

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 111

WINTER 1961

29th year



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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 111

Winter, 1961

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Important Notice to all Association Members

The Annual General Meeting of the Community Association is on Thursday, February 22nd, at 8.15 p.m., in the Barn Hall. We would be grateful if members would note this date in their diaries and come along to discuss the affairs of the Association. This is the only occasion on which the members as a whole can talk about the activities of the Association and make suggestions as to how it might more effectively meet the needs of the neighbourhood. The responsibility of maintaining and improving the Barn Hall is a prime concern of the Committee and the views of members on this vital matter would be appreciated. Finally there is the Election of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Members' Representatives on the Council of the Association. Nominations may be sent in advance to the Hon. Secretary, whose address is in the Directory.

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MR. E. E. OLDERSHAW — AN APPRECIATION

In his time, Tom Oldershaw was a marine engineer, heating engineer, amateur photographer, archeologist, keen student of natural history, tapestry worker, bee keeper, horologist, rose grower. He was a pioneer motor cyclist when this was a sport for the tough, skilled few, and a yachtsman before it occurred to anybody to introduce the elements of civilised comfort into that uneasy pastime. All this and much more besides made Tom many things to many people but throughout his life he was one thing to everybody — a terrific enthusiast with an indomitable will. Bring him a problem and his fertile mind would bubble with ideas. Show him a really worthy cause and his heart would respond generously.

He will be remembered in Bookham for his work as a founder and mainspring of the Community Association which he served as Secretary, Vice-President and President. More widely, he will be remembered for the inspiration and drive

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which he brought to the Open Air Theatre at Polesden Lacey. He was in at the beginning when a choral performance of **Merrie**

England was an offshoot from the Village Day. Here was something worthy of his steel, something too good to be allowed to stand as one isolated achievement. It must go on. Why not an annual performance? Why not a proper stage? Why not a Shakespeare festival? And so it became. Of the many who gave yeoman service, Tom Oldershaw, perhaps more than anyone else, was responsible for nurturing this activity from a modest beginning to its present nationally recognized status. With his passing the National Trust's Advisory Committee for the Open Air Theatre has suffered a sad loss.

Hé lived to be seventy-eight and gave the impression of being ten years younger. His method of meeting increasing physical disability was to concede nothing — nothing at all, this side of impossibility. First with one stick and then, as infirmity advanced, with two, he was in the thick of local activities, organizing,

encouraging and, from his chair at home, carrying the onerous job of Controller of the Polesden Lacey Box Office.

Few of his friends were allowed to see what it cost him in grim determination. Only his wife knew the full extent of this, and only with her devoted help could even his determination enable him not merely to keep going and get things done, but to stay cheerful in spite of frequent pain and the mounting accumulation of minor discomforts and handicaps that a healthy person never has to think about.

With all these things, however, Tom Oldershaw will be most widely remembered as a friend. Perhaps it is a measure of the greatness of his spirit that he went through life making new friends and keeping old ones.

C.R.F.



Gramophone Club. The attendance this season has maintained a steady average of about 35 and the recitals and talks have been much appreciated. Anyone who is interested in music would be welcomed at the club if they wished to find out what it was all about. There would be no obligation to join. An interesting programme has been arranged for January 18; February 1, 15; March 1, 15, 29. On February 1st, for example, Mr. A. J. Froud, of Decca, will present a stereo programme. On February 15th, which is the tenth anniversary of the Club, Mr. P. Ball will be the speaker. He is a founder-member of the Club and, prior to leaving Bookham, was its chairman. No doubt many old friends will note the date and come along.

Camera Club. Any reader owning a camera and wishing to get more pleasure from his efforts might find some of the answers in the friendly company of other owners who are meeting every Thursday at the Bookham School at 8 p.m. Attendances at the Camera Club's meetings are on the increase but more new members would be welcome. Talks in the New Year cover subjects as wide apart as "Stage Make-up" and "Flash Photography".



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Following the one-day air trip to the Dutch Bulb Fields last April it is hoped to make up another party this April to join the Malden Club in a long weekend at Bruges. The all-in cost of this will be £10, which makes the offer a very attractive one.

In the first round of the Surrey Photographic Federation Knock-out Competition in November Bookham won the Print Competition against Cobham and only lost the Colour Round by half a point. It is hoped that the home club will be represented at the semi-finals in the Barn Hall on Saturday, March 31st.

Barn Hall Club. It is not too late in the season to look in at the Barn Hall on Tuesdays from 8 p.m., if you enjoy table tennis or cards.

Old Time Dance Club. Meetings of the club are well attended and quite a few new members have joined this year, but there is still room for more. Visits to other clubs all over the County have been arranged and visits have already been made to Redhill, Weybridge, Send, Hersham and Guildford. These will make return visits to Bookham on the second Saturday of each month throughout the season.

Further details may be obtained from Mr. J. W. Hilder at Bookham 3525, or at the Barn Hall on Wednesdays from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Over Sixties. The excitement of summer outings is now over but the members are looking forward to their Christmas Party early in the New Year. The enthusiasts are already working for fund-raising efforts to finance next year's outings and we say good luck to these gallant "oldsters" who are determined to go on enjoying life.

Membership Secretary. Our new membership secretary is Mr. R. Woodrow-Clarke, 21 Barn Meadow Lane. Tel. Bookham 4070. Subscriptions may be sent to him, as well as the names of volunteers who would greatly assist the work of the Association by collecting the annual subscriptions of members who live in their neighbourhood.

Advertisement Manager. We are pleased to report that Mr. Jack Dailley, Post Cottage, Little Bookham Street, has taken over this position.

New Affiliation. We welcome the affiliation to the Community Association of the Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead Young Conservatives. Their representative on the Council of the Association is Mr. Damian Wheeler, The White House, Burnhams Rd., Little Bookham.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

PART II

By John Harvey, F.S.A.
(Copyright reserved to the
author)

The earliest surviving written description of Bookham is that made by the surveyors of William the Conqueror, who about 1086 compiled what has ever since been known as the Domesday Book. The survey was an assessment for purposes of taxation, and omits much that we should like to know. But its precise particulars can be interpreted in the light of later history, and of the topography of the parish, or rather parishes, for it is in Domesday that the distinction between the two Bookhams first appears.

Among the properties of Chertsey Abbey is numbered "Bocheham", undoubtedly the later Manor of Great Bookham. In the time of Edward the Confessor (i.e. in 1065) this had been valued at 26 hides; but 20 years later it was reckoned at only 13 hides. In theory the township had been reckoned to consist of 26 free families and their dependants, each family supported on the produce of a hide of land, usually about 120 acres. On this assumption the area of the township would have been 3,120 acres; and in actual fact the area of the later Manor

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was very little more than this, about 3,170 acres. This remarkably close correspondence between theory and fact may be coincidence, or it may indicate (as is indeed suggested by the lay-out of parishes and of the village streets and plots) that a serious land-survey had already taken place in Saxon times.

The arable land of Great Bookham was sufficient for 19 ploughs, of which one was in demesne (i.e. worked directly for the Abbey), while 32 villeins and 4 bordars employed 18 ploughs. The villeins were not slaves, but tenants by local custom "bound to the soil"; each villein and his family would usually have arable land amounting to about 30 acres (a virgate or yardland, one-quarter of a hide), together with rights of common; the bordars were cottagers with small quantities of land, perhaps from 3 to 5 acres. There were also three serfs, who were actually bondmen of the Abbot. The only inhabitant mentioned by name is one Gunfrey, who held one hide in which he had a plough; he was a freeholder, unlike the villeins. The survey also mentions the existence of a church, of a mill (no doubt Slyfield Mill) worth 10s., and 6 acres of meadow, the valuable water-meadow, alongside the Mole. The woodlands were worth 80 hogs, and another 30 hogs would be yielded from the herbage; these numbers of swine were those paid to the Abbot by the villeins for the right

to run their pigs in the woodlands and over the fields after harvest. The usual rate of payment was one in seven, which would imply that the wastes of Bookham fed nearly 800 pigs. The survey concludes with the valuation of the manor: £16 in the time of King Edward, and, in 1086, £15.

Separately, among the lands of laymen, another "Bocheham", Little Bookham, formed part of the fee of William de Braiose, who had sublet the manor to one Halsard; in the time of Earl Harold it had been held by Godtovi, and it was then assessed at 5 hides; at Domesday for only 2 hides. The land was sufficient for 3 ploughs, of which one was in demesne, working the "home farm" for Halsard. Three villeins and 4 bordars had one plough between them; this total of only two ploughs implies that the available land was not fully under cultivation. There were 4 acres of meadow, evidently at the lower end of the parish, and the lord received 11 hogs from the pannage of the woods and the herbage. In King Edward's time the manor had been worth 50s., but this had been increased to 60s. by the time of the survey. The discrepancy between a lowered assessment and increased valuation is noteworthy; the former, according to J. H. Round, indicated a temporary reduction in liability conceded by the Conqueror to his companions; the latter seems to imply that Halsard's adminis-

tration of the manor was progressive.

Domesday Book was not a census, and it is impossible to use its figures to provide a close estimate of the population, but, allowing some five or six members to each household, one may suggest a total population for Great Bookham of some 200 to 250, and of Little Bookham about 40 or 50 souls. Gunfrey's free land in Bookham may have been the nucleus of the later subordinate manor of Eastwick; Halsard was almost certainly the ancestor of the Halsard family, who continued as immediate lords of Little Bookham until the end of the thirteenth century.

ROUND THE VILLAGE

Bookham Boys' Club. This recently formed club, catering for boys in the 14 to 21 age group, has a record of which Bookham can be proud. Trophies won this season include a Sportsmanship Cup, an Aggregate Trophy, a Relay Cup, a Relay Shield, 2 Gold Medals, 17 Silver (winners) Medals, 7 Bronze Medals, 4 Certificates of Merit. With a membership of 38 this is a striking achievement and indicates sound training on the part of the coaches and discipline and keenness on the part of the boys. Amongst the many athletic activities encouraged is road running, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays some 20 boys, in running kit, turn out for a 2 or 3

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mile run depending on their age. A team has been entered in the Surrey Association Boys' Clubs' Football League and is doing well despite being the youngest in the League.

All interests are encouraged. For example, an entry was made in a fishing competition (a county event) at Cobham.

It has been reported that the Leatherhead Urban District Council is searching for a site in the neighbourhood on which the Club can erect its own Hut. Funds are available from the National Association for this and it would seem that on its record the Club merits a home of its own.

Women's Institute (Afternoon).

The well-established Drama Group of this Institute has had a high reputation for many years and can expect a good placing in the first round of the British Drama League Festival at Betchworth for which it is rehearsing its entry of the one-act play, "Remembrance". The combined Choir and Drama Group presentation of a Nativity Play at Christmas was much appreciated by all who saw it. It is a pity that it could not be repeated. The Group is now the proud owner of a Hut for the storage of the many costumes they have accumulated over the years.

Members are looking forward to the annual Party on January 27th. As the membership is now 151 this is an occasion which strains the capacity of our local Halls. The Institute wishes to thank all those who patronized the Rainbow Fayre, which raised over £51 for Institute funds.

The interests of Women's Institutes are wide. Amongst the good causes to which the National Movement is pledged is voluntary assistance, where needed, to the Mental Hospitals. As a Christmas goodwill gesture the Afternoon Institute has collected gifts which will be distributed to the patients of the Manor Hospital, Epsom, who have no friends or relations.

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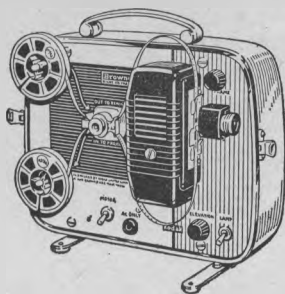
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Youth Club. This meets weekly at the Barn Hall on Mondays, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. It is a matter for regret that Mr. A. Begbie, who was the Club Leader, has had to resign because of the pressure of professional duties. Miss A. Harrison, Hon. Secretary of the Adult Committee, who is a graduate in Social Studies of London University, has kindly consented to take over the club leadership for the time being.

Bookham Scouts. The two Troops of the 1st Bookham Scouts and the one Troop of the 2nd Baptist Scouts, together with three Wolf Cubs Packs, combined for the first time in a Religious Service, a Scouts Own, at the Baptist Church at the beginning of the winter season. Representatives of the various sections read the Prayers and Lessons, and the congregation filled the Church to capacity. The collection was allocated to the Wolf Cubs' Refugee Fund.

The Women's Institute (Evening) is now four years old and has a membership of 100. This is a high figure and reflects the demand in the village among young mothers with family commitments who can forget domestic worries for an evening off while father baby-sits. New-comers can be assured of a friendly welcome.

At the Annual General Meeting Mrs. Joan Woolley was re-elected President for a third term of office. The new Secretary is Mrs. Margaret Cooper.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Diamond Wedding. Our congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Bray, of Sole Farm Avenue, who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding. They have lived in Bookham a long time and are well known, especially to the Over Sixties Club, of which they are members.

Naturalist on Expedition. Mr. A. Norkett, who lives locally and is on the staff of the British Museum, has joined a scientific expedition to East Nepal. He is studying Mosses, which is his special interest.

Congratulations to Miss Sheila Chitty, who has been accepted for Nursing Training by West London Hospital, to commence in May. She has recently completed a Pre-Nursing Course at Ewell Technical College, where she passed her State Preliminary Part I and G.C.E. "O" Level Cookery and English Language, and was also awarded a Cookery Prize.

House Surgeon. Bookham Junior School is very proud of one of its former pupils, Dr. Alan Trickett, who has recently taken

an appointment as House Surgeon at Bexhill Hospital. He went from Bookham to Guildford Grammar School from which he won an Award to Edinburgh University, where he qualified in Medicine and Surgery.

Engagement. We congratulate Lt. Brian Cawte, R.N., and Miss Gillian Ann Bellett, on their engagement. They met at the Baptist Youth Fellowship, of which they are both keen members. Brian has grown up in Bookham and we have followed his successful career with interest. From the Glyn Grammar School he proceeded to Dartmouth, where he won high honours. He is now on the two-year "Dagger Course" at Greenwich. His fiancée lives at Effingham and is teaching at the local Primary School after completing her Teacher Training Course at Eastbourne.

Off to America. Good wishes go with Mrs. E. Peel (Elizabeth Harrison), who flew with her two-month-old baby son to Boston, U.S.A., in November. She has joined her husband, Dr. David Peel, who has taken up a two-year research post at Harvard University.

State Scholarship. Congratulations to Richard Rossner on the award of a State Scholarship.

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Budding Meteorologist. Timothy of residence at Southampton Neville is doing interesting work University. After nine months as a Temporary Assistant in the she returns to St. Thomas' Meteorological Office and hopes, Hospital. From there she goes after a period of training, to the Nightingale School of become a Scientific Assistant Training at Godalming, and concludes with a further six months Officer. at Southampton University.

University News

Basil Bye is now in his first year at Hull University, where he is studying Economics. He was a pupil at the Howard of Effingham Secondary School and, after a period in Commerce, proceeded to Ewell Technical College, then to Kingston, where he studied for his Entrance qualifications for University.

Ann Finch has been accepted by St. Thomas' Hospital for the new Training Course, lasting three years, for Health Visitors. Not only is this course new but it is also an interesting experiment. Ann begins with a period

John Dew is, we hear, at University College, London, studying Engineering.

Derek Drake is making good progress in his second year at Bristol University.

Christine Cameron is enjoying her first term at Westfield College, London University. She is studying Zoology and is entering fully into the social as well as the academic life.

John Holland is in his second year at Oxford. He is studying P.P.E. (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), and is specially interested in Politics.

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Gramophone Club. D. G. Gay, 38, Barn Meadow Lane. Bookham 4068.

Old Time Dance Club. J. W. Hilder, 247 Lower Rd.

Over Sixties. Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Road.

Scottish Dancing. Mr. G. R. Marshall, 63, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 96.

Hon. Sec., Community Association. Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 2702.

The Editors. Mrs. E. Harrison, Bookham 2702; Mrs. M. Everett, Bookham 2404.

Bookham Bowling Club. S. F. Pearce, 7, Swanns Meadow.

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Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch. W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Ave.

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Liberal Association, Great Bookham Branch. Mr. W. B. White, 46, Sole Farm Avenue.

Women's Institute (Evening). Mrs. P. Hester, 57, Keswick Road.

Women's Institute (Afternoon). Mrs. E. Cookè, 182, Lower Road. Bookham 4207.

1st Bookham Scouts. G.S.M., B. Charles, Chapri, Dowlans Road.

2nd Bookham (Baptist) Scouts. G.S.M., E. Tarrington, 4, Dowlans Close.

1st Bookham Scout Group Supporters Association. L. S. Hughes, 2, Blackthorne Road. Bookham 2785.

Bookham Stoolball Club. Mrs. B. King, 12, Groveside. Bookham 2330.

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