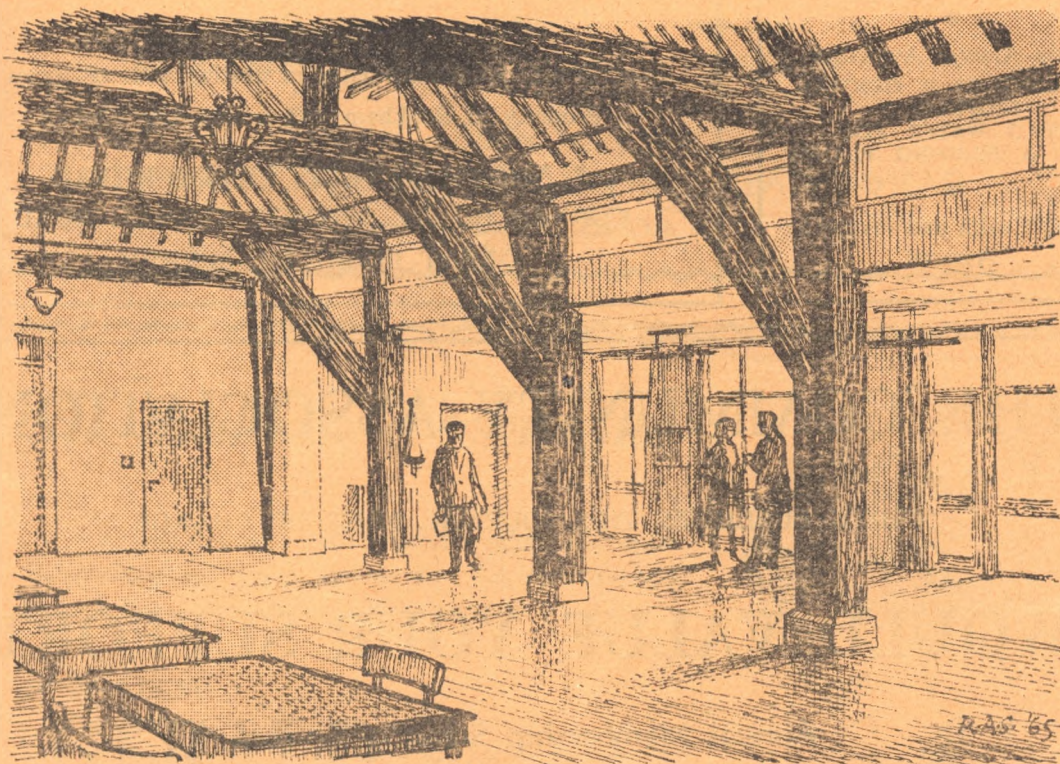


The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 134

Dec. 1967

34th Year

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No. 134

Dec. 1967

34th Year

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Representatives of Individual Members: Mesdames Cuddeford, Zoers, Edwards, Godwin, Stratford; Messrs. Larkin, Catt, Harrison, Cuddeford, Freeman, Rombach, Heels, Woodrow-Clark, Russell-Bates.

Past - President: Miss E. Micholls.

Hon. Life Member: Mr. R. Saunders.

Treasurer's Report. A very comprehensive survey of the finances of the Association shows that the balance left over for maintenance and extensions to the Hall is improving steadily by about £600 a year and that the total assets at the end of August, 1967, were £2,339.16.4.

The rents received from the Barn Hall over the year just met the basic outgoings with a small surplus of £45.11.8. Expenditure on maintenance, etc., was a further £187.16.9, which was met by an allocation from Village Day profits. The debit balance on the Barn Hall which has accrued over a number of years now stands at £436.19.10.

Profits from Village Day and Week were a few shillings short of £500.

There were donations of £21 from the Scottish Dancers and £40 from the Old Tyme Dance Club. Subscriptions totalled just over £80 and affiliation fees just over £10. Covenants and tax refunds came to £83.16.7.

The subsidy by the B.C.A. to the Bulletin was over £30.

Secretary's Report. The B.C.A. has 41 affiliated organisations, an increase of three since last year,

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and eight member clubs. The loss of the Barn Hall Club, due to dwindling support, has been offset by the incorporation of the Bookham Youth Club as an internal club of the Association. Membership has crept up to 665, reflecting mainly increasing membership of our clubs. The importance of more volunteer road stewards cannot be overstressed so that subscriptions can be collected from members with whom we are not in direct touch.

A successful Village Day and Village Week again demonstrated the close links provided by the B.C.A. between organisations and individuals in the locality to show the variety and standard of Bookham activities.

The continuance of the Bookham Bulletin was threatened by the resignation of the Advertisement Manager after several years of excellent work. A last-minute offer from a public-spirited volunteer rescued it. We are grateful to our advertisers and distributors who make possible this unique village journal.

Vital work in the maintenance of the Barn Hall inside and out is done by our Hall Committee and Grounds Committee. The Social Sub-Committee is to be congratulated on the enjoyable and profitable events it has organised.

The Othello production at the Polesden Lacey Open-Air Theatre

attracted audiences totalling close on 8,000, and the National Trust expresses its thanks to the B.C.A. for the big contribution it makes to the smooth running of this important event.

I put on record my own appreciation of the support given by the officers, the assistant secretary, the chairman and members of the executive committee and of the sub-committees, the caretaker and many individuals who contribute to the diversity of social and educational work sponsored by the Association as well as the maintenance of such an attractive Hall at very reasonable charges.

This Report cannot conclude without some reference to the continuous attacks during the year upon the Association and, more especially, its executive committee. These have imposed a severe strain upon your committee and it is my duty to commend the patience of all members under much provocation and the steadfastness of the chairman in defending what we considered our integrity of purpose. Criticisms, in the main, have arisen from misconceptions of the purpose and duties of the Association.

According to our Constitution, the aims and purpose of the Association can be summarised as the bringing together of organisations, individuals and local

authorities for the promotion of the welfare of the community of this area, to provide and manage a Community Centre and facilities for physical, mental and social training, recreation and development, and to foster a community spirit for such purposes.

Decisions on general policy are the prerogative of the Council of the Association, which is composed of representatives of the members, representatives of all affiliated organisations, the County Council and the Leatherhead U.D.C. This body ruled that there was a proven need, on evidence submitted, for an additional extension and a further hall to cater for a quickly growing population, and instructed the executive to this effect. It is also the responsibility of the Council at its first meeting of the year to elect the Executive Committee, which then becomes, under the Deed from the Charity Commissioners, the body of Trustees to manage the Barn Hall and site, with such buildings as may be hereafter erected upon it. The aims of the Trust, which exists for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Bookham, are identical in spirit to those of the Community Association, and it is the view of the executive that, in this connection, they have carried out their bounden duty correctly.

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The Flower Arrangement Group is increasing its scope and its membership and now has an established reputation among county clubs. As everyone knows, competitions are quite a feature of the Club itself and individuals are gaining successes in district and county contests. Quite recently Mrs. P. Medland gained an award for her arrangement, "Autumn," in the Horsley autumn show in which seven clubs participated, and Mrs. J. Jones came first, by popular choice, for her outstanding rose exhibit from 37 entries at the

coffee morning show arranged by the Ashtead, Bookham and Dorking clubs in aid of the blind of Surrey.

As yet no member has become a judge or demonstrator, though a number are competent so to do, but several talks have been given by individuals to local groups—Mrs. Medland to the informal Bookham group for housebound mothers, Mrs. McLeod to the Produce Group of the Afternoon W.I., and Mrs. Camp to the Women's Own of the Baptist Church.

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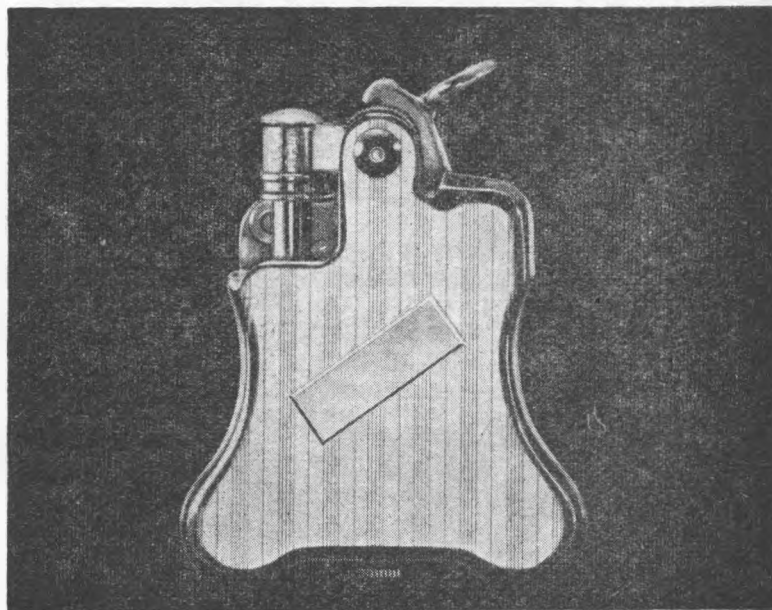
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A Red Cross Appeal. Is there a volunteer to take over the secretaryship of the Leatherhead Division of the Red Cross Society? It holds meetings monthly at the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, Leatherhead, when minutes are taken of which copies have to be typed. The Society depends on voluntary enthusiasm to carry on its work in first aid, nursing in the home and welfare. Enquiries can be made to Mrs. Lankester, 2, Clinton Road, Leatherhead (Tel. Leatherhead 3143).

Bookham Youth Club, which is a section of the B.C.A., is still getting good attendances on Monday evenings. The Barn Hall has also been put at its disposal, for the time being, on Tuesdays for specialised activities connected with the District Youth Leagues such as table tennis, billiards, darts, etc. An art group is meeting the same evening. They are all under the direction of Mrs. Teddy Weaver, who took over leadership of the club in the middle of the year.

She has arranged, too, a number of interesting Sunday walks in which some of the young people and the adult helpers join.

The club has donated a steel cupboard for the use of the old



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people of the Day Centre and the Over Sixties, who very much appreciate the hygienic storage space for perishables used in meals and refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Eckman, who have lived in Bookham for many years, have left their home at the Old Rectory, Little Bookham, and returned to America. Films were Mr. Eckman's life. He was the European and British representative of Metro Goldwyn-Mayer and also Managing Director of the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square. He had constructed a perfect little theatre in his garden for the private showing of films, to which came many film personalities and stars. Residents from the School of Stitchery and Lace were also in-

vited to these shows. For quite a number of years he had provided a pre-release film for the annual Charity Performance in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund at the local cinema.

His home in Belgravia has been sold, as well as his house in Rectory Lane, with its extensive grounds. His art treasures, including the many statues dotted about his garden in Bookham, have been sold by Sotheby's. Local people will be interested to know that the Old Rectory has connections with the Barretts of Wimpole Street. It was brought by Mr. Barrett for the purpose of secluding his daughter Elizabeth from the attentions of the young Robert Browning; but this move was frustrated by the elopement of the lovers.

Whist Club. The Community Association has been asked to form a Whist Club to replace the one which has met for a number of years at the Croft. It is hoped that this can be arranged to meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays in the Waterfield Room after Christmas. Look out for notices giving day and time.

Examination Results—Howard of Effingham School. Very creditable results were again achieved in the G.C.E. examinations: 25 candidates entered, four obtained six passes and five five passes. It is interesting to note that out of the 22 who entered for the important subject of English language there were 18 passes. There were 42 pupils entered in the C.S.E. examination and a number of these gained passes in the first grade which is equal to an O level pass.

An informal presentation of certificates to examinees is made each year. On this occasion a number of former teachers, as well as pupils, came quite a distance to attend this pleasant ceremony. One boy, for example, whose parents have moved from the district, who is attending a grammar school, came down from Manchester.

Awards for Afternoon W.I. Seven W.I.s entered the Emlyn Group competition for miniature shop windows and the winners were the Bookham Afternoon.

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The Institute's Drama Group also won one of the three silver stars awarded in the County Festival of Plays presented by W.I.s, in which there were 22 entries.

A Talented Family. Mrs. Dickinson, who has recently moved into Eastwick Drive and is one of our road stewards, is coping with what seems to be growing into an owner-occupational hazard in Bookham—an addition to the house. This one is a family enterprise, directed by her eldest son, who is a student at the Architectural Association School at Bedford Square. Helping during the vacations is the second son, who is studying Medicine at Cambridge, and the youngest boy, who has gone up to Leicester University this term for a Degree Course in Engineering.

Opportunities in Adult Education. Mrs. M. Everett, who is a keen committee member of the local W.E.A., and Mrs. D. Daily, another W.E.A. student, attended an interesting Anglo-American summer school at Rochester Uni-

versity College, U.S.A. Mrs. Everett has told us something about this. It was sponsored by Hull University, which has special links with Rochester, and was open only to bona-fide adult students. Ninety students went by chartered plane for a 16-day visit. The itinerary included a visit to Columbia University, New York, and McGill at Montreal. There was also time for a two-day visit to the Expo Exhibition.

Mrs. Everett was told about this trip by a Scottish friend whom she had met on a previous study course arranged by the W.E.A. at the Jan Masaryk Student Centre, Geneva, when the work of the United Nations and its many agencies had been explained by leading officials.

The impression left by both these courses, Mrs. Everett says, is that co-operation and understanding between peoples can work for peace. Although institutions like the United Nations can be no stronger than the collective will of the governments and people supporting them, the evident relief of human misery by practical idealists, such as those in the United Nations, builds up a climate of public opinion; this is reinforced by understanding generated when serious students of international affairs meet their like in other countries.

Today's Opportunities in Student Education. The difficulties of getting into Universities is increasingly highlighted, but we

must remember that never before were so many young people passing through them and going on to still higher studies. Mrs. Everett's daughter Judith is one of these. A 1967 graduate of Keele University, she has been accepted by Reading University, the first one on her list of preferences, for post-graduate work. She is to read for an M.A. by examination in contemporary European studies and is to concentrate on Southern Europe. The contemporary political scene is her prime interest. While studying for her first degree in P.P.E. she worked on some aspects of this, choosing for her thesis a survey of Brighton local councillors and taking a cross-section from each of the Parties to elicit and interpret their reasons for entering local government—we understand that not all of them were edifying!

Another Survey. The Bookham Bulletins have been scrutinised by Jennifer Kirk, of the Lower Road, who is in the third year of her Geography Course at Southampton University. Her thesis is: The effect of population growth on small communities. Bookham and Albury were selected by her for close examination. Factors she had to take into account were accessibility and Green Belt. As there is a complete file of Bulletins it was possible to extract from them interesting evidence of the effects of very high population increase since the war.

(Continued on Page 18)

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The Gramophone Club has had a rewarding series of concerts so far this season: commencing with a characteristic programme by Mr. Henry Haig of "Flourishes, Marches and Invocation," followed by an evening of Mozart by Mr. J. Davies, Mr. A. E. Jeal presented a selection of vocal and instrumental music ranging from Vivaldi to Handel. Mr. Hilton gave us background and useful information on how to get precisely the records desired by the collector at a reasonable price, illustrated by examples of his own enterprise. We had great pleasure in welcoming a former member who was prominent in the founding of the Club so many years ago, Mrs. Mabel Everett, whose examples of recorded poetry and dramatic readings were greatly appreciated.

A member of the Club will always be sure of hearing music with which he or she is not familiar or presented in a context which throws a fresh emphasis on its qualities; we have a reputation for a friendly atmosphere and anyone who is interested is welcome to drop into the Barn Hall on our alternate Thursday evenings. A. H.

A Ploughing Champion. 21-year-old Ian Young, of Keswick Road, won the Lord Bennett Memorial Cup as the best young farmer ploughman in the Surrey County Agricultural Society's annual ploughing match held at Send when there were 50 entrants,

experience on farms since he was 17 and will shortly enter on a year's theoretical course at the County's agricultural centre at Merrist Wood where he hopes to concentrate on his primary interest, farm machinery.

It is not surprising that Ian decided to make the land his career. His mother, who is an old member of the Afternoon W.I., is an expert on food values and speaks authoritatively on purity in food and the dangers of contamination from pesticides and other causes.

The Oboe is His Instrument. John Pullen, of East Street, is a student in the three-year course for performers at the Royal College of Music, and has already achieved success on concert platforms. With two of his fellow students he has formed the Non-such Trio which has made a number of public appearances. Very recently his parents, who are also musical, had the pleasure of hearing him play Vivaldi's oboe concerto, with the Erato Orchestra, at St. Dunstan's, Cheam. John, who was at the Glyn Grammar School, developed his interest in music when he was at the Bookham School and was encouraged by his teacher, Mr. David Lumsdaine. Many local people will know that Mr. Lumsdaine is now a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music and one of the group of young composers who are winning national recognition in the field of contemporary music.

The Bookham Youth Centre at Southey Hall is now under construction and its completion is expected by next September. It is not a Club in the ordinary sense of the term, but is available for the use of any youth organisation in Bookham, or the district around, which is doing responsible work. It is also expected that there will be open evenings of activities in which individual young people can participate.

England Comes to Bookham. The attractions of the Barn Hall as a show centre are becoming widely known. The Chinchilla Club have booked it for a day in January and we understand that enthusiasts from the north and other parts of the country will be travelling down for it. We hope that it will be possible to provide lunch for them from our well-appointed kitchen.

A Record to be Proud Of. The Girl Guides 3rd Company are to be congratulated on producing nine Queen's Guides in five years. Merrion Lancaster and Jennifer Day have recently completed the battery of tests. Earlier in the year Pamela Mills, daughter of Mrs. M. Mills, the indefatigable Captain, and one of a keen family of Guiders and Scouters, received the Queen's Award.

It is interesting to hear that, of the group of four who qualified earlier, Janet Moon is now at Nottingham University, Valerie Fortescue is at the Liverpool Teachers' Training College, Dorinda Lancaster is training for

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computer programming at Ronsons, and Marilyn Stark is engaged in market research. The two last, who are still in Bookham, are assisting with the Guides in positions of responsibility.

Au Revoir to Mr. and Mrs. Savage, who are leaving their Bookham home for some two years. The tenants who take over Preston Farm House will enjoy one of the most beautiful gardens in the district, which its owners have created from a wilderness in their eight years of residence

Mr. F. S. Savage has spent 42 years in local government and became chief financial officer of Leatherhead at the age of 23. Two years later, in 1933, Ashstead, Fetcham and Bookham were incorporated with Leatherhead, which then became the Leatherhead Urban District. He has seen the district grow from a population of 18,000 to 38,000 and the rateable value increase from £175,000 to nearly £2½ million. He is a clear, concise and witty speaker and will find scope for his special talents and knowledge in his new post as Lecturer in local government finance at the Kenya Institute of Administration. He himself will welcome this opportunity for useful work in training Africans for the higher posts in local and national government and for taking responsibility in commercial and industrial enterprises.

Mr. Savage has been president of the Bookham Camera Club, the Leatherhead Rotary Club and

the local N.A.L.G.O. branch. He has always been a friend of the Community Association and so has his wife, who is a founder-member and active worker in the Flower Arrangement Group and a Bulletin distributor. Mrs. K. Savage will also be missed by the St. Lawrence Club for the over-sixties of which she was treasurer.

They will be accompanied to Kenya by their 21-year-old daughter, who was a student of interior decoration and design for three years at the Guildford School of Art, and Miss Hilda Hatch, sister of Mrs. Savage, who lives with the family. When they reach their new home they hope to meet their son who is in South Africa training to serve as a parish priest in the Zululand mission field.

A Theatre or Concert Trip? The social sub-committee of the B.C.A. has been under pressure to arrange coach parties to theatres and concerts, etc. One or two of these have been organised and have been much enjoyed. The main difficulty has been the scattered nature of our membership, but a method has been devised to overcome this. Mrs. Mabel Everett has kindly agreed to take over the organisation. Members of the Association who would like to participate are asked to get in touch with her at Brandreth, Sole Farm Road (Tel. 2404), if they wish to be informed of the events to be arranged during the winter

Assistant Scoutmaster sets his Sights High. Michael Woolley, who was Assistant Scoutmaster with the 1st Bookhams, is enjoying his stay at Hamble, the Air Training College, where he is preparing for the civil airline. We are sorry to lose him and his parents—Mrs. Woolley has been a keen member of the Old Tyme Dance Club for a long time—who have moved down to Hassocks from the Lorne. Mr. Woolley has been transferred to the Headquarters of the South Eastern Electricity Board in Brighton.

Leatherhead Accident Prevention Council warns on winter hazards:

Adjust headlamps so that driver gets maximum light where needed without dazzling

In fog by day, use dipped headlamps or even full beam rather than insignificant sidelights so that oncoming traffic will know that you are there; warm up engine before starting so that there is no stalling on taking right-hand turns in a busy road.

Floods. After passing carefully through the water so that it is not thrown over the engine by the fan, the brakes should be dried by holding the brakes slightly on for about 100 yards, driving on the accelerator. The heat engendered will dry out the linings which otherwise might prove ineffective.

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