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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

November 1972
No 150
39th Year

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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November 1972

No 150

39th Year

Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

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EDITORIAL

Greetings to all our readers for Christmas and the New Year. Good health to you all, happiness and success in the enterprises you undertake.

It is difficult to find new ways of phrasing the ages-old message of peace and goodwill to all men but now, more than ever, its re-iteration is urgent. In a neighbourhood like our's we are sheltered, to a degree, from the strife which is tearing the world apart. Many of us, however, are concerned for our children who will inherit this world and who are under pressures no other generation has experienced. We hear conflicting answers on the methods to be used to fit them for what lies ahead. On one hand more discipline is inculcated, on the other more tolerance, more permissiveness. The answer eludes us.

Meanwhile, in the coming weeks, children in all our schools will gather round the Crib and sing the familiar carols. Will they carry this memory with them? As they grow older, will they ponder at all on one aspect of its meaning which is deeper, perhaps, than what is conventionally known as 'Christianity'? It is the image of the perfect family group with no material possessions radiating the content which springs from complete love and understanding.

And we, the adults, who see the sincerity and involvement of the young in these traditional occasions, can perhaps gain something from them. Maybe it is the same image which should guide us in setting our goals and measuring the quality of our own lives, even though some would argue that the malaise of our time is too complicated for such a simple and apparently trite solution.

We apologise to anyone who may feel that

it is unfair to sandwich a sermon between the covers of a greetings card and repeat that our purpose is only to wish them as joyous a Christmas as that experienced centuries ago by the shepherds and kings at Bethlehem.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM

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Part XI

By John Harvey

By about 1300 Chertsey Abbey no longer farmed Bookham by means of the labour of serfs, in the way described in most books on the manorial system. This had given place to a predominantly money economy where even those of theoretically servile condition held their lands by a title almost as infeasible as freehold. Though this tenure remained verbally 'at the will of the lord' until the extinction of the manorial system in our own century, it already formed in fourteenth-century Bookham a title which could only be forfeited by gross negligence or waste committed in the tenement. This high status of the villein at Bookham was somewhat exceptional, though conditions were similar on the other manors of Chertsey Abbey.

In another respect, Bookham played an unusual part in the development of land-holding. Whereas freeholds passed by law to the eldest son, manorial customs as to land held in villeinage (later copyhold) differed from place to place. The usual rule was for such land to pass to the youngest son (the so-called custom of Borough English); this was generally the case in Surrey, and remained so in Bookham until 1339. But in that year the homage (villein tenants) of the manor of Great Bookham came in a body to the Abbot's steward, Brother Richard de Dumbleton, and headed by Gilbert Leuwyne and Thomas atte Hacche



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asked that the lord (the Abbot of Chertsey) should change the custom by which the youngest son of a serf inherited into the national custom of primogeniture. The old custom, they said, was to the grave damage of the whole homage and tenants of the manor. Later in the same year, the same request was made by three other manors of Chertsey Abbey: Epsom, Sutton and Coulsdon. In each case the change in custom was granted, on payment by the tenants of each manor of 40s., a sum equal to quite £240 in the value of 1954. The whole homage of Bookham at the time consisted of some 40 to 50 tenants, so that on the average each was prepared to pay about £5 to £6 for the privilege.

This curious transaction is possibly the most outstanding occurrence in the whole history of Bookham, and requires some explanation. It is not obvious why the copyholder should benefit by the descent of his holding to his eldest rather than to his youngest son. Indeed, over a number of generations it would be to the financial disadvantage to the family, for in the same period there would be fewer descents to youngest sons, and consequently fewer heriots and fines (death duties) would have to be paid. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that Bookham demanded the change on psychological grounds: the villeins felt that they should be on the same footing as freeholders, and were ready to pay in hard cash for the satisfaction of having their first-born as their heir, the same as the King or any peer of the realm. Other manors were at first eager to follow the fashion; but the fact that the remaining 11 manors of Chertsey Abbey never attempted to change the old custom suggests that on mature reflection it was seen that the advantages were illusory. It remains a striking fact that the inhabitants of Bookham in the early 14th century should have been the first in England, so far as we know, deliberately to bring the local rule of inheritance into line with the law of the land, a step not to be given universal application for another 600 years.

BREVITIES

Four Oak Candlesticks of fine workmanship and design now adorn the altar of the

Catholic Church at Effingham. They replace the large brass ones, of which one was stolen and the rest removed for safety. They have been carved by Mr Arthur Harwood, of Dawnay Road, who has also presented a handmade pulpit-lectern to the Church. Old members of the BCA will remember in the early days, his enthusiastic support of our regular social activities but few of us knew of his skill as a craftsman.

The Minibus presented to the Old People's Welfare Association by the LUDC and SAFE is in constant use. The old one was in very poor condition and only kept on the road by the devoted service given voluntarily by Mr Arthur Weston in memory of his mother-in-law, the late Mrs Nellie Cox, to whom it had been given by Mr Victor Crabb for the use of the Old People's Welfare Association, of which she was the first secretary. The old people of Bookham still remember her with great affection and are glad to have as her successor her daughter, Thelma, who works for them with the same pertinacity.

It is not surprising that our Over Sixties are such a happy body because they can look also to Mrs Mary Longhurst whom they have just welcomed back after a spell in hospital. Her quiet efficiency and constant cheerfulness have never faltered during the many years of continuous service she has given and the Barn Hall would be a poorer place without her. Recognition of the contribution she has made was given when the BCA made her one of its Vice-Presidents.

The First B Sc In Pure Land Surveying has been awarded to Allen Newman, of Westdown, who moved with his parents to Bookham two years ago. He started work 5 years before with Messrs C & G Surveying and studied in the evenings for his A Levels. Subsequently he took the three year course in Pure Land Surveying at the North East London Polytechnic which pioneered it. Newcastle and Aberdeen Universities have now launched one.

He has now returned to his old firm where, if his progress is maintained, a partnership will be offered to him next year.

Just off to University are many young Bookham People. We have no statistics

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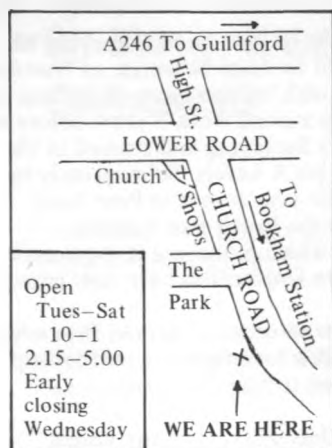
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but our impression is that, per population figures, the ratio of our school-leavers in higher education is greater than the average. Among them are the following:

Ann Griffiths, of Beales Road, reading History at Liverpool University who has also the distinction of winning the Actress of the Year Award at the County Youth Festival of Drama in The Youth Centre's production of 'Hay Fever' two years ago.

Helen Jones, of Eastwick Drive, who has taken Psychology for her subject – a shrewd choice when there is a great shortage of psychologists in industry and commerce, education and the health service. Her brother, Christopher, is completing his final year in Geology at Swansea University.

Richard Durban, of Dorking Road, has enrolled at the Cambridge College of Art and Technology for Economics and History, while his sister, Rosemary, has gone to Bangor University for French. The family has been in Bookham for some time; his grandparents reside in The Street.

Graeme Forbes, of Eastwick Drive, is settling in well at Leicester University for the Economics course. His high qualification at A Level in Mathematics should be a good basis in this subject in which statistics are of prime importance. His mother is active in many local groups where her drive and energy are appreciated. His father is a keen member of the Winemakers Club.

Wendy Brackpool, of Allen Road, has chosen to study Medicine at Bristol University.

Teresa Stratford, of the Garstons, whose mother is a helpful member of the Community Association and works for St Nicolas Church and other local organisations, has gone to Durham University on a course which should lead to the Honours Degree in English.

Mr and Mrs Meadows, of The Park, have two sons in the academic field, Andrew, who has just begun an Accountancy course at Cardiff and Martin, who is studying Law at Sheffield.

Alun Griffiths, of Twelve Acre Close, has, as might be expected, chosen a Welsh University – Aberystwyth.

A number of former pupils of Howard of Effingham School have proceeded to university but Richard Albury is the first one to go direct from the school to university. Out of several available to him he selected

Brunel for Engineering as this is a 4 year course including one year in industry.

Teachers Marry. Eastwick Junior School were sorry to say goodbye to Miss Sandra Stevens, of the Lorne, on her marriage to Mr Paul Higgs. She has been teaching there for 5 years and was one of the little group of pupils of the Howard of Effingham School who had chosen this career and acknowledged the help and encouragement they had received from the staff there.

They are now living at Horsham where her husband is an electrical engineer. Sandra is enjoying the new post she has taken at the Trafalgar School.

Another recent wedding was that of Miss Patricia Dodgson, middle daughter of Mr and Mrs E Dodgson, of Fife Way, enthusiastic members of our Old Time Dance Club. She met her husband, Mr John Law, at Reading University in their student days. Before their marriage he went on to Aberystwyth for a year to take his MSc, she meanwhile, took her Dip Ed, after graduating in Mathematics and Statistics. They have settled in St Neots where John is working at the Agricultural Research Station at Histon and she is teaching in the local school.

A Family of Photographers. Mr John Fuller, who moved last year from Dawnay Road to Briary Close, is well known for his wedding and other photographs. What is not so well known is that his father and mother were both professional photographers and some of the former's work can be seen in St Nicolas Church. He was recently accepted for membership of the Institute of Incorporated Photographers, following his submission of a selection of his industrial and wedding photographs. His career is an interesting one. When he moved to Bookham in 1946 he was working locally as a development engineer. After doing some part-time work with his camera he decided in 1969 to, as he says, 'take the plunge', and make his hobby into a full-time business.

Heavy investment in extra equipment was necessary and his first month's profits amounted to £9.25. The venture is now quite successful and he has accounts with many big firms.

His wife, Alma, participates fully in village life. She was the first President of the Bookham

Evening WI and a founder member and secretary for a number of years of the Congregational Young Wives' Group, now known as the 8 o'clock club. She is very interested in the welfare of the elderly and has for a long time been a regular driver for the Over Sixties Club and the Barn Hall Day Centre.

Their elder son, Colin, is studying photography and may well follow in his father's footsteps, although at the moment he has taken up stage lighting and is working at the Phoenix Theatre after a period spent at the Jeanetta Cochrane Theatre and the Covent Garden Opera House. Derek, the younger son, is going in a different direction. After qualifying in Catering at Brooklands Technical College he is now a Commis Chef at the Savoy Grill.

Assistant Youth Centre Warden, Miss Jane Barkell, is getting on well with Bookham young people. She is sharing a house in Crabtree Close and is pleased to settle in Bookham. Work with youth is demanding but Jane has the enthusiasm and vitality to take it in her stride. We are fortunate to have her. She is a graduate in the Environmental Sciences of the University of East Anglia and also holds the Diploma of Education of Bath University. During her student days she did much voluntary work in the field of welfare. This inspired her to seek a post in youth work rather than in more formal teaching.

Seeing the World the Hard Way is Martin Stemp, son of Mr and Mrs John Stemp, of Whiteway. Last February, he set off with three friends in a Landrover, their object to learn about Africa. At Mombassa they separated and, after this, Martin worked in Nigeria and Tanzania. He writes interestingly of his experiences, whether it be with white or coloured people. At the moment he is located in Lusaka and hopes to work his way through Zambia.

He may, in the course of his travels, meet with Father Michael Savage, son of Mr and Mrs F S Savage, of Little Bookham, whose Mission in that country covers hundreds of miles. As well as his parental home there is a close link between Father Savage and Bookham. Parishioners of the Catholic Church at Effingham have formed a small

group to assist him in his work and are sending out to him parcels of toys, clothes etc, as well as donations which can be used for the welfare of the needy under his care.

The London Baroque Players are giving three concerts in London in the coming months. A Bookham musician, John Pullen, whose successes we have recorded in our journal, is playing the Recorder, while Barry Wordsworth, whom we heard during our Festival some years ago in the Barn Hall, will be at the Harpsichord. The trio is completed with Anne Barber, Violoncello. Their final performance is at the Purcell Room on 25th January.

Incidentally, John's wife, Angela, is hoping to form a small string orchestra of high grade at the Effingham Institute of Adult Education.

Son of Old Time Dancers Weds. He is Mr Barry Tomlins, of Leatherhead Road. The young couple are living in Hooley. Barry is Accountant to The Crusaders Wholesale Confectionary Firm and his wife, formerly Julie Bailey, was a Hoover representative with Seeboard.

The Departure of Mr and Mrs R Bishop to Steyning will mean a loss for Bookham, where Mr Bishop has done great public work. He was a former Chairman of Leatherhead Urban District Council and, on ceasing to be a Member of this body, he continued his chairmanship of the Leatherhead & District Youth Committee. He was secretary to the United Charities and a member, representing Leatherhead on the S W Divisional Education Executive. His service to St Nicolas has continued over many years.

Another Loss is that of Mr and Mrs D Cameron who have moved to Epsom. They were familiar figures in the village. It will be remembered that Mr Cameron was a tower of strength to the Scouts in the post-war years. Mrs Ethel Cameron was a staunch member of the Afternoon WI and was its Treasurer for two periods of office. She was also Treasurer of the BCA Over Sixties Committee.

Although they will have heavy commitments—Mr Cameron has been made a Director of the firm of Goodwin, Heating and Electrical Engineers and will be responsible for a new

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division at Epsom — we are sure that we shall see them often at Bookham functions. We look forward, too, for a visit from their daughter, Christine, next year when she plans to return to England with her husband from Australia where they have been for some years. It will be remembered that when she was Head Girl at Bookham School she planted, on behalf of the Community Association, the Cedar of Lebanon Tree to commemorate the Coronation.

The Spire and Wire Appeal has not fallen on stony ground. The Walk, sponsored by Councillor Taylor, has topped the £1,000 mark, and this, with donations and smaller money-raising events, has paid for the first phase of the work which we have all seen — the repair of the spire and tower and outside paintwork. The second phase of re-wiring the church etc remains to be done but we have no doubt that the money will be found.

Community Association clubs, despite their heavy involvement in their own building costs, have not 'opted out'. One of the first events was the Festival of Flowers, organised by the Flower Arrangement Club, which raised £150. The Afternoon Bridge Club recently put on a playing afternoon, with Tea and a Bring and Buy Sale, which resulted in close on £150. Six members of the Old Time Dance Club participated officially in the Walk and collected between them £25. The Bowling Club's Spoons Drive resulted in £9. In view of the mammoth Fair to be

organised by the Church in June, the BCA has cancelled its traditional Village Day and Week until September 8th.

PS Have you seen the Xmas Cards at 5p in the Church?

A visit from Dr and Mrs R Manclark was indeed a tonic. He was his usual breezy self and is obviously enjoying his periodic experiences as ship's doctor, as well as locum duties at the local hospital. Mrs Dora Manclark has just returned from Australia where she visited her daughter. She was accompanied by Mrs Sykes, formerly of Little Bookham Street, who also went to stay with her daughter.

It will be remembered that they moved to Romsey, where Mrs Manclark, who loved

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her Bookham garden, is busily creating a new one in terraces on stony land.

Non-Smoker collects dozens of cigarette coupons for the Barn Hall Building Fund. We do not know how she does it except that, as she is over 80, she is obviously a very experienced lady. She is Mrs E Russell, of Middlemead, one of an old Bookham family and a keen member of our Over Sixties Club.

BOOKHAM ANTIQUES FAIR

All who came to the Antiques Fair in the Barn Hall, whether dealers or buyers, found it a stimulating and enjoyable experience, and are asking for a 'repeat' next year. We hope that Mr Ray Wear, who organised it with so much attention to detail, meticulous planning and unbounded enthusiasm, will agree to again take on the task. Invaluable advice and assistance was given by Mrs Audrey Stark, of Little Bookham, who has her own establishment, Heron Antiques, at East Horsley.

It was truly a professional event and, in the setting of the Old Barn Hall, it could be rightly described as a cultural and artistic occasion.

Tribute should also be paid to our volunteer caterers, Mabel Everett and Mollie Snow, who provided hot lunches at a modest price and the most delicious refreshments in great variety all during the day. Those of us who sat back in comfort and were 'waited on' could have no conception of the difficulties the providers were coping with, serving food in the new hall from the central point in the kitchen of the main hall.

Financially, it reached our ambitious target of close on £500.

There were 5 stalls taken by Bookham dealers. Barry Antiques, from Shortlands, Kent, had come the furthest.

The youngsters, of whom there were quite a number, and the older visitors, were fascinated by the specialist stall of grandfather clocks put on by R A Davis, of Dowlans Road. Every stage in their development was on show, from the clock which required daily winding to the one with an 8 day movement. Our ancestors were not so obsessed with time as we are, we deduced this from the examples with no second

hand. There were some, too, with a single hand, as the 1730 specimen by Thomas Kefford and a similar one of 1750, presumably by John Fisher, of Preston, which your Editor was delighted to see. She had to admit, however, that perhaps the south 'had it', when she noticed one from Robert Moore, of Ockley, with two hands, also dated 1750. Nearest home was one by Thomas Wright, of Dorking, 1800.

One could write a whole volume on the Fair but we must be content with just one more reference to the stall of Mrs Frye, of Carshalton, where we observed glazed lustre ware which illustrated quite significantly that the Victorians, too, could have split minds. In a recent article on the great pornography debate it was stated that the most extravagant selections could be found in a collection dating from Victorian times. It would be impossible to print in these pages the verse painted on the outside of an essential item of the toilet equipment of the period. Relatively harmless lines on the inside read: 'Keep me clean and use me well, And what I see I will not tell'. An armslength from this was a plaque carrying the portrait of a Wesleyan Minister and the text 'He that believeth shall be saved.'

THE GARDEN SOCIETY CHEESE & WINE EVENING

Another first-ever event in October in the Barn Hall was the Cheese and Wine Party of the Garden Society when the Show Trophies were officially presented. Organised by the Hon Sec, Mr R Wing, it was a noteworthy and pleasurable evening into the planning of which had gone great expertise and foresight.

Close on 200 people turned up. It was a stroke of genius to charge only 25p for the ticket, which meant that no-one was barred and prizewinners, as well as members, were able to bring parties of friends and relations. Gaily decorated tables, each with its own flower decoration, were spread with cheeses, biscuits, nuts, pickles and celery. We were even invited to take away, as we departed, the posies of flowers. And yet, the Secretary assured us that the costs were all covered and there was a balance on the right side.

Mrs A Wing presented the trophies, deputising for Miss E Micholls, the President.



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who for many years in this office has graced the platform on these occasions. We were sorry to hear that illness kept her away, but glad to know that she is making steady progress and maintaining her lively interest in village affairs. Another significant absentee was Mr Turville Kille, in hospital with a broken kneecap. With only one exception, few of us can remember when he has not swept the board in the vegetable collection. We missed his cheerful presence to receive the Award of the Society Challenge Cup for his display of vegetables and the Ralph E Street rose bowl for the most points, 13 of them, in other classes. He has gone a long way since he put in his first exhibit at the age of 12.

It is obvious that there is still strong support for this old Bookham Club which should be stimulated by the open evening every fourth Monday in the Members' Room at the Barn Hall when anyone who has a gardening problem can drop in for advice, or for just a chat and coffee. Reference books and leaflets are available on most horticultural subjects.

ROUND AND ABOUT

This is a Reminder that the BCA now has the facilities to extend its activities and will welcome suggestions, preferably with the offer of support. Appended below is a tear-off form:

An Excellent Year of Guiding is the District Commissioner's verdict on 1972 to date. There have been 5 Queen's Guide Awards. Three Guides achieved their Camper's Licences and, of the 11 who took their

Patrol Camp Permits, 9 were fully successful. Residential training courses at Foxlease were attended by 2 Rangers and 3 Patrol Leaders.

The First Brownies are looking forward to their 50th birthday celebrations December. Indeed, so many activities are afoot that plans are now being considered for an Extension to the new Hut.
HS

The Trefoil Guild is a branch of the Guides Association for women who have been enrolled members of the Movement. In its own way, it is as dedicated as the younger sections and strives to keep alive the spirit of Guiding, to help the younger ones to strengthen it, and to carry it into the wider community.

Meetings are held at the Guides HQ, Keswick Road, on the third Thursday of the month, at 8.00 pm, when new members will be welcomed. Talks on social problems, such as the Samaritans, Multiple Sclerosis, Prison Visiting etc have encouraged members' awareness of the wide-open field for voluntary service. Picnics, parties and theatre outings have been enjoyed.

The Trefoil Guild successfully ran the indoor teas on Village Day, while the Guides coped equally efficiently with the mammoth task of outdoor refreshments.
SE

The First Bookham Scouts are fortunate to have the interesting news sheets, packed full of information and produced by Frank Minter. Our space permits only three snippets. 4 members have received the highest troop

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Bookham Community Association
48 Downsway

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award, that of the Chief Scout, and 4 Cubs, the highest in their section, namely the Gold Arrow. Generous tribute is paid to the fair sex with a recommendation to sample the Ranger Guide Babysitting Service. At 20p per hour it is a good buy.

The Winemakers have held their AGM and re-elected Mr A Zoers as Chairman. It was also the occasion for the Autumn Wine Competition when 81 bottles in 8 classes were entered; new members won some of the awards. The Lancaster Cup for most points gained in the year's competitions went to Mrs Joyce Bean. Her husband, Derek, who won it last year, was way behind in second place.

DAB

REPORT TO THE VILLAGE FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Covenants are still needed. The Treasurer reported that, as a proportion of our original covenantors have lapsed at the end of the 7 year period, it is necessary to seek their renewals and appeal for new subscribers. As the BCA is a Charity, tax refunds under the covenants system make a useful addition to our income and the system is a painless one for the donor. An annual membership subscription of 50p, but preferably over, is requested. We appeal to our readers to think about this and inform Mr A G Medway, 35 The Garstons.

The Barn Hall account showed a loss on the year of £50, which was a creditable result, as the presence of the builders restricted lettings and expensive temporary heating had to be used during the cold weather.

The Association's own balance sheet showed a loss of £12.07, although the membership subscriptions had increased. It should be noted, in this connection, that the BCA heavily subsidises the Bookham Bulletin and we appeal to readers who appreciate this service to become members of the Association (30p per year). Miss M Corner, Bookham 58691 will assist if your Road Collector is not known to you.

Appreciation was expressed of a further grant to the Building Fund from Surrey County Council of £1660 and from the Leatherhead Urban District Council of the offer of a grant of £1500 and an interest-free loan of £500.

£16,000 has been raised by Bookham from its own resources towards the Building Fund. This was reported by the Secretary, Mrs P Meehan. We owe a great deal, she said, to Clubs, Organisations and many individuals who have raised money. Much 'back stage' work is continuing with painting, decorating, getting the Grounds back into shape, making up of curtains and a public address system.

Village Day, 1972, was again successful and raised a record sum. The date for 1973 is September 8th and there will also be a Village Week.

The first-ever Antiques Fair attracted a good attendance and much interest. It will be repeated in 1973 on 22nd September.

A Christmas Bazaar is planned for 10th November, 1973. Little working parties will, we hope, get together early in the new year. Anybody interested in joining a friendly group of this kind will be welcomed by Mrs C Medway, Bookham 54967 or Mrs S McLeod, Bookham 54809.

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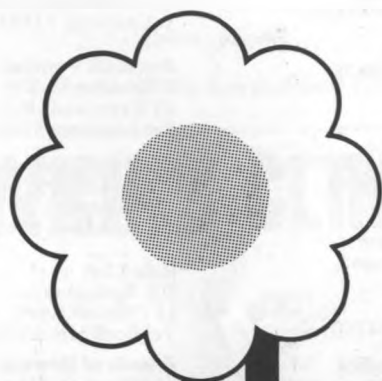
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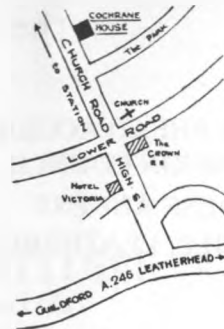
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