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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 85

DECEMBER 1954.

23rd year



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

Visit to St. Pancras	...	7
Bookham Choral Society	...	9
Short History of Bookham		11
Sports News	...	13
Bookham Cricket Club	...	15

EDITORIAL

May we extend Christmas Greetings and Good Wishes to all our readers for 1955.

At this time of the year our minds turn naturally to family parties, and especially to the children, for whom the excitements of the Christmas tree and Santa Claus are ever new. Participating in their joy, we older ones recapture some of the magic of our own early days.

Over the past few years the child population of our village has considerably increased. Christmas, 1954, should undoubtedly be a happy one for Bookham. Our joy as parents is always tinged with a sense of responsibility. These children will grow up. Some ten years from now the

village will have a high proportion of young people. This will bring problems. Youth must have outlets — physical as well as mental. We shall need open spaces for games—more pitches for football, cricket, hockey, netball and rounders. We will require indoor opportunities for games, dancing, debates, dramatics and all those other activities which will enrich the leisure of our young people.

Should we not be planning now for our future needs?

The Community Association has given some thought to this problem and is working out a project for extensions to the Barn Hall to accommodate further activities, especially for young people.

With the help of the village as a whole this plan could become a reality in a short time. There must be many people with ideas on this subject. We would welcome those ideas because experience has shown us that if the planner is bold enough, the enthusiasm necessary to carry it out will follow.

OUR FORMER EDITOR

Owing to pressure of work Miss M. R. Glover has resigned. We should like to express our thanks to her for the very able way in which she carried out the work, which takes much time and patience. She kept the paper alert and interesting, and we are indeed grateful for her services.

The new Editor would be glad to receive letters, comments, or contributions for the March issue. Copy should arrive by January 22nd at Brandreth, Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham. Tel. 2404.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are hoping that in 1955 we shall again be able to stage a performance at Polesden Lacey and also another Village Day.

Annual General Meeting

All members of the Community Association are invited to the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, February 10th, at 8.15, at the Old Barn Hall.

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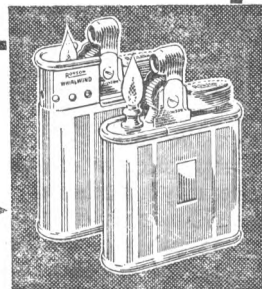
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The Gramophone Club

Now well in its fourth year, this club has established itself as one of the most successful in the district, and now numbers some 50 members.

Attendance at the fortnightly sessions has steadily grown, and has now passed the forty mark, indicating that the Committee's efforts to please everybody all the time are not without gratifying results!

The general policy is to provide evenings of good music of all kinds under ideal conditions by first class reproduction from records, presented by members or visiting enthusiasts with their own comments and personal views on the music, performance, or recording.

The new precision-made turntable purchased by the Association has been installed and is working perfectly, to the great satisfaction of the "technical staff". The amplifier is also of the front rank, and reproduction from the best of the modern "long playing" type of record achieves a high degree of realism to which the size and atmosphere of the Old Barn Hall contribute much.

There is still room for more on alternate Thursday evenings, and full particulars and forthcoming programme will be gladly supplied by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. Everett, "Brandreth", Sole Farm Road. Telephone: Bookham 2404.

Old Tyme Dance Club

Anyone who is interested in old time dancing is invited to come to our classes at the Barn Hall every Wednesday, 7.45 to 10.30 p.m. Admission 1/3. Dances are held at the Church House on the second Saturday in each month. Evening dress is optional.

VISIT TO ST. PANCRAS

Following the Association's Party for the Old People from St. Pancras, a letter came inviting us to visit the Mayor and Mayoress at the Town Hall.

The Mayoress was at the Town Hall to greet us and took us to Kentish Town to visit an Old Age Pensioners' Club, where between 300 and 400 old people gave us a most cordial welcome, with tea and entertainment of songs and music performed by the members. Their Chairman explained the organisation of the Club and how it meets the needs of the neighbourhood. Here the Mayor joined the party and escorted us round the Public Laundry, where the family wash can be done at a very cheap rate.

Our party then returned to St. Pancras, where some of the social workers of the Borough joined us for an excellent tea and most interesting discussions.

Later the Mayor and Mayoress showed us over their magnificent Town Hall, including the Marriage Room, the Council Chamber, the Mayor's Parlour, numerous Committee Room, and the splendid Ballroom and stage. We were also able to examine the beautiful

Mace and the Mayor's Chain of Office at close range.

Altogether it was a most interesting and delightful afternoon and one which will long be remembered by those of us who were fortunate enough to be able to participate in it.

BOOKHAM JOTTINGS

Folk Dancing

What a pity it is that more people do not join in folk dancing, and realise the pleasure and sense of well-being which is to be derived from that form of dancing.

Anyone who feels impelled to respond to a gay time would enjoy the delightful music of these dances which have come down to us through the centuries. The steps and movements called for are simple and natural ones, yet the vigour with which they are performed—entirely a matter of personal inclination—provide that exercise which people often seek in strenuous sports. Occasionally I have gone to a folk dance practice feeling not in the least inclined for dancing, and afterwards have come away feeling "on top of the world", an experience which I have frequently heard other folk dancers confess to.

Perhaps more than any other of the general forms of dancing, folk dancing is a matter of spiritual outlet or self-expression. Certainly one sees nothing but happy expressions at such gatherings: or perchance there is a serious face almost certainly it belongs to someone concentrating on the movements of the dance. The

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patterns of these are indeed numerous and in some of the dances one cannot afford to let one's mind wander. In this respect one comes to realise that country dancing is mentally stimulating too.

Nor does one selfishly keep one's partner to one's self. Whatever the form of the dance—circle, longways or set—an interchange of partners or little regroupings frequently take place, and thus all share in the common enjoyment.

Small wonder that having mastered their art, folk dancers continue as such to the end.

R. LAMBERT, Hon. Secretary,
St. Nicholas' Folk Dancers,
Fowre Wynds, Hall Pit Road.

Bookham Choral Society

Rehearsals began with renewed enthusiasm on September 27th under our new conductor, Mr. Ralph Nicholson, A.R.C.M., of the London Symphony Orchestra, who has already gained our confidence and whole-hearted support.

We were delighted to welcome so many new members, although still more tenors are needed.

Music is easier this season so we hope to devote more time to our Concert and to give a really fresh and interesting Carol Service at St. Nicholas' Church on Monday, December 20th, 1954.

We are indeed fortunate in having the very able services of Miss Miles as accompanist, with Miss Raines to deputise when needed.

We hope to acquit ourselves well at the Leith Hill Musical Festival at Dorking next April.

(Mrs.) BARBARA GORDON
DAVIES, Secretary.

Telephone: Bookham 307.

Bookham School Honours Board

There was a brief interesting ceremony at Bookham School on Friday, October 22nd, when an Honours Board, a gift from Surrey County Council to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, was unveiled by Mrs. Griffin, widow of a former Headmaster. The board is of oak from an old church pew, skilfully carved and inscribed by Mr. W. Young, of Little Bookham. It bears on the left a list of Head Teachers from 1862 onwards, and on the right, names of pupils awarded scholarships from 1906. As well as managers and friends, Mr. Browning, the present Headmaster, had gathered many of the former pupils, from the lady almost first on the board to the recent winners whose names are not yet recorded.

New Headmaster

We welcome to the neighbourhood Mr. Ronald Burns, who has been appointed Headmaster of the Howard of Effingham School. Mr. Burns comes to us from Pudsey, Yorkshire. He is a graduate of Leeds University, with Honours in History. During the war he served in the Royal Signals, chiefly in the Middle East. We hope that Mr. Burns will be very happy in his new post.

St. Nicholas' Youth Club

The St. Nicholas' Youth Club are presenting two one-act plays at Church House on Wednesday, January 19th, at 8.15. This is an all-youth production and deserves support. Tickets can be obtained from G. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive, or any member of the committee. The plays to be performed are "The Boy Comes Home," by A. A. Milne, and "A Night at an Inn," by Lord Dunsany.

British Red Cross

A most interesting and enjoyable series of Home Nursing lectures, given by Sister Morrison, S.R.N., has just finished.

A course of First Aid lectures has been arranged to commence early in the New Year. Anyone interested should bet in touch with Mrs. Barfield, "Merrilees", Maddox Lane, L. Bookham. Tel. 3204.

A Cadet Unit is being formed for girls 12 years and over. Will all interested please contact Mrs. Sutherland, "Ruglea", Eastwick Drive. Tel. 3435.

Little Bookham Women's Club

These enterprising ladies who manage the Little Bookham Village Hall have recently raised enough money by Sales, Coffee Parties, etc., to pay for re-wiring the hall and installing new cooking arrangements. They have now to raise a further £100 for structural repairs. Now that the hall is so much more comfortable it is being let more for social events.

continued on page 13

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A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

PART VI

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By about 1300 Chertsey Abbey no longer farmed Bookham by means of the labour services of serfs, in the way described in most books on the manorial system. This had given place to a predominantly money economy, where even those of theoretically servile condition held their lands by a title almost as indefeasible as freehold. Though this tenure remained verbally "at the will of the lord" until the extinction of the manorial system in our own century, it already formed in fourteenth-century Bookham a title which could only be forfeited by gross negligence or waste committed in the tenement. This high status of the villein at Bookham was somewhat exceptional, though conditions were similar on the other manors of Chertsey Abbey.*

In another respect, Bookham played an unusual part in the development of the law of land-holding. Whereas freeholds passed by law to the eldest son, manorial customs as to land held in villeinage (later copyhold) differed from place to place. The usual rule was for such land to pass to the youngest son (the so-called custom of Borough English); this was generally the case in Surrey, and remained so until 1339 in Bookham. But in that year the homage (villein tenants) of the manor of Great Bookham came in a body to the Abbot's steward, Brother

Richard de Dumbelton, and headed by Gilbert Leuwyne and Thomas atte Hacche asked that the lord (the Abbot of Chertsey) should change the custom by which the youngest son of a serf inherited, into the national custom of primogeniture. The old custom, they said, was to the grave damage of the whole homage and tenants of the manor. Later in the same year, the same request was made by three other manors of Chertsey Abbey: Epsom, Sutton and Coulsdon. In each case the change in custom was granted, on payment by the tenants of each manor of 40s., a sum equal to quite £240 in the values of 1954. The whole homage of Bookham at the time consisted of some 40 to 50 tenants, so that on the average each was prepared to pay about £5 to £6 for the privilege.

This curious transaction is possibly the most outstanding occurrence in the whole history of Bookham, and requires some explanation. It is not obvious why the copyholder should benefit by the descent of his holding to his eldest rather than to his youngest son. Indeed, over a number of generations it would be to the financial disadvantage to the family, for in the same period there would be fewer descents to younger sons, and consequently fewer heriots and fines (death duties) would have to be paid. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that Bookham demanded the change on psychological grounds: the villeins felt that they should be on the same footing as free-

holders, and were ready to pay in hard cash for the satisfaction of having their first-born as their heir, the same as the King or any peer of the realm. Other manors were at first eager to follow the fashion; but the fact that the remaining 11 manors of Chertsey Abbey never attempted to change the old custom suggests that on mature reflection it was seen that the advantages were illusory. It remains a striking fact that the inhabitants of Bookham in the early 14th century should have been the first in England, so far as we know, deliberately to bring the local rule of inheritance into line with the law of the land, a step not to be given universal application for another 600 years.

The high money rents and dues paid have already been mentioned. They varied greatly, and it is difficult to arrive at any clear picture of the value of houses and land. Normally each villein paid an annual rent and was also mulcted heavily upon inheriting, having to pay a *heriot* or death-duty of the best beast on his land, and then a *fine* for admission to the tenement for his own lifetime. In addition to the heriot paid to the lord of the manor, the second-best beast had to be handed over as a *mortuary* due to the Rector of the parish. It has here to be remembered that after 1292 the Abbot of Chertsey was both Lord and Rector of Great Bookham.

In the early 14th century, the rents paid for cottages with a small plot of garden and up to one acre in the fields varied from 1s. to 4s.6d., while the combined

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cash value of heriot and fine at each inheritance averaged about 4s.6d. Heriot and fine on a half-virgate farm (15 acres) averaged about 10s., and upon a virgate (about 30 acres) 20s., while the yearly rents might be about the same. Since heriot and fine would only be paid on the average at fairly long intervals, such as 20 years, this meant a real total rent of perhaps 2s.6d. for a cottage, 10s.6d. for a half-virgate, and 21s. for a virgate. These sums must be multiplied by a factor of about 120 to reach an idea of 1954 values, giving rentals of some £15, £65 and £130 respectively.† Moderate as these rents appear in the urban Bookham of to-day, they are substantial for a rural community, and a great deal of ready money might have to be found to pay the fine on a large farm, as when John Leuwyne succeeded his father Gilbert in 1340. On his father's two messuages, one with a virgate and the other with two acres of land, he had to pay £3 6s. 8d., the equivalent of £400 now.

* See E. Toms, ed.: "Chertsey Abbey Court Rolls Abstract." Surrey Record Society, No. XXXVIII, 1937, pp. xvi, xxix; also No. XLVIII, 1954.

† Money values cannot be exactly expressed, but it is possible to obtain a general mental picture by the use of a suitable multiplier. G. G. Coulton: "The Meaning of Medieval Moneys" (Historical Association Leaflet No. 95, 1934) showed that 40 was approximately the right index in 1934 to translate the values of c. 1300-1348. We have to multiply this again by 3 to allow roughly for the great depreciation of the last 20 years.

The Bookhams Women's Institute

A full and happy year has been enjoyed under the presidency of Mrs. M. Boardman. Varied talks have been given ranging from "The First Elizabeth" to "Guide Dogs for the Blind".

Outings have taken place to various factories, to a pantomime on ice, and to our own Denman College.

The Drama Group presented "Be Dutiful, My Daughter", ably produced by Mrs. E. White.

A very successful Jumble Sale was run by Mrs. Bowen in May, and a Fête held in July was both profitable and enjoyable.

The newly formed Puppet Group presented "Iolanthe" to an invited audience on 1st October and the next day two performances of "Swan Lake" to the public.

The Handicraft Section has run classes in pewter work, smocking and rush work; they are organising a visit to see Queen Mary's Art Treasures at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Social Half Hour at each monthly meeting has been amusing and varied and members are now looking forward to a happy Christmas Party.

Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Garden Society

At the conclusion of a bad year for gardeners it is satisfactory to report that our membership has maintained a steady level, and the annual Flower Show continues to attract keen interest. Like most

other village activities, the Flower Show had its full quota of unceasing rain, but the quality of produce shown was of a very high standard. Our financial position suffered a slight setback due to the weather, and an increase of £25 prize money, but balance in hand is still over £100. It would be encouraging to see many more members at the Annual General Meeting.

The Spinney School

The parents have expressed such interest in the successful teaching methods of the school that a Parents' Association has been formed. It has a social side, but its chief aim is to spread information about Froebel education.

The mothers are running a special branch, including coffee parties and a social, to raise money for a fund to provide grants where really needed.

The Association would welcome parents of ex-pupils who are interested in the future of the school. The Principal would put them in touch with the Honorary Secretary, The Spinney School, Eastwick Drive. Telephone 84.

SPORTS NEWS

Bookham Ladies' Stoolball Club

The Club had quite a successful year, winning 20 games and losing 9. Mrs. J. Tutt scored a total of 798 runs during the season and took 63 wickets. Miss J. Nicholas scored 370 runs. Mrs. N. Knight took 48 wickets. The games were played both at home and away, mostly in Surrey and Sussex.

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Bookham Cricket Club

From a playing point of view the Club were more successful this year, 40 games being played, of which 13 were won, 17 lost, 3 drawn, and 7 cancelled. From the climatic angle, it was the general opinion of most members that the sooner the season ended the better. So many sunless days, repeated dashes for cover from rain-soaked wickets, did not raise the enthusiasm that one usually associates with the game. Consequently the standard of play, not only from Bookham, but from the other clubs, was not as high as usual, and many low scores resulted. Unforeseen circumstances also robbed the Club of the services of such players as Sid Rollinson, Lester Hall and Don Durban, who only played in 7, 8 and 12 games respectively. When one remembers that the first two are recognised bowlers, it says much for those who had to take over that the results were so favourable. Notable victories were recorded over the B.B.C. 2nd XI at Motspur Park, doubles over Headley and the R.A.F.A., and fine wins against Ripley and the Old Surbitonians. Bob Stevenson once again carried the burden of the batting, scoring 285 runs for an average of 13.6, and making the highest score for the Club of 61. Don Durban topped the averages with 166 runs for 13.8, and showed fine form. We hope that he will be able to make more appearances next year. John Sherman's promise was fully realised, making

180 runs for 12.8, but Collin Murrells had a bad season and was unable to reach his 100 runs. Fortunately he was not too depressed by his performances and we feel confident that he will be "there" next year. The captain, Len Denning, also fell away, making only 163 runs for 5.4, but in view of the fact that he had to share the bowling duties with Trevor Reed, there was some excuse. Mention of Trevor shows that he is a great all-rounder. He scored 218 runs, took 76 wickets at a cost of 6 each, and held the highest number of catches, 10. National Service will claim him next year, and his absence will be greatly felt. Other youngsters who showed great promise were Stan Hawthorne, Geoff Harrison, Alan Smith and David Jolliffe, and we look for further improvement next year. As mentioned before, Reed took the bowling honours, although here again Don Durban topped the averages with 24 wickets for 5.6. Len Denning had 75 victims for 8.6, and although his bowling is subject to certain light-hearted banter in the pavilion, his figures show his usefulness. Sid Rollinson, in his few appearances, had 33 wickets and Lester Hall 23. The old captain, and the word old can be used in both senses, Bert Saunders, once again showed his prowess, making over 100 runs and taking 44 wickets. He did not appear in so many games, but some of his bowling performances for duration and result show what a remarkably fit man he is.

Bookham Bowling Club

The Annual Dinner of the Bookham Bowling Club took place at the Victoria Hotel, Great Bookham, on Wednesday evening, 27th October. After dinner (a tribute to the catering of host Mr. Parrish) the President, Mr. H. Markwick, proposed the toast of Her Majesty. Mr. H. Smith proposed the toast of the Club and in a witty speech gave a résumé of activities during the past season. Mr. J. Saunders proposed the toast of the Ladies, and Mrs. E. Farendon (ladies' captain) responded. Mrs. R. T. Rowley, wife of the indefatigable honorary secretary, presented the cups and prizes to the following winners for the season 1954:—Brotherhood Cup: J. Tickner; runner-up, A. Watts. Coronation Cup: J. Tickner, S. Onslow. L. A. White Cup: G. Bridge, S. Smith. McLaren Cup: G. Illing, R. E. Street. Victoria Cup: H. Markwick, S. Onslow. Allen Cup: Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Barford. Bennett Cup: Mrs. Barford, Mrs. Saunders. Ladies' Pairs: Mrs. Barford and Mrs. Shallworthy, Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Bridge. Men's Pairs: J. Saunders and L. Bradshaw, H. Smith and J. Bailey. Spoons winners were Mesdames Barford, Hall (2), Saunders and Spencer, Messrs. Davies, Elsworth, Markwick, Onslow, Pickering (2), Piper, Saunders and S. Smith. Replica cups for the 1953 winners were presented to Mesdames S. Smith and Rowley and Messrs. Farendon, Illing (2) and H. Smith.

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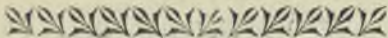


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