

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 101

MARCH 1959.

27th year



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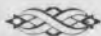
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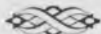
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 101.

MARCH, 1959.

27th year

EDITORIAL

Local enthusiasm, following the public meeting in January, has stimulated wide interest in the potentialities of the Barn Hall as a village centre. The meeting did something more than "save the Barn Hall". It showed that in Bookham, at any rate, the sense of responsibility is still alive. There was a very good attendance of people who were eager to show their goodwill in practical ways, not merely to preserve the Barn Hall but to extend its use. Financial assistance was forthcoming and, perhaps even more important, volunteers indicated their willingness to tackle the urgent jobs of maintenance and improvement.

To those who were not at the meeting the President of the Community Association makes a further appeal in a letter enclosed in this issue of the *Bulletin* and it is hoped that the response to this will indicate a solid basis of support for the future. The first step, of course, is to join the Association. Even if you cannot give any further help your membership will encourage those who

can. There is a place for everyone in the many activities based on the Hall, such as Village Day, the *Bulletin*, work for the elderly and assistance with a club for young people; and there is scope for the extension of these if the demand exists. The experience of age and the vitality of youth are needed now to turn hopeful expectation into achievement.

Have You Joined

The Community Association ?

SUBSCRIPTION 2/6
per annum.

To Hon. Secretary:

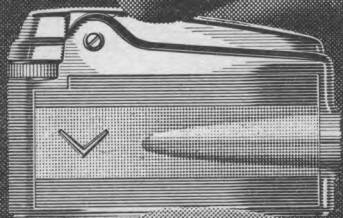
COMMONEND,
EASTWICK DRIVE.

VILLAGE DAY

A preliminary planning meeting for this year's "Village Day — June 20th — took place recently. Ambitious plans, linked to the theme "Bookham's Past" for the Exhibition in the Hall and for the stalls and sideshows whose holders will be in appropriate historical dress wherever possible, were drawn up. A Costume Ball in the evening will end the Day fittingly.

This plan for a summer day in June which could entertain and interest all those who live in Bookham in a real village day needs help from all to become fact. If, when you have looked through the following "questionnaire" you can tick any of its items, please contact the Coordinating Secretary (Miss E. Harrison, "Common End", Eastwick Drive) who will be very pleased to hear from you.

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Exhibition of Bookham's Past.

Have you any photographs, pictures or mementos of old Bookham?

Can you assist us with information on the old houses, inns, shops and occupations of Bookham's past?

Have you got any family relics or treasures?

Sideshows and Stalls.

Have you any ideas for sideshows or stalls which echo historical Bookham in some way?

Can you organize a sideshow or stall? Or are you prepared to help with one?

Can you help with the preparation of the Hall and grounds?

Can you assist on the day?

Costumes.

Can you sew or design — a sewing party is wanting your help?

Can you provide costumes?

Are you willing to wear costume on Village Day?

Artists.

Have you any artistic abilities? Posters? Lettering? Display? Maps? Illustrations? Models?

Can you make a geological map or geological model?

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

(PART 21)

By JOHN HARVEY

(Copyright reserved to the author)

In reaching the second quarter of the nineteenth century, a period distant only one century from the recollections of many of the present inhabitants, we have reached a time when the printed word begins to supersede the manuscript record as the main source of significant material for the history of the two Bookhams. Not so much the literary works, such as county histories, but regular publications like newspapers and directories, start to throw light on the changing life of the village in the actual process of change, rather than as an interrupted succession of static pictures, taken at different dates. This age of particular and current record began even earlier, with the remarkable topographical compilation of a surveyor, James Edwards. His *Companion from London to Brightelmstone*, a very detailed road-book accompanied by large-scale engraved maps from Edwards' own surveys, covers much of Surrey and Sussex. The work was begun in 1787, and most of the Surrey descriptions made in 1789; later parts were, however, issued up to 1801, so that the information given applies roughly to the opening of the new century.

Describing the main Guildford road before enclosure of the open fields and the modern planting of trees, Edwards states, of the stretch from the Fetcham boundary: "from hence to the village of *Great-Bookham*, the road commands a very extensive prospect on every point of the compass excepting the south. *Eastwick Park* lies about half a mile to the right, it is a good brick mansion house, built by the *Effingham* family, and appears of a modern erection; the park abounds with large timber trees. On the north of the house are good gardens with hot houses, green house, &c., the property of viscountess *Effingham*, and has been till late in the occupation of Joshua Smith Esq., at present untenanted.—On the right

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is a mile stone, 2 miles from Leatherhead, 9 miles 5 furlongs from Guildford.—Enter the village of *Great Bookham*.—On the south is *Bookham Grove*, the seat of viscountess Downe. The house is a handsome brick building which appears of a modern erection, and executed in taste; adorned with suitable plantations, good gardens, &c., the greatest part of which is surrounded with spacious common fields. — Turn short to the right (the road on the left leads to Polesdon.)—*Public House*. On the right is the *White-Hart*, public house, in the occupation of John Brown. — Turn short to the left and leave the village.—*Great Bookham* is pleasantly situated, and consists chiefly of one long street extending north from the road. The upper part has mostly good brick houses.

. . . In (the) church is a number of elegant monuments, one of which sacred to the memory of a son of Sir *Francis Geary*, Bart. who was slain in *America*, is worthy of notice.—The vicarage is in the gift of Sir *Francis Geary*, Bart. The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Cook, who lives in the vicarage house which is situated a small distance below the church, on the opposite side of the street, about half a furlong west of the road. . . . About one mile and a quarter south on the summit of the hill is *Phoenix Farm*, from whence you have a most delightful and extensive

prospect to the north over a fine level country, it is in the possession of Mr. Martyr . . . (continuing towards Guildford) Enclosed road begins at a chalk pit on the left. The road on the right (Rectory Lane) leads to *Little Bookham*. On the west side of which road, about half a furlong distance is the parsonage, a small house in the possession of the Rev. Mr. *Pollen*, who occasionally stops here, but chiefly resides at GUILDFORD. About a quarter of a mile to the north of the parsonage on the same side of the road is a neat house, likewise the property of Mr. *Pollen*, now rented and occupied by Mr. *Sewell*. (i.e. The Grange, now School of Stitchery and Lace.)—Enclosed road ends. On the right about three furlongs distance is *Little Bookham* church, which is very small. . . . The manor house stands near fifty yards south of the church, and is a handsome building of red brick of a modern erection, agreeably situated, commanding a pleasant prospect over the spacious common fields adjacent thereto. In these fields as far as *Phoenix Farm* the plowmen frequently pick up small iron bullets, or a kind of grape shot.—Leave the common fields.” (The road continues to Effingham.)

—Edwards gives some interesting facts about transport: “The *Bookham* and *Leatherhead* waggon, goes from *Leatherhead* every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and arrives at the Queen’s Head Inn, in the *Borough*, every Monday and Friday, and at the Red Lyon near *Westminster Bridge*, every Wednesday, returns from thence every Thursday morning at 8 o’clock, and from the Queen’s Head in the *Borough*, every Tuesday and Saturday at the same time in the morning.” Referring to the upper road along the ridge of the North Downs, he also states that from Dorking to Guildford a “CHAISE in the summer sometimes goes to upper road or over the downs which is very pleasant in fine weather . . . but the usual road is as described below. (Description of the road via Burford Bridge and Westhumble Street, to) *Old end*, keep to the right in the middle of the vale, an arm post, on the left directs to *Denbeighs*.—Road divides keep to the right.—On the left is *Bagdon Farm*.—Ascends the hill.—On the right is *Phoenix Farm*. Keep close to the hedge on the right to the entrance of the common field, then the large road which leads a cross the common field due north to the village of *Great Bookham*. . . . Here the road unites with the *Leatherhead* turnpike-road.”

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BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Youth at the Helm.

The new Business Manager of the *Bookhams Bulletin* is Mr. P. A. Weller who has recently moved into the district with his young wife. His profession is Advertising and his energy and enthusiasm have already created a lively demand among local business people for space in our village journal.

The co-ordinating secretary for Village Day is Miss E. R. Harrison, B.A., who has returned to Bookham after taking her Degree in History at London University. Apart from her work for the Community Association she is also programme secretary of the Local History Society and, as the theme for Village Day, 1959, is Bookhams Past, her specialised knowledge should be of great value. While at University she was Editor of the University newspaper and active in her College Union.

The more young people with ideas and vigour we can recruit to local activities the brighter will be our prospects for the village.

Popular new club is the Scottish Dancing Group of the Community Association. It meets alternate Fridays at the Barn Hall and would welcome new members.

A Super Summer Fête is announced by Eastwick County Primary School, to which all are invited, on Saturday, June 6th. Many attractions are promised,

including model railway rides, arena shows, pony rides, etc. The proceeds will be devoted to a fund for the construction of a teaching swimming pool for the school. The fête will be held in the grounds of the school which is pleasantly situated and is a good example of modern school architecture.

Congratulations to Mr. R. Clare and Mrs. Clare (nee Miss Gillian Davies) who were married at Bookham Parish Church. Mrs. Clare also celebrated her 21st birthday on her wedding day. Mr. Clare is "skipper" at a Devon sailing club and the new home of the young couple is a converted oyster catcher, moored at Salcombe.

"Much Ado About Nothing" is the Shakespeare play selected for presentation at the Polesden Open Air Theatre on July 16th, 17th and 18th.

OBITUARY

The death of Mr. Harold Bostock, O.B.E., was extremely sudden, although he had been in poor health for some years. He had been spending the afternoon with another old Bookham friend, and had just returned home when the end came.

Not so many years ago his friends would have included the whole village. We shall sorely miss his tall, burly form, ever-ready smile and cheery word of greeting. So the old Bookham passeth.
A.M.H.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dr. N. E. Waterfield, O.B.E., D.L., took the chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Bookham Community Association on February 13th, and was re-elected President. Vice -Presidents re-elected were Messrs. E. E. Oldershaw, R. Kepple, C. V. Brayne, Miss E. Micholls and Mrs. Amey. Mrs. E. Harrison was again elected Hon. Secretary and Mr. R. Saunders Hon. Treasurer. Mr. S. Fortescue remains Hon. Solicitor and Mr. A. H. Kirkby Hon. Auditor. Mr. A. Marson becomes Halls Manager and Mrs. M. Everett continues as Membership Secretary.

Elected representatives of the members are as follows: Mesdames Cox, Saunders and Smith, Messrs. J. Whiting, C. Wright, G. Everett, S. Hall, S. Stockwell and Chapman, and Dr. V. G. Harrison.

The Treasurer reported that as a result of economical working during the year, made possible by voluntary labour which could not continue indefinitely, the Barn Hall account showed a surplus of £61 and the General Account also showed a small surplus. The debt on the new boiler had therefore been completely wiped out.

Membership was just over 450, but 200 subscriptions still remained to be collected before the end of the year in September. It was emphasised that there was still an urgent need for road stewards to bring in these subscriptions.

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Have You Joined The Community Association ?

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To Hon. Secretary:

COMMONEND,
EASTWICK DRIVE.

BOOKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

The Choral Society, full fifty strong, continues to flourish and will compete again on April 10th with Advanced Choirs at Leith Hill Musical Festival at Dorking.

Bookham gained third place last year, when singing for the first time (under the conducting of Mr. Ralph Nicholson) among Advanced Choirs, having taken first place among Village Choirs for three years in succession.

The Society gave £14 6s. proceeds from Carol Singing to the Old People's Welfare Association.

It is hoped that new residents in Bookham and old friends will come to hear their own Choral Society at a concert in May



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Conservative Assn, Gt. Bookham Branch. G. W. E. Cooper, 282 Lower Rd.

Football Club. R. S. Young, Santa Cruz, Sole Farm Road.

Grove Association. Miss V. Dean, 40 Dorking Rd.

Girl Guides. Mrs. Rossner, Benedict, Woodlands Rd.

Labour Party, Bookham Ward. J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway.

Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch. W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Ave.

Music Club. Miss A. Ryerson, Basil-don, Halepit Rd.

Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latch-ingham, Dorking Rd.

Scouts. Group Scoutmaster, L. R. Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm. Scoutmaster, E. Sheppherd, Rose-dale, Downsway.
Cubs. Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

Women's Institute. Mrs. H. Lindsey, Bramlyn, Eastwick Drive.

Youth Tennis Club. Miss B. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

The Editor. "Brandreth", Sole Farm Rd.

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Hon. Sec., Community Association. Commonend, Eastwick Drive.

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Camera Club. J. W. Selby, 23 Nut-croft Grove, Fetcham.

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