

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 123

WINTER 1964

32nd year



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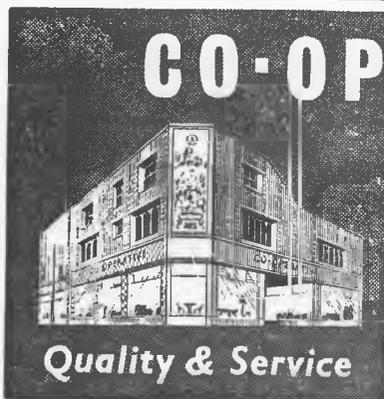
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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No. 123

WINTER, 1964

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EDITORIAL

We now have a new Old Barn Hall, the design of which pleases some and irritates others. Any work of art—and we think this is one—invariably provokes this reaction until it has been sanctified by time; and then people cease to notice it.

The interior of the Hall is more widely acclaimed, and there is general agreement that the architect, Mr. W. E. Larkin, has skilfully blended the old with the new in such a way that the one complements and enhances the other. The new curtains, furnishings and lighting are bright and modern; the kitchen is specially planned and fitted to cater for all who use the Hall.

Local people and organisations who gave considerable help in raising funds were represented at the Official Opening on November 28th and warmly thanked. Most of these, including firms operating in the district, have been listed in previous issues of "The Bulletin." The Ministry of Education, the County Council and the L.U.D.C., without whose grants the work would have been impossible, were also represented. Tribute should be paid, also, to the Association's own Appeals Committee (which organised the

house-to-house collection) for its energy and enthusiasm.

Enshrined in the bricks and mortar of the new building is our memorial to those pioneers of the Community Association who dreamed of and worked for a bigger and better Barn Hall but did not live to see it. We remember Nellie Cox whose work for old people grew out of her belief in the Association and whose Memorial Fund was the basis of our campaign. We have planted spring bulbs in the grounds to mark this. Also Tom Oldershaw whose unflagging drive and enthusiasm during the long years of his secretaryship kept our hopes and ambitions constantly expanding. For him we have planted a tree besides the bulbs. Dr. Waterfield is not forgotten (we built the Waterfield Room in his memory). He, too, visualised and worked for the extension we have now secured. The list is not complete without mention of the late Frank Street (his name is on the chairman's chair) whose faith never failed even in our grimmest days and whose sights were set not merely on a larger Barn Hall but on a real centre with members' rooms and a warden's flat.

This first extension to the Barn Hall is only the beginning of an over-all plan. As the Hall belongs to the village and is governed by the village—the Constitution of the Community Association guarantees this—it is only with the full support of all local organisations and residents that further extensions and improvements can be achieved.

MISS E. K. AMEY RETIRES

Miss Amey has been cooking meals for the schoolchildren of Bookham for over 25 years and they have thrived on them. At half-term she retired and pupils, teachers and canteen staff said goodbye to her at an informal little ceremony in the Baptist Hall. Presents to her included a teasmade, flowers, coffee percolator and cheque. Appreciation of her services was expressed by Mr. Browning and Mrs. Edwards, by Miss Etlinger for the School Managers, and by Mr. Wallis, Divisional Education Officer. The attentive faces of the children showed that they, too, understood that this was a dramatic occasion, partly sad because a familiar figure was leaving, and partly glad because Miss Amey had well earned her years of retirement.

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In a typical little speech Miss Amey thanked them all and said how much she had enjoyed her years of service. She hoped that they would all be better and stronger for her meals. It had always been her endeavour to do her Duty, with a large D, and her reward had been the well-being of the children.

The departure of Miss Amey does indeed mark the passing of an epoch. Some of us remember her as cook at the Barn Hall during the last war when the evacuated children flocked into Bookham and the W.V.S. organised dinners for them there. Miss Amey recalls the ration of a pennyworth of meat for each child. As these children drifted back to their homes there still remained the boys of the evacuated Strand School (incidentally Mr. Baird, now Chief Education Officer for Surrey, was one of their teachers) and Miss Amey carried on with meals for them. With the end of hostilities, Surrey County Council took over the Barn Hall for the schools meals service and Miss Amey became caterer. Things were not easy. The kitchen of an old building was not ideal for such a use, and the children of the school—she had only one then—had to take quite a walk down to the Hall in all weathers. On occasions there were freeze-ups, sometimes floods, but Miss Amey took these in her stride and was always patient. It was not until 1957

that the long-anticipated new canteen was built adjacent to the schools.

We are sure that the village, as well as the school, would like, through the "Bulletin," to say thank you to Miss Amey for a job well done. They would include in this Mrs. Griffiths, her sister, who had worked as assistant cook for 16½ years and retired at the same time. Her services were also acknowledged by presentations from the pupils and the staff of the schools.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Community Association was held in November. In future the Association's year, financially and otherwise, will end in August. Miss E. Micholls was re-elected President. The following were elected Vice-Presidents: Mrs. B. Oldershaw, Messrs. V. L. Austin, W. Bell, C. Brayne, C. Beddous, G. Everett, S. E. D. Fortescue. Mrs. E. Harrison continues as Hon. Secretary and Mr. R. W. Saunders as Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue as Hon. Solicitor and Mr. A. H. Kirkby as Hon. Auditor.

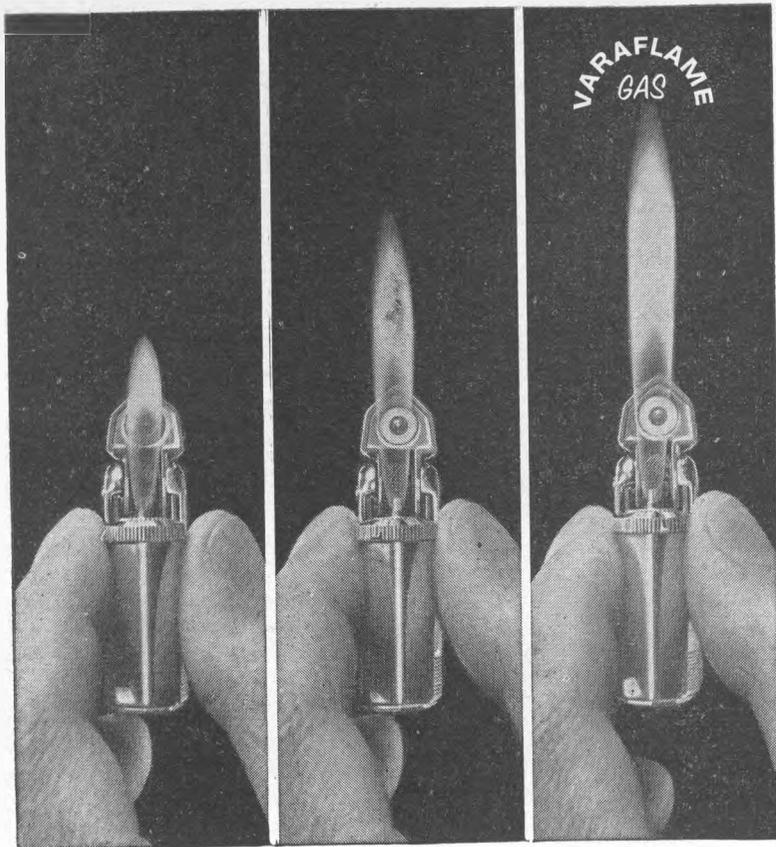
Individual Members' Representatives elected were: Mesdames, Cuddeford, Godwin, Hart, Longhurst, Messrs. Ashton, Atkinson, Catt, Cuddeford, Harrison, Larkin, Marson, Freeman, Rombach, Stockwell, Strand, Woodrow-Clark, and Dr. Sowerbutts.

Reporting on the work of the Association during the past half year, the Secretary referred to the completion of the Barn Hall extension, the continued production and distribution of the "Bulletin" with the assistance of many volunteers, the success of Village Day, which, despite the bad weather, was socially and financially satisfactory, the record-breaking results of the "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performances at the Polesden Lacey Theatre, with which the Association is closely connected, and the representations made to the L.U.D.C. for a further 15 acres of land, at least, to be reserved in Bookham for recreational and playing field space.

In presenting the Financial Statement the Treasurer showed that not much more than £100 remained in the funds once the payment on the new building was completed. This indicated the urgency for more money-raising ventures and a big increase in membership subscriptions and covenants.

Village Day, 1965, was provisionally fixed for June 26th.

Association Clubs. The start of the winter session for all our clubs was delayed by the presence of the builders on the Barn Hall site. From November, however, the completion of the extension meant that all our groups were able to enter into occupation. They are delighted by the fine new facilities and are confident



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that membership will expand even more rapidly. The list of C.A. clubs and their secretaries is in the first column of the Directory.

The dancers' clubs, with more space at their disposal, will be able to widen the range of their instruction and the number of members participating. The Barn Hall Club is, at the moment, too small to be really economic, but it is now able to cater for more interests over and above the popular table tennis. It is mainly a social club. What about bridge and whist players, or even chess? The secretary of the club would welcome suggestions along these, or other, lines, and prospective new members are invited to look in on Tuesday evenings. The Gramophone Club has an interesting programme. For example, in December one of the club meetings was taken by Miss J Houlgate, Chief Librarian of the B.B.C. By tradition their New Year meeting is a social one and January 7th will be a party, to which members may bring friends. After this the fortnightly meetings will follow their usual pattern. The Camera Club meets at the Bookham Junior School on Thursdays at 8 p.m. Items from their programme are: "Colour as I see it," by L. Jeffcoate, on January 21st; a competition versus Weybridge on January 28th; "Portraiture in Colour," by W. A. Paul, F.I.B.I.,

F.R.P.S., of Kodak, on March 11th.

The Over Sixties' Club is known to most people in the village but, if there are any newcomers who might feel shy about going along, they can be reassured that they would find a warm welcome and a pleasant hall in which to spend a sociable afternoon. The Day Centre is delighted to be back in its old home with such good new facilities for the preparation and service of meals. Arranging for transport is still a problem for the organiser. Any lady, or gentleman, driver who could spare an occasional Wednesday morning or afternoon is invited to get in touch with Mrs. T. Weston, Bookham 2706. There is special need for someone who could drive a small Minibus.

Finally, our newest and most rapidly expanding club, the Flower Arrangement Group meets on the first Monday in the month at 2.30 p.m. Its list of demonstrations and activities makes fascinating reading. Mrs. McLeod will be happy to give further information to anybody interested. There are many novices among us, but the assurance can be given that one learns quickly and the acquisition of skill gives infinite delight.

Road Stewards. Owing to a shortage of volunteers many membership subscriptions are not collected. It is vital to us to increase our funds and we would be glad of any help in this direc-

tion. The job is not onerous—to make a call once a year.

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A NATURE TRAIL ON BOOKHAM COMMON

This was one item in an outline of probable developments given at a Public Meeting held by the Bookham Commons Committee of the National Trust late in October, the second such meeting and very well attended too — the number present was

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perhaps double that of the 1962 occasion, indicating an increasing interest amongst residents in this delightful rural area situated within their parish boundary. Dr. Easton (Chairman of the Committee) introduced the main speaker of the evening, Mr. Polunin, of The Surrey Naturalists' Trust, who gave a talk, illustrated by a film, on Nature Conservation in Surrey. In the course of his remarks he justified

the high position Surrey holds in the opinion of botanists by the fact that, according to the country-wide census recently undertaken, it is the richest county in the United Kingdom for wild flowers. Mr. Polunin also demonstrated that in suitable areas, so far from wild flowers decreasing over the years, the converse is true—from comparison of a survey in 1840 in south-west Surrey and a survey in the

same area held in 1950 there was a loss of six species but also a gain of 300!

The suggestion of a Nature Trail was made by Mr. A. E. Browning during the course of questions and discussion and he gave it as his opinion that it would be widely welcomed by schools in the area. Dr. Easton replied that the matter had already been considered by his committee and they hoped that it might be possible to organise it next year.

Nature Trails have been held in this part of the country on several occasions in the past year or so and have proved very popular as they provide a means of explaining the significant features of a particular area such as a common and of informing visitors exactly what to look out for at various points on the route.

The most important matter dealt with by Dr. Easton in the course of his review of the work of the committee was that of the erection of the new bungalow on the site of Merritts Cottage in the "Isle of Wight" in the centre of the Common and the appointment of a Keeper of the Common to be resident there. The Keeper, Mr. E. F. Youngman, said they had already found that friends and relatives were very pleased to visit them in this quiet spot, and as for his wife — she had been brought up as a child not far from the wilds of Bodmin Moor, so Bookham Common in

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BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Academic News. Mary Hughes, of Blackthorne Road, has joined her brother at Liverpool University, and is studying Geography. She was at Bookham School and from there went on to Roseberry.

Another Bookham pupil who is doing well is Ivor Browning. He is teaching at Tonbridge, having done the Teacher Training Course. Since leaving college he has continued with his studies and has now secured a B.A. in History and Geography of London University. To obtain a degree externally one has to have grit and determination as well as ability. We congratulate him and send our good wishes as well to his wife and baby daughter.

We have had news of Richard Rossner, also of Bookham School, whose mother was for many years Guide captain. He is spending an exchange year at Frankfurt, and will then return to Trinity College, Oxford, to complete his Degree in Modern Languages. His teaching duties, mainly in conversational English, are not onerous so that he has ample opportunity to get to know the people and see the countryside. Modern Language students at university are fortunate in having this break in their academic studies which permits them to obtain a wider outlook on the world as it goes on outside the

ivory towers. It could be desirable to extend it to other fields of study. Educational thought is rapidly moving in this direction which accounts for the growing popularity of sandwich courses, especially in those subjects which are leading to commerce and industry.

Polesden Lacey Open-air Theatre. So heavy was the demand for tickets for the "Midsummer Night's Dream" performances at Polesden Lacey last summer that an extra evening has been added to the 1965 performances. The dates have been announced — Wednesday, July 14th; Thursday, July 15th; Friday, July 16th, and Saturday, July 17th. The play — Shakespeare's "Macbeth." The action moves through many varied scenes and the designer, Ronald Kirkwood, who has devised such splendid sets for the open-air theatre, will have full scope for his creative abilities. The producer, Elsie Green, has a dynamic quality which enables her to see whatever play is chosen from a fresh and provocative angle. Each year we think that she has reached a peak, but each succeeding year she astonishes us with an even more exciting interpretation.

Bookham people, who know the Polesden Players so well, will not be surprised to hear that their reputation is spreading beyond Surrey. We would like to congratulate them on the invitation

they received to repeat "Midsummer Night's Dream" for two Sunday performances at the Chichester Festival Theatre. This was in late October and they played to packed and appreciative audiences.

A Service Tradition. John Freelove, grandson of Mrs. Freelove and the late Mr. Freelove, has entered the Fleet Air Arm. He has inherited a family tradition. His grandfather was a Sergeant Major in the Regular Army, was awarded the Military Medal in the First World War, and afterwards saw service in India. John is 15½ and was a pupil at the Howard of Effingham School, which prepared him for the stiff physical and intelligence tests set by the Fleet Air Arm.

New School Managers. We are pleased to report the appointment of Mrs. M. Strand as a Manager of the Bookham Schools, and Mr. W. E. Larkin as a Governor of the Howard of Effingham School. This is a County Council appointment and it is interesting to note that both are young parents with children at the schools. Many people have felt for some time that parents with young families who are now so numerically strong in Bookham should have a place on school governing bodies. It would seem that the County Council have recognised that there is a case for this point of view.

Incidentally, both Mr. Larkin

(Continued on page 18)

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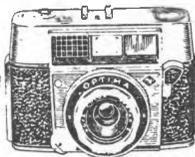
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and Mrs. Strand are active in the village and they are both keen and helpful members of the Community Association.

Mrs. E. Harrison, who is Vice-Chairman of the Central Divisional Education Executive, has been elected Chairman of the Bookham Schools Managers.

Also appointed to the managing body by the Leatherhead Urban District Council is Mr. A. Brackenbury who, born and bred in Bookham, is well aware of local needs.

TAKING UP A NEW INTEREST

The Gramophone Club

Most people who read "The Bookhams Bulletin" do so to keep in touch with what is going on in the village and not with the intention of participating in the many and varied activities which are recorded in its pages—they are too busy to do so. I used to be numbered with this majority, but lately have discovered that being too busy simply meant that one was too much immersed in the things one wanted to do to find out if there were other things in the world around one which were more rewarding to the soul. And, of course, there are: all often the things one is busy on are business (obviously) and family and house and garden. But some time or other a peak is reached in the garden, the house becomes perfected, the family grow up and you get the upper hand of your

business (or you may retire). Then, at least, is one time to reach out for new interests, and what a wealth of them there are: one has only to show the slightest penchant for "culture" to find the Arts are catered for very actively from the Leatherhead Rep., through the Evening Institutes and the other Adult Education bodies to the many specialist little local groups of Choralists, Musicians and the like. Dancing (Ballroom, Old Time, Scottish, or what you will) is a strong favourite, but the claims of Bowls (in season), Amateur Dramatics, Darts and the Judo Class must not be overlooked. I settled for the Gramophone Club.

I know (and still know) nothing about gramophones, and have little formal knowledge of music. However, I have always enjoyed orchestral music in all its variety to such a degree that I am always desirous of **entirely** listening to a performance. The current (and passing?) phase of using music as a background for so many activities from the industrial to the social I find literally quite disconcerting. I was a natural for the Gramophone Club.

Meeting once a fortnight in the quiet, warm, congenial atmosphere of the Barn Hall, the Club is composed of the same range of personnel as is any village street: some are knowledgeable, some just "know what they like" and some are happily receptive to any good programme. The

content of the programme is important: at each meeting someone, who may be a member but quite often is not, will present a coherent programme of records illustrating a particular composer's work, or a type of music as handled by a number of composers, or music of a certain country or epoch; the point is that the compere will have made a selection according to his taste and will be ready to give a short but helpful commentary on each record.

It is a very friendly club. Nothing stronger than tea is drunk during the interval, but, if you like tea, I can recommend the Gramophone Club's tea—and it cleanses the mind wonderfully for the second half of the programme. I mentioned earlier that one had to look around for things which were rewarding to the soul—one certainly is music, and another is friendship. You will find both in the same little organisation, Bookham Gramophone Club.

A. H.

ROUND THE VILLAGE

Choral Society. The Society, 47 strong, is busy preparing for the 1965 Leith Hill Festival. The Advanced Division competitions and concert will be held on Saturday, April 24th. The main works to be performed will be Bach's "Jesu, priceless treasure," and the "Pastoral" of Bliss. The choir could still accept new members, especially tenors. The rule is that a minimum of eight practices

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Bookham Bowling Club. The Club concluded a very happy season in October. Of the 24 matches played the Club won 12. The Ladies' Section, small though it is, won five of the seven matches played. The Club is in urgent need of new members, particularly ladies, and a real welcome is extended to anyone who would like to try this fascinating game.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that, next season, afternoon instruction can be arranged for newcomers to the game. Several new members were welcomed during the past season and the club hopes to have the pleasure of meeting many more when the new season begins on April 24th at 3.30 p.m.

Bookham Dramatic Society. Another production by this up-and-coming group, which would still welcome new members, is scheduled for April. Their last play, "And this was Odd," by Kenneth Horne, was so much enjoyed by large audiences that the next production should be a sell-out. The choice of "And this was Odd" for a December production was a good one. The action takes place near Christmas and the festive decorations added a quite topical touch to the set. Those taking part were Keith Preston, Betty Harrop, Gwenda Bradshaw, Betty Jones, Geoff Harris,

Sue Le Nobel, Peter Le Nobel, Margot Camp, Mary Flowers. The producer was Charles Flowers who is to be congratulated on the pace and smoothness of the performance.

A week after the show the Club entertained members and friends at a wine and cheese party in the Little Bookham Hall. This was a most enjoyable occasion and, in the best traditions of actors both amateur and professional, provided a lively finale to the rigours of rehearsal and preparation.

The Bookham and Effingham Evening Institute continues to expand at a rate beyond the expectations of any of the pundits. Its enrolments this session have passed the 1,000 mark—a 70 per cent increase. Its range of classes cover every interest, the most exciting, perhaps, being the Piano Group which composes, sings, improvises and plays as the fancy takes it. Cars of all kinds, from status Jaguars to vintage Austins, overflow the grass verges. There are two enthusiastic car maintenance classes to cater for some of their owners. Others students come on two wheels, others on two legs. Lights shine from all the classrooms, and the domestic science room provides the cups of tea which have become a fixed item in the evening ritual.

Two clubs have been formed—the Badminton Club and the Fencing Club—many more will

follow in the next session. The Fencing Group has shown considerable enterprise in linking with other clubs in the district to form a Fencing League. Pessimists about adult education are advised to look in on the Howard of Effingham School any evening in the week. Let them be wary, however, or they will be infected by the bug to learn a little more about something, which seems to be assuming epidemic proportions in our neighbourhood.

The Pull of Bookham. Those of us who lived in Bookham during the last war know that despite the anxieties of the times, or perhaps because of them, community feeling was strong. We have tried to preserve this. One man who would know if we have succeeded is Mr. Tomlinson, the new manager of the Bookham Co-operative Store. He was one of the Strand School boys evacuated to Bookham (his two younger brothers were also sent here). When he saw the advertisement for the post at Bookham his boyhood recollections impelled him to apply for the job and, we are pleased to say, he got it. He remembers well the meals at the Barn Hall, lessons wherever space could be found, mainly at the Howard of Effingham School, and the kindness of Bookham people who took the boys into their homes. Most especially he remembers the art master, the late Mr. F. H. Round, who made the block on the cover of *The Bulletin*.

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