

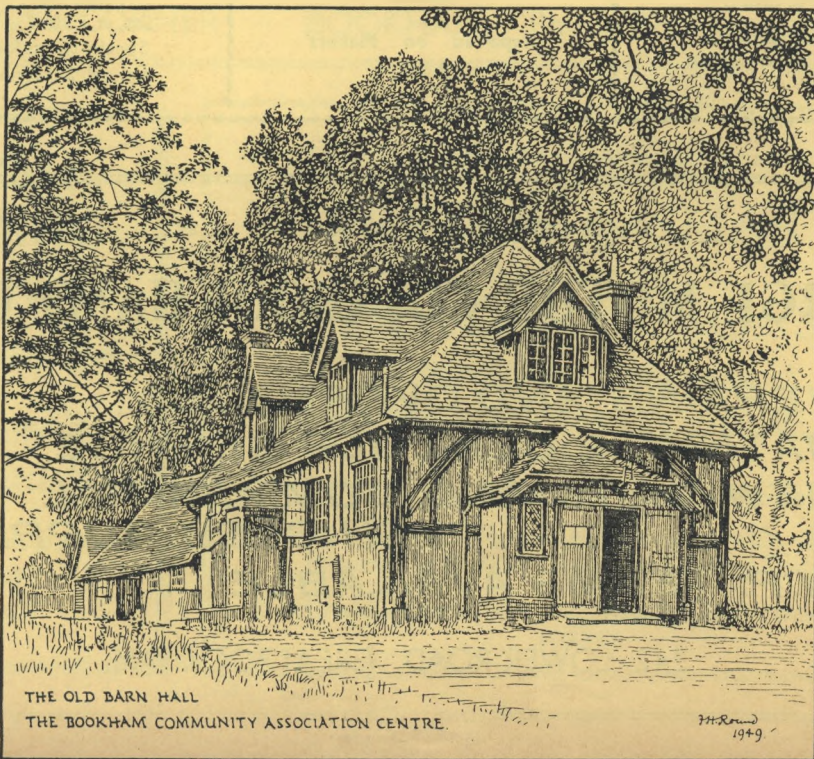
# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 103

SEPTEMBER 1959.

27th year



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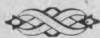
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# THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

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SEPTEMBER, 1959.

27th year

## EDITORIAL

June 20th was a proud day for Bookham. The weather and the attendance helped to make our eleventh Village Day a record. The gaily decorated stalls and sideshows, the costumes and the atmosphere of carefree friendliness and enjoyment made this a day to be remembered. We have in other years introduced displays from other areas but this time there was general agreement that our own local groups provided entertainment that was delightful to watch, and of high quality. For this we must thank the Bookham Choral Society, the Howard of Effingham dancers, the Scottish Dancing Group, and Mrs. Boardman with her puppets.

The Exhibition of Bookham's Past in the hall made a notable contribution to the attractions of the day. It presented a picture of the social life of an uneventful village over the centuries. The weeks of research and planning that resulted in such a well laid out and well documented exhibition was appreciated by the crowds who queued up to see it.

The Community Association thanks the following tradesmen for their generous contribution to Village Day: —

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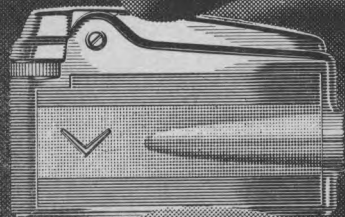
## THE CAMERA CLUB

At this time of the year we look back upon our last session and after critical examination leave it with a feeling that for a small club our efforts have been worthwhile and provide a sound starting point for further striving in the future.

A camera club can hardly succeed unless it is in fact a club and in this respect we are fortunate, the atmosphere is warm and friendly and members are as welcome for themselves as for their photographic quality—the latter will come in any event. The small club has certain advantages—we all know one another and we all help one another.

On the photographic side it is fair to say that the members have all contributed to the success achieved. The periodic competitions have been well supported, colour having its share, and this despite an unhelpful summer. Mr. Egerton Ryerson, A.R.P.S. won the Gordon Stephens Challenge Cup for print competitions. The annual exhibition was generally regarded as well up to standard notwithstanding the loss during the previous year of three accomplished members.

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### **BOOKHAM GRAMOPHONE CLUB**

This Club meets at the Old Barn Hall on alternate Thursdays at 7.45 for 8 p.m. At each meeting, which lasts approximately two hours including an interval for refreshments, a programme of recorded music is presented. Although the music is of the type normally labelled "serious music" this does not mean that it is "Third Programme stuff". Most of the music played is such as might be heard at typical concerts at the Festival Hall, at the Proms, at Covent Garden, or, on occasions, at the Wigmore Hall. The main differences are that the standard of performance is higher than that normally available in London (since the club has a virtually unrestricted choice of the world's best, present and past), and that you only have to travel as far as the Barn Hall. Programmes range from an evening of opera to a selection of members' request; from a typical symphony concert to a recital of keyboard music; and from Bach to

Bartok and back again—interspersed with variations on the "Desert Island Discs" theme.

Although at the time of going to press the arrangements for the 1959-60 season are not complete, the following information may be of interest.

The season will open on September 3rd with a programme of music by English composers presented by Mr. K. J. Preston, who will be followed on September 17th and October 1st by two guest speakers, Miss J. Tombs and Mr. V. H. Yates. At seven of the nineteen meetings there will be guest speakers, including representatives of two of the major recording companies. The Annual Buffet Supper will be held on December 10th and the season will end on May 26th, 1960. Copies of the prospectus for the season may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. D. G. Gay, of 34 Dowlans Road, Gt. Bookham (Tel. 3576).

Anyone who enjoys listening to good music—and surely there must be many in the Bookhams—is invited to come along to any of the meetings and give the Club a trial. The gramophone equipment is good and the total subscription—should your trial run persuade you to join the Club—is only 12/6d. per season—cheap by any standards. And remember—it is a wonderful opportunity to escape once a fortnight from the hold of the "electric home hypnotiser"—an opportunity not to be

missed by the music lover.

### **BOOKHAM OLDE TYME DANCE CLUB**

The 1958/59 season which closed at the end of June was a very successful one for the Olde Tyme Dance Club. There was a membership of 60, and attendances kept up right up to the end of the season. The accounts submitted to the A.G.M. in May, showed that the Club's finances were sound.

The new season opens on Wednesday September 2nd, 1959, and the Club will meet every Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. up to the end of June. New members will be very welcome, and are invited either to attend the Barn Hall on Club nights or to get in touch with the Secretary, Mr. J. W. Hilder, 247 Lower Road (Telephone 3525) who will be very pleased to give full information about the Club and its activities.

An additional attraction next season will be the Club's tenth birthday; the Committee is considering how this landmark in the Club's history shall be celebrated.

### **Congratulations**

Among the recipients of the O.B.E. mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours List is Mr. J. C. B. Date, a Grade B.1 Officer in the Foreign Office. Mr. Date, who was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, is the son of Mrs. D. H. Date, of Ewell Cottage, Eastwick Drive, Great Bookham.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM—Part 23

By JOHN HARVEY

The end of the older life of Bookham, as a country village still in many ways fundamentally mediaeval, was appropriately marked by the preparation of the Tithe Awards, that for Great Bookham dated October 10, 1839, that for Little Bookham September 26, 1840. The making of Tithe Awards, with their accompanying maps on a large scale, resulted from the Tithe Act of 1836, which substituted corn-rents, based on the average value of seven years ending at Christmas, 1835, for tithes payable in kind. Such Tithe Commutation had frequently been arranged by individual parishes, but after 1836 was carried out generally, except where tithe was not payable or had already been redeemed. For the local historian the value of the Tithe Awards and Maps is immense, for they constitute an almost simultaneous large-scale survey of most of the country, showing every building, road and fence, with the names of the owner and occupier of every house and plot of land. In many parishes it is possible to identify the former owners of particular properties only by using the Tithe Map as a starting point for research into other records such as Court Rolls.

The Awards begin by stating the totals of land subject to Tithe:

at Great Bookham 3,245 acres 1 perch; in Little Bookham 926 acres 2 roods 27 perches, area of the whole parish, of which 885 acres 15 perches subject to Tithe. Omitting fractions, the Great Bookham area of arable was 1,451 acres, of meadow or pasture 743 acres, of woodland 258 acres, of common land 792 acres, of impropriate glebe 2 acres, and vicarial glebe 8 acres. For Little Bookham the figures were: arable 488, pasture 143, wood 111, commons 119, gardens and orchards 15, glebe 42 acres. The much larger glebe is due to the fact that Little Bookham was a rectory, while at Great Bookham the rectory had been appropriated to Chertsey Abbey.

From the historian's point of view it is unfortunate that the word "occupier" seems to have been limited to leasehold tenants. Many landowners are named as "occupiers" of all the houses and cottages comprising their estate, the actual residents being doubtless their servants and labourers. But a number of shopkeepers and others, identifiable from other records, cannot be traced in the Awards or upon the maps, and must have been subtenants of the persons named as occupiers for official purposes. For this reason, it is impossible to state just where a considerable number of the village shops and businesses were, and the same applies to gentry who occupied some of the larger

houses on short-term leases.

Apart from the great mansions, the easiest houses to identify are the inns and public houses, of which there were at least nine in the two parishes about 1840. These were the Saracen and Ring at the south end of the High Street, now Grove Cottage; the Crown, opposite the Church, as now; the Half Moon at Preston Cross, now Half Moon Cottage; the Fox at Ranmore, now Fox Cottage; a beershop, now gone, at the Isle of Wight, between Manor Cottage and Handleys Cottage; another in Little Bookham Street, on the site of Messrs. Sayer's bakery; and finally another beerhouse in the High Street, adjacent to Vine Cottage on the south. In Little Bookham was The Castle, now the Windsor Castle. What is now The Anchor at Eastwick had ceased to be The Red Lion by 1797, and had apparently not regained its licence in 1839.

Among tradesmen mentioned by the directories, William Poulter the carrier lived at the old house on the corner of Eastwick Street, now called Woodcote; William Bradbury the tailor seems to have succeeded to the Rev. William Farley's private school at what is now The Croft; Miles Denby, bricklayer and carpenter, had what is now Lloyds Bank; Richard Horley the blacksmith lived at Vine Cottage; Thomas Skinner the baker in Burpham

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still the village bakery; Arthur Lunn had his wheelwright's shop opposite, next to the Crown. There can be little doubt that most of the shops clustered around the northern end of the High Street, the centre of Bookham activity then as now. The Post Office was presumably in the same house, as at present, for Edmund Prior had occupied it in 1819, though not mentioned as postmaster for nearly 20 years.

Of the work of the tradesmen we know little, but receipts for sums spent on behalf of the Church, preserved among the Great Bookham parish records, mention several of the building craftsmen. Messrs. Mercer & Wood had £17 17s. 10½d. on January 24, 1824, for "Carpenter's Work done to Great Bookham Church", and on March 18 a further £7 14s. 10d. for work done for the parish, while five days later Richard Horley had £12 3s. 0d. for Smith's work. He also had £4 4s. 8d. on May 4, for work done at the Church, while at the end of that month £7 12s. 0d. was paid to Joseph Peters for lime delivered to the Church. In July, 1830, it was Maria Wood who received £19 7s. 9d. for carpenter's work, and Miles Denby had £6 4s. 2d. in October, 1833, and £11 4s. 2d. on January 14, 1846, for work done at Great Bookham Church. This last job was presumably in connection with the building of the new north aisle in 1844-45 to

a design by Richard Cromwell Carpenter, later the architect of Lancing College, Sussex. The aisle cost £662 11s. 1d., of which £60 were contributed by the Incorporated Church Building Society. The application for a grant gives the rental of the parish as £4,425, the poor rate at 3s. 5d. in the £, as raising £737, and the existing sittings in the church as 310, of which 123 were free. The new aisle was to add 115 sittings, and a condition of the grant was that 93 of the additional sittings should remain free for all time.\*

\*Information from files of the Incorporated Church Building Society, to which, as well as to the Rev. Dr. Basil G. Skinner, acknowledgments and thanks are here given.

### BOOKHAM MUSIC CLUB

The Bookham Music Club, which is affiliated to the Bookham Community Association, will open its fifth season on Sunday, 11th October at the Old Barn Hall, with a concert given by the Occasional Wind Players, a well-known group who perform both classical and modern works in various combinations of trios, quartets, etc.

Four other concerts will be given by the following artistes: John Camburn, tenor, and Adna Ryerson, violin, with Victor Yates at the piano; Marjorie Lempfert, also assisted by Mr. Yates, will

play to us on her magnificent rich-toned viola, made by Gaspar da Salo in about 1580; the Ripieno Choir, who gave us so much pleasure last year; and the distinguished Carter String Trio.

Certain members of the Club, having suitable accommodation, have thrown open their drawing-rooms for some of the concerts; the others will be held at the Old Barn Hall. A hearty welcome, besides coffee and biscuits and a delightful programme of music, is given to all who join the Club.

The subscription is one guinea, payable to Mr. W. F. Waters, Vine Cottage, High Street, or at the first concert. This gives admission to the five concerts of the season.

### ART AND THE MODERNS

"Modern Art, what's that?" "It's when that bloke puts his picture on the floor and rides his bicycle over it—you know, it was on the telly some time ago." "Oh, you mean Picasso and all that squiggly stuff; can't see any sense in it, what does it all mean?" "Looks like a heap of old spaghetti with some circles drawn on it!"

"Goodness," thinks the artist, "how on earth can I convince people that what I am doing is utterly necessary, is my life, is the one great driving force inside me

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which makes me work on and on striving for perfection that I will never achieve, the only real reason for my life at all. That what I am doing is not a joke, is not some colossal commercial swindle but is life itself—for me at any rate.”

Indeed, what can he do except ignore all the criticism and just labour on towards fulfilment and possibly retire still farther into his shell.

To the people who do laugh at modern art or dismiss it altogether as utter nonsense, these questions could legitimately be put: when did they last go to a gallery to see an exhibition of paintings by living artists, what is their knowledge of the history of art, when did they last get a book from the library on the work of a contemporary artist or composer or on art appreciation and really read it; do they own any postcard reproductions of modern paintings, price 6d. (television £70)? Do they know where the Tate Gallery is and what it contains? And could they name twelve practising artists working any of the idioms of our time?

If the answers are in the negative it might be suggested in all reasonableness that the condemnation of modern art by these people is largely based on ignorance, mental blindness, or apathy; and that some effort is needed in the first instance by the spectator before enjoyment can be gained from contact with a modern work of art. Much in the same way that

some effort and knowledge is needed to appreciate and thence grow to love music by such diverse composers as Paul Hindemith and Vaughan Williams, or poetry by T. S. Eliot and Dylan Thomas.

There really is no such thing as modern art as such. Rather there are vastly diverse logical developments of the true traditions of art through the ages providing ground for experiments in contemporary times; those experiments providing in their turn the additional traditions for still future generations of artists to contemporary times; those experiments providing in their turn the additional traditions for still future generations of artists to conduct their experiments upon. That way being true tradition; vibrant, dynamic and exciting activity as opposed to soulless Phillistine nostalgia à la mock Tudor.

What we should realise is that art is the reflection of the time we live in. This is apparent in all schools of painting, writing and composing throughout history. Our environment is responsible for the activities of the painter and sculptor or writer and musician. It is no use saying what's the use of it. That is immaterial; it is it. Just that and no more. Creative activity is a necessary part of man's life and self expression whether it is produced in visual terms, in sound, or in print. We cannot deny its being there and its necessity is proclaimed by

its very existence as one of man's gifts.

Not all men wish to express themselves so forcibly that they desire to communicate their thoughts to others. Those who do become artists. They live, breathe, eat, sleep, dream their art to an all-consuming passion; and rather than laugh at or deride their work we should be as humble as they and try to give a little of ourselves before we can expect the emotional reward—almost a physical satisfaction—we might possibly receive when looking at or listening to one of their masterpieces.

Such artists as Graham Sutherland, William Walton, Ben Nicholson, Victor Passmore, John Ireland, Henry Moore, Edmund Rubbra, Barbara Hepworth, Michael Tippett, Sir Matthew Smith, Benjamin Britten, to name but a few would amply reward a little time and effort and cast a spell over the spectator and transport him to undreamt riches and experiences both audible and visual; and render unnecessary any further justification for the existence of “modern art”.

It is as well to remember that many of the master artists of the present day are mostly middle-aged and beyond that they have spent the whole of their lives developing and perfecting their art to the most complete and sublime form of self expression they are capable of. No man will live the whole of his life as a joke.

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