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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 86

MARCH 1955.

23rd year



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# The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 86.

MARCH, 1955.

23rd year

The Editor 'Brandreth' Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.  
Business Manager "Aldbourne" Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham,

## CONTENTS

Association News	...	7
Bookham Camera Club	...	9
Short History of Bookham		11
Ewell County Technical College	...	15

## EDITORIAL

Is the *Bulletin* worth while? In the course of assembling copy for this issue we have suffered the usual difficulties of delays, lack of interest, and what might almost be described as complete apathy in some cases. We are wondering whether the *Bulletin* has any useful purpose to serve and we would welcome the views of our readers. The problem is not a new one. Looking back on the early editions of this journal we find the Editor writing after the first issue of the *Bulletin* in October, 1933: "Is it worth doing?—why this conspiracy of silence?"

The same theme seems to appear throughout subsequent years and we are not alone in wondering whether the people of Bookham want the *Bulletin*.

It is interesting to note that the policy has not changed. If we may again quote the original issue which promises "a budget of local news" and writes, "With articles by local men and women—to arouse and foster an interest in this pleasant little corner of England." The *Bulletin* was originally sponsored by the Bookhams Social Service Bureau. Now it is the organ of Bookham Community Association. But there is nothing new under the sun and it is interesting to read in the 1935 edition an article on Community Service by the Rev. W. L. T. Merson in which he says: "Wherever we come from, and whatever our experience, in coming to live in this lovely district we have joined a community. But to con-

tract our interests to our own house and garden, and to shut out any thought of community as we close our garden gate, is to miss the added joy that comes to the heart from sharing in the spirit of community."

We find ourselves echoing the original appeal. We ask the local clubs and organisations to look upon the paper as theirs and to send reports of activities, programmes of events, and generally to contribute so that the journal may become an integral part of local life. Contributions should reach us by April 25th for the next edition.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 18. "Hamlet" at Polesden Lacey.

July 16. Village Day.

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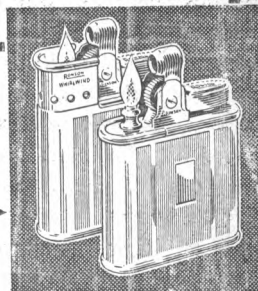
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## BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

On Thursday, March 10th, at the Barn Hall at 8.15 p.m., Mr. H. F. W. Flower will give a talk, "8,000 Miles Across America by Car and Plane", illustrated by coloured slides. Mr. Flower spent three months on the journey, during the course of which he had many interesting experiences and took many hundreds of coloured photographs. His talk will appeal to both young and old and will provide an unusual if not unique opportunity to gain some first hand knowledge of a great country, its people, its scenery, its history, its vegetation and other aspects of life not generally available from books and other sources. Admission free, silver collection. Light refreshments will be served.

### Gramophone Club.

The Gramophone Club continues to flourish and we welcome visitors to our meetings, on alternate Thursdays at the Barn Hall, 8 p.m.

- Mar. 17. Espana. H. R. Swetman.  
31. Tribute to Sir Walford Davies. L. Gordon Davies.  
Apr. 14. Chorus and Orchestra. George Anderson.  
28. Music in the Home and Concert Room. Miss Mabel Fuller.  
May 1. From the Sublime to the Ridiculous. Harold Whitehead.  
26. Fiddles and Fiddle-stickery. P. A. Ball.

### Olde Tyme Dance Club.

Dances are held on the second Saturday in each month at the Church House. The proceeds of the dance on Saturday, March 12th, will be donated to the local Scout Fund. The Club also try to arrange visits to other old time dance clubs, approximately once a month. Classes are held at the Barn Hall every Wednesday. Beginners and experienced dancers are very welcome. Instruction is given by Mrs. Olga Clarke, who is a qualified teacher of old time dancing.

### Jumble Sale.

On Saturday, March 26th, at 2.30 p.m. at the Barn Hall, in aid of Community Association funds. Any unwanted articles will be welcome and we will gladly collect. Tel. Leatherhead 3053 or Bookham 2404.

## BOOKHAM ACTIVITIES

### 1st Bookham Scout Group.

The Scouts' annual Christmas good turn at the end of 1954 took the form of supplying logs to elderly persons in Bookham.

For this purpose permission was obtained in the autumn to fell several birch trees on Bookham Common, which, after cutting into logs, were delivered in loads by træk cart to 12 aged persons, whose names were kindly furnished to the Scouts by the local representative of the British Red Cross.

Then on 26th February our Swiss Patrol Leader George, who has now been a member of the

Troop for 3 years, arranged a presentation of the official film of last year's Rover Moot at Kandersteg, Switzerland. The proceeds were given to the Swiss Handicapped Scouts.

Bob-a-Job Week falls this year on 11th to 16th April, and during the week Scouts and Cubs will be seeking jobs to earn money for Scout Headquarters in London, for Surrey County and Leatherhead District expenses of organisation, and lastly for our own Troop and Pack funds. In the past our Bookham friends have been most generous in their support of Bob-a-Job Week, and our Scouts and Cubs look forward to receiving many requests for jobs to be done.

The Annual St. George's Day Parade and Service of the Leatherhead District Scout Association is to be held this year at Great Bookham Parish Church on Sunday, 24th April, at 3.30 p.m. As far as accommodation permits parents and friends are welcomed to this service to witness the renewal by all Scouts and Cubs of their Promise.

"TROOP SCRIBE."

### Silver Band.

Bookham and District Silver Band are appealing for support. Their equipment is good. To date they have 17 instruments, including 4 original Bookham Band instruments and 3 instruments and a set of cymbals presented by a generous donor. They meet weekly

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### **British Red Cross Society.**

We are pleased to note that 6 members passed their first and 4 their second Home Nursing examinations

The First Aid Lectures at Dr. Waterfield's house are being very well attended.

Mrs. Barfield would be very pleased to hear from any others interested in Nursing, First Aid or Welfare work. Phone Bookham 3204.

We now have 23 very enthusiastic cadets who are being taught Home Nursing and bandaging, also on the lighter side, games, country dancing and singing, at the Congregational Hall on Fridays at 7 p.m. New members welcome—11 years upwards.

### **The Bookhams Women's Institute.**

In spite of the wintry weather the Members' Party was loyally supported, and everyone enjoyed the well-organised evening and the excellent buffet supper.

The Drama Group are now rehearsing for the annual production, which will be this year "Find the Girl" a 111 Act Comedy by Stuart Ready, to be performed on May 5th, 6th and 7th at the Church House.

The Puppet Group are also busy preparing for a production of "Hansel and Gretel", music from the opera by Humperdinck, script by Mrs. Boardman. It is hoped to present this in the autumn. An entertainment enjoyable for all ages.

### **BOOKHAM CAMERA CLUB**

On 14th January members and friends of Bookham Camera Club held their 8th Annual Dinner. As one of the speakers remarked, this was an opportunity for the wives or husbands, as the case might be, of members to come along and see what sort of company their partners keep on Friday evenings during the rest of the year. This, however, would give them very little idea of what members actually *do* on those evenings.

Many people have only a vague notion of the functions of a camera club, although almost everybody owns a camera. Some think that taking photographs—"real" ones as distinct from snapshots—is an extremely difficult art requiring expensive apparatus and years of practice. They should have heard the lectures entitled "A Box Brownie Album," compiled by Kodak Ltd., or "Colour Printing and the Kitchen Sink," by Mr. F. Fereday, of B.C.U.R.A., who showed how to make excellent photographs in colour, utilising such homely appliances as the kitchen sink, the wringer and the airing cupboard. In fact, photo-

graphy is less a matter of having expensive equipment than of knowing how to use whatever is available, and how to improvise when necessary. The quickest and surest way of learning this is to belong to a camera club.

Bookham C.C. meets on Fridays at 8 p.m. at "The Croft", Church Road. Visitors are always welcome. It is affiliated to the Royal Photographic Society and its activities include talks, discussions, competitions and a circulating portfolio for print criticism. The 9th Annual Exhibition opens at the Barn Hall on 16th April. Why not come along and see the work of members, some of whom had never made a big enlargement before they joined the Club?

For full information apply to the Secretary, J. W. Selby, 23 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham, Telephone No. Leatherhead 3622.

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Both the *Bulletin* and the Women's Institute obtained publicity in *Punch* through a misprint in the report of one of their talks. On the subject of "Guide Dogs for the Blond" the comment is "Anything on wolf whistles". We are proud to contribute to the fun in this distinguished periodical and only wish we could attain such fame for our more serious pronouncements.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

### PART VII

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The generation of Bookham's inhabitants born within about 20 years on either side of A.D. 1300 is the first known to us by name. Earlier records yield a few isolated individuals, but of the householders in the second quarter of the fourteenth century it is possible to compile almost a complete directory. This is due in part to the earliest taxation assessment for Surrey, that of 1332,\* but mainly to the survival of the very detailed registers of Abbot John de Rutherwyk of Chertsey, and especially to the abstract of Court Rolls of the Abbey Manors from 1327 to 1347, now forming Lansdowne Manuscript No. 434 in the British Museum.

Rutherwyk, who had been a monk of Chertsey, became abbot in 1307 and ruled for 40 years; the period of his abbacy was one of great activity, and he not only reorganised the finances and administration of the monastic estates, but was also a great builder. From his cartulary,† companion to the register of his courts, we know of many of his works, yet one of the most important is omitted, his rebuilding of the chancel of Great Bookham Church. The style of the windows would almost certainly have placed this within his long reign,

but the exact year, 1341, is recorded by the Latin inscription in Lombardic capitals which still survives. The chancel and its dedicatory inscription together form Bookham's most impressive monument of the past, but we have bitterly to regret the loss of the whole of the original glazing, probably the finest and the most costly part of the work. Of stained glass of Rutherwyk's time in the Surrey churches which belonged to Chertsey Abbey, nothing now remains except small fragments in tracery at Horley and Thorpe. The inscription now beneath the east window was on the north wall when recorded by Elias Ashmole at his visit to Great Bookham Church on 15th October, 1659.‡

Several Vicars of Great Bookham of the time are known to us: William of Sutton in 1314; five years later William of Gedyng, at whose resignation in 1320 Geoffrey of Sutton was instituted; and in 1324 Thomas le Blount, who may have survived until the Black Death, when Richard Palmer and William of Blaston both appear in the year 1349. Thomas le Blount may have been related to Stephen le Blount, the contemporary Rector of Leatherhead, who died in April, 1340,¶ but most of these early clergy are shadowy figures. Of Little Bookham we know only that Walter de Gedyng was Rector in 1308, while William de Northstock and Henry atte Hethe succeeded in 1349: it would seem that no fewer than four priests died in Bookham during the plague year.

At the taxation of 1332, 41 inhabitants were assessed, of whom 16 were described as villeins of the Abbot of Chertsey, and four were assessors of the tax, while of the remaining 21 Peter Leuwyn was to pay 4s. 8d. for "all in his keeping", but who these might be is not clear. From the Chertsey registers many more tenants' names are forthcoming, and the total of those who were occupying land in Bookham in 1332 was at least 80, and probably considerably more when allowance has been made for those who held of the subsidiary manors of Little Bookham and Eastwick. This shows that the number of different holdings was already about as large as it was in 1615, when the earliest plan of Great Bookham parish shows a total of 85 inhabited sites, inclusive of the manor-houses and vicarage; to these about 15 in Little Bookham must be added. In 1674 is the earliest precise record of householders, the Hearth Tax which shows a total of 106 in the two parishes.

Inasmuch as there are records of new cottages being built upon the waste in the sixteenth century, it seems likely that the population had dropped considerably at the Black Death, and was only just reaching its old level 250 years later. Certainly Bookham's prosperity receded, and Abbot Rutherwyk must be counted fortunate in the moment of his death, only two years before the great

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pestilence which was to undo much of his work.

Among Bookham landowners and householders whose names bulk largely in Rutherwyk's time, there are few belonging to the gentry. Sir John Dabernoun, owner of the sub-manor of Eastwick, lived at Stoke, though John de Slyfield (died 1328) and his son Nicholas were no doubt resident owners of the mediæval house on the site of Slyfield Place. The Polesden estate, which had been held by John de Polesdene at the end of the thirteenth century, was in the hands of William de Croft by 1335, and presumably three years earlier, when his assessment for taxation, 6s. 7½d., was the highest in the parish. In several cases freeholders also held in villeinage, there being no clear distinction of status, but merely of tenure: such were William Bonet, Richard Fyg, and Peter le Mulleward.

The greater customary tenants included the family of de Baggedene, holders of Bagden Farm, the Godwyns and Sweyns of Eastwick, the large families of Balderay and Leuwyn, and John atte Sole, occupier of Sole Farm, which in 1337 he surrendered to his son Thomas, while other property went to a daughter Agnes. Inheritance of the right to land was of such importance that the husband of an heiress, even of copyholds, often assumed his wife's name; in this way Adam Foty

became known as Noreys after his marriage to Alice Noreys about 1330, and Robert atte Hulle as Robert Eliot when he had acquired the land which had belonged to Richard Eliot by marrying Emma, the latter's daughter.

Cottagers were numerous. A few cottages were freehold, but most were customary, and in one case the rent was a serjeanty: in 1324 Thomas le Smyth had been granted the tenement called "le Tras" by the service of making and repairing the ironwork of two ploughs with the lord's iron and steel, and shoeing two carthorses and four draught beasts with the lord's iron and nails; nine years later he was granted "le Budel (bothy, hut) in le Lane" as well, by the further service of finding the iron and steel for all the lord's ploughs in Bookham, and shoeing all the oxen with his own iron. These oxen were of course those used for ploughing. Space will not permit enumeration of all the inhabitants, but many of their names are of interest. Some derive from the land they farmed, as in the cases of Baggedene and Slyfield; others from the places where they dwelt: Bythewood, atte Felde, atte Hale (*halh*, a corner), in le Lane, atte Lynde (*lind*, a lime-tree), atte Putte (pit), atte Sole (*sol*, a muddy pool); some from

their occupations, Thomas le Carpenter, Gilbert le Gardyner, John le Mulleward (mill-keeper), William le Shephurde, Walter and Thomas le Smyth, Henry and Peter le Webbe (weaver), and William, Thomas and John le Wodeward, foresters; and a few from their places of origin: Peter le Irisshe, Henry de Kent, and Thomas Stonyld (or Stovyld) called "de Kent". Some of these had already become true surnames, but there was still no arbitrary rule, and the same man is described differently on various occasions.

\* Surrey Record Society, No. XXXIII, 1931.

† British Museum. Lansdowne MS. 435.

‡ Bodleian Library, Oxford. Ashmole MS. 1137, ff.14-19.

¶ Westminster Abbey Muniments, No. 25348.

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## EWELL COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

(Contributed by the Principal,  
T. A. Buchanan, D.S.O., M.C.,  
B.Sc.)

Already existing in the County of Surrey are large Technical Colleges at Kingston, Wimbledon, Guildford and Weybridge and a small one at Redhill. The Surrey Education Committee have for a long time realised, however, that these are not conveniently placed to serve the needs of the very large population living in the central and southern parts. It was, therefore, decided to build a new College at Ewell which is intended to fill the gap. Fortunately a site was obtained which is well served by communications from a wide area. The substantial building which was completed in Autumn, 1953, is intended only as the first stage of the complete College which will provide courses in a variety of subjects for Full-time, Part-time Day and Evening students. Although the College also runs Courses in most subjects to an Intermediate standard it is the Committee's intention that the College shall specialise in Courses in Pure and Applied Sciences and in Building subjects up to the most advanced

levels, including provision for research.

The first stage which was opened in October, 1953, contains a Building Department, a Science Department, a Secretarial Section, a Pre-Nursing Course and a Domestic Science Section.

The Building Department contains building workshops for Carpentry and Joinery, Woodcutting Machinery, Plumbing, Brickwork and Painting and Decorating. These workshops cover a total area of 15,000 square feet. There are two Building Science Laboratories of some thousand square feet each and one of these is fitted with various types of testing machines for testing building materials, etc. There are, of course, Drawing Offices and a Blue Print Room.

The Science Department has Laboratories for Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Zoology, and these cover a total area of 10,000 square feet.

There is a small combined Cinema and Lecture Hall with stage which will hold 234. There is also a space of 2,500 square feet which is being developed into a Library. A large Refectory and

Kitchen caters for over 200 at one sitting. Arrangements are made for hot and cold beverages mid-morning and mid-afternoon, Mid-Lunch and snacks in the evening.

Although not yet two years old the College has an active Student Union and is equipped with a large students' Common Room. Playing Fields have been laid down and at this stage gives a Rugger, a Hockey, a Soccer and a Lacrosse Pitch and a Cricket Field. It was gratifying to hear the Students Union broadcast in the B.B.C. Light Programme on Thursday, 27th January.

Full-time, Part-time Day and Evening Courses are available in all Building subjects including Surveying, all Science subjects and some Languages Full-time, Part-time Day and Evening, Full-time and Evening Secretarial and also Part-time Day and Evening Cookery.

Prospectus and further particulars can be obtained from the Principal, Ewell County Technical College, Reigate Road, Ewell, Telephone No.: Ewell 5025/6.

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This article is the first of a series on schools, colleges and other establishments available to local people.

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