

THE
BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 7.

APRIL, 1935.

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Social Service Bureau.

Secretary :
Miss Thompson,
Two Oaks, The Park,
Gt. Bookham.

Treasurer :
Mr. W. O. Groom,
Wychwood, Sole Farm Road,
Gt. Bookham.

"The Bulletin is published with a view to making known and thereby assisting the work of all organisations which aim at improving the conditions and increasing the amenities of the district."

Articles dealing with matters of general interest are welcomed, and secretaries or organisers are invited to submit contributions for inclusion in subsequent issues.

We print below a note which we have received from Miss Gilham. May we ask for our readers' consideration of it! It is a sad commentary upon her letter that our Treasurer reports that the Distress Fund is now insolvent and the Children's Milk Fund exhausted. Living in hope, as most charitable organisations do, we have not stopped Miss Gilham from pledging our credit. When the need is great, money must be found, and we can assure our readers that the Milk Fund particularly is fulfilling a real need.

The British Legion has asked to be allowed to co-operate with us, and Mr. Muggeridge has been elected to represent the Legion on the Bureau. We are also glad to be able to say that the Rector of Great Bookham and the Rev. W. L. Merson have also become members. We should like to see all leaders of religion working with us.

EDITOR.

* * *

As Visitor for the Social Service Bureau, Miss Gilham wishes to thank all those who have so kindly sent parcels for the many necessitous cases dealt with. She has distributed blankets, sheets, clothing of all descriptions, boots and shoes, etc. These have in every case been received with real gratitude, and have considerably helped during the spell of very cold weather which we have just experienced.

Owing to the response to our last appeal the Milk Fund has been providing many young children and mothers with the extra milk they need. May we still ask our kind supporters to continue this good work. We have trying weeks ahead of us before the summer comes.

* * *

"Don't pass by the box marked 'The Bookhams Bulletin' outside Jackson's Granaries, High Street, Bookham. All contributions placed therein are sent to the Distress or Milk Funds."

The Bookhams Bowling Club.

Last season it was naturally not expected that the ground would be absolutely perfect, although it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Longhurst had done wonders in bringing it to the state it was at the opening in May. Since then over £21 has been spent for upkeep of the ground, and from last autumn onwards another £30 will most probably have been expended in further improvements. Last season's regular players who became well acquainted with and enjoyed some of the little peculiarities of the ground will no doubt in 1935 search in vain for similar.

The membership of the Club in 1934 totalled fifty, and it is hoped that this may be very much increased this year. The Club has become affiliated to the Surrey County and English Bowling Associations.

A full programme is now in course of arrangement for the forthcoming season, and already nearly thirty Saturday and mid-week matches have been fixed up with neighbouring Clubs. Beyond this the Brotherhood are putting up a silver trophy for competition between members of their team and the Bookhams, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the latter has offered a silver cup for a ladies' competition.

Furthermore there will be the usual competitions for silver spoons, of which the Chairman of the Club has kindly given six as a commencement. It is hoped that other contests may be arranged.

Those who have never played bowls previously will be welcomed as members, and will find it a fascinating game. All wishing to enter for competitions should pay in their subscriptions early so that arrangements can be made for the inclusion of their names.

Anyone desirous of joining the Club should please communicate with the Hon. Secretary,

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British Legion. Effingham and District Branch.

For ten years a Branch of the British Legion has been in existence in this locality, and although known as the Effingham and District Branch, the Parishes of Great and Little Bookham are included. Prior to October, 1934, the Branch had no definite headquarters in which to carry out their activities, but through the energies of the members a very attractive and substantial Headquarters was built on the Lower Road, Effingham.

Here, until further additions are built, the Hall serves for a dual purpose: firstly, to carry out the business of the Legion, and secondly, as a Club where the members indulge in games of various descriptions.

Possibly little or nothing is known of the actual objects of this movement in assisting Ex-Service Men, and in bringing it to the notice of the readers of the "Bookhams Bulletin," it is hoped that a greater impetus will be given to those who made their sacrifice in the days of the Great War.

First and foremost is the employment of Ex-Service Men, for which an Employment Committee is in operation. The British Legion specialises in providing men of the type required for all kinds of work, and during the past year a number of vacancies were filled by our men, but at the same time there are still a number of men unemployed. Some of these men are disabled, and others prematurely aged on account of their war service, but this does not eliminate them from the labour market. Give them the opportunity. All employees who give conscientious and loyal support are valuable assets to businesses.

Under the fifteen schemes operated by the Local Benevolent Committee, assistance is given to all Ex-Service Men, Ex-Service Women and their dependants, such as the relief of unemployment, sickness, chronic illness, dental treatment, disability pensions, widows' pensions, convalescence, etc., and during the past six months twenty-three cases of acute distress were dealt with, three cases of chronic illness, three pension cases, one dental and two widow's pensions cases.

There are no administrative expenses in connection with the Employment and Benevolent

Committees, for each and all work with the spirit of the Legion and in accordance with their motto, "Service, not self."

Forthcoming Events.

25th March to 30th March, National Employment Week.

27th March. Half-yearly Meeting, followed by Social and presentation to Capt. F. J. Searle, M.C., upon retiring from ten years' Chair.

6th April. Surrey County Conference.

19th April to 22nd April. Surrey County British Legion visit Ostend, Zeebrugge, and Ypres.

Inter-Branch Games Tournaments are arranged weekly.

The "Good Companions" Club.

Steady interest has been taken by the members during the quarter. Early in the year it was decided that the Band should meet for practice on Friday evenings, but the extension to all members was welcomed, and an average attendance of thirty on both Thursdays and Fridays has been maintained. Most successful monthly Social Evenings, to which members have been able to bring friends, have been the means of increasing membership.

The unfortunate illness of the President, Mrs. Stanley Russell, is much regretted, and we wish her a speedy recovery and return to the Club.

Some of the members are engaged in preparation for a special event on May 1st, to which reference is made elsewhere. It is hoped that the Concert, to which the Band will contribute, will be a great success. Another activity is the beginning of a Physical Training Class. We hope that more members will choose to profit by this opportunity.

D.G.

Amateur Dramatics.

"All the world's a stage,
and all the men and women merely players."

Throughout the entire country, interest in Dramatic Art seems to be growing apace, and there is every indication that members of Amateur Dramatic Societies are now taking their work rather more seriously than they did in the past. They are studying technique and are beginning to realise that just learning the "words" and making a few vague gestures can hardly be described as acting, nor is it very

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interesting to the audience, however much the "actor" may be enjoying it himself.

It is an unfortunate fact that the amateur actor is about the only performer inflicting his "art" on his long-suffering fellow-creatures, who has absolutely no compunction about appearing in public without any preliminary training whatsoever. A local organisation "The Fetcham Dramatic Club," which includes many residents of Bookham among its members, is setting a good example in this respect. Soon after the formation of the Club about a year ago, classes in movement and dramatic technique were started and these were well attended, until the end of July. At the Club's first performance on December 1st, a triple bill was presented and every member of the Society took part, either as a performer, producer, programme seller, stage hand or dresser. All the scenery was made by members and so were the costumes and most of the wigs. One of the most attractive features of this performance was the delightful spirit which prevailed both in front of and behind the curtain. Those who know the hectic excitement which usually prevails "back stage" when accommodation is limited—there is scene-shifting to be done, lighting effects to be re-arranged, casts to be persuaded in and out of dressing rooms, and a time-schedule to be kept—will realise that it is something of an achievement for everybody to be smiling and cheerful throughout the entire evening, and speaks well for the spirit of comradeship amongst the members.

During the coming summer it is proposed to hold rehearsal classes, possibly two good three-act plays will be studied; it is also hoped that a lecture and demonstration on "make up" may be arranged.

The question of finance must always be a serious one with a young Society, but although the annual subscription is small, the Club is not out to feather its own nest only, and on the 29th and 30th March, it is presenting a Cabaret Show, the profits of which are to be given to the Village Hall Fund. On this occasion the refreshment side is being managed by a Committee of Club members, assisted by Fetcham ladies. The programme will be varied: Sketches, burlesques, dances, and choruses, and although the Fetcham chorus may not yet surpass Mr. Cochran's Young Ladies, they are making a start towards the same goal!

P.N.

As the Bookhams have not an Amateur Dramatic Club of their own, we are glad to be able to give Fetcham a little well deserved publicity. As pioneers in a movement of

importance increasing with the growth of leisure, which economists promise us, they earn every encouragement. At the same time, we must mention that the spirit of drama moves in Bookham too.

On March 29th and 30th a group of players, under the direction of the Rev. G. Hope, are presenting "Everyman" in the Church House; and, on May 1st, the "Good Companions" Club are giving their first public Concert. One of the items will be a play entitled "My Man John," by Lady Darwin. The parts are all being taken by members of the Club, who are working hard along the lines mentioned by the writer above.

May we ask our readers to support these ventures, which in these days of so much mechanised amusement have a value of their own.

EDITOR.

1st Bookham Troop of Scouts.

Scouting, like many undertakings, cannot remain stationary—it cannot mark time: it will either expand and forge ahead, or slip back into gradual inactivity, and, if not checked, fade out altogether.

So in Bookham Scouting has been perhaps subject to barometric-like movements up and down; and if there has been a period of depression, when efficiency and enthusiasm has appeared to some to be on the wane, there is to-day a clear indication that the Troop is on the up-grade. This improved state is in no small measure due to the generosity of the Troop's many friends and supporters in providing the new Scout Hall.

After many years of toil and buffeting, our Troop has at last reached its "port" and dropped "anchor," and under the sheltered conditions of a Hall set aside for Scouting (and for use by our sister organisation, the Girl Guides), it has been possible to recapture something of the true spirit of the Scout Movement, with the consequent regeneration of enthusiasm in the boys themselves.

But the entry into occupation of the new Scout Hall is not alone responsible for the present satisfactory outlook: Our Troop, besides being particularly fortunate in its present staff of Officers, has as Patrol Leaders boys equal in character and steadiness to any of the best that have gone before in the history of the Troop. The importance of this cannot be over-estimated when it is remembered that the tone and discipline of a Troop largely depend upon the example of leadership of its senior boys.

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Thus the Bookham Troop has entered upon this Jubilee Year of 1935 with confidence and high aspiration.

There is, however, as is all too often the case, one "fly in the ointment": it is nothing to be ashamed of—it is just that the Troop is penniless. For the first time in its history a debtor balance had to be carried forward to the new year. The "fly" is no mere "gnat," but something more in the nature of a "bluebottle," our Troop having over-expanded to an amount in excess of £25, and help towards this debt would be most welcome.

The events for the year as so far fixed are:—
Monday, May 6th. Jubilee Beacon, Hawks Hill.
Sunday, May 12th. Thanksgiving Service at Great Bookham Church.

June 8th to 10th. Whitsun Camp on Ranmore Common, joining with Scouts from all parts of Surrey. All interested are invited to visit this Camp on Sunday or Monday, 9th or 10th June.

August 9th to 17th. Summer Camp at Swanage, Dorset.

DON'T FORGET !!

REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
[For Quarter's Programme see overleaf.]

Mondays—

Women's Thrift Club.
Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).
Women's Fellowship, 2.30 p.m. (Church House).
Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).
Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Junior Club, 7 p.m. (Church House).
Boys' Brigade, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Girls' Friendly Society and Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m. (Congregational Church).
Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Blue Birds, 6.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
Camp Fire Girls, 7.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

Wednesdays—

Children's Guild, 7 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).
Choir Practice, 7.45 p.m. (Congregational Church).
Orchestra Practice, 8.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).
Choir Practice, 8 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Minister's Devotional Hour (Congregational Hall).
Scouts, 8 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
Good Companions Club, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).
Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).
Christian Endeavour, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).
Good Companions Club, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).

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

OTHER EVENTS.

April.

Sunday, 7th. Congregational Church Women's Meeting Anniversary Service.
Saturday, 13th. Bookham Choral Society Annual Concert (Church House).
Thursday, 25th, at 2.45. Women's Institute (Church House).

May.

Wednesday, 1st. "Good Companions" Club Play, "My Man John," and Concert.
Thursday, 30th, at 2.45. Women's Institute (Church House).

June.

Sunday, 16th. Congregational Church Sunday School Anniversary.
Thursday, 27th. Women's Institute Outing to Peek Frean's Biscuit Factory.

WILLINGLY—AND THANK YOU !

The Editor,

"The Bookhams Bulletin."

Dear Sir,—I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to include in the next issue of "The Bookhams Bulletin" in your column of forthcoming events in the village, the following notice:—

Saturday, April 13th. Bookham Choral Society. Annual Concert (Church House).

Best wishes for the Bulletin. It is very interesting and well produced, and is a good link of village activities. With thanks,

Yours faithfully,

E. E. CATLEY.

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Speakers, etc., for the Quarter.

- April 7. Comdr. A. J. R. Southby, R.N., M.P.
14. Mr. Ernest W. Ridley, of Leatherhead.
21. Mr. Clark, of Bookham.
28. Mr. T. Godwin, of Fetcham.
- May 5. Mr. H. T. Gambrell, of Bookham.
12. Mrs. Bertram White, W.T.A. Union.
19. Rev. Douglas Budden, B.A., D.D.
26. Mr. E. C. Hall (the President).

These conclude the Meetings for the season.

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