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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

December 1973  
No 154  
40th Year

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

December 1973

No 154

40th Year

*Editor:* Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

*Distribution:* G Everett. Telephone Bookham 52404

*Advertisements:*

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 58730

Christmas greeting to all our readers.

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### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

Annual General Meetings are attended mainly by the activists while the average members regard them as a formal and staid occasion from which it is prudent to stay away in case one is cajoled into a job. But there are exceptions, when an individual or group may feel impelled to come along in order to highlight a particular issue.

The AGM of the BCA in October proved to be such a one, though it was not the first of its kind. 30 young people, members of the Avant Garde Group, who hold monthly discos at the

Barn Hall, turned up; the presence of so many of the twenty age group was a refreshing change. We hope to see them in such large numbers at similar meetings. They had a grumble, and they were allowed every opportunity to express it. The Community Association is a democratic body, ready and willing to attempt to meet the needs of all sections of the village. As the Chairman of the Executive, Mr W Rombach, so aptly said in his reply—he utterly rejected the assertion that discrimination was being exercised against youth.



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In view of statements made in the local press and by uninformed members of the public it cannot be too strongly emphasised that, from its inception, the BCA has consistently tried to encourage youth activities. It should be remembered that, prior to the building of the Youth Centre, one evening a week was reserved, as a matter of policy, for a youth club which functioned for many years and was kept going by a band of dedicated adult helpers.

If an organisation like the BCA is to continue it needs young people to follow where the pioneers have led and where enthusiastic and hard-working supporters are still carrying on an expanding and respected enterprise.

In the election for representatives of individual members to the Council of the Association (35 in all to cover 1700 members) 7 of the young people were successful. The Council meets at least three times a year; it is the governing body and it alone decides policy. To it are also invited representatives of the clubs of the Association, of the affiliated organisations, the District Council, the County Council and other statutory bodies connected with neighbourhood interests.

The most important matter before the meeting were the **Amendments to the Constitution** which were comprehensive and detailed. All were accepted without debate. A copy of the new Constitution will be posted in the hall. Apart from one minor change, the original draft has been operative for over 26 years. Our affiliated organisations should note that they now have an entitlement of one representative to the Council for each 50 members, with a maximum of two. Names of such representatives should be submitted to the secretary of the BCA in writing but a deputy may be sent if necessary. Any organisation which fails to be represented at three consecutive meetings, without a valid reason, shall be deemed to be disaffiliated. A motion to this effect must be passed by the Council and the Organisation in default shall have the right to speak at the meeting.

Clubs of the Association are entitled to one representative for every 30 members, up to a maximum of 3.

**Membership and affiliation fees** shall, from now on, be fixed at the AGM. The membership fee remains at 15p. The affiliation fee has been raised to £1.

The President, Mrs E Harrison was elected unopposed, as was the Hon Treasurer, Mr A G Medway, Mr L Clark, who has been acting as Secretary since February, was confirmed as Hon Secretary. Mr S E D Fortescue continues as Hon Solicitor. Mr A H Kirkby as Hon Auditor. Miss M Corner was elected Membership Secretary and Mrs F Catt as Assistant Secretary.

Our Past President Miss E Micholls, who was unable, because of illness, to attend our 1972 AGM, died early in the year. She was fourth in the succession.

No new names were added to the list of Vice-Presidents who are: Mesdames B Oldershaw, D Cuddeford, M Longhurst and Messrs S Fortescue, B Stockwell, G Everett, R Marshall, R Catt, A Harrison, W Rombach, H Cuddeford.

Honorary Life Members are Mr R Saunders, Mr C Beddous and to these was added the name of Mrs B Longhurst, who is now living in Scotland.

#### **Individual Members Representatives**

elected were: Mr and Mrs C Whalley, Mr and Mrs C Emery, Mrs M Snow, Mr and Mrs A Snow, Mr J Stemp, Mr E Bourne, Mr R Wear, Mr C Upton, Mrs S Dennington, Mr W E Larkin, Mr R Frohock, Mrs M Everett, Mr C Flowers, Mrs V Taylor, Mrs S McLeod, Mr R Wing, Mr W Barnish, Mr R Hill, Mrs C Medway, Mrs F Catt, Miss S Read, Mrs D Read, Mr J Armstrong, Mr G Waterton, Mrs M Flowers, Mr W Clark, Mr K Walsh, Mrs S Walsh, Mr J Game, Miss M Corner, Mr K Preston, Mrs M Stockwell.

**The Report of the Hon Secretary** containing a brief account of the events of the year, was adopted and is printed below.

"Since our last AGM we reported at the Council meeting in February the resignation, for medical reasons, of our Secretary Pat Meehan who had done so much hard work for the Association during the past few years. At this meeting in February I was appointed acting Hon Secretary.

With the completion of the extensions to the Barn Hall and all the voluntary work involved in decorating, the Association has now settled down to a more normal routine.

Our new warden, Mr Bradford, was appointed in December 1972 and following this change a music workshop was formed and the Bookham Silver Band was reformed.

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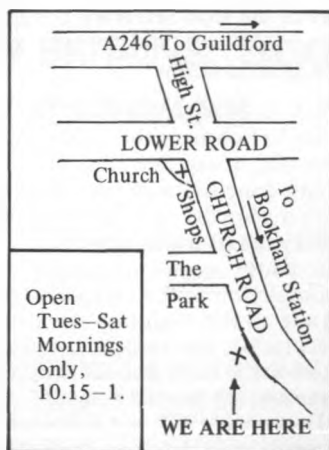
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Etc. etc. etc.

Bingo sessions were started in May 1973.

An evening's entertainment, 'Summer Surprise', produced in early June as a Community effort, was a great success.

A new idea was introduced to the Barn Hall in July when the Dorking Palm Court Orchestra gave their services for a 'Viennese Evening' in aid of our funds. This was a most enjoyable occasion and, I understand, could be repeated with a different theme.

The Antiques Fair was again held this year in September. Apart from providing a useful revenue to our funds it is a popular and very well organised event. September 20th and 21st have been booked for this event in 1974.

In order not to clash with the St Nicolas Church special appeal our Village Day activities were held in September this year. Blessed with good weather and well supported by the family gatherings, I believe it was another success with higher than ever profits.

BCA members again supported the Polesden Lacey open air theatre with their productions of 'St Joan' and 'Love's Labour Lost.'

We have now joined the newly formed Surrey County Federation of Community Associations.

This year, for the first time, we entered the Surrey Best Kept Village competition, and although not winning, were highly commended. I would like in this connection to specially mention and thank the various youth organisations for their wonderful support.

Our membership secretary now reports a membership of 1750, our thanks to her and her helpers for their excellent work.

Since September there have been heavy demands for all the accommodation here and perhaps some thought should be given to reserving the Barn Hall for our own special Community gatherings.

A special 'thank you' should be recorded to our small band of voluntary helpers for carrying out the various jobs essential to the maintenance of the halls and grounds.

I have to report the resignation of our warden, Mr Bradford, effective from early December, and thank him for the work carried out on behalf of the BCA.

In conclusion I would like to thank our President, Officers and members of the executive and also our Assistant Secretary for their hard work and support during my term of office."

**The Treasurer's Report** ran to four foolscap pages. The considerable expansion in the Association's activities was pin-pointed by his statement that, when he took over from Mr R Saunders, a sum of £3,000 passed annually through the books. During the past year it was £18,000.

For the first time for many years the Barn Hall Account, instead of a deficit, showed a credit of £442.18.

The budgeted proportion of interest on loans incurred for the Building Extensions was duly paid. Note, however, should be taken of the fact that it would take about ten years to clear all the debt outstanding.

It was interesting to observe that lettings were well up—to affiliated organisations 80%, to the association's clubs 70% and to other hirers 146%.

## IN RETROSPECT

**Village Day.** Despite its transference to September, this was again a well-attended and enjoyable occasion. Despite much improvisation, made necessary by the holiday season and other factors, organisations and individuals co-operated so willingly and well that the profit over the Day and the Week was £812.

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Special thanks are again due to the Guides and Brownies who manned a number of stalls and served and assisted with the refreshments, to the small band of ladies who, at late notice, provided and supervised such delicious refreshments. Credit must be given to all the organisations and clubs who ran stalls and side-shows, with a special pat on the back to the Dramatic Society and the Gramophone Club who assembled under one umbrella, as it were, a variety of activities.

We were pleased to welcome Mr Hagger who has been coming to Village Day now for some 20 years and whose sideshows are much appreciated.

For the outdoor displays we are indebted to the Scottish Dancers, the Silver Band and the Hai Sut Group.

The Exhibition on the Crafts of Bookham covered Bee Keeping, Wine Making, Handmade WI Treasures and paintings by local artists. It was good to see in this latter display the paintings done by Bookham schoolchildren on the theme of the Best Kept Village.

Finally, for the traditional evening dance for the young people, the Avant Garde Group organised a well-patronized Disco, which raised a handsome profit of £70 towards the total takings.

#### **1974 Village Day will be on June 15th.**

The Antiques Fair exceeded the target set by its enthusiastic organiser, Mr R Wear, and resulted in a profit of £643. This handsome result was partly due to the generosity of local people who donated gifts and to the hard work of the voluntary caterers, the same small group of ladies who functioned on Village Day, who stocked their own and other peoples' freezers to capacity in readiness for the big day.

Victoriana was, of course, well in evidence but there was an abundance of beautiful articles of earlier vintage in silver, ivory and porcelain. One of our 5 Bookham dealers showed a selection of fine carpets. Clocks are popular collectors' pieces and there was a wide choice of these. Showing for the first

time was Tarn, the Horologist, who has returned to Bookham and to his old love of watch and clock repairs. He may have inherited this interest from his father. Present residents may like to know that Mr R J Warren is on their doorstep, up the staircase at Gransden House in the High Street, and is well qualified to mend their ailing timepieces. Mr Walter Fliess, who lives in Post House Lane, has made antique clocks a special hobby. By profession an engineer as well as a restaurateur, he is a man of many parts. He left Germany during the Nazi troubles and is happily settled in Bookham and is interested in the progress of the Community Association.

A new kind of exhibit came from Mrs Pinkerton, of Ashtead, whose carved figures of African tribal gods and symbols depicted the strange and little-known background of people who are becoming a force to be reckoned with in this modern world. Some of these creations are quite fearsome, others have a primitive simplicity akin to certain leading sculptors of the day. One fascinating figure was of a monkey holding a small bowl. As water collected in this receptacle it was believed that it would hold the image of a passing evil-doer which could be seen by the wise man of the village.

We shall look forward to next year's Antiques Fair which has been fixed for September 30th and 31st, 1974.

To quote: 'We intend to uphold the standard we have established. Several dealers have already asked for space to be reserved. We feel sure that you will again support them and the BCA in an effort to provide an event of interest where, in a pleasant social atmosphere, we are able to increase our knowledge and appreciation of lovely old things.'

**Celebration**, an exhibition, staged in October by the Flower Arrangement Group to mark its tenth anniversary, contained items which could have graced a national show. Only one adjective springs to the mind to describe the whole as well as the individual designs, and that is—'exquisite'. This applies not only to the advanced arrangers, who have attained high standards since the early days, but also to the newer members, the novices so-called. Their Maypole, in the centre of the hall, with its ribbons terminating in posy-like circlets of

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dainty blooms, each contributed by a different individual, was quite eye-catching. Where everything was good and everything was different, it would be impossible to single out representative arrangements, but Mr Ron Wing has photographed the overall exhibition and has slides available as a permanent record of a memorable event.

**Cheese, Wine and Trophies for the Garden Society.** For the second year running the presentation of the trophies awarded at the Autumn Show was made at a Cheese and Wine Party at the Barn Hall. It was indeed a community occasion. A real cross section of Bookham people filled the hall to capacity. The organisers must have worked hard to arrange the tables attractively, each with posies of flowers and an appetising selection of cheese and titbits. In such a friendly atmosphere it was a delight to meet old friends and make new ones; every road in Bookham must have gardening enthusiasts. How right the judges of the Best Kept Village were when they singled out for special praise the standard of our gardens!

Congratulations to the Garden Society and the little band of officers who keep alive

such a worthwhile activity. Of course they need more help and, perhaps, some of us who enjoy their functions will give them active support over and above the very small membership subscription.

A final reminder. The Garden Society is again running this season their open evening for any member of the public on the fourth Thursday evening of the month in the Members' Room at the Barn Hall.

**Leatherhead & District Local History Society** attracted a large audience to the Barn Hall on a foggy evening in November to listen to the chairman, Mr Derek Renn, talk on Bookham's past. He is an entertaining and well-informed speaker (he recently did a programme on television on Corfe Castle). We travelled with him back to Saxon times and forward to the early part of the present century. With the aid of coloured slides (projected by Mr David Bruce), picturing the church and the old houses of the neighbourhood, he unfolded for us what could have been the history of many villages in different parts of the country. But this was our Bookham! Most of us are compulsive listeners to this subject.

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**Christmas Bazaar.** Bargains for everybody was the verdict of the many patrons of this thronged occasion. Nevertheless it is anticipated that the profit will reach £400. This is a triumph for the small band of ladies who were determined to run it, despite the gloomy forebodings that the BCA cannot tackle a September Village Day as well as a Christmas Bazaar. Their enthusiasm was infectious and, by November 10th, willing helpers had provided stalls and donated gifts which were just the thing for present-seekers.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT

**Weddings of the Season.** We extend our good wishes to the following couples who have been married since the last Bulletin issue. *Alan Snow and Shirley Wilson* whose home will be at Handley's Cottage, the Isle of Wight, Bookham Common, and belongs to the National Trust. Courage and enterprise are needed to undertake the task of renovating this old cottage, which stands, it is thought, on an even more ancient site. The young people, and their parents, have been working on it for months and completion is scarcely within sight.

The reception was held at the Barn Hall. This was a real community association occasion. The Snows have given much help to the BCA, while Shirley is well known for the local contacts she has made at Lloyds Bank.

*Linda Chouls and Roy Mandeville* had 8 bridesmaids at their wedding at St Nicolas Church. On leaving the Howard of Effingham School, Linda joined the WRAC where she has been serving for just over 2 years. It was at Guildford that she met her husband. Mrs Chouls is proud of the success of her family, who are doing well, and we are proud of Mrs Chouls who, for many years has given outstanding service at Bookham School where she is still working as cook in the school canteen. *Fiona Peck and Ian Groom.* The Pecks came to Bookham some years ago and quickly became involved in village activities. Mr Peck is an architect and has assisted the Residents' Association, chiefly in planning which is one of its prime concerns. Mrs Peck assists regularly with the old peoples' Day Centre at the Barn Hall and is closely connected with Edenside House and Graham House.

Fiona is following the example of service set by her parents and continues as Deputy

Housemother at the County's Childrens' Home in Cobham.

*Mary A J Scoble and Charles Urbaniak* were married at Effingham Catholic Church and spent their honeymoon on a barge on the London to Manchester Canal. They first met at Reading University where they were both studying agriculture. Mary was at Eastwick School where her mother was then teaching. Her father, who is Head of the popular local Adult Education Institute at Effingham, must be one of the best known men in the neighbourhood.

*Richard Jacob and Sarah Anderson* are now residing in Huddersfield, where Mr Jacob, formerly of Downsway, has taken a post as lecturer at the Technical College. He holds diplomas in teaching, hotel management, and management and business studies. Miss Anderson is the daughter of Mrs B Fell, the energetic secretary of the Afternoon Bridge Club, and the late Mr D A Anderson. Sarah is herself a qualified home economist and studied at Ewell Technical College, later spending a period in America. She was given away by her stepfather at the wedding at Christ Church, Leatherhead.

**SOS 1st Bookham Scouts.** Can you help? This grand Troop has been kept going for years by the young assistant leaders but they desperately need others to help them. Mr Don Townsend, 22 Gilmais. Tel: 54332, will welcome any offers.

**'Oh What a Lovely War'.** All organisations and some individuals have received from Mrs Sylvia Dennington information of a project to stage a production of their excellent play, based on the First World War, in late March or early April. It has the blessing of the Community Association and the Committee of the Youth Centre. There is a cast of between 15 and 23, mostly young. Painters, scene shifters, carpenters, dressmakers, musicians, stewards etc are also needed. Financial support, or promise of support, would be useful. It is hoped that such an occasion would bring together all groups in the neighbourhood. Experience is not an essential and a special appeal goes out to all people, not necessarily the young ones, who would like to join in what could be a friendly and sociable occasion.

If you feel that you could help in any way



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**If it Rains it Pours** and our Barn Hall needs re-roofing. This may cost £2,000 and is quite a sum to add to our already heavy commitments. It must be done now or the roof timbers will be damaged – not to mention the water which will seep through on our heads. The old people at the hall have already begun to help. Mrs Peart started her second round of matchboxes. Over 100 matchboxes were taken and their contents totted up to £29. Meanwhile Mrs Edge, another stalwart of the Over Sixties, makes cakes each week for sale, runs the occasional raffle and displays her collecting box, and she intends to carry on in this way till she reaches double figures.

The Local History Society donated over £12 to the same Fund from the proceeds of their talk on Old Bookham.

We hope in the near future to have a box in the hall entrance in which trading stamps and cigarette coupons can be deposited towards prizes for fund-raising events to raise the roof.

**The Lions are Here.** The quite small local group which helped us on Village Day is now officially in existence. It is part of a large national and international movement which exists to 'help'. It concentrates entirely on the needs of its immediate neighbourhood. One of its objects is to raise money for this purpose, but equally important is its willingness to give service to the lonely, the disabled, the elderly, the afflicted on an individual basis. If you have even a few hours to spare please get in touch with the chairman, Brian Gourlay, 1 Vincent Close. Tel: 53820. Gerry Rowlandson. Tel: 54617. Or Jim Watts. Tel: 56615.

**The Migraine Trust** has started a small local group. Its promoter, Mr H Wilkinson, 22 Sole Farm Road, was also with us on Village Day. One in every ten people suffer from this severe disability and, with further research, there is confidence that they could be much relieved. Our next issue will have more information but Mr Wilkinson, Tel: 53740, will, in the meantime, tell you more about it.

**A Farewell to a much-loved Teacher** was given to Mrs Snellgrove at, by her own wish, an

intimate school function. From the opening of the Eastwick School she has taken the newcomers and guided them gently in their first steps to learning. The children gave her flowers and a splendid set of cutlery. Each class presented its own individual item specially for her – the only outsider being the chairman of the school managers. Mrs Snellgrove is enjoying her retirement but keeping her links with her old pupils.

**The BCA Warden,** Mr Tony Bradford has departed to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to take a post as director of music in a youth music organisation which is financed and organised by the parents of this Canadian town. It is not surprising that he has accepted this post which will give him more scope for musical experiment, which is his main interest. We wish him well.

**BBC Any Questions** will come to Bookham Community Association on February 15th. An inquiry from our Warden, together with a copy of the Bulletin, brought a speedy response from the producer. The programme is booked well ahead but we were offered a drop-out vacancy. 'In due course,' Michael Bowen writes, 'I will send you 250 tickets for distribution to your members.'

No details have been settled but we have been enjoined by the BBC 'to obtain a balanced audience, fully representative of the community . . . people prepared to play a positive part in the broadcast ie people who will think about the occasion beforehand and do their best to contribute useful questions – and not people who passively come just to be entertained . . . Balanced political representation in the audience is extremely desirable.'

**Foundation Member of Camera Club** becomes its President, following Mr J W Selby, who has held this high office for many years. He is Mr G Goodwin and we congratulate him on this honour which has, undoubtedly, been awarded to him in recognition of the enthusiasm and technical competence he has shown in the development of the club.

Mr Goodwin is also a founder member of the Community Association where, in the early days, he gave the same unstinting service in pushing out, if we may use a metaphor, a rather unseaworthy ship into stormy waters.

His granddaughter, Amanda Wyatt, is Head

Girl of Howard of Effingham School. We also extend congratulations to her on achieving this position. She, together with the Head boy, Paul Evans, gave an excellent vote of thanks at Speech Day to the speaker, the Vice Chancellor of Surrey University. This is an ordeal for any pupil, especially if there is no microphone. If either of them decide to go into public life at local or national level there should be quite a future for them.

**The Prize for Drama** was awarded at the same event to Mark Weston who has, from his primary school days at Eastwick, shown special talent in this subject. He has no intention of taking it up as a career because his absorbing interest is farming and animals. We are pleased to record his success because it will be of great interest to regular patrons at the Barn Hall, especially members of the Over Sixties and the Day Centre, who are so well served by Mrs Thelma Weston. Our only regret is that Nellie Cox, Mark's grandmother, is no longer with us because she would so much have appreciated Mark's achievement.

**Still on Speech Day.** 850 pupils assembled on 18th October to welcome Dr Leggett, MA, DSC, FRAeS, FIMA, Vice Chancellor of the University of Surrey. The close attention they gave to his talk, which was directed straight to the students, indicated their awareness of the honour of his presence with them. He advised them, in planning for their careers to take the advice of parents and teachers but, finally, to make their own decision on

what they themselves wanted to do.

The Headmaster's Speech radiated optimism for the future. The building of the Sixth Form Unit, with its fine, new equipment, had opened wider horizons for teachers and taught. As far as they were able, they were trying to adapt some classrooms for specialist subjects, but more of these were needed, especially in 1975 when the number of roll will pass the 1,000. Sports, the Arts, as well as academic subjects were being encouraged. He had confidence that A Level examinations would develop quickly—an indication of this was that, of the 15 pupils who had qualified on O Level results to go on to grammar sixths, only one had done so because she required a special range of subjects. 4 had transferred to colleges for a technical career. 10 had opted to stay at Effingham.

The O Level results were encouraging with a 68% pass mark which is above the national average. He made special reference to Jennifer Timms, who had gained 11 O Levels, seven of these at the highest grade. Actually the school only arranges for a maximum of 9 subjects but she, herself, had taken Art which she had acquired through her school club, and Religious Knowledge, which she had developed from the compulsory one lesson a week in this subject.

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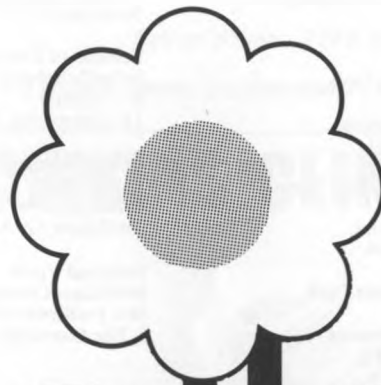
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