## The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



No 131

**March** 1967

33rd Year

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## The Bookhams Bulletin

### Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

#### No 130

## March 1967 N small way, in work for the n

#### 33rd Year

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Many organisations and individuals participated in the Christmas festivities at the Barn Hall. The highest praise was given to the scheme of decorations which was described as "quite breathtaking." We thank Mrs. M. Strand who directed the work, chose the theme and provided the lovely pennants and cut-outs of Christmas symbols. We also thank members of the Flower Arrangement Group, the Social Committee and the Executive who co-operated with her.

The Christmas Draw raised over £33.

We were sorry not to be able to meet all the requests for tickets for the New Year's Eve Dance. Because of the capacity of the Hall tickets had to be limited to 120. We have already made our arrangements for next year and everyone is advised to book early next time. We pay special tribute to Mrs. D. Cuddeford who, with the help of the Social Committee and others, provided a sumptuous buffet.

The activities at the Barn Hall are so numerous that there is a niche for everyone who would like to participate, even in a small way, in work for the neighbourhood generally. More help is needed for the Youth Club, also with the elderly, especially in transport and visiting. The Bulletin can always use more distributors. We need more members and more road stewards to collect their subscriptions of 2/6 per annum.

We put out a special appeal for an Advertisement Manager for the Bulletin to replace Mr. H. Atkinson who is obliged to retire after a number of years' service. We are most grateful to him for his excellent work.

Village Day has been fixed for June 17th, to be followed by a Village Week. Again much assistance is needed with sideshows. Mr. B. Stockwell is undertaking overall co-ordination and would be pleased to hear from volunteers in any capacity. The proposed theme of the Exhibition is "The Women of Bookham." At this stage the Secretary would welcome ideas or items of interest relevant to the activities of women resident, past or present, in the Bookhams.

The future of the Barn Hall has been much in the news. For the benefit of newcomers and others who may not have followed B.C.A. affairs in detail we list a few facts taken from our records.

In 1948, following the breakdown of negotiations for the use of Grove House as a Community Centre and Youth Centre, the Barn Hall was offered to the B.C.A. for use as a Community Centre. The trusteeship of the Old Barn Hall was then vested by the Charity Commissioners in the Executive of the B.C.A. This rather unusual form of trusteeship was devised to underline the democratic link between the neighbourhood and the Hall administration. The responsibility is placed on the Executive to maintain the solvency of the Hall and to ensure its use as a neighbourhood centre.

From the very beginning it was realised that improvements and additions to the Hall, which was in poor condition when taken over, would be needed. With an increasing local population and increasing social activities resulting therefrom, this need became a necessity. Moreover, faced with the breakdown of the drains and increasing structural deterioration of the back premises, the Association was obliged to take action. First of all, before anything could be done, the site, as

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a village centre, had to be safeguarded. It was agreed by the L.U.D.C. in September, 1961, that trusteeship of the land surrounding the Barn Hall bounded by Braithwaite's fence and the chain link fence at the back should be vested in the B.C.A.

For financial reasons building plans had to be in three phases. First an extension on the north, then an extension on the south and an addition at the back to incorporate a stage. Close on £2,000 was raised and the proposals were put to the Ministry of Education and the County and Leatherhead Councils. With their grant support the first extension was built and opened at the end of 1964.

It soon became clear that planning of the second extension could not be made until the shape of the addition at the back was defined. That this must be in the form of a new hall was the general opinion but it was necessary to test village opinion. A sub-committee was deputed to make a survey. All affiliated organisations (see list at back) were circularised, asking for their views and calling them to a meeting of the governing body, the Council of the B.C.A. in March of last year. Verbal and written evidence was presented and it was agreed unanimously that the further Hall, with stage, was necessary. This directive has guided policy ever since, and, so that the long-term plans for the Barn Hall site should be generally known, a model showing the apportionment of the land was on show on Village Day. Nobody can prophesy when this Hall will be put up. It depends on economic circumstances and, more importantly, on the full support of the village in raising the necessary money.

We do, however, invite everybody to look at the present Hall and grounds, on which an enormous amount of voluntary labour has been expended, and to judge whether the Community Association has faithfully carried out its trusteeship.

#### A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

Editor's Note: We have had many requests to re-publish in "The Bulletin" the Short History of Bookham, by a distinguished scholar and writer on local history. With the permission of the author, who formerly lived at Preston Cross, we commence the series in this issue.

#### PART I

By John Harvey, F.S.A.

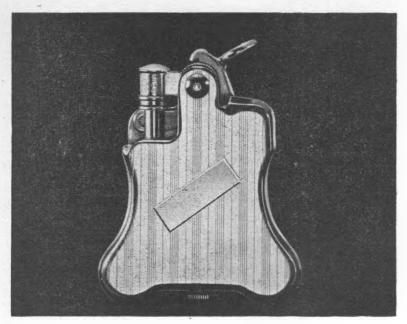
Bookham is at the geographical centre of Surrey; the exact spot lies near Goldstone Farm. In shape the ancient parish was long and narrow, stretching from the ridge of the North Downs to the River Mole, a distance of 5½ miles, while its breadth is little over one mile. This shape had been reached in Saxon times, and

remained essentially unaltered for at least 800 years.

Long before the village or its boundaries came into existence, the chalk uplands had been inhabited by Neolithic men, whose discarded arrowheads and implements of flint delight the gardenerantiquary. Little direct evidence for the Roman period in Bookham has been found, apart from an earthen pot of brass coins of the 3rd Century, A.D., turned up at Bagden Farm about 1716.

The early Teutonic colonists of the 5th and 6th Centuries pushed up the river valleys and, as the country became settled, met other tribes on the watersheds. This process led to the formation of the hundreds, the early divisions of the county, with boundaries lying along the ridges and across infertile tracts. Central Surrey was included in the Hundreds of Copthorne and Effingham, with a single Moot (meeting-place) shared between them. In pagan times this may have been a Horsehead Cross in Fetcham\*. but by the 13th Century it had become fixed at Leith Pit, where the Lower Road crosses the boundary between Bookham and Fetcham, which is also that between the two joint hundreds. There the Hundred Court was held, and nearby was the Gallows.

Investigation of place-names makes it possible to re-construct something of the tribal history of the district, and shows the keen



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eve for natural features possessed by the Saxon settlers\*\*. But it is not until the Christian period of the 7th Century that documentary references are found. The Venerable Bede relates that Laroonwald, who became Bishop of London in 674, had founded a monastery at "Ceortesei" (Chertsey) by the Thames, and according to a charter whose original dated from 675, the Bishop and Frithwald, viceroy of Surrey, granted to the Abbey 20 dwellings at "Bocham cum Effingham." Though this charter exists only in a later and spurious form it is accepted that it preserves a genuine tradition. The grant was confirmed by four Saxon Kings: Offa in 787, Athelstan in 933, Edgar in 967, and Edward the Confessor in 1062.

Athelstan's coronation at Kingston in 925 is an historical landmark, when Surrey first appears as a district of national importance.

\* See Surrey Archæological Collections, Vol. L (1949), 157-161.

\* English Place-Name Society, Vol. XI (1934); S.A.C., L, 161-164.

#### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Economic Gardening. Members of the Eastwick Allotments and Gardens Association who placed their orders for potatoes in January will get them at reduced terms. This is one of many advantages available to

members. Every Sunday morning the hut, just opposite the Congregational Church in Keswick Road, is open for fertilisers, compost, peat, etc., at very advantageous prices. The secretary, Mr. C. B. Martin, of Omira, Leatherhead Road, is happy to answer queries and to register new members (2/6 per annum). The chairman of the association, Councillor Turville Kille, is an expert gardener and a well-known winner of show trophies.

Choral Society. Half way through its 1966/67 season the society made a notable contribution to the Christmas festivities in the village by assisting in the Parish Church Service of lessons and carols, presenting its own Christmas Concert in the Barn Hall to a packed audience and finally by singing carols to the old people at the "Edenside" homes.

At the Barn Hall Concert they were particularly fortunate to have the services of their president, the eminent contralto, Marjorie Thomas. Sharing the bill were her daughter, Eileen Gower, soprano, and Alan Hall, a promising young guitarist.

The society will be taking part, as usual, in the Leith Hill Festival at Easter. The main work this year is Schubert's Mass in A flat. By kind permission of the Rector the society will present a performance of this music in St. Nicolas' Church on March 15th. They will also be assisting

in a Folk Concert in Leatherhead on May 1st, in a performance of the "Messiah" in Ashtead later in May and in a singing of Haydn's "Creation" in Guildford Cathedral in June.

The society maintains a good numerical strength but, with such a full programme, new members, especially tenors and basses, would always be welcome.

L.S.H.

The Camera Club is to be congratulated on undertaking to provide the Leatherhead Theatre Club with a photographic record of the building of the new theatre, to be constructed on the site of the Crescent Cinema. The photographs will also be used for appeal purposes. It will be remembered that the late Mr. E. E. Oldershaw, who was a member of the Camera Club, performed the same service for the National Trust Open-Air Theatre at Poles-



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den, and these now constitute a valuable historical record.

The Club, which meets in the Bookham Junior School on Thursday evenings, has recently enjoyed talks on estimating exposure, graphic arts and photographic enlarging. Outside competitions provide regular stimulus. Bookham were the colour slide competition with Weybridge. Honours were shared in a contest with Dorking, Bookham heading the colour slide section and Dorking the print section.

The highlight of the Club's year is the Annual Exhibition to be held in the Barn Hall on April 29th. This has been going for so many years that it has become something of a village occasion. Just to look at prints of such high standard is a pleasure that even the non-technical can enjoy and

the atmosphere of the occasion is sociable and friendly.

The Flower Arrangement Group held its annual general meeting in February and this is the time, with the beginning of a new year, for prospective new members to join. Two outstanding meetings figure in the new programme. A demonstration will be given on the first Monday in May by Mr. Howard Plank. The club are fortunate in getting Mr. Plank, a New Zealander by birth, who has acquired a national reputation and is much in demand. On June 5th the Chairman of the Surrey Association. Mrs. I. Higgins, is the speaker. She is a pioneer of flower arranging and a skilled exponent of the art.

Like all good clubs, the Group encourage the social side. Evening parties, lunch parties and tea parties have all been enjoyed. The most ambitious project so far is a four-day trip to Holland for 22 members, a few accompanied by their husbands. It is organised for the end of April.

Bookham Winemakers Club meets at the Little Bookham Hall and has an interesting programme ahead. May 10th.—The Three Bs, by E. A. Roycroft, a national judge. June 10th—a Soft Fruit Wine Competition.

One of the best attended recent meetings was a demonstration of "Cooking with Wine," by Miss Corbett, ably assisted by Mrs. Philpot, both of the S.E. Gas Board. Home-made wines were supplied by the chairman and were used in mouth-watering dishes such as turbet with crab sauce, Chicken Jambalaya, Ragout Kindney, Paires Alma.

Those who are interested in the making and use of wine, a fascinating hobby, would be welcomed to the club where they will have the opportunity to develop their skills and enjoy congenial com-

pany.

The Olde Tyme Dance Club is one of the B.C.A.'s most flourishing clubs. It is now within striking distance of enrolling its 100th member. This shows that old time dancing is no fuddy-duddy pastime. As we know from our public dances, the old-timers can twist with the best of the youngsters and are better than most of them at picking up the variations of current "beat" items. This is not surprising when one

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considers that a new version of an old time dance is introduced to the club each month. It is taught by the club's resident demonstrators, Mr. and Mrs. E. Dunmur, who attend the regular meetings of the East Surrey Federation and the Wey Valley Federation where the latest dances are shown. Even the newest recruits to the club quickly gain the facility to pick up steps and new combinations of steps and rhythm.

It is interesting to note that attendance at weekly instructional evenings on Wednesdays is equalling that at the monthly formal dances. It could be said that this is a tribute to the growing popularity of old time dancing and also to the friendliness of our local club.

We have to thank the club, also, for its success in encouraging its members to participate in the wider work of the Community Association. Some of our most active and devoted volunteers in the maintenance of the Hall and Grounds come from the Olde Tyme Dance Club

Garden Society. Mr. R. C. Wing, secretary of the Garden Society, is also an expert on Sweet Peas and he will be lecturing at Bookham County Junior School on Friday, April 7th, at 8 p.m., on their cultivation in the garden. There will also be a panel of well-known gardeners to answer questions put to them from the audience. Non-members will be

welcomed to this meeting. Admission is free and refreshments are available.

A Folk Club, the first in this area, opened with an attendance of over 100, at the Congregational Hall on January 9th. Its aim is to promote Folk Music in its many forms, especially authentic Country Music, Blue-Grass and Old Time. The residents, as the permanent vocalists and instrumentalists are designated, are "the Silver Family and Little Ginny." They, too, are taking a lead in the development of the Club and they are qualified so to do because they already have links with the well-established Square and Folk Dance Club. Moreover, although they may not be widely known under their professional title, they are certainly known to many people in Bookham and the neighbourhood as the Dahlstrom family who have lived at Sunnymead Farm, the Conse, for very many years.

The numbers attending the first meetings indicate that the Club will be a success and that its aim to give local singers and instrumentalists an opportunity to perform will be realised. It is planned to have a visiting guest singer or group at each meeting who will be star performers of their own particular material.

Bookham Youth Club. The problems of youth, like the problems of age, are much in the news and are a constant matter for public discussion and public

concern. The Community Association has always shown in a practical manner its involvement in these local needs. As a policy decision it has set aside one evening a week in the Barn Hall for youth activities and certain periods for the use of the over-sixties. It has done more than this—in all its planning for extensions and for the facilities it provides it has given special thought to the equipment needed for both these sections of the local population. By constant appeals in the Bulletin and at its meetings it has endeavoured to encourage volunteers to come forward to assist the small groups who carry the burden of organisation to extend and improve the provisions they make.

We have received from Mr. John Stemp a copy of a letter recently sent to the "Leatherhead Advertiser" in connection with the inquiry conducted in that paper on the youth provisions in the district. We print this letter in full because we think that its contents will be of interest to all residents in the Bookhams.

"During the course of correspondence on youth organisations the Bookham Youth Club has been mentioned on several occasions. Permit me to comment on some of the points raised.

"The Bookham Youth Club is one of the member clubs of the Bookham Community Association, to whom the B.Y.C. Adult

(Continued on Page 18)

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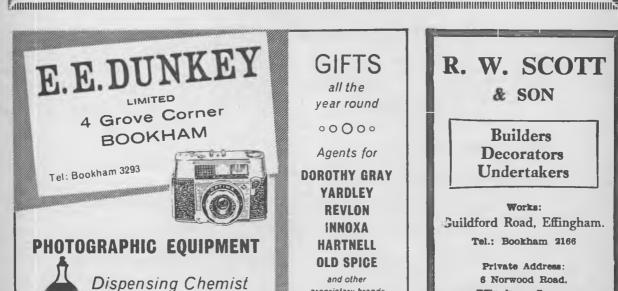
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"The club meets on Monday evenings only at the Barn Hall. Membership is open to all young people between the ages of 14 Bookham. Admission to a club evening by those who live in Eflingham and Fetcham has to be limited by the number of members present and the facilities in use. As our membership is now approaching the 200 mark, we regret that we frequently have to turn young people away because of the lack of accommodation.

"On a normal club evening, i.e. records, table tennis, snooker, etc., the average attendance is 70 members, but rises to a 150 on special 'group' evenings-at least once a month.

"Despite the general lack of parental interest, we have a small band of persevering adult voluntary helpers. Our ladies provide light refreshments from an excellent canteen, at minimum cost. We would appreciate more male help because the few who undertake this task have other active interests and cannot attend regularly.

"For some years we have been financially self-sufficient, but we have no illusions about the limitations of the club. It is possible that the service we provide is popular because of a minimum of organising and adult interference. The provision of a

Management Committee is common meeting place for a large variety of young people who can chat and play in convivial surroundings is a sociological necessity these days.

"We welcome the decision to and 21 years who live in the create a Youth Centre at Bookham. This is intended to cater for youth organisations from Fetcham, Bookham, Effingham and the Horsleys. Although we shall encourage our members to use these new facilities, we have no intention at present of becoming the main user of this centre when built. It may well be that we shall continue to operate from the Barn Hall, perhaps on a reduced scale.

> "Finally, none of us would pretend to understand our young people, as in every generation they will remain an enigma, but they are what we have made them in our capacity as parents and members of society generally. One can only hope to get to know them just a little better; they are certainly no worse than we were as youngsters and, in some ways, much better." J.S.

#### ROUNDABOUT

Trampoline Champions from Effingham School. The Surrey Schools Gymnastics Association recently organised their second trampoline championships. The champion for girls under 13 was E. Allen, of the Howard of Effingham School, Second was J. Baker of the same school. Surrey schools have only just begun to mas Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Pollard,

go in for trampolining in a big way and there is still room for improvement in over-all performance. The standard, however, was much higher than last year. the younger girls showing more style than the boys, according to the critics. John Disley, one-time Olympic steeplechase medallist, and Surrey County Council Inspector for outdoor activities commented: "One of the values of trampolining is that it has reawakened an interest in competitive gymnastics for youngsters. It's got something to do with gymnastics, but they are not one and the same thing. It has brought people back into the gym-which was a pretty dead box 10 years ago."

G.L.C. Trainee. Of the two girls who recently passed the first stage of the examinations of the Chartered Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, one was Miss Lynda Geraldine Lake, of Meadowside. But Lynda has no intention of becoming an estate agent. She is a trainee of the Greater London Council and works at County Hall. She hopes to become an A.R.I.C.S. in just over three years and her main studies are for the examinations of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Another Ph.D. The columns of the Bulletin record a significant number of high academic honours awarded to Bookham young people. Just before Christ-

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of the Lorne, had the pleasure of travelling to Cardiff to see their son, Douglas, receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Wales.

Douglas took his first degree in Botany at the University College of Aberystwyth, and stayed on to do research into the factors affecting the growth of forest trees. His findings formed the basis of his thesis for his Ph.D. In the spring of 1965, he, with his wife, a fellow graduate in Botany, joined the staff of the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. It will be remembered that Peter Scott is closely connected with this area. The research on which he is currently engaged is into the botanical influences on the growth and distribution of the wildfowl population of Great Britain.

The school attended by Douglas was the Raynes Park Grammar School for Boys. While at home in Bookham he became a popular and moderately successful member of the Leatherhead and District Angling Club. His mother is active in the Cubs movement in Bookham.

Assisting the export drive. On January 1st Mr. A. D. Catt, of Ashlar, Maddox Lane, became manager of the Sanken product manufacturing division of Photain Controls Ltd., of Randalls Road. This Leatherhead firm has signed a contract with the Sanken Electrical Company, of Tokyo, to

supply the whole range of solid state invertors, convertors and power supply units developed by Sanken, who will in turn provide all technical knowledge and benefit of patents and components to suit U.K. requirements. It is estimated that the value of this business will be £100,000 annually and Photain are constructing a further factory on their present site of 2,000 square feet as well as additional office and showroom accommodation.

Mr. Catt, who is a young man, is to be congratulated on obtaining this important appointment. His parents are naturally very pleased. Incidentally, they both take an active interest in the Community Association. Mr. Roland Catt, who moved to Bookham a few years ago, is the popular chairman of the Olde Tyme Dance Club, and he and his wife serve on the Executive of the B.C.A.

A Bishop from among us. Many people in the neighbourhood knew the Rev. Gilbert Baker and his wife and family and were pleased to hear of his election as Bishop of Hong Kong and Macao. During the 10 years he had been Vicar of St. Nicolas, Cole, in the City of London, he lived in Bookham, in Burnhams Road. He assisted at Little Bookham Church and also at St. Nicolas at the weekends. Mrs. Baker taught both at the Bookham Junior School and Fetcham. His son, Peter, was an active

member of the Bookham Drama-Society. All the family were present at their father's consecration and enthronement at the end of December. Martha, the youngest, is staying with her parents in Hong Kong but the others have returned after a three-week holiday there, Anne to continue her training for a teacher and Peter to carry on with his studies in architecture.

#### SUMMER SPORT

Bookham Cricket Club—Practice 2.30, April 23rd; match, April 29th.

Eastwick Cricket Club — Season start, April 29th.

Crossdaggers — Season starts April 30th.

Bookham Bowls — Season starts April 29th.

Stoolball Club — Season starts April 24th.

Obituary. We offer our sympathies to the widow and family of Mr. Robert Handcock, aged 64, who died suddenly at his home in Fetcham at the end of the year. His firm, Andrew West. of Little Bookham, was responsible for the building of the extension to the Barn Hall and Mr. Hancock's interest in the project was of great help to the Community Association. He recognised fully that this was more than just a job and that it represented a worthwhile addition to the amenities of the neighbourhood. He was president of the Mid-Surrey Federation of Building Trades Employers.

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### BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS (Affiliated to B.C.A.)

Bookham Boys' Club: K. A. Vincent, 1 Sole Farm Avenue.

Bookham Bowling Club: C. Flowers, Shaldon, Guildford Road, Bookham 4807.

British Legion, Effingham and Bookham Branch: M. S. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effing.

British Legion, Women's Section: Mrs. L. A. Pickering, Standardhill, Effingham, Bookham 5581.

Bookham Cricket Club: J. Hubbard, 45 Sole Farm Road, Book. 3874.

Cross Daggers Cricket Club: R. Lovegrove, 9 Humphrey Close, Fetcham, Bookham 3984.

Eastwick Park Cricket Club: B. Aspital, 65 Hazel Way, Fetcham, Bookham 4859.

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Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch: J. E. Farrier, 24 The

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Liberal Association, Bookham Branch: W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Avenue, Bookham 4225.

Garden Society: R. C. Wing, 20 Gilmais, Bookham 3687.

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tion: R. A. Brackpool, 21 Allen Road, Bookham 2933.

Girl Guides, 3rd Company: Mrs. L. Mills, 38 Stratchcona Avenue, Bookham 3602.

Local Guide Association: Mrs. R. A. Connellan, 28 Mead Crescent, Bookham 3930.

1st Bookham Scouts: G. V. Child, 9
Sole Farm Road, Bookham 2147.

2nd Bookham Scouts: E. Tarrington,
4 Dowlans Close, Bookham 2960.

3rd Bookham Scouts: T. R. Holdstock, 41 Crabtree Lane, Bookham 4743. Bookham Girls' Life Brigade: Mrs. F. Palmer, The Lodge, Randalls Road, Leatherhead 4729.

Boys' Brigade: L. S. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham, Leatherhead 4302. Catholic Youth Club: Mr. D. Lynch, 46 Middlemead Road.

Catholic Women's League: Mrs. Lacey-Smith, Dintham Lane, Effingham, East Horsley 3256.

Bookham Red Cross Cadet Unit: Miss D. Rush, 94 Overdale, Ashtead 2004.

League of Friends, Leatherhead Hospital: Mrs. Dames, 23 Barn Meadow Lane, Bookham 4074.

Leatherhead and District National Savings Group, Bookham Ward: Mrs. D. Leonard, 25 Allen Road, Bookham 3432.

National Trust, Bookham Commons Committee: Dr. J. G. Sowerbutts, Riddlesdale, Church Road, Bookham 3308.

Polesden Lacey Camping Club: Mrs. M. White, 26 High Street, Collier's Wood, S.W.19.

Women's Institute (Afternoon): Mrs. Van-Scolina, 4 Groveside, Bookham 5809.

Gt. Bookham W.I. (Evening): Mrs. D. Edwards, 60 Kennel Lane, Fetcham, Bookham 5409.

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Bookham 3434,

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