

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

May 1975
No 159
42nd Year

The Bookhams Bulletin

Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

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VILLAGE DAY AND VILLAGE WEEK

Outdoor fetes and functions fill the months of June and July; crowds flock to them. Few, however, can attract the numbers who come to Bookham's Village Day which are estimated to be around the 2,000 mark. It is indeed a family occasion with a tradition of its own, going back to 1948 when it was started by the newly-formed Community Association to show the village to

the village. Our population then was about 2,000 so that it qualified as a village, albeit a large one. Since then our population has risen to 10,000 but we believe that we have still retained our neighbourhood spirit.

The programme for the Day and the Week is on our front page but groups, associations and clubs have been planning and working for months to make the occasion an enjoyable one for all ages and for all tastes.

A special effort has been made this year to provide more entertainment for the children.

The trapeze artistes, Jayne and Tracy Lepine-Smith, have generously agreed to give

VILLAGE DAY

Barn Hall and Grounds Saturday June 21st, 1975 Opening at 2.30 pm
Admission 10p, Children 5p Members of BCA with current membership card free
Exhibition - Leisure & Pleasure - Entry inc programme 5p
Trapeze artists, sideshows, refreshments, tombola
Barbeque and Singsong at 6.00 pm (5p) Disco for 14's and over at 8.00 pm (50p)
Rain or fine - the day will go on!

VILLAGE WEEK at BARN HALL all at 8.00 pm

Monday 23rd

Bookham Camera Club

Film and Slide Show 'The Lake District'

Tickets from Mr D R Lamb, Bookham 52322

25p

Tuesday 24th

Dorking Palm Court Orchestra

Vienese Evening - Straus etc

Tickets from Walter Rombach, Bookham 54466

60p inc coffee and programme

Wednesday 25th

Old Time and Sequence Dance Club

Open Evening

Thursday 26th

Bookham Players and Afternoon WI

Drama Group

Revue 'Life's Like This'

Tickets from Ron Frohock,

Bookham 58474 35p (25p under 14)

Friday 27th

Grand 'BINGO'

Saturday 28th

Summer DANCE

Tickets from Dulcie Cuddeford,

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demonstrations and this will provide a thrill for the youngsters. For those who enjoy a mild gamble there will be some new sideshows. The Tombola, for which our local tradesmen so regularly provide prizes, should be a winner for some. For the first time ever we shall have go-karts.

There will be attractions in the evening. The Avant Garde will provide their Junior Disco in the Hall and, in the Grounds, there will be a camp fire and sing-song. A popular folk group will start the music in the glow of the flames where sausages will be cooked and distributed by the scouts and guides who are as keen as mustard to make a go of the evening and are hoping that mums and dads, as well as grandparents, will come along to join in the choruses.

Carnival was chosen as the theme for the Day. This was deliberately done to indicate that, despite the prevalent gloom and despondency, Bookham is not down on its knees. The colour scheme is red, white and blue. The stall-holders are confidently expected to catch the mood and it is anticipated that the prizes for the best-presented stall will stimulate much competition.

The Exhibition in the Hall always highlights some aspect of Bookham life, and the title taken for this year is 'Leisure and Pleasure'. A wide variety of crafts, hobbies and sparetime interests will be on show, conveying the message that life need not be all grey. The organisers have endeavoured to select exhibits which can be demonstrated 'Live', so that anyone seeking something new to do will be able to watch and question. Equally, those who already practise a special craft can observe the methods the experts use to improve technique.

We are fortunate in Bookham that it is easy to find a class for instruction in the basic, as well as the more esoteric, crafts. The many women's organisations put these on, there are clubs catering for the specialists and, perhaps most important of all, the Adult Education Institutes cover in their prospectus of courses a variety which must surely cater for all tastes. The demand appears to be unlimited; it may not be generally known that the Effingham Centre has some 2,000 students and these could be increased if more money was available for adult education.

The Leisure and Pleasure Exhibition will, we hope, not only stimulate your interest but also delight your eye. You will see examples of

creative embroidery, church embroidery and tatting. Other ladies will be demonstrating cracker making and soft toys. A model maker will show and explain his work. The flower arrangers will have their section, as also the drama enthusiasts. The Adult Education Institute are providing instructors doing, for example, a Dress in a Jiffy, clay modelling, pewter work and they will have a corner for a language teaching area.

Painting has not been forgotten. Space is too limited for a show of pictures but we have been able to persuade two outstanding local artists to divide the afternoon between them painting from a model.

The Garden Society, also, will have pride of place. They are designing a garden as a decorative focal point in the Hall. Members will be in attendance to answer questions from the general public.

A BOOK FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Mr S E D Fortescue has just published 'The story of two villages' Great and Little Bookham' which promises to be a sell-out at the very reasonable price of £1.50 plus 15p for postage and packing or delivery. Orders should be sent to Mr Fortescue, 58 The Mount, Fetcham. As long as we can remember, local people have been asking for such a book; there has always been much interest in our past.

The author has been a leading member of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society for many years and the history he so interestingly outlines is well authenticated. He has listened to the memories of our older inhabitants and has included these in his chapters dealing with Victorian times and the early part of this century. They make fascinating reading.

The illustrations, selected from the 500 pictures he has collected over the past thirty five years, give meaning and vitality to the text. Some of them we have seen before but others are quite new. It is a delight to have them as a permanent record in our own homes.

We are indebted to Mr Fortescue for the patient research and industry he has put into his publication and we congratulate him on the clarity of his writing and the scholarly description of the illustrations.

Tribute should also be paid to the printers, Surrey Litho Limited, Great Bookham, for their excellent layout and presentation. We are specially pleased to do this as Mr Malcolm

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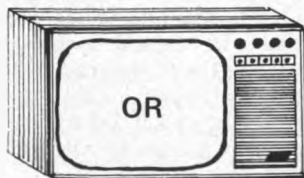
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PARENT PARTICIPATION

The reorganisation of the structure of local government has, predictably, caused tension and aroused criticism among those who administer it and those who are administered. Time and goodwill on both sides should resolve many of the problems and remove the confusion which, at the moment, leaves many of us groping in the dark.

One benefit, however, is already clear. It is the recognition that parents have the right to be more closely involved in education and that they have a contribution to make to the wellbeing of our schools.

Judging from the meetings of the new managing bodies of the Bookham schools the parent representatives are not only keenly interested but also determined to study in depth the complexities of modern educational thought.

For our primary schools we now have 4 managing bodies where formerly we had one. The parent representative on Bookham First School is Mr M Johnson, of Griffen Way; the chairman is Mrs A Sansom. Mr K G Hitchcock represents the parents on Bookham Middle School, of which the Rev J Edwards is chairman. Mrs G Chapman, of Richmond Way, has been elected by the parents to serve on the combined Eastwick and South Bookham managers, of which Mrs E Harrison is chairman. Eastwick Middle School parents have chosen Mr D W Morris, of Greenacres, and Mrs E Harrison is chairman.

It is now generally known that eleven plus selection has ended in our area and our local school is Howard of Effingham. To those of us who live in Bookham it seems wrong that, while our contributory schools are in the Central Education Area, Howard of Effingham continues to be in the South West Education Area. We are, however, represented on the governing body (no answer has ever been given to the question why primary schools should have managers and secondary schools governors, nor why schools for the slower learners should also have governors). Mrs A Sansom represents the parents. Appointed by the County Council from our area are CC Mr R Howe, Mrs E Harrison (chairman) and Mr W E Larkin (vice-chairman).

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Various advisory committees for different spheres of education have been set up. These are, as the name implies, purely advisory and do not replace the former divisional education executives which had extensive powers in their own right. Nevertheless they can be an effective sounding board for 'customer' opinion. The Central Area, which covers Epsom and Ewell as well as the Mole Valley, links all the schools under an advisory committee for education of 26 members. These comprise 2 county, 6 district and 3 parish councillors, 6 teachers, 4 coopted members and, perhaps most importantly, 6 parents, three from the primary schools and 3 from the secondary schools. We congratulate Mrs A Sansom on her appointment as a district councillor, and Mr A Browning as the representative of the Association of Head Teachers.

GLIMPSES OF OLD BOOKHAM *continued*

In our December issue we described, for the benefit of those who missed seeing it, how the 1974 Village Day Exhibition illustrated the architectural history of the village. Four houses were selected to depict the Elizabethan, Stuart, Regency and Victorian period. Many houses of equal interest had to be omitted, such as the entrance to Pearce, in the High Street, which is pure Georgian, but we hoped that Bookhamites would be encouraged by what they saw to look at our old houses with greater knowledge of their development over the years.

Moreover, as this is Architectural Heritage Year, we are asking that those enthusiasts who are pressing for the retention of the buildings and parts of buildings left to us from the past shall have the backing of us all. The Local History Society will be glad to give advice to residents who might wish to uncover parts of their houses which may have historical interest which have been obliterated by successive owners during a long occupancy. They will also welcome postcards, photographs, letters or press cuttings, which can be copied and added to the records already in their possession.

Reverting to the Exhibition, we list the 'Ale Houses' of which we have records: The Kings Arms, 1682, now the Corner House, opposite the Church. The Anchor, originally named The Red Lion, 1798. The Fox, 1798, now Fox Cottage, Ranmore. Fox House, 1798, situated in Pleasaunce Row, off Burnhams Road.

Halfway House, 1614, at the end of Childs Hall Road (Childs Hall was previously Childs Haugh, 'haugh' meaning a gateway for cattle into the village). Handleys, Isle of Wight. We have no date for this and the exact location is not known, and it is thought that it may have been demolished. White Hart Inn 1798, later known as The Saracen and Ring, now Grove Cottages. Windsor Castle, Little Bookham, thought to date to 1614. The Royal Oak, also probably going back to 1614. Five Haugh (later Halls), Bookham Common.

It should be emphasised that the dates given above are recorded dates. It could be that some of the establishments started much further back.

The Smithies, which were such a feature of local life when agriculture predominated, have disappeared but, drawing on the memories of old inhabitants, we know roughly where they were situated. At the top of the High Street stood Hamshar's, which later moved along the Lower Road where the old shed still stands. It is thought that there was another just off the Lower Road, probably adjacent to the Halfway House ale house. Simpsons was reputed to be near to Slinfold Cottage and, perhaps the most well known, was situated at the back of Brackenbury's Yard, along towards the Granary.

The figure of Mrs Mary Chrystie, remembered by quite a number of our old folk, dominated Victorian Bookham. A wealthy widow, she lived in Bookham from 1870 to her death in 1911. Mr Jack Carter, now living at Keswick, remembers her as a nun-like figure, enveloped in dark clothes. She was dedicated to the cause of Temperance and bought up five local pubs. She built two Temperance Hotels—one where Wildts now stands, which was visited by parties of children from the East End of London, when a fun fair was arranged for them; the other at the top of the High Street, later the headquarters of the Home Guard and afterwards Rayheat, and originally known as The Cyclists' Rest. The village is indebted to her for the good works she started based on the small Victoria Hall she built in East Street, alas today almost derelict. Here practised the Silver Band founded by her which played in the gardens of the big houses when the villagers were invited to parties and outdoor dances. She formed a watch and clock club to initiate the boys in the use of tools, as well as running classes for carpentry. She subsidised medicines

which could be obtained from the doctors at a penny per bottle. She also organised a tooth extraction scheme for one shilling. To encourage thrift she started a penny bank and some of the early books are still extant. Her name is recorded in the Chrystie Recreation Ground, regrettably too often called the Dorking Road Ground, which she gave to the village and where a seat was set up after her death.

BOOKHAM BRIDES AND BRIDEGROOMS

Hilary Foster and Paul Mitchell met at Birmingham University where Hilary graduated in Latin and Paul in Law. She is doing a post-graduate course in Education while her husband has taken up a post as accountant with Coventry Corporation.

Hilary's parents have done good work locally. Mr Foster is joint-secretary of the Residents Association and Mrs Foster was secretary of the Bookham and Fetcham Branch of the WEA which is an active body running a number of interesting and well-attended classes. Because of professional commitments she was obliged to give up this office but she continues to serve on the committee and represents it on the Council of the Community Association.

John Armstrong and Sandra Read are back from their honeymoon in Teneriffe and happily settled in their new home in Bridge Court, Leatherhead. We hope to see them often in Bookham where they have many friends among the young people. John played a leading role in the formation of the Avant Garde and laid the guidelines for a responsible committee to cope with the problems of running a Disco—no mean task for the twenties age group. His successors are trying to follow his lead and we wish them success.

John is studying hard for a degree in structural engineering. He is on a so-called sandwich course which will take 4 years to complete because it is based partly in industry and partly at the South Bank Polytechnic. He hopes to finish by September next year.

Helen Spicer and Nicholas John Carr had a Guard of Honour of the Guides at their wedding at St Nicolas Church and the First Bookham Guides formed the Choir. Not only was Helen a keen guider but her mother is the District Commissioner of the Bookham

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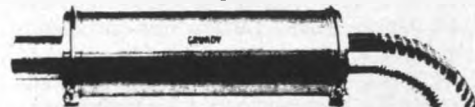
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The young couple are both keen on sport. He plays rugby for the Old Paulines and she is a member of the Ebbisham Squash Club.

Nicholas is a chartered surveyor to a large building firm based at Carshalton and Helen is bilingual personal secretary to an executive of an international firm with headquarters in London.

There must be something special at Teneriffe because Mr and Mrs Carr also flew there for their honeymoon after the reception at The Burford Bridge Hotel which was followed by a Barn Dance at the Barn Hall for their many friends.

Timothy Camp and Julie Ann Kelly who were married recently will be living locally. Timothy is in the catering profession and holds a position of responsibility at the Queen Elizabeth College, Leatherhead. His parents must be known by everybody in Bookham. Mr Philip Camp is postmaster in Bookham, as well as Ashted, and his wife, Margot, is a qualified instructor in flower arrangement which keeps her so busy that she had, regretfully, to drop out of the Bookham Players where she earned her laurels both as actress and producer.

Julian Everett and Katherine Coriat. Mr and Mrs Godfrey Everett had the interesting experience of participating in a typically French wedding when they flew out to a little town just outside Paris for the marriage of their son to a French young lady. According to custom, the mayor himself performed the ceremony. The food was marvellous, including the bridal cake which is, traditionally, a large cone of profiteroles in a basket.

Julian has travelled widely—his longest stay was in a Palestinian kibbutz—but is now working as a laboratory assistant in the English School in Paris which is noted for its high academic standards but is unusual in so far as all the teaching is given in the English language. Katherine is a graduate in English Literature of the University of Nanterre.

Stephen Morley and Hazel Lynn. Living just over the boundary but still part of Bookham this young couple met 14 years ago at Eastwick School. Stephen has won success in New York as a photographer chiefly of showbiz personalities. He lead a busy life and travels to all parts of America where he meets the personalities who are household names to this

generation of modern music enthusiasts.

Hazel will be missed by the pupils of Fetcham school where she has been teaching but she will not be entirely cut off in New York. Mrs Morley, a former Leatherhead councillor, tells us that her son is frequently rung up and visited by Bookham and district friends who are passing through.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Expert on Arab Science and Technology, Dr Donald Hill, of Amey Drive, has visited many countries to speak and write on this subject which scholars have largely ignored. His translation of 'The Book of Knowledge and Ingenious Mechanical Devices', compiled by the 12th century craftsman, Ibn al-Razzax al-Jazari, is being widely studied by specialists who consider it a worthwhile buy at the price of £37.50. It tells how in those far-distant days elaborate water clocks, trick drinking vessels, pictorial fountains and beautifully decorated doors of cast brass were constructed. It even lists methods of blood-letting.

Since this publication he has written steadily for learned journals, including the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature. In recognition of his work in this field he was awarded last year the Dexter Prize from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Chicago, which is considered to be the premier academic body in this area of study.

He is chief planning officer for the Badger Company Ltd and is currently serving on the Consultancy of the Festival of Jalnar.

Scholarship, however, is not his only interest. He is very much a family man with three children. He is also vice-president of Effingham Rugby Club.

News from our Honorary Life Members. It may not be generally known that when a vice-president of the BCA leaves the district he, or she, is automatically made an honorary life member. There are, at the moment 3 of these. We have not had news for some long time of Mr Charles Beddous, but we were very pleased to meet Mr R Saunders and his wife at Mr Medway's retirement party. He was in fine form; neither of them looked a day older.

We have also recently heard from Mr Arthur Marson, who will be remembered by many of us for the service he gave to the Community Association, the Polesden Lacey Theatre and

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the Camera Club, of which he was a founder member. He sends greetings to old friends. He gives us the amazing news that he and his wife, Peggie, have adopted the three 6 year old children they were fostering, two girls and a boy. This will entail the bringing up of a second family. As Arthur admits that he is now passing 70, this is a kind and generous act, especially as they are also running a small guest house in St Leonards.

Women in the News. Miss Margaret Fennell, who assisted Mr Medway in our local bank has been promoted to Manager of the Shootermill, branch, Haslemere. This is a significant achievement; she is the third woman that Lloyds Bank have appointed nationally to the position of branch manager.

Mrs J Spicer has been made Deputy Head of Ashted City Freemans School, noted for its high standards in the field of education. She will be missed by Therfield School where she was in charge of History and responsible for the encouragement of courses in social and civic studies. We are pleased, however, that some of our Bookham children will have the opportunity of her guidance in a post which carries wider responsibilities.

The new Education Welfare Officer for Mole Valley is Mrs Foster. She has gained much knowledge of the needs of children during her many years as secretary of Howard of Effingham School. We are sure that Bookham parents who have problems that come within the scope of her department will be pleased to have her advice.

Mrs Mary Huggins is showing considerable enterprise in starting a business within her own home. This means that her family is still under her supervision. She calls it the Westminster Business Services and it covers most efficiently all aspects of office work, including duplicating, printing, typing etc. Her address is Chesters, Kidborough Down, Tel 58838.

Since coming to Bookham Mrs Huggins has participated energetically in local activities. She is chairman of the Townswomens' Guild and she also runs the 'Time Off Club', a voluntary babysitting service with 65 members. It has now reached its maximum numbers. The BCA recognises the need for such groups and has considered the possibility of developing them but has found this impossible owing to its many other commitments. We do, however,

suggest that there must be public-spirited ladies in the neighbourhood who, with a little practical advice, could get them going within their own locality.

GOOD WORKS

News comes to us continuously of good works sponsored by, or assisted by Bookham people. We wish we had more space to record their achievements, but we list here a few. The Migraine Trust (see list at back for secretary) is hoping that a clinic will be established at Epsom Hospital for the many sufferers from this disabling complaint. The Community Health Council could be helpful in pressing for this. We hope that Bookham people serving on this body will take note.

The Central Surrey Group Spastics Society was unable to affiliate to the BCA because it is outside our own area but the secretary is Mrs M Sealy, 41 West Farm Avenue, Ashted. She would welcome inquiries from those willing to assist in money-raising efforts. The need is great. It is estimated that every four hours another spastic is born in Britain. Homes, training, research and help for burdened families is badly needed. Nationally about £2 million a year is raised but at least a further million is needed if present work is not to be curtailed. Can you help?

RUBKA is an organisation founded in 1683 and under the patronage of the Queen Mother. Its object is to help, chiefly by granting annuities, elderly people of the professional class who are in need. Under this heading come teachers, governesses, state registered nurses, ministers and the like. It is not generally realized that there are many folk in these days of inflation who are in dire trouble but too proud to ask for assistance. The late Mr R Hall was honorary secretary for the area covering Bookham/Cobham/Leatherhead and a replacement has not been found for him. Someone who is interested in old people, willing to spend the odd afternoon visiting them and making inquiries to find others who need help is the sort of person who is being sought. If anyone is willing to accept this worthwhile activity please get in touch with Lt Col E T Horsford, Assistant General Secretary, RUBKA, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL, or ring the Editor at Bookham 58702.

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Westminster Bank, has raised the magnificent sum of £5,000 in just ten months. This indicates the goodwill of people living here and is a tribute to the work done by the organiser, Mrs Dorothy Shilling.

A word of praise to The Lions. The local group has not been in existence very long but it has already demonstrated its determination to assist good causes. We have seen them in action at our two latest Village Days and they will be with us again this year. Their latest venture is the building of an adventure playground for Woodlands School, Leatherhead, a school for severely handicapped children. Not only are they raising funds for this but, perhaps even more worthwhile, they have rolled up their sleeves and are themselves doing the hard work.

If you have a problem why not ring the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Leatherhead 75522, or visit them at the Red House Annexe? Mrs E L Sharratt, of 41 Lower Road, tells us that it is a completely confidential service, staffed entirely by voluntary but trained workers. She gives examples of the sort of questions they get: 'The heel fell off a new shoe the first time I wore it. The shop refuses to replace it. Tell me what to do about it?' 'I'm in a muddle with my income tax. Who can help me sort it out?' 'My neighbour wants to take me to court because my dog bit him. Who can tell me where I stand legally?' 'My landlord threatens to evict me. Where can I get independent advice on whether he is allowed to do this?' 'I'm 17 and want to leave home. Where can I get confidential advice on whether I can?'

Help for BCA. The funds of the BCA have been augmented by £263 from the Christmas Dance, £14 from a Bridge Drive, £100 from the Music Hall and £49 from the Jumble Sale. We thank all well wishers who have raised this sum of £672. It is proposed that this shall go to the development fund necessary to build the extensions to the Gents and Ladies Toilets which could not be completed because of financial stringency when the Extensions were built.

OBITUARIES

Rosa Weale. A silver challenge cup has been presented to the Southern Counties Heavy Horses Association by Mr Howard Weale in memory of his wife, Rosa, who died suddenly on December 8th. It is a token of the great

interest they both shared in the Heavy Horses Association whose meetings they regularly attended. Way back, before the War, Mr Weale had a team of fine horses, used in his coal business. Although these are now gone, there still exists a magnificent collection of horse brasses and porcelain models which they had both been adding to for over 30 years.

Although she had retired 9 years ago from direct management of the grocery and post office in Little Bookham Street she was still, at 72, a fine figure of a woman and an outstanding Bookham personality. She was experienced in the retail trade. She was reared in the East End of London and had kept a small corner shop with her elder sister. It was here she met her husband who, having served two years in the Guards during the First World War, then joined the Metropolitan Police. The young couple came to Bookham in 1928 to take over the family business on the death of his father. It had been in the family for 100 years and still continues in their possession.

Florence Green, Flossie, as we all knew her, was an influential and respected member of the Over Sixties Club and the Bookham Day Centre. Her death in hospital came a few days before the celebration of her 90th birthday. She had great energy and never spared herself in work for her fellow pensioners. When Nellie Cox was secretary of the Leatherhead and District Old Peoples Welfare Committee Flossie was always one of the first to help with the bazaars and similar functions which financed this new project. She had charge of the little library at the Over Sixties Club until lack of storage space caused its closure. She was not, however, one to sit back and be waited on. There were jobs to be done in the Club but she also took on responsibilities in the Day Centre, of which she was a founder member. It was her prerogative to come down early in the morning to lay out the tables and chairs and prepare the equipment for the caterers before they arrived to prepare the dinner.

We shall remember her with affection.

Henry Joseph Palmer always had a cheerful greeting for passers-by as he met them on his frequent walks with his elderly bull terrier who was his inseparable companion. Living alone after the death of his wife whom he cared for so devotedly after her stroke, he must have been a lonely man. He, nevertheless, retained his interest in village affairs and especially

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gardening. He had been an efficient secretary of the Garden Society until Mr R Wing, a much younger man, was able to take over the office.

He died in his sleep of a heart attack at the age of 69 and was buried on February 9th at St Nicolas Church.

Alfred Edward (Mike) Jeal will be missed by his many friends in Bookham, especially in the musical world. His first contact with choral work was when he was apprenticed to the Royal Aircraft Establishment and joined the Gosport Choir. This spare-time interest continued while he made progress in his career. He rose to the position of a Chief Photographer in the Civil Service and was involved in the initial catapult trials with the aerial torpedo unit. When these ceased he was transferred in an administrative capacity to Chessington where his work included supervision of the printing section.

It was at this time, 17 years ago, that he took up residence in Bookham and he and his wife immediately joined in the local activities which fitted in with their special interests. Mike joined the Choral Society and regularly attended its meetings and Festivals. He also gave much service to the Gramophone Club of which he was chairman for a number of years. The programmes he presented at the club showed a wide and deep knowledge of composition but will be specially remembered for his expositions of chamber music.

He had been looking forward to his retirement and to the opportunity it gave for him and his wife to travel round the countryside they loved and give more time to the groups in which they were involved. It is sad that this opportunity was so short. We offer our sympathies to his wife but trust she will find some consolation in her work for the elderly and the WI's, as well as the companionship of her family whom she is able to visit frequently.

Leslie Robin Neville. His death will mean a double loss to the Bookham Choral Society for he was one of their outstanding and long-serving members. He was also in St Nicolas Church Choir. Singing was one of his prime interests. In his younger years, when he started his career in a City Bank, he joined the BBC Choral Society.

He moved with his family to Fetcham at the beginning of the War but later took up residence at 202 Lower Road, where he and his wife created a delightful garden. He was a corporal in the Home Guard. Few remain in the district

of that small but dedicated band of men but they will recall the strong bonds of friendship which united them and were renewed in the annual reunions which continued for a few years after the cessation of hostilities. It was this feeling of 'togetherness' which was one of the factors which influenced the formation of the Community Association.

Leslie R Neville was 83 when he died but few would have known it; he retained his vigour and energy and enjoyed walking. We are grateful to him for the many years he distributed the Bulletin from the Church to the Fetcham boundary—no mean task for a man of advancing years.

Percy Owen Youle was a man of strong convictions and did not spare himself in championing the causes in which he believed. He started his career in the London and America Bank in Brazil, which was his birthplace although he had been educated in England. There he contracted a tropical illness and retired early, 30 years ago, and came to live in Bookham with his brother and sister until he died at the age of 72.

He was always concerned to preserve the amenities of the village as it was when he arrived. His most sustained campaign was for the preservation of Southey Hall and its parklands when it was put on the market on the closing of the school there. It was a battle which ended in a draw. Surrey County Council were successful in acquiring some 23 acres, the rest went for development. At that time no-one would have believed that the population would grow to its present 10,000 and it is fortunate that the space was available for the Eastwick Schools, Keswick House and the Youth Centre.

He looked a gentleman and behaved like one but few knew of his many kindnesses. He had special care for the elderly; those who were lonely he visited regularly. One old lady, for example, who was in poor health received a telephone call from him every day to inquire if she was comfortable before she retired for the night.

He was a devout churchman and was steadfast in his support. It was his custom to bring flowers and foliage to St Nicolas Church to celebrate Easter. This was not forgotten by his sister who arranged for flowers to be delivered for the Eastertide floral arrangements in March.



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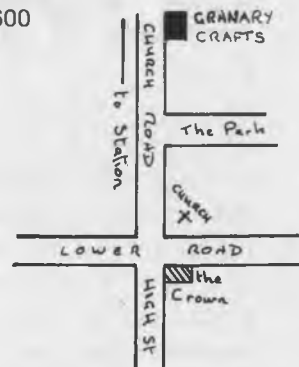
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