# The Bookhams Bulletin

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 45

**DECEMBER 1944** 

One Penny

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DECEMBER 1944

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#### **Editorial**

Another year has passed, marking the end of the eleventh year of the publication of the *Bookhams Bulletin*, so at the beginning of the twelfth year, we first of all wish our readers a very happy Xmas and express the hope that the new year will bring a settled peace.

Again our thanks are due to the traders for their valued co-operation, as only through the medium of their advertising and continuance of support, was it possible to carry on.

In the past war years it has been the guiding principle of the Bulletin to give some information concerning war time problems, particularly upon matters of up-todate legislation in which everyone is involved, and it is known that very many persons have benefited by this information, especially on matters relating to war damage, and old age and supplementary pensions. Moreover, it is believed that through the medium of this journal a great many service men's dependants and families have been helped, and it is felt that the public need for such information and service has been met.

Whilst this is past history, reflection upon the future has not been lost sight of, and preparations have been made by the government to set up a Resettlement Advice Service for the returned members of the armed forces and industrial workers. This in no way displaces the Leatherhead & District Citizens Advice Bureau or the Bookham Social Service Bureau, but on the contrary it is hoped that the closest co-operation will exist between re-settlement officers and the voluntary organisations. An integral part of the government scheme calls for the closest co-operation between all voluntary bodies, requiring the pooling of all resources and efforts to establish and maintain the rights and principles of our democracy.

It will be necessary, as soon as possible after the war, to regain our overseas markets to promote employment, and this means that the present system of controls must go, and go at the earliest opportunity. It is not possible here to go into the ramifications of controls as space will not permit, but there are very great obligations upon all of us to see that our returned fighting forces are not permitted

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#### Editorial -cont.

the humiliation of unemployment, neither should it be seen that the industrial worker receives the dole instead of a suitable job upon a fair living wage.

During the first week in November, the government debate on Social Insurance took place, and space permitting, it is hoped that a resume can be given in our next issue; but should there be any information upon this matter that may be needed, a card sent to the Editor will have attention.

#### Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

The Postmaster General has recently announced that non-illustrated postcards containing messages of a purely personal or family nature (postage 2d.) may be sent to Paris and to the Departments of Calvados, Manche, Eure, Seine-Inferiour, Orne, Ille-et-Villaine, Cotes-du-Nord, Mayenne, Sarthe, Eure-et-Loir, Seine-et-Oise and Seine-et-Marne.

Among certain relaxations of black-out, churches where the windows are of stained, coloured or frosted glass, which prevents objects within being distinguishable from outside, no further obscuration is necessary, but lights must be extinguished on a warning being sounded if there is no form

of black-out. Where the windows are of plain glass which it is not feasible to cover with curtains, the Ministry of Home Security has agreed to allow the use of a small number of lights provided that they are kept to the minimum required to enable the service to proceed, that they are screened with opaque shades cutting off the direct rays below the level of any transparent windows and that they are extinguished on a warning being sounded.

The Board of Trade announced that revised maximum prices have been fixed for the following articles of upholstered utility furniture ordered from manufacturers from 30th September. Orders received by manufacturers before that date will be executed at the existing prices:

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Fireside chair Model 1a	2	19	0
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#### Movement.

"Its a grand feeling to be going forward, knowing that the sooner we get it over, the quicker we return." These simple words, written in a letter during the lightning dash from the Seine, wake an echo in our hearts. How welcome, after long stagnation, is the tingle of movement. All noble causes are called "movements" and National Savings is no exception. It gives that "grand feeling of going forward." It must keep up with the increasing tempo of the war, so that "all the sooner we get it over."

Bookham Savings are moving—but rather by fits and starts. Progress is shown on an indicator set up outside the Soldiers' Canteen. The graph since July has much the appearance of a fever patient's

temperature chart.

Our savers equipped 228 men of the East Surreys in "Salute the Soldier" Week. This is being followed up by Maintaining our Men until the end of 1944. £1200 is the weekly cost. Each Savings Group has its objective in this, and many have already reached it - some by a steady increase, some by a week's "intensive drive." Yes, movement is more than ever necessary these days. Just think of the "intensive drives" our lads are cheerfully making on heavily defended positions across the Maas or the Montone, or under appalling conditions in Burma. Our men have never failed us, nor will they.

We must not fail them; we must support them with more savings. This Bulletin, like our local weekly papers, is sent out to many a Bookham man and woman in the Forces. They are always hungry for home news and it would hearten them to know from our next issue that we are keeping step with their movements.

Group savers number nearly 2000. Bookham has, too, a large body of regular savers outside the Group, but there is also a mass of nonsavers. To the first we say "keep moving," to the second "get a move on." To both we offer help through our National Savings Movement which makes saving easier. We have now been in motion nearly five years. Savings is an all-the-year-round job-nearly perpetual motion—the Group Secretary is the machinery that does it. You can be put straight into contact with yours by a line sent to the Ward Secretary, Wychwood, Sole Farm Road. Telephone 285. G.

#### Fuel Economy

The coal supply position remains exceedingly difficult and it is very essential that the strictest economy in the use of all forms of fuel be exercised this winter if serious hardship is to be avoided during the colder weather. Consumers who have been able to build up reserve stocks should draw on these as sparingly as possible, since they will be needed later on.

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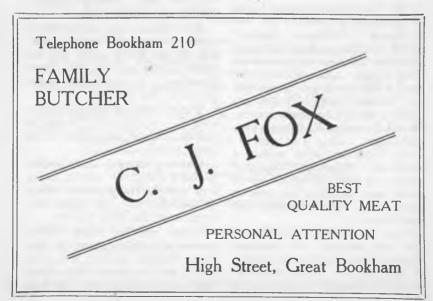
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#### Vegetable Seeds and War Time

When turning over a seedsman's catalogue of 1943 the writer was struck by the apparent application of names of the varieties of vegetables to the present times, for instance:

America is encountered by peas, "American Wonder," the "Lincoln" and "Senator," and we get very near to the Presidential Election in the marrows "Electors' Cap," which presumably belongs to Roosevelt, regardless of the fact that no feather is mentioned.

Canada is also a "Wonder" in dwarf beans, whilst India is not omitted seeing that a very fine runner bean is named the "Rajah."

Our Gaelic neighbours as lovers of vegetables are well to the fore in beans, "Climbing French," which describes their present position after the blow they received from Hitler. Again in carrots we read of the cylindrical-rooted variety "Nantes" which is exceedingly useful inasmuch as it matures early. French Breakfast Radish is a very useful dish.

Our Russian allies supply a sunflower "Mammoth Russian," which is a very appropriate name when one considers the size of their army, their munitions and their blows.

Even the neutrals and our foes are not omitted, for instance Franco whom the Premier appears to describe as "White Spanish" (onion), is thought by others to be more of a "Black Spanish" (radish) and a dirty-looking one it is too.

Goering, whose picture (?) as a rotunda and whose boastings appeared in the papers very often some time ago, would no doubt be flattered if he were to be referred to as a Gourd of the "Green Giant" variety.

In view of what has happened to the remaining crowned heads in Europe during the war the broad bean "Giant Windsor" aptly shows by name how much ahead is our Royal House.

In military language we have several; broad bean "Broadsword," brussel sprouts "Rearguard" a leading late sort, lettuce "Long Standing" applicable to this country and leek "Standard-Bearer" requires no explanation.

The runner bean again shows up in the name of "London Pride" and the one which might suit the medical men is the beet "Non-Bleeding." If only human beings possessed this attribute.

The seasons are also in the running in the shape of Flower of Spring cabbage and Long White Icicle radish.

Starving Europe might be able to find a crumb of comfort in the kale named "Hungry Gap" which is described as very hardy and often surviving hard winters.

There are two others which possess attractive names, the first being Brussel Sprouts Harrisons XXX, which is described as being vigorous & productive. The first



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Bear Brand Ballito and Silkestia Stockings adjective is understandable, but as to the second possibly the gardener who likes his glass of beer can say.

The last one is that very old-fashioned runner bean "Painted Lady." There are so many more of the human variety in existence that evidently the fashion has gone its full circle; bringing in the younger ones with a rush, so that they can ape their elders regardless of the difference between them. It reminds the writer of a query in the music hall song of the nineties: Was she a 'as been or is she a never was-er?

#### Are you amused?

By our own Raconteur.

A middle class man of unimpeachable character went to a farewell dinner to a retiring colleague. Being very absteminous in his habits, he found on starting for home that the one or two glasses of wine he had drunk had gone into his head. Fearing that he might lose the respect of his devoted wife if she saw him slightly inebriated, he undressed in the spare bedroom, and crept on hands and knees into the room where his wife was sleeping. Notwithstanding all his caution he struck his head against the dressing table and made a noise. wife who was only half awakened, and thinking it was their dog that had got into the room, put her hand out of bed and said 'Rover, you oughtn't to be in here." Said the husband to a friend next day "Thank heaven I had the presence of mind to lick her hand and crawl out of the room again."

"O for a thousand tongues" sang the boy when his mother gave him an empty honey pot to throw away.

#### Remembrance Day, 1944

A very deep debt of gratitude is expressed by the British Legion to the local Organiser, the Poppy Sellers and the members of the general public for the support that was given on November 11th.

It may be said in some quarters that the need for public expression for those called to a Higher Service, or for those disabled in their country's cause, or that little extra for the war widow and her children, should be the full responsibility of the government. This fact is appreciated and it is wholeheartedly admitted that there is room for very great improvements in the matter of war pensions.

Thanks to the British Legion, a great number of improvements have been made by constantly prodding the Minister of Pensions, but the Legion is not satisfied and will continue to press for better conditions in the scale of pensions and allowances, but whatever the outcome, the fact of paying a tribute to these gallant sons and daughters of the Empire will remain in the hearts of the people.

Let no one look upon this as Charity, but as a token of thanks and gratitude.

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Hello, Bob, how do you like this cold weather?

Not at all, old man, but if you do all that you should on your ground vou won't feel it so much. For instance, I have just finished digging my vacant ground and given it a dressing of lime, and in a few days I shall be planting broad beans, Peerless Long Pod, which is an improved English strain of Seville Long Pod, which is considered to be one of the best. And something else, George, I'm putting in a few rows of onion seed. Bedford Champion as well as Ebenezer, both very good sorts that give good results.

Yes, Bob, and I've just put in an early setting of shallots and the rest will go in in a week or two. I am giving my fruit trees a spraying of Universal D.N.C. winter wash as this only needs one spraying as against two of a tar oil wash, and I am told it is just as effective.

Well, George, there's a lot of things to be done at this time of the year, and I find plenty to do in cleaning the inside of my garden shed, sharpening my tools and generally tidying up. Then with my greenhouse, I've got to dig and sterilize the soil, clean the benches stands and trays with a good disinfectant which I shall get from my nurseryman as he knows the best brands to use, and he usually gives me his expert advice on all

such matters as this.

Yes, Bob, and what about preparing a place for setting out the seed potatoes? I usually do this about now, as I find it pays to get all such jobs done early, as there is so much to be done later on.

Tell you what, George, I'm having a look round to see what flower seeds I can get, such as Asters, Stocks, Salvia, Zinnias, Clarkia, Sweet Peas and so on, as all these seeds will be in short supply again, and it will be first come first served, so I advise you to do the same. After all, a few flowers can be grown in odd spots and they do brighten things up.

That's a good idea, Bob, and I shall take your tip. Solong.—Bob.

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#### The Warden's Job

When five years ago that Sunday in September,

As we waited for Old Nasty's bombing planes,

We tried the different gases to remember But, in point of fact, we might have spared our brains,

For weeks on end one's only occupation Was to see the black-out adequately

If this never met with general approbation We think, at least, it mystified the Hun. Taking one consideration with another The Warden's job was not a busy one.

At length our patient waiting was rewarded,

Incendiaries came down in gentle showers,

And unexploded bombs, by us recorded, Were appropriated by the Higher Powers.

From them, at times, we got some more equipment

But this was always very hardly won. We learnt, on white tin hats, what every pip meant

And umbrella-carrying we learnt to shun. Taking one consideration with another The Warden's job became a dressy one.

But still we faced the future quite undaunted,

Though horrid bombs would now and then explode,

Our brand-new Wardens' Post we nightly haunted

Behind the hedge, along the Lower Road.

Provision there was made for our "subsistence."

Blue battle-dress arrived for everyone, We even heard a hint of the existence Of our own Searchlight and our Ack-Ack gun.

Taking one consideration with another The Warden's job was now a "pukka" one.

Alas! now on this fifth day of November (Appropriately pyrotechnic date)
The order comes our rota to dismember,
And all our eager hopes disintegrate.
A siren-less existence lies before us,
Our Post has had its final bit of fun,
No more we'll shake its walls with snores
in chorus.

We've logged our last "alert" and duty

Oh! take these considerations all together The Wardens' Service fairly "takes the bun." G.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

"Salute the Soldier" Certificates of Honour will be presented to Group Secretaries by an Army Officer back from recent fighting. Special films will also be shown. Old Barn Hall, Saturday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m., entrance free.

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# An Expression of Opinion.

Each day that passes brings the Allies nearer to Victory and there should be no relaxation in the particular work that is being undertaken to ensure a speedier conclusion, but after five years it becomes more and more necessary for some form of relaxation after the day's work.

There has been some relief in this question of relaxation; the Home Guard have been stood down, certain C.D. personnel are no longer required, fire-guard regulations have been modified, more lighting in trains and buses and more street lighting in certain areas. All this tends to make one cheerful, but there is room for improvement, and although at the moment, the first phases for a general improvement in the conditions existing in the Leatherhead area could be put into operation.

The Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons on 8th November last that instructions had been issued to the local authorities in London to put some form of street lighting into affect.

How about Leatherhead? An increase in rates—why? Would not the partial decrease in C.D. personnel help towards this?

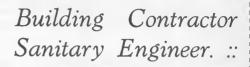
Newcastle has decided that all wounded Service men and women may travel free upon the Corporation buses. Why not extend these privileges. What about it L.P.T.B?

Rubber is one of the most important products for war purposes and should be conserved for that purpose, but why are Italian prisoners-of-war allowed to be taken to and from work in motor-coaches? These extra coaches would greatly relieve the tired housewife with her shopping basket standing in a crowded bus, the factory-worker after an eight hour shift and the school child very often walking home from school.

"Is your journey really necessary" is, or was, a slogan at one time very frequently used, but is the transport of a hospital patient to Wales or Scotland necessary when there are very large houses available? No, not quite, as these were requisitioned and have been standing idle for some months!

Housing, without doubt is the greatest problem in the history of this country, and leads to inflated prices for the purchase of property. Any person contravening the Rent Act is asking for trouble, but these property racketeers do not come within any control. When is the Government going to take action?

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