I am hoping that by the time that this issue of the Bulletin is published a solution will have been found to solve the problems which have beset the BRA. In common with many organisations these days it is very difficult to persuade anyone to take on the role of committee members, let alone positions of secretary, treasurer or chairman. I believe that the BRA play an important role in the life of the Bookhams, although it is very specialised compared to the Bookham Community Association. We wish Brenda good luck in her efforts to solve their problem. From the BCA point of view we are still trying to find a replacement for Beryl Warne, our secretary, and as the year passes the situation will become more difficult. So please think about the situation and give us a call. At the latter part of last year we lost the services of Ray Loynes after many years of devoted service. However you will probably see a new face around at the Barn Hall. He is Alan Clark and has not long returned to this country after many years in New Zealand. We welcome him back to Bookham.

At this time of year we are of course thinking about our main fund raising event of the year, which is Village Day. During this last year there has been a considerable amount of money spent on the halls due to refurbishments which have been necessary to maintain the building, and so this Village Week will be very important to us. Hopefully the rain supply will be exhausted by June and we shall have some fine weather to ensure the day's success. A full programme of events is published in this Bulletin covering both Village Day and the following week but a few highlights are listed below. The theme this year is 'Fantasy Worlds' and the imagination could run wild with both

children and adults, particularly with the Harry Potter followers. We shall have the usual procession through the Village led by the Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band and although we shall not have the parade of motor vehicles this year, the little yellow Austin Seven which was immediately in front of the procession last year will be appearing again. Over many years we have had the steam railway as an attraction for both children and adults, but due to changes in the health and safety rules relating to model railways, the organisation who have given us so much pleasure for so many years can no longer carry out this function. To compensate for this the Village Week Committee have provided extra interests for the children including additional entertainment in the arena.

Our guest of honour for Village Day will be Jean Preston who has been associated with the Bookham Community Association for many years and is the widow of Keith Preston who was President and Chairman for several years. Jean will have the difficult task of judging the best dressed stall prior to opening the day for us. As usual we shall have two other judges for the procession to decide the best entry for the Peter Hancock Cup. Our judges are Mole Valley Councillor Tony Moore and his wife and as I am sure they already realise it will be a difficult task.

Our much appreciated sponsor for the day is T.W.White & Sons. In addition our thanks go to the traders of Bookham for supporting us by advertising in the Village Week Programme and for their generous donations of raffle prizes for the day and the following week.

Apart from the activities of the day, the following week will have events during each day, ending with the usual Jazz evening on the Friday evening. We look forward to seeing you on the 16th June and during the following week and hope you will have an enjoyable time.

David Wilkins

1951

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Sun 17 June 12 noon	Sunday Lunchtime Family Concert
Sun 17 June 7.30pm	Big Band Tribute to Duke Ellington
Thur 21 - Sat 23 June 8pm + Sat Matinee 2.30pm	The Taming of the Shrew
Wed 27 - Sat 30 June 8pm + Sat Matinee 2.30pm	Oliver
Sun 1 July 11am - 5pm	The Surrey Hills Country Fair
Sun 1 July 8pm	50th Anniversary Gala Concert, plus fireworks

BOOKHAM'S NEW RECTOR

Penny Fleming was inducted Rector of St Nicolas Church, Bookham on 25th April. So who is she? My first impression was of a warm people-person with a soft Scottish accent. Penny told me that she comes from the west coast of Scotland, but her mother was English and Penny moved south after studying at Glasgow university. She began her career as a primary school teacher but later taught French and German in secondary schools. As she spent spare time helping out in her local parish she began to think about going into ministry and around that period the Anglican church was considering women becoming deacons. Penny trained for two years at Westcott House in Cambridge, was made a deacon at Guildford Cathedral in 1989 and took up a curacy at The Bourne in Farnham. Bristol was the first diocese to ordain women priests but Guildford soon followed, so Penny felt it was an historic occasion when, along with many others, she was ordained as priest in April 1994. Afterwards she became Vicar of Wotton and Holmbury and in 1999 a rural dean. She has also been vocations advisor for the diocese, helping others think about their ministry. Penny has a daughter and twin sons -- all married or about to be -- and one grandchild. Sadly she is separated from her husband.

I asked Penny what she enjoys most about her work. 'Oh, the worship! And meeting with people at special points in their lives -- births, marriages, even deaths. It's a privilege to do what you can to help. And then it's wonderful when people's faith takes off and expands -- I believe people have moments when it suddenly becomes more real and it's great to be around then and to help. I love words, which helps when writing sermons -- and it's great to have a job when you're expected to read! No, I don't just read theology. I have a great weakness for crime novels and enjoy modern literature but my all-time favourite is Jane Austen. To think that the job description didn't even mention that she stayed here in Bookham, with her Uncle, the Rector!

What does Penny like least about her job? She pulled a face. 'Meetings, long ones, where nothing constructive happens.

And raising money. Yes, that's important but it wasn't part of my thinking in deciding to do this work.'

What would she want to say to the community of Bookham? 'I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can and to making a positive difference by my presence here. I'm eager to learn more about how your lively community works. In a 'village' of ten thousand it takes hard work to make such a thing happen. People always worry about what is happening for young people and about whether "care in the community" works. I'd hope the churches can contribute, for example our pastoral assistants will visit anyone in need, not just Anglicans.

St Nicolas now has two women clergy and I asked Penny how people had reacted to this. She laughed. 'Some people assume sparks must fly between two women, but I've known some stormy relationships between male vicars and curates! A man from outside this parish said that Bookham would be "flooded with women". Would this individual have used the same expression of men? But I don't consider gender to be divisive. I'm dedicated to minister to male and female alike and have never put off the men in my churches! Besides which, St Nicolas has a male lay-reader and a male non-stipendary priest.'



What are Penny's priorities in Bookham? 'I was given them by the PCC. We're keen to be even more involved in the community and to be a real spiritual resource to our own members as well as to new ones. Many people are looking for spiritual answers though they don't always think to look in church. And we want to work ecumenically with the whole church in Bookham and to see renewal. But I'm not arriving with some pre-ordained plan. I want to get to know the place first.'

So when you see Penny, do welcome her and introduce yourself!

Christine Leonard

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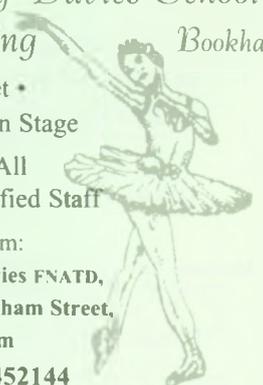
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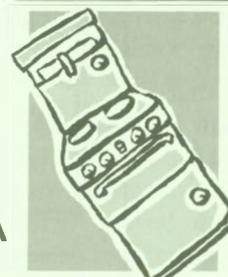


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TO BOOKHAM BAPTIST CHURCH – A NEW HOME



What do the following have in common – the Boys' Club in Dorking Road, the Grange Centre in Rectory Lane and the Dawnay School in Griffin Way?

The answer – each was used as a temporary home for various parts of the life of Bookham Baptist Church between June 2000 and Easter this year. The church has now moved into comprehensively redeveloped premises in Lower Road, close to the centre of Bookham village.

The members of BBC are determined not to look on this as a return to the old church but see it as the next stage in their journey together. With new facilities, brighter rooms, increased scope for activities and a prime location in Bookham these are exciting times and an opportunity for growth in several dimensions.

So just what has been happening at the Boys Club, the Grange Centre and the Dawnay School – and what of the future now that Lower Road is back in action?

One of the core daytime activities in the new premises is the Rainbow Playgroup that uses the hall four mornings a week. After their temporary home at the Boys Club they are now operating with a full range of facilities built to house a dynamic and growing playgroup that is based on Christian values. Each Thursday morning the hall is thronged with parents and toddlers as the very popular Noah's Ark group meets to enjoy the new facilities. With a bigger hall offering more space there is scope to increase the range of activities and to accommodate more children.

The Grange Centre played hosts to the group 'Womens' Own', a growing group that caters not just for ladies from Bookham Baptist Church. They were made very welcome on Monday afternoons with tea and cakes, and the relative luxury of wonderfully comfortable chairs! Now, back at the Lower Road site, they enjoy the convenience of being in the centre of Bookham and facilities which have been improved to address the needs of the less mobile.

The Dawnay School was the 'church' on Sundays and also the venue for groups such as the men 'keeping fit' on Monday evenings. Since returning to Lower Road everyone has benefited from improved facilities for Sunday worship and weekday groups, with more rooms to accommodate the growing numbers. Open aspects onto Lower Road mean that passers by can capture something of the atmosphere of the church and its people.

With offices on site the church now has personnel available in Lower Road for many hours each day. For everyone in Bookham, whether church members or not, this allows easier access and the opportunity to talk about matters of either a general or confidential nature using counselling rooms. The offices on the first floor match the good standards of today's world of work and are set up to exploit computer technology to the full.

Looking back at the past year of disruption, what have been the highs and lows? At the top of the list of highs must be the experience of being at the various locations, where everyone made BBC so welcome. It was also very encouraging to have it demonstrated so vividly that a church is a body of people and where they meet is far less

important than the meetings themselves. To this must be added the opportunity for the church to re-assess its purpose and the way it makes use of property, particularly the Lower Road site.

A negative was the suspension of the informal coffee shop that was so valuable to some people in the village. The church will be opening its doors day by day in the future and will see this as a central part of its community involvement for the years ahead. Any building work is disruptive to those around the site. BBC knows that some people did experience difficulties and it would have been wonderful if these could have been avoided. The builders did a sterling job limiting the disruption to passers by and to neighbours, but there were times when the situation became more than a little strained.

If there is one message for Bookham following the re-opening of the Lower Road premises it is that BBC is keen to be part of the community, not apart from it. At the point where the church moved out of Lower Road last June the headline in the church magazine was that 'things will never be the same again'. The coming months will amply underline the truth behind this phrase.

Senior Minister, Ian McFarlane, comments 'We have been thrilled at the way God met our needs during the time away from Lower Road. He has made provision for a large proportion of the cost of building to be met already. We have a vision to see the whole Christian church united in its work and witness in the area. We want to play our part in that and pray that the buildings will indeed be used for the glory of God and the benefit of the whole community'.

And as a postscript, the premises will be open for anyone to come in and look around on Village Day, 16th June. Do take the opportunity to see inside, whether for the first time or to see the new, improved version!

Martin Kruger

HELP PUT THE 'BOOK' BACK IN BOOKHAM!

After the wild success of the 'Bookham's Favourite Poem' evening last year, we've something even better planned for 2001's Mole Valley Festival of Literature. 'Bookham's Favourite Novel' evening will start in Bookham library at 8pm on Monday 4th June.

All we need is for YOU to come along, prepared to convince everyone that your favourite novel really is the best. You'll have just one minute in which to speak its praises. After we've all voted there will be a small prize for those who advocated the winner, but the real point is that everyone gets ideas for good books to read - as well as enjoying a light-hearted evening.

'Bookham's Favourite Novel' will be hosted by local writers Edwina Vardey and Chris Leonard and entrance is free (provided you're prepared to speak for just one minute about a novel!)



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Sunday 17th June

6.30pm **UNITED CHURCHES OPEN AIR SERVICE**
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Wednesday 20th June

7.30pm **HARRISON ROOM BINGO SPECIAL**

Monday 18th June

8.00pm **125th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION**
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7.30pm **VILLAGE WEEK DANCE**
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Organised by Bookham Sequence Dance Club.

Tuesday 19th June

10.00am **BOOKHAM CRAFT CLUB OPEN DAY**
10.00am to 12noon. Coffee and Tea,
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Thursday 21st June

7.30pm **BRIDGE SUPPER**
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7.45pm **BARN HALL QUIZ NIGHT**

Local teams test their general knowledge.
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Friday 22nd June

7.45pm **DIXIELAND JAZZ NIGHT with Supper**
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Three Literary Giants in Bookham

Libby Matts continues her history series, culling information from the diaries and letters of Fanny Burney, Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Jane Austen, who all stayed in our village around the same time... but did they ever meet?

1793 On 31st July Fanny Burney, a former lady in waiting to Queen Charlotte, married the French emigrée General Alexander D'Arblay who had been living at Juniper Hall. Three months after their honeymoon, 'spent at Phoenix Farm at the top of Bagden Hill,' the couple, 'removed to a very small house in the suburbs of a very small village called Bookham. We found it rather inconvenient to reside in another person's dwelling.' Mrs Catherine Bailey, widow of former churchwarden, John Bailey, owned the 'small house', Fairfield Place. With its garden and orchard it adjoined Fairfield and still stands on the Pound Piece Plot - in Fanny's day a narrow cottage, with a parlour, hall, dining-room and scullery on the ground floor. The couple had only Fanny's royal pension of £150 pa for income so the General started a market garden, attacking the plum trees and asparagus beds with his sword, much to Mrs Bailey's displeasure.

1794 Fanny started writing her third novel, Camilla. Son Alexander was born in December and baptised in the church, while Fanny recalls a visit from carol singers from Eastwick Village. She called their home 'L'Hermitage'.

1795 Fanny completed Camilla, which was to earn her £3000.

1796 Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who the previous year had married Esther (Hecca) Ogle, whose dowry of £8000 remained in trust. They bought the manors of Polesden Lacey and West Humble, plus the mansion of Polesden, with its lands and pleasure gardens made up to 341 acres. These cost £12,384

1797 In January Fanny complains, 'No one has been here since your departure but a poor woman and in the same state less willingly - a poor dumb beggar, whom you may remember in our walks in Bookham.' In October the D'Arblays left Bookham to live in Camilla Cottage, the house they had built in West Humble. Still poor, they borrowed newspapers from Bookham's Revd Samuel Cooke and of that family Fanny writes, 'The father is worthy, the mother is good, so deserving, so liberal and so infinitely kind, that the world certainly does not abound with people to compare them with. The eldest son is a remarkably pleasing young man. The younger seems as sulky as the sister is haughty.'

1798 Fanny reports that Mrs Pullen has told her that, 'she can no longer send every day either cream or butter, as almost all the other families live close by, for her boy has departed for the winter - but they are sure of being served

three times a week.' The Pullen family still run Home Farm today!

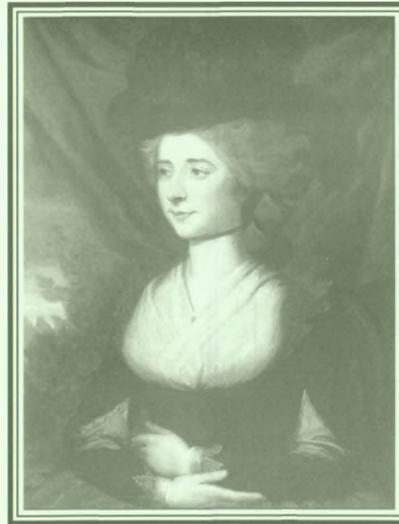
1799 Jane Austen writes to her sister Cassandra, 'Dreads going to Bookham and hopes something might happen to prevent it.' Was this because Theophilus Cooke, Samuel's son, had just lost the election to be Master of Balliol? Anyway, on May 21st Jane arrived in Bookham where she stayed until June 2nd. She must have fully acquainted herself with the area because she started The Watsons two years later. She never finished this novel and it remained unpublished until 1871. It concerns a poor clerical family living three miles from Dorking on the turnpike road, perhaps West Humble. Yet Jane never met Fanny Burney!

1802 Sheridan had plans to write another opera and Summer and Autumn found him at Polesden writing The Foresters. He was very short of money, not a candle there, nor tea for Hecca. In June she, Charles, their son, a servant Nancy and Lawson had scarlet fever. 'The husband of a poor woman who washes for this house, and lives in a cottage of mine, is just come and says all his children are taken ill - it's fortunate that I can send him assistance.' But in October the papers reported, 'A large tent was erected on the lawn capable of accommodating 300 persons, who were treated with English cheer and ancient hospitality and the industrious and deserving girls of character were rewarded each by a harvest present from their amiable hostess. A select party dined at the Mansion House which was enlivened by the vivacity and gaiety of Mr Sheridan and the peasantry

departed after preserving the utmost regularity, order and decorum at a proper hour, all filled with gratitude for their hospitable and kind reception.

1804 Sheridan was a generous landlord, immensely popular with his tenants and a firm supporter of them in the Land Enclosure Acts of 1804-1805.

To be continued in our next issue...



Fanny Burney in 1782

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RED CROSS NEWS



Mrs Monica Suffolk, a long serving member of the Leatherhead Centre of the Red Cross, will be appointed a Vice President of the Surrey branch at the AGM in May. The Bookham and Horsley Rotary Club awarded her the Paul Allen medal last year for Service to the Community.

Mrs Suffolk comments that Mrs Marjorie Donaldson chairs a committee of ladies, who since 1983 have raised funds to support Leatherhead Red Cross and equip its ambulance with essentials. Their lunches, bridge nights, concerts and quizzes have enabled the Branch to be self sufficient and the Red Cross members to be well trained and efficient in their duties. Over the years more than £50,000 has been raised some of which purchased the Leatherhead Red Cross Ambulance. Their good works continue and deserve our support.

Bookham Craft Club

Bookham Craft Club is a thriving club meeting regularly every month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 9am to 12 noon in the Harrison Room of the Old Barn Hall.

We specialise in introducing new ideas, utilising member's skills and outside demonstrators, for all ages and abilities. Come and join us to make new friends and learn new skills, and enjoy a cup of coffee at about 10am.

Sheila Hall



50 years ago - drawing on the cover of the Bookhams Bulletin.

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Local History Activities

Most readers will be familiar with The Leatherhead and District Local History Society and its museum. Some however might ask : "what has this got to do with the Bookhams ?" The answer, in short, is : "yes there's a great deal which is relevant to ourselves."

In the first instance the title of the Society , with the words "and District", has very real meaning for all those living in this part of the world. The members come from all the "villages" around Leatherhead, including Ashted, Fetcham, Great and Little Bookham and some from even further afield.

Even more noteworthy is the fact that a high proportion of its leading members are Bookham residents, namely the society's president as well as its chairman. In addition three other Bookhamites have a key role on the society's council. Items specifically relating to the Bookhams regularly feature in the quarterly newsletter – one item in the current number concerns a walking tour around Little Bookham guided by former president and acknowledged expert on Bookham, Stephen Fortescue.

Bookham members have been active at the Leatherhead Museum during the winter months, preparing for the official opening for the summer season. As a result of their efforts, many new displays will be on show. For those who have not visited the museum recently this might well be an item for your agenda this summer. Opening times are Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 4 and Saturdays from 10 till 4.

Several books on aspects of Bookham's history have been produced in recent years, indeed two have appeared in the course of this year namely Bill Culley's Bookham in the Twentieth Century and Jack Barker's The House of Douglas : a Great Bookham Surrey Nursery. Many books on local history are on sale at the Museum.

The Society always has a welcome for new members. Details of membership may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Jack Barker, 7 Fernlea, Great Bookham, KT23 3NJ, telephone 458469. And for those on the Internet a visit to the site at

<http://freespace.virgin.net/frank.haslam/sites/ladlhistsoc/>

can be worthwhile.

John Wettren

***Editor of the History Society's Newsletter and
Chairman, The Friends of Leatherhead Museum***

BOOKHAM EVENING TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Bookham Evening T.G. is a thriving Guild of over 100 members, and at least 70 faithful followers turn out for our monthly meetings. During the Millennium Year, Christine Eccersley, our Chairman, presented 37 members with Long Service Awards.

Lorraine Dunn and Pat Date whisked many members, some with husbands, off on a myriad of marvellous outings, which, of course will continue. Our Discussion and Book Club Groups cover a wide range of topics and the Ramblers, when muddy paths permit, traverse the countryside.

Guild Social Events, to which spouses are invited, are always popular and last year included a Casino Evening, when a lot of money changed hands, and several other enjoyable events. We have high quality speakers at most of our meetings, and these cover a wide variety of topics, some serious, others more lighthearted.

Each year we nominate a Charity and hold coffee mornings and Bring and Buy Sales to raise money. Last year it was The Mid-Surrey Project for Young Carers. This year it is the Eye Clinic at Leatherhead Hospital.

Our doors are always open to new members. If you would like to know more about us, have a word with Rachel Boxall on 458235.

AWARDS TO MARY LONGHURST AND THELMA WESTON

Christopher Bishop, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Bookham & Horsley, wrote to say that the Rotary Club presented, in 1997, the Rotary International Founders Medal, the Paul Harris Award to Thelma Weston in recognition of her service to the community. Last year a presentation was made to Mary Longhurst when she was awarded a Community Service Certificate in appreciation of her long and dedicated efforts on behalf of the elderly within the community.

Eileen Strutt

It is with great regret that we report the death of Eileen Strutt, who was the proof reader of the Bookhams Bulletin for the past 10 years.

Eileen was unmarried and spent her working life with Coutts in the Strand, where she was a highly respected member of staff rising to be head of a Department. Shortly after she retired Eileen moved from East Sheen to Bookham, and in her middle 60's learned to drive a car so that she could more easily join in the activities of the area. She actively supported local and national charities and was secretary of the Trefoil Guild for a number of years.

A few years ago she became increasingly disabled which restricted her activities and eventually rendered her housebound. However, she kept up with what was happening in Bookham and beyond thanks to the many friends who were made welcome in her flat.

She will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Editor's note: I enjoyed taking the Bulletin proof to Eileen and collecting it afterwards. We would chat at length about a wide variety of local and world events. In spite of her disability, she never complained and it was always a delight to visit her.



SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Carewell

The communities of Bookham and surrounding villages are now served by a thriving young charity that provides a domiciliary care service for disabled and elderly residents.

Carewell had an interesting origin. A group of disabled people felt strongly that users of a care service should have the opportunity to be involved in its management. This does not often happen elsewhere. Considerable determination was needed to overcome many obstacles but, three years later, the reality is in full swing with the service registered with Surrey Social Services. They are full members of the UK Home Care Association.

All the Trustees and the Manager are users of the service or members of close family. They are supported by a Clinical Manager, who is a qualified district nurse, and a team of ten experienced care assistants. Registered as a charity in February 1999, Carewell has grown rapidly and now provides care for seventeen clients.

There is always a demand for more care, both for clients and to relieve their family carers, so Carewell is constantly looking to recruit more local staff. The main qualities necessary are a caring attitude, reliability and commitment to helping our clients. A sense of humour also helps. Whilst experience is highly valued, it is not necessary, as thorough training and supervision are given to all new staff.

There is strength in a service that is truly local. The knowledge that the Trustees and managers bring to bear about local services and facilities has been invaluable for clients and staff. At times of crisis such as last year's fuel shortages and recent flooding problems, care visits were uninterrupted. We can happily claim, as a more dubious establishment used to say, "We never close!" Anyone interested in joining our team of care staff is welcome to contact us. Tel: 459734.

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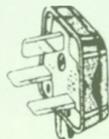
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Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

At the time of writing Spring has officially arrived, the garden is full of daffodils and other Spring flowers and the Society's Spring Show is less than 2 weeks away. Most gardener's spirits have, however, been rather dampened by the continuous rain and hopefully by the time you are reading this the weather will have improved.

Along with the rest of the community the Society will be looking forward to the Summer, preparing for Village Week and the programme of diverse events, which punctuate the gardening year. Summer is a period for shows, open gardens and meeting to talk about, enjoy and, for some, display the fruits of our labours. As the days begin to shorten later in the year we start to move back indoors with the Annual Dinner and Social and weekly meetings covering a range of subjects. Topics this year range from Gardening for Wildlife, making effective use of your Greenhouse and growing Pot Plants to tips on how to enter Flower Shows.

The Society has something to offer everyone, of all ages, who has an interest in gardens and gardening. To take part in all the events and shows you can join the society for a modest £1.50 a year (£2 for a family) and to take full advantage of your investment now is the time to join or renew your annual membership which runs from May onwards. You can get information about the society's activities from the Secretary, Phyllis Bailey (453800) or talking to members at our stall on Village Day. To join the Society contact the Membership Secretary, Christine Hutchinson (452614).

Peter Almond

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR SURREY DISABLED

The office of the Voluntary Association for Surrey Disabled was in Victoria House, Epsom Road, Leatherhead. The building was vacated in March and their new address is:-

10 Havenbury Estate, Station Road, Dorking RH4 1ES, Telephone 01306 741500 and 741600.

Services include a holiday programme, a disability equipment mail order service and an equipment short-term loan scheme. The disability equipment shop at Rentwood, School Lane, Fetcham (375553) is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm (please check for opening times over Bank Holiday periods).

Bookham Youth Centre

Monday Night Club for Year 10

has been open and the group have begun planning activities in the club such as darts and pool competition.

In the coming months Members will participate in...

- Youth Parliament Weekend looking at getting young people's voices heard and supporting the new Member of the Youth Parliament for Mid Surrey.
- Respect: a weekend for young women across the county looking at issues identified by them. This year's theme is emotional well-being.
- Camp at Stubbers with activities such as the archery, a challenge course.
- **Thursday Night Club** will be re-launching after Easter and offering new opportunities to young people to do things such as photography and a place for them to meet their friends...
- We are welcoming **new staff** to the team after Easter with skills in photography, art and design and sports in particular....

- The centre now has a new DJ booth and Cabinet with satellite television and we are in process of finding someone to fit an IT suite with internet access.

In the longer term...

- Open two project nights up on Tuesday and Wednesday nights with projects planned and identified with young people...
- Make the centre fully accessible to disabled young people and adults.

Volunteers:

Could you spare an evening and make a difference?

The Youth Centre still need more volunteers to support the young people and staff in the clubs by organising activities, running the tuck shop, collecting subs and just getting to know the young people.

News from Bookham Choral Society



Music lovers might wish to put into their diaries the date, Saturday, 7th July. On the evening of that day Bookham Choral Society will be giving their Summer Concert in the church of St Nicolas.

Musical Director Nicholas O'Neill who has put together the programme says: "It should make a refreshing and pleasant concert". He reveals that the fare will be "relatively light" and that the main body will consist of some Haydn part songs "extolling the virtues of wine, women, song and the like".

In addition the choir will be performing some of the pieces which they sang at the Leith Hill Music Festival which took place in the week after Easter.

Readers should look out for the posters that will be appearing around the district in the weeks leading up to the concert. These will give box office details and prices of seats.

The society has been pleased with the number of new voices who have lately come to join the choir but there is always a welcome for anyone who would like to come and sing with them.

The Society will as usual be represented at Village Day and looks forward to meeting those who seek more information. Enquiries may also be addressed to the Secretary, Pat Bradley, telephone number 01372 375664.

John Wettern

ANNIVERSARY AT SOUTH BOOKHAM SCHOOL



2001 is the year that South Bookham School celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Built in 1971 to provide school places for the growing population in the area, it has always had a good reputation for providing high quality education in a superb location, overlooking the Downs on the road to Polesden Lacey.

With a maximum of 90 pupils in the school, the children benefit from being part of a close community where everyone has an important role to play. Staff are often involved with the school for many years and parents display great loyalty by being involved in a variety of ways - fundraising, socially and providing daily help in the classrooms.

After fighting closure plans in the early 90's, South Bookham has gone from strength to strength and recent improvements to the school building and playground make it a welcoming and inviting place to be. Everyone who visits the school comments on the positive approach to learning displayed by the children and the standard of work that they produce.

Being off the 'beaten track', it is important for the school to make itself known in the area and to maintain strong community links. A successful playschool, a popular keep fit class and regular social events bring many people to the school and local sponsorship has enabled improvements of the outdoor environment to take place.

The 30th Anniversary is to be celebrated on Sunday 1st July when a barbecue for past and present pupils and staff is being held at the school. Anyone who has been associated with the school is welcome to attend but the organisers need to know the numbers for catering purposes. Therefore please contact Lisa on 452534 or Moya on 458077 for more information.

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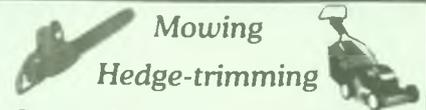
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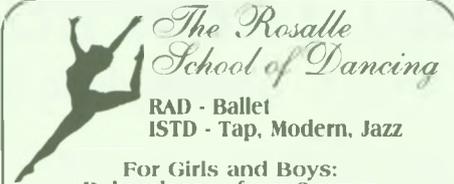
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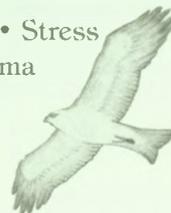
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BULLETIN BOARD



Your Guide to Bookham

Anyone wishing to join one or more of the affiliated groups should write to or telephone the contact listed below. All groups welcome new members (especially those who will be active), although one or two do have waiting lists. If you wish to assist Bookham Community Association in any way contact the Chairman; the Membership Secretary and the Distributor of Bookhams Bulletin (453430) will be pleased to hear from volunteers to become road stewards. Articles for publication in Bookhams Bulletin should be sent to the Bulletin Editor. Businesses who want to advertise in the Bulletin may contact Surrey Litho Ltd. (456060). The Old Barn Hall has three rooms for hire for private as well as group functions (accommodating 36, 100 and 200 people respectively). The Hall Manager, Mr. Roger Musgrove, is always pleased to explain in detail the facilities available. Write to him at the Old Barn Hall, 55 Church Road, Great Bookham KT23 3PQ or telephone 01372 456307. The office is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

BCA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President Alan Zoers, 11 Park Green KT23 3NL (453475)

Chairman and Vice President David Wilkins, 63a Church Road KT23 3EG (456166)

Hon Secretary Mrs Beryl Warne, 9 Twelve Acre Close KT23 3HH (458425)

Hon Treasurer Mrs Margo Sullivan, 31 Dowlans Road KT23 4LF (453012)

Membership Secretary Mrs Jennifer Blackburn, 1 The Moorings KT23 3QA (451998)

Bulletin Editor Eric Lloyd Jones, 27 The Spinney KT23 3PZ (454228)

Members Peter Blackburn, Peter Clarke, Mrs Genie Hancock, David Harding, Gordon Jenner, Keith Slark

Listed below are the groups who are affiliated to the BCA. Changes to these details, and applications from new clubs, should be forwarded in writing to the Editor.

BRA

Bookham Residents Association Mrs B.C.O. de Bruin, 33 Barn Meadow Lane KT23 3EZ (458114)

CONSERVATION

Friends Bookham Commons Peter Corliss, Amberly, Park Green KT23 3NL (452304)

Friends of Little Bookham Church Mrs Valerie Winter, 3 Sheridans Road KT23 4RZ (454273)

Friends of St Nicolas Church Mrs Elizabeth Lee-Kelley, 1 Groveside KT23 4LD (450580)

National Trust Bookham Commons Committee K. Poulton, Oakhurst, Edgeley KT23 3BE (454323)

EDUCATION

Art Class Ms Zelda Glanville, Galveston, Giggs Hill Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0BT (0208 972 9995)

Bookham & District U3A Tony M. Kunesch, 33 Childs Hall Road KT23 3QF (454008)

Bus Stop Playgroup Mrs Kate Rice, 6 Beales Road KT23 4LZ (452660)

Eastwick Junior School P.T.A. Secretary, Eastwick Middle School, Eastwick Drive KT23 3PP (453277)

Friends of Dawnay School c/o The Dawnay School, Griffin Way KT23 4JJ (456774)

Friends of Eastwick Infant School Mrs Amanda Shamp, 22 Richmond Way, Fetcham KT22 9NR (458788)

Friends of Howard of Effingham School c/o Howard of Effingham School, Lower Road, Effingham KT24 5JR (453694)

Friends of South Bookham School School Secretary, Oakdene Close KT23 4PT (456533)

Leatherhead U3A Terence Eccersley, Lavender Cottage, Leatherhead Road KT23 4RR (457217)

Peter Pan Playschool (Bookham) Ms Michelle Baggs, 90 The Street, Fetcham KT22 9RF (376473)

Rainbow Playgroup Mrs Lucy Mason, c/o Baptist Church, Lower Road, KT23 4DH (811313)

South Bookham Playschool Mrs Jayne Cox, 2 Oakdene Close KT23 4PT (801048)

Surrey Adult Education Service Mid Surrey Area The Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DA (386851)

The Dawnay Playgroup Mrs Janet Kennet, Lower Road KT22 4JJ (453796)

WEA (Fetcham & Bookham Branch) Mrs Sylvia Hole, 39 Howard Road KT23 4PW (454181)

MISCELLANEOUS

Alzheimer's Disease Society Mrs Penny Weaver, Hope Lodge, 10 Church Street, Epsom KT19 4NY (729988)

Bookham & Horsley Rotary Club Tony Greenman, 10 Post House Lane KT23 3EA (451534)

Bookham Friends of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People Mrs Jean Preston, 7 Childs Hall Road KT23 3QD (452695)

Bookham Help-your-Neighbour Scheme Mrs Shirley Neish, 23 Childs Hall Road KT23 3QF (458237)

Bookham Homeopathic Group Mrs Carolynn Hinde-Smith, The School House, Townshott Close KT23 4QD (458972)

Bookham Toddler Group Mrs Cathy Terry, 30 Oakhill Close, Ashted KT21 2JQ (815843)

British Red Cross Mrs Audrey Wing, 20 Gilmais KT23 4RP (453687)

Friends of Keswick Mrs Marjorie Creasey, 45 Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 8SH (377741)

Hard of Hearing, Bookham Group Richard Pankhurst, 4 Elmfield KT23 3LQ (454897)

KGV Playing Fields Mrs Penny Osborne, 45 Woodlands Road KT23 4HE (453088)

Leatherhead & District Lions Club Jim Watts, 10 Hazel Way, Fetcham KT22 9QD (456615)

Leatherhead Round Table 171 Steve Whitcombe, 3 Manor Gardens, Effingham KT24 5PF (452348)

NSPCC Mrs Dorothy Conlong, 7 Mill Close KT23 3JX (454065)

Royal National Lifeboat Institution Geoffrey Barkway, 4 Allen Road KT23 4SL (454838)

Save The Children Fund Mrs Mary Eason, Slinfold Cottage, 220 Lower Road KT23 4DA (452483)

Talking Newspaper for the Blind Mrs Ruth Little, Yew Trees, Church Road KT23 3PQ (456335)

The Grange Centre Supporters Mrs Beryl Warne, 9 Twelve Acre Close, KT23 3HH (458425)

Weight Watchers Ms. Sue Westwood, 155 Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9JD (377031)

MUSIC & DANCING

Big Bands Bookham Derek H. Pegg, 4 Fox Lane KT23 3AT (452793)

Bookham Choral Society Mrs Pat Bradley, 8 St. John's Road, Leatherhead KT22 8SE (375664)

Bookham Folk Dance Club Ms Monica Peters, 26 Carlton Road, Redhill RH1 2BX (01737 762549)

Bookham Recorded Music Club Tony Williams, 23 The Lorne KT23 4JY (453599)

Bookham Scottish Country Dance Club Mrs Jean Preston, 7 Childs Hall Road KT23 3QD (452695)

Bookham Sequence Dance Club Alex H. Cross, 15 Humphrey Close, Fetcham KT22 9PZ (457308)

Mole Valley Silver Band Mrs Sarah Kent, 26 Gilmais KT23 4RP (456176)

The Barn Operatic Mrs Pat Barnes, 20 Lebanon Road, Cobham KT11 2PR (01932 865196)

The Slater Symphony Orchestra Christopher Slater, 12 Crabtree Lane KT23 4PF (454963)

POLITICAL ACTION

Bookham & Fetcham Liberal Democrats Mrs Angela Hunt, 22 The Garstons KT23 3DS (457948)

Conservative Association (North Bookham) Mrs Freda Walker, 1 Fernlea KT23 3NJ (454976)

Conservative Association (South Bookham) Mrs Carol Glenister, 25 Merrylands Road, KT23 3HP (453854)

Leatherhead & Bookham Labour Party Mrs Mary Jenkins, 12 Sole Farm Avenue KT23 3DE (456158)

Mole Valley & Epsom & Ewell Green Party John Tebbs, 3 Mead Crescent KT23 3DU (450966)

SOCIAL PASTIMES

Afternoon Bridge Club Keith Lawrance, White Gables, 35 Fairmile Avenue, Cobham KT11 2JA (01932 863689)

Bingo Raymond W. Loynes, 23 Sole Farm Avenue KT23 3DG (454229)

Bookham & Fetcham Art Group Mrs S. Snow, Handley Cottage, The Common KT23 3HZ (453366)

Bookham Camera Club Stuart Edmonston, 148 Cradocks Avenue, Ashted KT21 1NL (275770)

Bookham Craft Club Mrs Sheila Hall, 13 Lodge Road, Fetcham KT22 9QY (373195)

Bookham Fetcham & District Garden Society Mrs P.A. Bailey, 12 Gilmais KT23 4RP (453800)

Bookham Flower Arrangement Group Mrs Beryl Hopkins, 3 Downs View Road KT23 4PP (457362)

Bookham Medau Club Mrs Doreen Zoers, 11 Park Green KT23 3NL (453475)

Bookham Parchment Craft Group Mrs Wendy Stone, 18 Turville Court, Proctor Gardens KT23 4DD (453452)

Bookham Stamp Club Rodney E.J. Partridge, 20 Mill Close KT233JX (456760)

Bookham WI Market Mrs Ann Tomlinsow, 29 The Glade, Fetcham KT22 9TB (453462)

Bridge Club (Evening) Henry Hunt, 19 Pine Dean KT23 4BT (456074)

Dorking & District Fuchsia Group Mrs Hilary Burlinson, Lingmill, Silkmore Lane, West Horsley KT24 6JB (01483 282492)

Dressmaking Group Mrs Lilian Slark, 9 The Lorne KT23 4JY (453712)

Eastwick Allotments & Garden Association John Humphreys, 15 The Lorne KT23 4JY (454383)

Effingham Bridge Club (Evening) M. Atkins, 47 Richmond Way, Fetcham KT22 9NU (458275)

Winemakers Club Mrs G. Gowen, 6 Vicarage Close KT23 3DZ (454721)

Yoga Club Mrs Teresa Rumball, 21 Kennel Lane, Fetcham KT22 9PQ (456314)

SPORT

Bookham Badminton Club Malcolm Jordan, 15 Sole Farm Road, KT23 3DW (459782)

Bookham Bowling Club M.H. Owen, 3 Revell Drive, Fetcham KT22 9PS. (454722)

Bookham Football Club David Mumford, 8 Murrells Walk KT23 3LP

Bookham Sports Association John Prince, 3 Murrells Walk KT23 3LP (457229)

Bookham Tennis Club Mrs Alison Gatford, 87 Eastwich Drive KT23 3NS (458598)

Dorking & Mole Valley Athletic Club Graham Taylor, "Treva", Links Way KT23 4HQ (452724)

Effingham Rugby Club Mike Scoltock, 5 Dowlans Road KT23 4LF (453134)

Leatherhead Tennis Club Mrs I. Gawne, 76 Eastwick Drive KT233NX (456817)

THEATRE

Bookham Players John Bashford, 3 Swanns Meadow, KT23 4JX (453739)

POSE Miss Heather Watkins, Flat 2, Arndell House, 48 Benhill Wood Road, Sutton SM1 4HN (0208 6434269)

Polesden Lacey Festival Alec M. Garnham, 29 Dorking Road KT234PU (454407)

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Bookham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild Mrs Shirley Cooper, 22 Barrett Road, Fetcham KT22 9HL (458276)

Bookham Afternoon WI Mrs Sheila M. Morley, 9 Barn Meadow Lane KT23 3HJ (452766)

Bookham Evening Townswomen's Guild Mrs Rachel Boxall, 95 Sole Farm Avenue KT23 3DG (458235)

Bookhams Evening WI Mrs Beryl Gilham, 38 Eastwick Drive KT23 3PR (451980)

Eastwick WI Miss J. Durbin, 6 Cochrane Court, Church Road KT23 3JJ (458715)

Emlyn Downs Group of WI's Mrs Stella Phipps, 66 Little Bookham St. (453797)

Little Bookham WI Mrs Joyce O'Donovan, 71 Strathcona Avenue KT23 4HR (454498)

National Women's Register Mrs Kim Kitson, Tapogee, Burhams Road KT23 3BA (451972)

Royal British Legion Women's Section Mrs M. Blackburn, 5 Canonside, Fetcham KT22 9LE (373854)

YOUTH

1st Bookham Scout Group Chris Sheppard, 48 Hazel Way, Fetcham KT22 9QD (450376)

3rd Bookham Scout Group Chris Hallett, 8 Durlleston Park Drive KT23 4AJ (458068)

Army Cadet Force, Leatherhead Detachment ACF Hut, Oaks Close, Leatherhead KT22 7SH (01483 414170)

Bookham Youth & Community Centre Helen Hughes, 164 Lower Road KT23 4AQ (452541)

Friends of Bookham & Effingham Guides Alan Wilson, 15a Halepit Road KT23 4BS (450173)

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However, there are 63 roads with no collectors.

We recognise that this is not the easiest task, for it means calling on some houses several times to catch the occupant at home. We are therefore very grateful to our noble band of collectors, but if you are not called on to contribute, please cut out and fill in the form below and put it through Jennifer Blackburn's letter box at 1, The Moorings. It will be much appreciated.

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The Bookhams Bulletin should be delivered to every house in the KT23 postal area (roughly Eastwick Drive to Woodlands Road), and also to some roads in Fetcham west of Kennel Lane. I have recently found that a few houses in Guildford Road were not receiving the Bulletin and I would like readers' help in making sure that there are no other gaps in our delivery system.

If you know of anyone in the above area who is not getting their Bulletin, please telephone and let me know (453430).

If you live outside this area we can offer a postal delivery service for a small charge or you can access the Bulletin on the web.

I am always glad to hear from volunteers to act as deliverers as inevitably some of our loyal and long serving regulars want to step down.

Bill Whitman

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Assistant Editor - Christine Leonard (458850)

'What's Happening' - Joy Tobin (453340)

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