

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY.

# The Bookhams Bulletin

N. 10

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 90

JUNE 1956.

24th year



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# The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 90.

JUNE, 1956.

24th year

The Editor 'Brandreth' Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.

## EDITORIAL

Five years ago the Bookham Community Association made a fine contribution to the amenities of the district by constructing an open air stage at Polesden Lacey and handing it over to the National Trust. Over and above financial help members of the Association, some of whom unfortunately are no longer with us, gave freely of their labour. In subsequent years voluntary workers followed the original inspiration and made improvements and additions to the stage to match the more ambitious productions put on there.

On the production side, beginning with "Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1951, when the Leatherhead Dramatic Company and the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra combined to put on a memorable performance, the Community Association has sponsored four Shakespearian plays of such quality that a wide public has been attracted to these annual events. It is not fantastic to claim

that the name of the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre has become known in widely scattered parts of Britain, and even beyond.

The story of the Stage is told again in these columns because we now pass on to a new development. The responsibility for productions at Polesden became a heavier one each year and finally the Community Association recognised that, with so many other local commitments, it must find another body to undertake the work. Public meetings were held, committees deliberated, and finally it was agreed that a Committee of the National Trust should be set up to take over full control of the Theatre and the productions. In recognition of the pioneer work done by the Association two of its elected representatives will serve permanently on this committee.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ruth Dalton, executive member of the National Trust, the new committee will present its first production, "Twelfth Night", on July 20th and 21st at Polesden. It is hoped that Bookham people will be proud to support the National Trust on this important occasion.

## FORMER EDITOR GOES TO AUSTRALIA

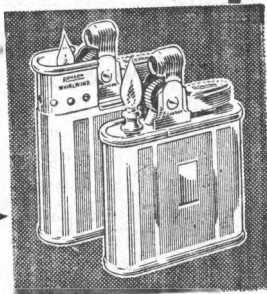
Our good wishes are extended to Mr. W. Cooper when he sails in August, with his wife and daughter, to take up an appointment in Australia. He will be Information and Public Relations Officer at the new laboratory for coalmining and coal utilisation research recently established at North Ryde, New S. Wales. The laboratory is under the control of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, and Mr. Cooper's work will cover liaison with the universities and with research establishments in Britain and America.

Their many friends in Bookham, and more especially the Community Association, will miss Mr. Cooper and Dr. Kathleen Cooper. They have been members of the Association from its inception and Mr. Cooper was at one time Editor of the *Bulletin*. Among his many public duties Mr. Cooper was a member of the Central Divisional Education Executive and a Governor of the Epsom School of Art. Mr. Cooper is a B.Sc., an Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.



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## VILLAGE DAY

Saturday, June 16th, is Village Day and it is hoped that the people of Bookham will turn out in force to celebrate this traditional day. This year the accent is on local clubs and organisations. The Hall will be given over to them for exhibitions and displays of their work and activities, and it is anticipated that they will make a very fine show. Members of the various organisations will be present to answer queries and give information. Old Bookham residents will appreciate a reminder of the range of activities in our two villages and newcomers will welcome a demonstration of the vitality of the neighbourhood into which they have moved.

There will be plenty of side-shows and competitions in the grounds. There will also be the ponies, and the fortune teller. The Fancy Dress Parade for children will take place as usual. Refreshments will be available and the day will conclude with a dance in the Barn Hall.

A special feature of the outdoor events this year will be a display of Archery given by the Nonsuch Bowmen. The apparently effortless skill of this well-known team is fascinating to watch. Spectators, however, will have an opportunity to judge for themselves what it means to draw a bow, for bystanders will be invited to "have a go".

Village Day has always been organised primarily as an inexpensive day's entertainment for local people and all charges are kept as low as possible. The Community Association, however, is faced with a heavy financial burden in the upkeep of the Barn Hall, and all who enjoy Village Day will be glad to know that the proceeds go to this good cause. An extra charge on the Association this year is the installation of a new oil-fired boiler to replace the old one which has given many years of good service. Any profits will serve to lessen the debt of some £300 which has been incurred for this purpose.

Organisations who wish to participate in the Exhibition should inform the Secretary. Offers of assistance with the sideshows and other events will be welcomed. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive.

## BOOKHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

We again won the Leatherhead and District Sports Association Shield in the six-a-side tournament at Fetcham Grove on Good Friday. The victorious "A" team was Norman Hodson, Ken Brown, Brian Longhurst, Ray Creasey, Ron Smith and Johnny Kilner. Our main difficulty has been in obtaining players suitable for Intermediate football.

The standard of play has improved this season, though we did not get the type of wingers we really wanted. Norman Hodson

has turned out a very good goalkeeper. The return of Ken Brown made the defence more solid, and the half-back line of Winter, Brown and Budd has been a difficult one to pass. Ron Smith has regained his confidence and up to the present has scored a total of 58 goals in league, cup and friendly matches. Ray Creasey and Joanny Kilner, both full-backs, have done very good service as deputy wingers. We were unlucky, yet pleased, when "Mick" Butler moved into senior football when he went to play for Cobham. However, about that time, Don Durban, recovering from a badly pulled muscle, ran into good form, returning to the Premier side and allowing Rob Edwards to cross to inside-right.

I would also like to mention the very great improvement of young Dennis Peachey. After playing in most positions in the reserve side he has gained Premier status on the right wing and looks like holding that position. Lastly I come to our captain and left-back Brian Longhurst, who is one of the steadiest and coolest players in the league. Being rather quiet and shy, he is not the type of lad whom one would expect to be a captain, but the players chose him themselves and would not change him.

We hope more supporters will come to the Recreation Ground to see our lads next season.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

### PART XI

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Both Great and Little Bookham are unfortunate in that their extant Parish Registers, instead of going back to the institution of registration in 1538, begin only in 1632 and 1642, respectively. In Little Bookham, the Court Rolls also are missing before 1633, but those of Great Bookham start as a more or less consecutive series in 1554, while the sub-manor of Eastwick has records beginning in 1540. From the Court Rolls it is possible to glean something of the history of local administration, which in the sixteenth century was divided between the secular representatives of the Manor, and the officers of the ecclesiastical organisation of the Parish.\* The parishioners, with the incumbent, had from a much earlier date chosen two churchwardens annually, who were placed in effective control of church funds. From about the end of the fifteenth century the affairs of church and parish began to be controlled by the Vestry, a body sometimes elected by the parishioners at large, but often consisting of a self-perpetuating group of principal landowners and substantial farmers. Each year the Vestry chose the churchwardens, from the Highways Act of 1555 surveyors of highways also, and from 1572 overseers of the poor as well; this last office probably grew out

of that of collectors of voluntary alms.

Meanwhile, a separate series of officers was appointed by the Manorial Court to have jurisdiction over police and agricultural matters; namely the Constable, assisted by one or more headboroughs or tithingmen, elected for the different tithings or hamlets of the manor; an aleconner or taster of bread and ale, and a pinder or pound-keeper. These officers were appointed by the Court Leet at the View of Frankpledge, an ancient jurisdiction granted by the Crown to certain lords of substantial manors, as was Great Bookham.† Manors such as Little Bookham, whose lord did not have the View of Frankpledge, had their constables appointed by the Hundred Court, in this case that held for the joint hundreds of Coethorne and Effingham. The Court Baron, the normal court held in all manors, dealt only with the transfer and inheritance of property and the collection of the rents and other dues involved. Its records are of the greatest value in tracing the descent of families and the title to property, sometimes also the history of houses and the repairs carried out on them by order of the Court. Under the manorial system every tenant was responsible for maintaining the tenement and for the good husbandry of his land.

The first court recorded on the surviving rolls of Great Bookham is a good example of the mixed

business transacted at the View of Frankpledge and Court Baron. The heading runs, translated from the abbreviated Latin of the roll: Great Bookham—View of Frankpledge with Court of Sir William Howard, Lord High Admiral of England, held there on the 29th day of October in the years of the reigns of Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England etc. the 1st and 2nd. Next come the formal presentations of the manorial officers: Edmund Durden, constable, sworn, says that all is well in his office; whereupon the Court elects Lawrence Croocher as his successor for the year following. John Hudson, headborough, paid into Court the common fine for Bookham, 6d., and likewise presented that all was well; Ralph Stephen, headborough for Northend, brought the common fine of 8d. and presented that Robert Stephen and John Stevyn dwelt within the lordship and owed suit to the Court but had not come; whereupon fines of 2d. each were marked against their names. John Hibberd, headborough for (Sir) Urian Brereton (lord of the sub-manor of Eastwick in right of his wife, Lady Joan Bray), presented all well and brought a common fine of 10d.

The Court presented that John Denby had forfeited 3s. 4d., part of the pain laid upon him at the last Court, because he had not repaired his tenement which was very ruinous; he was given until All Saints to repair it under a

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fresh pain of 6s. 8d. By assent of all the tenants order was made that henceforward no one of the manor was to keep any cattle upon the common (arable) fields other than those he kept on his own (enclosed) lands, and then not before the farmer had first laid open the field, on pain of 6s. 8d. Likewise no pigs were to be run in the fields before they had been laid open. Thomas Astile was ordered to make up his hedges and gates towards the Common Field at Preston before next Whitsun, on pain of 2s. A further order was that no tenant should pasture his sheep on the north common (i.e. Bookham Common) from 6th May to St. Martin's day (11th November) on pain of 20s.

The business of the Court Baron on this occasion was limited to granting licence to Thomas a Stile (evidently identical with Astile) to sublet to John Marter junior 8 acres of his customary land, viz. 6 acres and 3 roods let to Thomas Marter senior for a term of years, and 1 rood 'Yarborne Hole' (near Preston), and another rood at 'Bokeham Dreane', for 12 years after the expiry of the lease to Thomas Marter, at a rent of 2s. a year to the lord of the manor. For the licence A Stile paid a fine of 4s.

A later Court, that of 6th April, 1557, gives the full styles of Philip and Mary: 'King and Queen of England, Spain, France, the two Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Arch-

dukes of Austria and Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counts of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol,' a reminder of the short-lived attachment of England to the great agglomeration of kingdoms under the rule of Philip II of Spain. The earliest Court to name the homage, or manorial jury, is that of 30th April, 1555, which begins with the statement that John Hilder is essoined (excused attendance on the plea of sickness) by Thomas Hilder (who had come to bring the excuse to Court). The list of the homage then follows: Thomas Martie senior, Thomas Atwood senior, Nicholas Elliott, Edmond Durdon, Richard Wilkyn, Thomas Atwood junior, Richard Hilder, John Hibberd, Thomas Hilder, John Marter, Richard Martir, James Rogers, John Gardiner, John Hudson, William Elliott, Ralph Steven, Thomas Dudley, John Rogers of Wisley, John Ottwey, Thomas Roger senior, and Robert Crocher, who then stated upon oath that Henry Lord Burgavenny, Sir Urian Brereton, Edmund Slyfeild esq., Henry Snellinge, Richard Newman, John Dudley and John Denbye were suitors of the Court who had defaulted. Theoretically, the total of those essoined, the homage, and the defaulters should provide a complete list of the tenants of the manor, but this was not usual in practice. It may be that a number of the defaulters were not presented out of consideration for their poverty.

\* For the parish and its officers, see W. E. Tate: "The Parish Chest" (2nd ed., 1951).

† For the manor and its officers, see N. J. Hone: "The Manor and Manorial Records" (3rd ed., 1925).

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## OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

A property, it is hoped, will shortly become available in Bookham which can be utilized for the old people's homes which the Committee hope to start as early as possible. It is known that building operations will be costly, but there is confidence that Old People's Week, which will be held in Leatherhead from September 22nd to 29th, will bring in a big addition to the Housing Fund.

A party of old people spent an enjoyable holiday in Dymchurch in May, and future plans include the organisation of a similar annual seaside holiday.

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## "TWELFTH NIGHT"

(Contributed by a member of the National Trust Committee.)

"If music be the food of love play on . . ." Shakespeare's famous words that in July will herald the opening of the National Trust's first production in the open-air theatre. The tradition started by the Bookham Community Association in 1951 with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and continued in the succeeding years with "As You Like It", "The Tempest" and "Hamlet" now brings "Twelfth Night". The Trust has set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Hugh Dalton to manage the theatre and stage the annual productions and the first results of its work will be seen on 20th and 21st July.

The open-air theatre productions have steadily grown in stature, drawing audiences from far and near each year, and it is interesting to note that the first enquiry regarding this year's play came from New York—from an American who saw "Hamlet" in 1955 and who will be in England again this summer.

Competition for parts in "Twelfth Night" was unusually keen and a very strong cast is in rehearsal, drawn from some of the leading companies in the Home Counties, under the direction of Miss Elsie Green, the producer, who needs no introduction to Polesden Lacey audiences of the last three years.

The opportunity to see Shakespeare's famous comedy on Bookham's doorstep, in probably the most delightful natural setting of any open-air theatre in the country, should not be missed. Tickets are obtainable from the Box Office, Upalong, Guildford Road, Great Bookham (Tel.: Bookham 241), or Polesden Lacey house.

## BOOKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Congratulations to the Bookham Choral Society on securing first place in the Leith Hill Festival. The Society has now closed for the summer, but will reopen in the autumn when new singers, especially tenors, will be welcomed.

A contributed article on the Festival appears below.  
**Leith Hill Festival.**

Bookham Choral Society, conducted by Ralph Nicholson, sang again at the Leith Hill Musical Festival in competition with other village choirs in Division I on April 11th. Several members of the choir heard the cuckoo for the first time this year—which seemed a good omen—when walking to Bookham for the coach which set off at 8.15 a.m. for Dorking on a lovely spring morning.

As usual there was an air of friendly rivalry and tense excitement as the competitions proceeded. Bookham gained highest marks for the Madrigal, and

shortly afterwards for the Part Song, and second place for the chosen passages for Full Chorus.

Then each of the other competing choirs seemed to win an item and there was uncertainty as to which choir would win the total aggregate of marks right up to the final adjudication and close of the competitions.

It was with a feeling of great elation and thankfulness that we in Bookham's Choral Society found that we topped the list of seven choirs by just five marks.

To complete this wonderful festival came the rehearsal for combined choirs and full orchestra in the afternoon; then followed the concert in the evening when all choirs gave of their best and any shortcomings of the morning were speedily forgotten in the joy of singing together with orchestral accompaniment and being conducted so ably by Dr. William Cole. The music of Bach and Brahms, so difficult for small choirs at their weekly rehearsals with only a piano accompaniment and too few tenors, came alive and full of spiritual meaning when 200 or more voices were raised together. The beloved figure of Dr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, watching and listening and living the performance with us, gave inspiration to one and all.

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## BOOKHAM MUSIC CLUB

The Bookham Music Club is making dramatic progress. It has doubled its membership in three months, and is still going up! On April 27th it presented its first public concert at the Church House with a fine young singer, Maurice Bevan (whose wife accompanied him on her spinet in songs by early composers), and the well-known Carter String Trio, who made their debut a few years ago with Leon Goossens, the famous oboeist. They played classical and modern trios.

As the Club is now too large for drawing-room evenings, delightful as these were in their intimate and informal atmosphere, it will meet on May 25th at 8 p.m. at the Manor House, by kindness of Miss Green, the Headmistress. Miss Joan Davies, whom many listeners will have heard on the wireless, has kindly consented to play the piano for us. Members may bring their friends by arrangement with the Secretary; non-members will also be warmly welcomed, but should apply to the Secretary in advance, as space is limited. It is also hoped that they will contribute to the Silver Collection for expenses.

Membership will be reduced in May to 10/6 for the half-year. Apply to the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Ryerson, Basildon, Halepit Road.

## CAMERA CLUB EXHIBITION

The Camera Club Exhibition in April attracted some hundred visitors to the Barn Hall to view the 47 prints on varied subjects entered by members and the 40 colour lantern slides, which were projected on the screen at intervals.

By invitation, a panel of prints, chiefly portraits, was shown by Pamela Booth, F.R.P.S., and another by C. Beddous of mainly architectural subjects. An interesting section entitled "Planning the Play" had been assembled, by members, of photographs taken at the Leatherhead Repertory Theatre.

The Club extends a warm invitation to anyone interested in photography to come along to its fortnightly meetings at the Barn Hall on Thursdays.

## DIRECTORY OF BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

**Badminton Club.** A. Bishop, 5a Cannon Grove, Fetcham.

**Choral Society.** Mrs. L. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive.

**Congregational Church Guild.** C. H. Arnold, Brookside, The Glade, Fetcham.

**Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch.** Miss A. Mattison, Clovelly, Downsway.

**Football Club.** T. W. Wynn, 37 Sole Farm Ave.

**Grove Association.** F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Rd.

**Girl Guides.** Mrs. Rossner, Benedict, Woodlands Rd.

**Brownies:** 1st Pack, Mrs. E. Cameron, Noremac, Dowlans Rd  
3rd Pack, Mrs. Norman, 33 The Mount, Fetcham.

**Rangers.** Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cot., Leatherhead Rd.

**Labour Party, Bookham Ward.** J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway.

**Women's Section.** Mrs. Street, St. Malo, Howard Rd.

**Music Club.** Miss A. Ryerson, Basildon, Halepit Rd.

**Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch.** V. A. Montague, 53 Sole Farm Ave.

**Poultry and Rabbit Club.** Mr. Burford, 5 East St.

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

**Scouts.** Group Scoutmaster, L. R. Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm. Scoutmaster, E. Shepherd, Rosedale, Downsway.

**Cubs.** Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

**Silver Band.** W. J. Powell, 49 Oveton Way.

**Women's Institute.** Mrs. M. J. Browning, School House.

**Women's Total Abstinence Union.** Mrs. Bradshaw, 22 Merrylands Rd.

**Youth Club, Bookham and Effingham.** Miss E. Micholls, Manor Farm, Little Bookham.

**Youth Tennis Club.** Miss B. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

**BODIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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**Surrey County Council,** Kingston-upon-Thames.

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS**

**Camera Club.** J. W. Selby, 23 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

**Gramophone Club.** Mrs. M. Everett, Brandreth, Sole Farm Rd.

**Old Time Dance Club.** Mrs. D. K. Dunmur, 2 Dowlans Close.

**Over Twenties.** A. Stent, Beechdene, Leatherhead Rd.

**Over Sixties.** Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger Dorking Rd.

**Table Tennis.** Miss M. Austin, Pen-y-Bryn, D'ortham Lane, Effingham.

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

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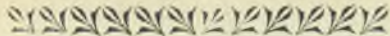


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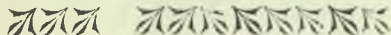
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