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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 49

DECEMBER 1945

One Penny

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Editorial

In entering the thirteenth year of the publication of the Bookham Bulletin, in which the country has passed from the dark and blood-stained years of war to a new era of Peace, it is the privilege of the Editor to wish each and all

A Very Happy Christmas and a New Year

which will lead to the prosperity security and goodwill so earnestly desired by all.

Once again our thanks are due to those Traders for their contribution in advertising, as it is only by this that it has been possible to maintain and publish the Bulletin through the difficult war years.

Whilst the control and shortage of paper does not permit any extra pages, it is felt that now is the time to make provision for more persons to contribute towards the columns of the Bulletin. Articles upon topical subjects, suggestions regarding Bookham amenities and local activities would be welcome.

During the past six years it has been the policy of the Editor to diffuse information upon matters affecting the community during the war, and although now passing into another phase, matters of importance will be continued in order that the general public shall have a summary of Parliamentary measures that may be of interest.

In a previous issue, reference was made to the Family Allowances Act, 1945, and a very brief summary is here given indicating eligibility as set out in the Schedule

A person shall be treated for the purpose of the Act as maintaining a child: (a) if that person is the only person who contributes to the cost of providing for the child, or if the cost is an amount greater than any other one person who contributes. (b) If two or more persons contribute to the cost an equal amount, preference will be given by the Ministry in determining the contribution towards the child. The Act comprises 29 clauses so cannot be given here, but any other information will be gladly given by the Editor.

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HOUSING I

In 1944 the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Works provided reading matter in the "Housing Manual," which was embellished with 48 illustrations of Council houses, and during this period these same Ministries were responsible for the production of the following publications :

- House construction
- Standard construction for schools
- Plastics, Plumbing
- The painting of buildings
- Gas installations
- Steel structures
- Reinforced concrete structures
- Mechanical installations
- Solid fuel installations
- Electrical installations
- The lighting of buildings
- Non-ferrous metals
- Sound insulation and acoustics
- Walls, floors and roofs
- Buildings for business
- Farm buildings
- The architectural use of building materials
- Heating and ventilation
- Fire grading of buildings
- School buildings for Scotland
- Farm buildings for Scotland.

The amount of paper used upon these manuals and the man-hours involved in their production has not, as far as the Leatherhead area is concerned, relieved the acute housing problem.

Whilst realising that these manuals were compiled in 1944, it

must also be recognised that the war in Europe has been over for six months, and these two Ministries having gone so far as to produce paper plans, have not yet put these plans into effect.

It may be suggested that a change of Government has had the effect of slowing down the machinery, or that there were insufficient building operatives, coupled with the lack of material, to undertake the building of houses. If such be the case, it would be interesting to know how some persons can arrange for improvements to property.

Such materials that are available should be diverted to the repair of requisitioned houses in order that persons may be housed with the least possible delay, more particularly as the winter is close upon us. It would be far better that any cost should be borne by the ratepayer than to allow any member of the community to become a victim of unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Between November 5th & 9th 1945, the Minister of Health addressed two meetings and pronounced a statement in the House of Commons upon housing—urgent action is requested.

Nearly three months have passed since the first indication of the erection of prefabricated houses, yet beyond the clearance of sites the long awaited pre-fabs. as far as is known, may be in some remote "shadow factory."

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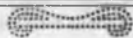
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Thanksgiving

The end of the war evoked feelings of relief, joy, pride and thanks. It is probably true to say that Thankfulness was uppermost, even in the care-free abandon of VE and VJ days.

Those two spontaneous rejoicings have been followed here in Bookham by a glad and glorious Peace Celebration, and now by a Savings Thanksgiving Week.

Eighteen memorable months had passed since we responded, in our savings, to the call "Salute the Soldier," then on the eve of his dramatic stroke on the Normandy coast. For all that happened there, for all that followed, aye, and all that preceded that D day, we give thanks to our fighting forces who ensured Victory. For Alamein, Anzio, Arnhem, Arakan, and so through the whole alphabet of war's ebb-and-flow. For our deliverance from invasion, concentration camps, starvation and all the bestial Nazi horrors, we give our fervent thanks.

None would dare set a price on Courage, and Sacrifice can never be repaid—least of all in cash. What we save can, at most, be regarded at self-denial.

Bookham set as its Thanksgiving Week objective £8000, the same as for the Wings for Victory Week, 1943. The result that year was more than double. This year

we reached just short of £12000, a good achievement, and in accordance with the country's prevailing mood. The magnitude of things to be done is being realised. The "blood and tears" of war have indeed ceased; the "toil & sweat" must continue. Reconstruction of all kinds, material and economic, and a simultaneous export drive of immense extent is our only course. This transition period is fraught with transitory dangers. The spectre of inflation which would blast this reconstruction, can be banished by wise savings, and a check upon unjustified expenditure; so our advice is "Help the Country and yourself." Bookham Group Secretaries are at your service to help you to do it.

Of our Thanksgiving Week total of £11935, the Groups saved £9102 and they are rightly proud of the achievement. One youthful member, intently reading the "thermometer" indicator at the Canteen Corner, was heard to say "Huh! they wouldn't have got *that* without my shilling!" Proper pride is the mark of a "group" saver.

Many group secretaries were also among the body of volunteers who worked the temporary selling centre during the week, which relieved the pressure of work at the Post Office.

At a musical and social evening at The Croft, some 25 group secretaries received commendation

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Thanksgiving (cont.)

from Lord Walkden who presented them with new savings badges—marks of distinction, richly deserved. It remains to every one of us to back up their efforts. In the latest words of the National Savings Movement: "Keep on Saving—we've great things to do." G.

Wisdom on a Fence

Two workmen were putting up a fence attached to a newly erected house (district nameless) when one, Jack, called out "Give me some more nails, Bill," which Bill did by filling his left hand with them and passing over one at a time to Jack with his right hand; at least he did so with the first two, the third he threw over his shoulder. The fourth, sixth and eighth were given to Jack, but the alternates were thrown away. Jack who at last observed what was being done, asked "What are you throwing those away for?" to which question came the reply "They're no good, they've got the heads on the wrong end." "Well," rejoined Jack, "You should'nt waste nails, you must be a blooming fool not to know that they would do for the *other side of the fence.*"

With apologies to whomsoever has published this before.—R. A.

Bookham Ratepayers' Association

Numerous requests have been made to revive the activities of the Bookham Ratepayers' Association. Accordingly, a Meeting has been arranged to take place in the Barn Hall, on Monday the 10th December, at 8 p.m.

The need for a strong and virile association was never more necessary than it is today. Therefore we appeal to Ratepayers to attend in force, so that the Committee may feel they have your support in the many tasks which lie before them in the difficult times ahead.

Unfortunately we are without a Secretary, so if any lady or gentleman would kindly offer to fill this post we should be delighted, and the Committee would give them every possible assistance.

Members of the 1939 Committee are asked to kindly get in touch with the Chairman as the Committee minutes are not readily available.

Chairman: Mr. S. T. Morris,
Cyssandi, Leatherhead Rd.,
Bookham.

DON'T FORGET!

**A General Meeting at
The Barn Hall
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Heard in the Queues.

Would you believe it, our milkman never left us any milk yesterday, and a Sunday too, just the day we want a little more.

Well, don't you know that the weekly ration has been reduced to two pints a week?

Yes, I know that, but I ask you, why not let us know that the milkman was not going to call on Sunday of all days? Besides I don't believe its necessary to only let us have two pints a week. We are told that more milk is being produced in this country than ever before and yet we are allowed less than ever. What becomes of it all?

Well, you see, it goes to the children who need it most.

Children my foot, they don't want so much, and what is more, if children drank all the milk they are entitled to, they wouldn't dare to look a cow in the face, so to speak, while the older folk are simply being deprived of enough to keep them reasonably fit. Ask any doctor and he'll tell you that the older folks are not getting enough milk and so their powers of resistance to disease, ailments and the cold are gradually being reduced.

Well, what about the tinned evaporated milk? They can use that.

Oh yes, at four points a tin, when you can get it! Last time I enquired about it I was told it goes to the tea shops, and not available to the general public.

But I see there is a little more in the shops lately. What beats me is why can't the tea shops use the Household milk for their teas and let the public who need the better milk get it.

I wouldn't be surprised one of these days when things become normal again, if we are told that a lot of milk is not good for young folks, as it clogs their digestive system. In the same way that it used to be said by some people who were supposed to know, that bananas were *all* food, whilst others said that they contained no food value whatever. These people's opinions change like the wind, so you never know where you are.

Anyhow I should like a little more milk than we are getting now, especially as my old man and I both like a glass of hot milk before going to bed, but with the amount we get now, its just out of the question, as we don't get enough even for our tea. Two pints a week, I ask you!!

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Local Comments by "Observer"

Isn't it just lovely to be able to get a bus home a little later at night and to be able to see your way when you get off at the Victoria?

Speak as you find, I say. Some of the bus conductresses are quite pleasant and obliging, but there are one or two who ought to be given a few lessons in manners.

Talking of buses, why can't some firms lorries and vans which deliver goods in the High Street pull right into the curb and give the bus drivers and others a chance to get through without nearly scraping the fence opposite? I've seen the High Street completely blocked for want of a little thought on the part of some drivers.

Notice how some shopkeepers are grouching that some of their stock won't sell on account of the high Points value, especially some of the canned meats and fish?

Telephone? I ask you! If this can be considered a sample of government control, what may we expect when all public services are nationalised? I nearly always have to wait what seems minutes before the operator condescends to enquire "number please," and often get two wrong numbers or the right number at a wrong exchange before finally getting what I do want. But I suppose the operators, like many others, are still suffering from "don't-you-know-there's-a-war-on-itis."

Welcome Home.

At the public meeting held on November 19th, it was decided that a public welcome should be given to all those members of the Forces whose homes are situated within the Bookham Ward and who served for sometime during the great World War.

The term Forces to include the R.N., H.M. Army, R.A.F., Wrens A.T.S., W.A.A.F.S., Merchant Seamen and Nurses who served overseas.

The "welcome" is to take the form of a dinner with entertainment and a gift in the nature of a cheque. This was considered to be the best way in which the residents in the Bookham Ward could express their gratitude for the hardships endured by the Forces, in order that the lives and homes of the people of Bookham, amongst others, might be saved from destruction.

A Committee was formed with Mrs. Griffin, of Shamyard, Great Bookham as Hon. Treasurer—H.B.

Welcome Home

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? ? ?

A name that is on the lips of numerous people today is "Una," but the proportion of this country's population that can say who she is is somewhat small. In the November issue of a periodical which came into the writer's possession a correspondent avers that Una was the heroine of the first book of Spencer's "Faerie Queen," who symbolises all things good including Peace. She wanders guarded by a (British) lion and afterwards is rescued by a Red Cross Knight from the wiles of the false Duessa.

That may have been the lady in Spencer's time, but in consequence of what has happened to the world the last few years, her present descendent and namesake is now guarded not only by a lion, but by an eagle, a bear and others.

She made her debut at the Albert Hall on October the 10th and her platform supporters comprised leaders of all political parties and churches. Incidentally there was a full hall that evening, over a thousand people being turned away. Amongst the lady's sponsors were Dr. Gilbert Murray, Earl of Lytton, Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee, Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, Viscount Cecil, Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett, Lady Megan Lloyd-George and others. With such a galaxy of talent there could only be one subject upon which all would speak with one mind, although each would naturally

approach it from a different angle, and they did.

Previously in 1919 a similar meeting was held at the Albert Hall, but the lady at that time was "Ellen Yew." Unfortunately our American cousins did not appreciate this lady's virtues as much as our European friends and consequently she fell into disfavour in fact, for some years afterwards, even some of our own politicians spoke against her, chiefly because the Americans were not friendly disposed towards her. However in spite of this she did some excellent work in connection with the International Labour Office, White slave traffic and other matters affecting the world generally. It was realised long before 1939 that she was ailing, and since then efforts have been made to find someone to replace her.

Now that Nazism and Fascism only exist relatively to a small extent, hopes of a world agreement are much greater than they have ever been in the minds of America and Great Britain.

As a certain English politician said on one particular occasion "Go to it," it is to be hoped that the reader will act up to this slogan and subscribe to the funds when they get the opportunity.

Probably by now a good many readers have recognised Ellen Yew as L.N.U., the League of Nations Union, whereas U.N.A. is the United Nations Union. R.A.

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George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

Cheerio, Bob, what weather. This last week or two has made my heavy ground like a wet clay pit, so I can't get at it for my usual digging.

I do like to get my ground turned up in ridges, so that the frost can get into it and sweeten it. Anyway, as soon as I can I shall get it done, and in the meantime I have plenty of indoor work to do in the shed, such as cleaning all my tools and greasing them so they don't rust, sharpen the shears and so on. Then I like to clean all my flower pots ready for use again later on, as well as clean down all the benches and shelves in the greenhouse, look over and repair my seed boxes—its marvellous what a few nails will do to save your boxes from "going home" and you know these boxes cost money to-day.

Yes, George, there is a lot to be done as you say, but my soil being lighter than yours, I'm just giving it a good manuring as usual and shall very soon make a first sowing of broad beans, as well as a few rows of onions. Shallots I shall plant in a week or two—you know the old saying, plant shallots on the shortest day and pull on the longest day, and those old sayings still make good sense.

By the way, its time to get your

fruit trees sprayed with a good wash—its time and money well spent—your nurseryman will be pleased to give you his advice on which is the best spray to use, as there are quite a number of good ones on the market.

I rather fancy there will be a few more flower seeds available for next season, so I shall plan my garden so as to grow a few more, as they do brighten things up a bit, for although we know that food should be our first consideration, a few flowers do fill up the odd spots and give a bit of colour.

But here comes the rain again, so I must be off. Hi-de-hi!—BOB

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