

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 76

SEPTEMBER, 1952.

20th year



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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TAKING STOCK

By DR. N. E. WATERFIELD, O.B.E.*

It is now nearly 5 years since the general meeting inaugurating the Bookham Community Association was held in the Barn Hall, now its headquarters. Reviewing progress, we have good reason to feel satisfied that we are carrying out the objects set out in our constitution; these, amongst others, are:—

"To provide a meeting place and facilities for physical and mental training, recreation, and for social and intellectual development.

"To foster a community spirit for the achievement of the above purposes."

There has been a slow but steady increase in membership resulting from the appeal made by the ever-widening circle of activities sponsored by the Association. There is, however, no ground for complacency and we must not be content until our membership includes at least half the population of the district.

It is gratifying to hear from many newcomers how much they appreciate the opportunity offered by membership of making contacts and contracting friendships, in marked contrast to their previous position where, although surrounded by neighbours on every side, they had little or no opportunity of meeting them and in consequence led lonely and unhappy lives. In addition to the many activities in which members of all ages can take part, special provision is made both for the younger members of the community and also for the "over 60's"—in the case of the former by means of social evenings, dances and table tennis, and for the latter by weekly meetings of their Club.

I do not intend to set out a list of all our activities, but will mention that we are now putting down

a hardwood floor in the Barn Hall at a cost of £375 and also that next year we hope to produce "As You Like It" on the open-air stage at Polesden.

While Bookham was a village the inhabitants enjoyed all the advantages of a compact community where many made frequent contact with their neighbours and had numerous interests in common. But now, with the rapidly increasing population, these advantages are disappearing. Unless some integrating factor succeeds in binding us together again and is able to provide for our needs for recreation, amusement and intellectual development we shall be no different from any other built-up area.

I would therefore earnestly commend to you the Community Association as an organization with no racial, social, political or religious barriers which, if it receives the support it merits, can fill with interest the life of every member of the community and at the same time provide opportunities for service which can add so much to the happiness of the giver.

* Dr. Waterfield is the President of the Bookham Community Association, having served as such since its inception.

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LONDON CHILDHOOD

Whatever may be the advantages or disadvantages of spending one's childhood in London, one thing is certain—given the liberty to roam the streets and alleys and squares at will, a London child is never bored. My parents were too busy selling antique jewellery, Chinese carvings, two-handed Crusaders' swords, goggle-eyed "fetish" masks, etc., to worry much about us children, and we were the happier for it.

My father was for many years Churchwarden of St. John's, Waterloo Road (the "Festival" Church), and one of my happiest memories is of getting up at 4 a.m. on Easter Saturdays to walk with him to Covent Garden to buy fruit and flowers for the Easter decorations. No church ever looked as beautiful as St. John's on Easter Sunday. (I can still smell the scent of fruit and flowers, and the warm crusty odour of the three-pound loaves of bread each with its shining golden plait down the centre.) The brisk walk over Waterloo Bridge, with the sun shining on St. Paul's and the white façade of Somerset House and glinting on the water below, the noise and bustle of "the Garden", the cheerful Cockney voices and the heavy scent of piled-up boxes of flowers was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Spring and summer saw us trudging off to picnic in the parks. We knew them all intimately, but Green Park was our Mecca. There, we could run and play without restriction, and when the many trees were in bloom it was fairyland to us. We never

touched the trees—all Londoners are superstitious about picking may-blossom, and perhaps it is just as well!

We loved to go down by the river, and one favourite but highly dangerous rendezvous was the wood-yard that lay next to the Lion Brewery. We would leap and play on the piled-up timber or hang over the parapet and watch the great grey rats slipping in and out of the water. There one of our playfellows fell into the disgusting, oily mud when the tide was out, and was rescued with difficulty by the other boys forming a chain. We left him on his doorstep—a filthy, woebegone figure, poor boy!

D.S.

(To be concluded)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ESSAY COMPETITION, 1952

Entries for this Competition are invited from young people (either sex) under 17 years of age who are resident in the Bookhams.

Any aspect of natural history—botany, biology, wild life, etc.—may be selected as the subject. Essays should be not more than 400 words in length, should be written in the competitor's own handwriting on one side of the paper only, and should reach the Honorary Secretary, Bookham Community Association, Upalong, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, not later than the 1st November, 1952. A prize of one guinea is offered for the best essay submitted.

The Association reserve the right to publish the prize-winning essay in the *Bulletin*.

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"WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN . . . ?"

By REV. ALEC C. EASTMAN*

It is with pleasure that I accept the Editor's kind invitation to send my fellow-residents in Bookham a message through this *Bulletin*, which is serving so useful a purpose in the life of the community.

Bookham is a pleasant place in which to live, surrounded as it is by some of the most beautiful country. I have often been surprised to find that its beauty is known to many people in all parts of London, and farther afield. More important is the fact that Bookham is a very friendly place and many visitors express their appreciation of the welcome they receive. One expression of that community spirit is the surprising number of social and cultural activities that are listed in this *Bulletin*, including, of course, the Community Association itself. Another expression of it is the happy relationship between the Churches, Anglican and Free.

Lately I have read two books about England that present a strange contrast. One was about King Alfred, who after a long, desperate struggle against the Norse invaders at last succeeded in uniting the different tribes of this land to form a nation, by teaching them that only as each man cared for and defended his neighbour could any man be safe. He it was who established our English law, with its equal justice for all; and he put the Ten Commandments at the head. His great

*Mr. Eastman is the Minister of the Bookham Congregational Church.

desire was that all the freeborn youth of his kingdom should learn to read well the English Scripture, and he himself translated into the English tongue the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer, but died before he could finish the Gospels.

The other book was "English Life and Leisure", a study of the social life of England to-day. In the thousand years between there has been amazing progress in many respects—in democratic government, in education, in scientific and industrial development, in means of travel, in medical science, in cultural interests, in social welfare. But the authors reach some disturbing conclusions. In the last half-century there has been a decline in honesty and thrift; the growth of the gambling habit and increased drinking, particularly among young people, are "problems of grave magnitude; and there is increasing laxity in sexual relationships and in marital fidelity".

They are forced by the evidence to conclude that the root cause of this decline in moral standards is a decline in religion. Many do not know the Ten Commandments at all and more feel no obligation to keep them; church attendance is declining and the Christian way of life is ignored. It would be false to give the impression that all is wrong; there is a good deal on the credit side. But their conclusion is that if the decline is to be checked, and the nation to recover its moral health, there must be a revival of real religion. In this we can all help, by personal example, by renewing our own faith and hold-

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ing more firmly to that true way of life shown to us in Jesus Christ.

It really does help if you attend church regularly, read your Bible and say your prayers. The community is made up of individuals and it is as each one of us loves God with all his heart and mind, and loves his neighbour as himself, that we find the greatest good for all.

"THE TUB OF ST. NICOLAS"

By KEITH C. MARKWICK*

This is the name of a magazine which has been produced entirely, except for one or two special articles, by the younger members of the St. Nicolas Club, of whom I am one. The five of us have spared no effort to make our first edition a success, in spite of the jeering scepticism of the knowledgeable and the lack of interest and support of the other young church members.

It is generally agreed that the failure of many ideas and schemes is due to the lack of enthusiasm and teamwork. But our little group has attained some degree of the minimum interest necessary to withstand the usual showers of icy water. After editing and amending the manuscript, we set about printing the copies—set type, print, unset type. It was a tedious process.

The sale of over 40 copies realised at least 16s., selling at 3½d. each. These copies consist of 12 pages, including the cover, stapled together, each page measuring 6in. by 5in. The cover and back page are printed in magenta

* Address: "Stormont", Sole Farm Road, Great Bookham.

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by Ian Coster



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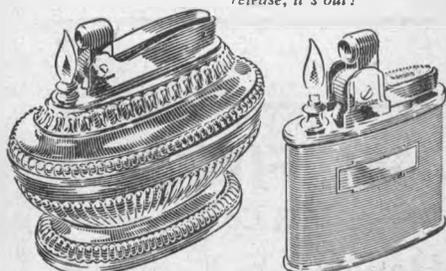


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GURJUN

Tell it not in Gath, whisper it not in Ascalon, for rumour was ever a fickle jade, but did the Secretary fly to the forests of Burma last year on a secret mission? Someone, it is said, was seen in that far-off land on many days moving among the giant trees silently carving the letters "B.H." on some of the biggest and best.

It might have been, because in the middle of August there arrived in Bookham large quantities of wood—dark, handsome wood, labelled "GURJUN, for the Barn Hall", and Gurjun does grow in the Burma fastnesses!

During the past month the floor of the Old Barn Hall has been transformed. No longer will the unwary, treading heavily, find one foot disappearing through the floor. No more may it be said that one cannot dance upon a surface so knotted and uneven. The old boards have had their day, the slopes have disappeared, the colour has changed. GURJUN in its pristine glory, dark and handsome, has replaced the old; our Village Hall has added a new chapter to its history.

The new floor has cost a good deal of money, and the Trustees have found it necessary to borrow some £200 to defray part of the sum needed to pay for the installation, with, be it said, the blessing of the Charity Commissioners, for whom they act.

How to repay the debt? Some will come from the events organized by the Association during the coming months. It is hoped that

some part will be made up by donations from those amongst us who use the Hall, or others who may feel it to be a good thing that the old building, given to the village in 1906 by Mr. Arthur Bird, should be kept in good usable order. If, therefore, any reader of this *Bulletin* would care to donate a sum, however small, to the "Barn Hall Floor Fund", his or her contribution should be sent to Mr. E. E. Oldershaw, "Upalong", Guildford Road, Great Bookham, Secretary to the Trustees, on whose behalf it will be gratefully acknowledged.

* * *

"The Tub of St. Nicolas"—

continued from page 7.

ink. You may think that the cover design is a little unusual—it is meant to be. The lino-cut depicts three people standing in the Tub holding scripts in their hands. However, I cannot relate the legend of St. Nicolas here; those who know it well realize why this name and design were selected.

In our next issue, which will be published in September, we intend to include a crossword and other puzzles, as well as one of a series of articles describing visits to various industrial firms. There will also be a serial story about, well . . . ! Our feature may be, we hope, a full-page colour design. [*We congratulate Keith and his friends on their journal and wish it all success. As the Rector says in his Foreword, "You and I must not let their work languish for want of readers and supporters.—Ed.]*

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VILLAGE DAY, 1952 EDITION

"Fun for everyone" is the keynote of Bookham's Village Day on Saturday, 6th September. Butlin's famous square dancing team is coming down to give demonstrations, live marionette shows are to be staged, and P.T. displays will figure among the other attractions. A grand fancy dress procession, escorted by two bands, will parade through the village to the Barn Hall, where judging will take place and prizes will be distributed as part of the opening ceremony. Sideshows have been planned to suit all members of the family, and a special photographic competition for the under-sixteen's offers good prizes. Serve-yourself refreshments at moderate prices will be available, and a novelty has been introduced in the form of a tea dance with light

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music in the Barn Hall itself.

The whole village, it is hoped, will stay on for the evening's events. The church and the Barn Hall are to be floodlit for the occasion, an Old Time Dance has been arranged at Church House, and a Square Dance at the Barn Hall. The non-dancers will find entertainment round the bonfire in the illuminated grounds, with community singing, hot sausages and good company.

B.C.A. CLUB NEWS Gramophone Club

After a successful launching in the spring, the Gramophone Club commences its first full season on Wednesday, 10th September. The membership now stands at 40, and we are proud of the very friendly atmosphere prevailing. The reproduction is good and under the care of our technical members (who are aiming at perfection) is constantly being improved. Come along and meet us and enjoy a friendly musical evening! M.L.E.

A correspondent writes:—

"The experience of attending the Club's 'Excerpts from Opera' programme on the 2nd July at the Old Barn Hall was unforgettable. There were 17 items in all, and each one had been selected, as *the* outstanding example of its particular class of operatic music, by that connoisseur of gramophone recording, Mr. H. R. Swetman, who also very kindly compered the programme.

"Caruso's rendering of 'On with the Motley', from Pagliacci, was the highlight in a musical treat.

"The new yearly subscription rates of 7s.6d., and 5s. to those

under 18 or to students, surely represent a unique investment."

Camera Club

Founded in 1946, the Club is holding its seventh annual exhibition of members' work at the Barn Hall on Saturday, 18th October, and at the Red House, Leatherhead, on Saturday, 25th October.

The Club, although quite small, has an excellent record. Many of its members have won awards in open competitions, and the general quality of work is high.

New members are always welcome to the meetings held each Friday evening at "The Croft", Church Road, where they will be struck by the informal atmosphere and helpful spirit of this small body of enthusiasts. Details of future meetings will gladly be supplied by the Hon. Secretary (see Directory, page 16).

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BOOKHAM JOTTINGS

Bookham residents have expressed appreciation of the provision of wayside seats, some of which have recently been donated by the Nursing Association. It has been difficult to find suitable sites for these badly needed amenities; the Engineer and Surveyor reported, at a meeting of the General Purposes and Works Committee, that after consultation with the donor a seat would be placed on the new open space fronting White Way on the Bookham Grove Housing Estate.

* * *

Congratulations to Christine Stephens, who was the only pupil of the Bookham Primary School this year to gain a Common Entrance Award. Christine is to enter the Lintons Lane School, Epsom, this September.

* * *

The contractors have now completed the roads and sewers on the Bookham Grove estate, and access is available from the Guildford road entrance. It was reported in July that there were 154 houses under contract on this estate, of which 6 had been completed, 14 plastered, 16 roofed, 30 were above dampcourse level, 30 commenced and 58 about to be commenced. It was anticipated that a further 65 houses could be built on the estate with the present labour force before the end of the year.

A considerable number of bungalows is being provided for the elderly, and the influx of so many old folk, many in failing health, into the area will present a social problem of some im-

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portance. It is to be hoped the Leatherhead U.D.C. (who are to be congratulated on the excellent progress at the Grove) have not overlooked the need to make provision for the regular visiting of their ageing tenants, perhaps by voluntary workers from bodies who make this kind of social service their special concern. It is understood that some Surrey parishes have set up an Old People's Committee to meet this need.

The future of the Little Bookham Village Hall was under discussion at a public meeting held at the hall on Monday, 7th July, under the chairmanship of Captain T. L. Owen. After long discussion it was decided to adopt the proposals of the Management Committee that the management

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of the hall should be taken over for a period of 2 years by the Little Bookham Women's Club, at a nominal rent of 1s. per annum. Monthly whist drives would be organized in aid of hall funds, the first of which would be held on Friday, 29th August.

* * *

At the annual prizegiving of the Howard of Effingham Secondary School on Friday, 25th July, when the prizes were presented by Sir Ernest Smith, C.B.E., the Headmaster (Mr. P. J. Hewitt) mentioned the cricketing record of Billy Smith, of Great Bookham. He had played for Surrey schools nine times and had been selected to play for the South of England schools against the north. There was every prospect that he would be selected for the England schools team to play against Wales.

* * *

Ten pupils of the Howard of Effingham Secondary School sat for the Surrey Art Award this year and five were successful. John Hughes and Ann Tozer will go to Guildford School of Art and Heather Grainger, Mary Andrews and Janet King to Epsom.

* * *

At the meeting of the Central Divisional Executive on the 25th July, the Divisional Education Officer (Mr. C. V. Jenkins) reported that to meet the anticipated rise in population of Bookham from the present figure of 4,145 to the estimated figure of 6,495 in 1971, an additional primary school would be required. The existing primary school had accommoda-

tion for 260 children and was already full. Two additional classrooms would shortly be provided in preparation for the development of the Bookham Grove Housing Estate.

* * *

The Howard of Effingham County Secondary School and the Bookham Primary School will, it is hoped, again be centres this year for the new Session of the Evening Institutes under the auspices of the Surrey Education Committee. Besides the vocational classes—shorthand, typing, book-keeping, engineering, languages, etc.—instruction is offered in recreational subjects such as ballroom dancing, choral music, dramatics, cookery and leatherwork. Classes in these and many other subjects will be put on provided a sufficient number of students ask for them. Application for a prospectus and other particulars should be made to C. V. Jenkins, Divisional Education Officer, "Mounthill", Epsom.

BOOKHAM ORGANIZATIONS

Official, address, telephone, meeting place, time, all refer to Bookham unless otherwise stated. Asterisk denotes affiliation to the Bookham Community Association.

CHURCH, ETC., ORGANIZATIONS

Brotherhood. E. C. Hall, Elsenham, Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Ch., 1st Sun., 3.0.

***Congl. Ch. Guild.** H. H. Semken, Berberis, The Park. Congl. Ch. Hall, Thurs., 8.0.

Friends, Society of. W. T. Cooper, The Croft, Dowlans Rd. Tl. 2256. Cop. Hall, 2nd & 4th Suns., 11.0.

Mothers' Union. Mrs. Jacob, Woodcote. Tl. 2699. Ch. Hsc., 2nd Thurs., 3.0.

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St. Nicolas Ch. Council. P. Fogden, Bonnymuir, Childs Hall Rd. Tl. 2897.
St. Nicolas Club. Miss Clack, Malveen, L'head Rd. Tl. 246. Ch. Hse., Mon., 7.0.

St. Nicolas Folk Dancers. R. Lambert, Fowre Wynds, Hale Pit Rd. Tl. 2206. Ch. Hse., Sat., 5.0.

White Crusaders (Christian Spiritualists). Co-op. Hall. Thurs., 6.30. Services & Healing. Enquiries Mrs. Wootten, 1 New Parade. Tl. 575.

Women's Congl. Fellowship. Miss Cripps, Charmdene, Kennel Lane, Fetcham. Tl. 454. Congl. Ch. Hall. Wed., 3.0.

Women's Fellowship. Mrs. Edkins, The Small House. Tl. 187. Ch. Hse., Mon., 2.30.

Women's Own. Miss Hull, Ewhurst, Groveside. Tl. 191. Baptist Hall. Mon., 3.0.

Young Wives' Group. Mrs. Waldock, Lynwood, Sole Farm Rd. Tl. 2065.

Youth Fellowship (Congl.) Seniors: C. T. Collins, St. Edward, Crabtree Lane. Congl. Hall, Sat., 7.0. Junior Girls: Miss Hall, Elsenham. Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Hall, Mon., 7.0.

SPORTS CLUBS

Badminton (Ladies). Mrs. Lambert, Fowre Wynds, Hale Pit Rd. Tl. 2206.

Bowls. R. T. Rowley, Wilford, Blackthorne Rd. Tl. 2974. Ladies: Mrs. Saunders, Naldera, Groveside. Tl. 2827.

Cricket. L. W. Denning, 48 Middlemead Rd. Tl. 3091.

Football. D. A. Durban, 12 Station Rd.

Junior Sports (Co-operative). Mrs. Davies, Rose Marie, Howard Rd. Tl. 3093. Co-op. Hall, Tues. & Wed., 7.30.

***Rifle.** O. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Rd.

Stoolball. Mrs. Martin, Omira, L'head Rd.

Table Tennis. Miss Benn, Fetcham Holt, Lower Rd. Tl. L'head 3706.

Tennis Clubs:

Lt. & Gt. Bookham. Mrs. Street, Craig, Eastwick Rd. Tl. 2798.

Gilmais. A. M. Lee, L'head Rd. Tl. 271.

*Youth Council: John Barnard, Mavis Bank, Lower Rd.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

British Legion. F. Shrubshall, Ricasoli, Orestan Lane, Effingham. Tl. 3141. Club, day & evg., Legion Hall.

Buffaloes, Royal Antediluvian Order, Louis Kerr Lodge. R. W. Scott, Lynncote, Howard Rd. Tl. 2166. Old Crown, Tues., 7.30.

***Camera Club.** Mrs. Stephens, Mansfield, Orestan Lane, Effingham. Tl. 2758. The Croft, Ch. Rd., Fri., 7.45.

***Choral Society.** L. K. Neville, Lone Pine, Lower Rd. Tl. 2075. Congl. Ch. Hall, Tues., 8.0.

Commons Committee. L. R. Hutchison, Maddox Farm. Tl. 47.

Conservative Associations:

*Gt. Bookham. H. G. Carter, The Spinney, The Park. Tl. 2703.

Lt. Bookham. Mrs. Haslett, The Cottage, Foxmead. Tl. 184.

***Co-operative Education Committee.** Mrs. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Dve. Tl. 2702.

***Co-operative Guild (Women's).** Mrs. Cox, Itheldor, Keswick Rd. Tl. 2706. Co-op. Hall, Thurs., 3.0.

Film Society (Mid-Surrey) C. J. Beddous, Micklehamway, Downsway. Tl. 3032.

Garden Society. J. H. Stephens, Roselea, Sole Farm Rd. Tl. 3026.

Gilmais Club, L'head Rd. A. M. Lee. Tl. 271. Full club facilities.

***Labour Party.** L. J. Penegar, 1 Water Lane. Co-op. Hall, 1st Mon., 8.0. *Women: Mrs. Stimpson, 17 Sole Farm Av.

Local History Society. A. T. Ruby, 53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Tl. L'head 3127.

Model Engineering Club. R. J. Collins, Roslyn, Blackthorne Rd. Toc H Hall, L'head, alt. Tues., 7.30.

National Savings. W. Young, Grange Cottage, Maddox Lane. Tl. 3067.

Nursing Assn. Mrs. Emuss, The Hermitage. Tl. 80. (District Nurses. Tl. 347.)

Pig Club. A. Botten, Ivydene, Downsway. Tl. 2484.

***Poultry & Rabbit Club.** E. C. Wyatt, Cumnock, Eastwick Dve. Tl. 585. Co-op. Hall, quarterly.

Residents' Assn. F. Cooper, Frantina, Keswick Rd. Tl. 360.

***Women's Club (Lt. Bookham).** Mrs. Owen, 4 Oakdene Road.

***Women's Institute.** Mrs. Bell, Trevean, The Park. Tl. 2640. Ch. Hse., last Thurs., 2.45.

***Women's Total Abstinence (National) Union.** Mrs. Hall, Elsenham, Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Hall, 2nd Tues., 3.0.

Youth Club (Bookham & Effingham). Mrs. Johnson, The Orchard, Manor Hse. Lane. Tl. 2332. Village Hall, Mon. & Thurs., 7.30.

Youth Council. E. E. Thornton (Youth Organizer). Tl. Epsom 4316.

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Old Barn Hall, Ch. Rd. E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Rd. Tl. 241.

JUNIOR ORGANIZATIONS

Boys' Brigade. D. E. Shipley, St. Gallen, The Ballands, Fetcham. Baptist Hall, Mon., 7.25.

***Girl Guides.** Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cott., L'head Rd. Tl. 2796. Scout Hall, Fri., 6.30. (Brownies, Wed., 4.30.)
Girls' Life Brigade. Mrs. Palmer, The Lodge, Randalls Rd., L'head. Tl. 2776. Baptist Hall, Thurs., 4.0 (Cadets), 6.0 (Juniors), 7.15 (Seniors).

Life Boys. Mrs. Palmer (see last above entry). Baptist Hall, Mon., 6.0.

*Scouts:

Gp. Scoutmaster: D. Cameron, Noremac, Dowlans Rd. Tl. 2599.

Scoutmaster: B. Charles, Allandale, Dawnay Rd. Tl. 3153. Scout Hall, Wed., 7.15.

Cubmaster: Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lr. Rd. Tl. 176. Scout Hall, Mon., 4.45.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary. E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Rd. Tl. 241. Social activities include Drama Group and Badminton, Old Time Dancing, Over 60's, Over 20's, and Table Tennis Clubs.

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