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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 36

SEPTEMBER 1942

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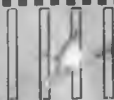
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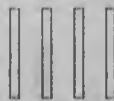
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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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## Editorial

Many plans have been made and many speeches delivered by M.P.'s concerning post-war planning from a national standpoint, but what about our own locality? It should be realised that after the war is over, unless some scheme for the re-housing of persons and employment for returned service men and women can be provided, the promises that have been made like those in May of 1919, will not materialise.

It is obvious that some local post-war planning should be undertaken conjointly with the local authorities and the various voluntary organisations which exist in the urban area, and it is more than necessary that the efforts of the voluntary bodies should be co-ordinated to achieve results.

Whilst the service authorities deal with matters of discharge and demobilisation, provision must be made for employment for those who have no immediate job to go to, and furthermore, those who have their situations to return to must be protected to ensure the continuance of their occupation.

Such problems as the continuance of land cultivation, the just settlement of pensions for disabled ex-service men and women, the

establishment of co-operative small holdings, and many other matters will require as much attention as is now being given to the war-time effort. It may be suggested that these matters are the concern of the various government departments, but if local co-operation can be usefully employed such problems can be quickly solved.

It may be inferred by many, why not win the war first, and the logical answer is, why wait? The schemes could be put into operation upon the day peace is signed providing such voluntary organisations are prepared to help as a unit.

There appears to be some confusion regarding Old Age Pensions. It should be made quite clear that there is no increase in the weekly rate of pension, but there is to be a general increase in the rate of the Supplementary now paid. For this purpose all supplementary allowance order books will be called in by the Assistance Board for the necessary readjustment, but don't send your book until you are requested to do so.

Those desiring supplementary allowances under the Widows, Orphans & Old Age Pensions Act can apply to the Citizens Advice Bureau for Form O.1.

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## Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

Her Majesty the Queen recently paid a visit to one of the London Citizens Advice Bureaux, and it is most gratifying to know that Her Majesty recognises the work of the Bureaux throughout the whole of the country. This recognition is shown in the following message:

Buckingham Palace,  
July, 1942.

I am glad to have had an opportunity of seeing the work of the Citizens Advice Bureaux in London, and I have learned with pleasure how much these Bureaux, of which I understand there are now over one thousand throughout the country, can do to ease the many anxieties which confront people in these difficult days.

I would like the workers in all the Citizens Advice Bureaux to know how deeply I appreciate the valuable contribution they are making to the national effort by their kindly and human understanding of the people's troubles, and I send them my good wishes.

ELIZABETH R.

During the past three years the Citizens Advice Bureau has undertaken a task which has become limitless in its operations, and owing to the complexity and character of the work involved, and the request to the Leatherhead Urban District Council for further financial support, it was decided by the Council to convene a meeting of representatives of voluntary organisations in the area with a view to establishing a Committee in order to place the Bureau upon a sound basis. A Committee was

elected at the end of July, consisting of representatives of local organisations together with a member of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, and whilst this Committee will have its appropriate functions, the standard of efficiency as well as the sympathy and understanding upon the part of the Bureau workers will in no way be impaired. The interest accorded by the Local Authorities will give a new impetus to the Bureau, whilst assuring enquirers that the friendly contact and spirit of Service will be maintained in providing free advice and help.

Among the many enquiries dealt with recently by the Bureau has been that of Income Tax in its various forms, as well as other matters of general taxation, and although a new booklet upon "Income Tax" has been issued, there may be other problems not contained therein that may be answered by the Bureau.

If you have a problem of any kind or need information, go to your Citizens Advice Bureau, 25 High Street, Leatherhead, or you can telephone Leatherhead 3291.

To assist traders dealing with clothes rationing, an information service has been set up by the Board of Trade, primarily for those traders who do not belong to a trade organisation. Particulars obtainable from the C.A.B.

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## War Work in War Time Nurseries

The nation has a duty to safeguard the health and well-being of its children. There are bombed-out children, evacuated children and the children of war workers to be cared for as more and more women with young children are going into war industries.

To meet this need nurseries are being opened as quickly as buildings, equipment and staff can be obtained. There are four kinds of war-time nurseries for children under five: day nurseries for war workers children, some taking children from one month to five years; day and night for children of women on night shifts; nursery classes of from two to five years; and residential nurseries for children sent from evacuation areas.

Additional staffs are urgently needed, so if this type of essential war work applies to you, you can get full information from the Medical Officer of Health for the County, or the local Education Officer if you wish to work in your own district, or to the nearest office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service if you wish to go outside your district.

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A prisoner of war postal service has been arranged for communication with prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japan and Japanese occupied territory.

## United Nations (Civilians) Club

A social club has been opened at the Wesleyan Hall, Church Rd. Leatherhead, which welcomes all persons irrespective of nationality, and although only meeting on the first and third Fridays each month it is hoped to extend the meetings to each week. The chief object of the club is to promote a common understanding between all peoples in order to bring about international friendship as a means of contributing to the post-war planning for the establishment of goodwill leading to a permanent peace.

The club has the support of the British Council, and although having only been in existence for two months has developed and increased its membership at a very rapid rate. A definite policy of administration and objects has been laid down, and programmes of social, educational and welfare activities drawn up. Information and full particulars can be obtained from 25 High St. Leatherhead.

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There has been some delay in the receipt of Red Cross postal messages, particularly from the Channel Islands. Although everything is being done to speed up deliveries, these delays are mainly due to congestion of traffic sometimes due to R.A.F. raids, and dislocation of transport systems. Whatever the causes, the delay is in no way due to circumstances in this country.

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## Garden Society's Show

The annual Show held on July 29th, and one of the few in the county, proved again to be a grand success. Although war time had reduced the number of entries, bad weather seemed to have had little or no effect upon the quality of the exhibits. The man who knows what a high standard of gardening means in hard work, usually admits that the winners especially of the larger prizes fully deserve their reward. In addition to vegetables and flowers there were the Baby and Rabbit Shows. If Bookhams Bonnie Bouncing Babies continue as they have begun, it is certain that the coming generation will be much healthier and better looking than some of those that preceded them. The rabbits exhibited were a fine lot, and proved that the local Rabbit Club have been doing good war time work. May we hope that this Garden Society's Show will be the last war time exhibition and that 1943 will be the first of the peace series.—R.A.

During July a new form of assistance was set up by the military authorities, and it is now possible for serving men of the rank of Sergeant and under, also women in the A.T.S. to obtain legal aid. Full particulars can be had from the Citizens Advice Bureau, who have been requested to co-operate with the Command Legal Aid Officer.

## H.M.S. Scout

An echo of last October's Warship Week is awakened by these extracts from a letter received from the father of the Engineer Officer to the Secretary of H.M.S. Destroyer Scout Comforts Fund:

July 8th, 1942.

You will be interested to learn that I have just heard from my son that the good people of Leatherhead have adopted his ship. . . . It is not possible for any message of thanks and appreciation to be sent home from the officers and men due to urgent operations by the war in the Far East. In his letter to me my son mentions that he will be writing to you to let you know why your letters and kindly gifts have not been acknowledged earlier. . . . Should you not have received his letter, perhaps you will be good enough to take this letter as some slight acknowledgement with very grateful thanks for all your kindly actions, which I have no hesitation in saying have been greatly valued by the lads who have for so many moons been plowing their lonely furrows. When I tell you, as one little incident, that after running the blockade of Hong-kong the ship ran for somewhere about 17,000 miles at high speeds without any time for proper repairs, you will have some inkling as to the strenuous time they have been through. For over two and a half years we have been receiving tales of adventure from my son, so that if your members would like to know more of the ship that they have so kindly taken under their wing, I would be very pleased to enlighten them. Again thanking you all for kindness to the ship's company. Yours faithfully—

The 'Scout' first heard of their adoption by Leatherhead District in early May, 1942, when they received several letters and "very welcome books and pipes."

**Save, Save, and then SAVE!**

## British Sailors Society

(Contributed)

"... and the German communique claims that 14 out the 34 ship in the convoy were damaged or sunk."

Whether that report is authentic or not, we can imagine the sort of passage this convoy will have had—it will have been a pretty rough one. Storms and gales, high seas and pitch-black nights are almost welcomed by the sailors now because it makes it harder for the U-boat to trail them and perform its dastardly work, but it makes it harder too to keep in line and hold on to the rest of the convoy.

No amount of colourful publicity and no medals can do honour to the crews who man these ships so that we may have sufficient to eat and so that the work of our island nation may go on until we have won the war. But if you lived on the quayside where these men come in after a voyage, you would take them into your home, give them food and a bed, anything they needed, wouldn't you, because you would be so grateful that they endure so much for us. You do not live on the quayside but the British Sailors Society does, and it performs these works for you in over 100 ports all over the world.

Think of those men whose ships go down. Their clothes, personal belongings, their jobs and temporary homes go too. They will spend perhaps two or three days in an open boat with little food and no

rest, for constant vigil has to be kept for further enemy action either from the sea or air. If they are lucky and brought ashore, the B.S.S. is there to meet them, with the whole of its enormous organisation ready to care for them and to restore them to their homes and work.

Think of the men who go down with their ships. The time of waiting for official confirmation is an anxious one for more than the one obvious reason, and the B.S.S. realises this and is ready to step in to take the place of the man of the family if necessary, until such time as adequate and permanent arrangements can be made.

We can only just mention here the Training School for Boys, the Ocean Libraries Service, and the Nautical School for Officers amongst many other departments.

The Leatherhead & District Ladies Guild, a branch of the B.S.S., has recently been formed, and new subscribers and workers, any who have the welfare of the seamen at heart and a sense of gratitude for their magnificent services, are asked to get in touch with the Hon. Sec. & Treasurer, Mrs. A. H. Bowes, Parkside, St. Mary's Avenue, Leatherhead.

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Special concession telegram forms are now available for the personnel of the Merchant Navy. The authority to dispatch these is issued to next-of-kin by owners of the seaman's ship.

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## Blinded Prisoners of War

As far as is known there are about 30 blinded prisoners of war in Germany, in by far the best and cleanest camp under the direction of Lord Normanby and Major Chapel. The German authorities have consented to the appointment of a German teacher of the blind, Dr. Adolph of Heidelberg. If it should come to the notice of any readers of the *Bulletin* that they have relatives or friends amongst these prisoners of war, the Editor would be grateful for information so that steps could be taken for the care, comfort and training of these war-blinded men.

## The Bookhams Bulletin

This unique publication has now appeared quarterly for nine years. It owes its origin, during the slump period of 1932-3, mainly to the energy of Dr. Mary Bowles Price. Since then it has continued to reach every Bookham household free, thanks to the devoted labour of the many distributors, and to the never-failing support of the local traders advertisements. This is now the sole source of income of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau, which after paying the printer, expends the balance on groceries, coal, etc. at Christmas for necessitous Bookham folk. May the paper supply enable us to enter our tenth year with confidence.—G.

## "Cynicus"

In the June issue a reference was made to pictures bearing the above signature. These were published about 50 years ago and gained a certain amount of popularity. To those who remember them some outstanding ones can be recalled: one entitled "The transit of Venus" portrayed two burly policemen transporting on a stretcher a big woman who had had at least one over the eight, and who appeared to be telling the bobbies all she thought of them in Cockney language. About that period there were several women who were habitual drunkards and who achieved notoriety owing to the great number of times they appeared at the Police Court charged with being drunk and disorderly. Another sketch represented about a dozen men and boys standing upon the bank of a small stream with rod and line, all looking as cheerful as a wet week, and was called The Bañd of Hope. Another showed a man attired in a frock coat and silk hat, sitting on the edge of a crescent shaped moon, fingering a stringed musical instrument. The caption to this was "The stockbroker in Heaven: he twangs the lyre still." Yet another depicted an eighteen-stone man driving a fine pair of horses harnessed to a carriage in which sat a well-dressed, wizened old man weighing about seven stone; this was called "Master & Man." There were many more.

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Bookham Street

Bookham Youth Council  
Mr. C. V. Brayne, C.M.G  
Wolverley, L. Bookham Tel. 502

Bookham Youth Committee (as above)

Bowling Club  
Mr. Andrews, Five Beeches,  
Dorking Road. Tel. 201

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Mr D. Cook, Flushing Farm House  
Bookham & Effingham Girls' Club  
Miss Young, Graham Lodge, East  
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Mr. B. Church, June, Kennel Lane

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