

August 1971  
No 145  
38th Year

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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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

August 1971

No 145

38th Year

*Editor:* Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 5702

*Distribution:* G Everett. Telephone Bookham 2404

*Advertisements:*

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 5730

## EDITORIAL

The last issue of The Bookham Bulletin was distributed in January, a long time ago, and usually it appears at three monthly intervals. We are being asked – why the delay? The answer is the quite simple one that frustrates us all – rising costs. Although our advertisers have generously accepted increased charges, a heavy subsidy is still required from the Community Association.

To find a reliable printer and to meet the bill was a problem which seemed insoluble and it appeared that The Bulletin, after 37 years of existence, would die. Its demise would have lifted a load from those involved in its production and distribution but the Community Association never has – and we hope never will – relinquish responsibilities which it has taken on.

Fortunately, after investigating a number of abortive propositions, the answer came, as it were, out of the blue. Surrey Litho Limited, which is right on our doorstep, offered us, and we have accepted, a contract for a year to print The Bulletin. They have already done work for us expeditiously and well. They are an up-and-coming organisation. We are all hoping that our Bookham Bulletin which, in its way, is quite unique, will be starting in this issue on a new lease of life.

One of the factors which weighed most strongly with our committee in making its decision was the fact that our recent 'membership drive' brought a spectacular rise in our numbers. It was evident to us, as we learned from our canvass, that many people appreciated The Bulletin. We did not want to disappoint our new recruits. We are, however, all hoping that others, who may

like our modest little journal, will also respond by becoming members.

The fee – only 15p per annum, due now. In case of difficulty our membership secretary, Miss Mary Corner, Bookham 5691, can help. It may be timely to repeat, at the risk of being tedious, that a rising membership helps the Community Association in the wider work that it does. The Bulletin is only a small facet of its important task of promoting a neighbourhood spirit in the village by taking responsibility for the Barn Hall, by encouraging clubs and activities there for all sections of the population, by developing links between the many local organisations through its Council and by the media of Village Day. Its constitution is such that all members have the power to elect at the A.G.M. the Council of the Association which, in its turn elect the Executive who then automatically become the Trustees of the Barn Hall. This is a very worthwhile exercise in democracy in a day and age when the 'grassroots' are being increasingly bypassed. And the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre should not be forgotten as an enterprise which we launched and still continue to service. We, with your help, are in the position of being able to open windows on blind alleys which could, if explored, lead to the enrichment of the lives of those living in our locality and even further afield.

We can assure you that we have lit a torch in Surrey. Keep it alight. Come and join us and, if you can, participate.

On a more practical note – may we draw your attention to our advertisers. Without their cooperation The Bulletin would be non-existent. Please support them and tell them that you have noted their contribution.

It is important that all members should get a Bulletin. A shortage of copies and a limited range of circulation makes this difficult. If anybody is not receiving one, the Editor would be glad to hear and will endeavour to make one available.



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## VILLAGE DAY

Village Day was a great success, thanks to close on 3,000 people who turned up in force and transformed what could have been a disaster into a triumph. On the evening before, a gloomy group of organisers sat in the Waterfield Room, listened to the rain pouring down without a break, could do nothing in the way of preparation and could not even agree to postpone the event in view of the number of local functions publicised for the following week. In any case it was obvious that the back field would be waterlogged. The only alternative was to hope that the Saturday would be fine and that the stalls and sideshows could be squeezed around the Barn Hall itself.

Under normal circumstances a rainy Village Day would be a disappointment but, on this particular occasion when it was so necessary to raise big money for the Building Fund, a washout was unthinkable.

Fortunately the morning dawned fine. Herculean efforts were made by stall holders and sideshow helpers to erect what proved to be a gay and exciting ensemble. The goodwill of all concerned deserves the highest praise. Everyone was prepared to compromise and those who had to take the muddy patches did it with good grace.

The microphone turned awkward at the opening ceremony and the President's remarks, perhaps mercifully, were inaudible. Councillor S J Taylor, who formally opened the Day, wisely rejected the microphone and, in his usual vigorous manner, reminded everybody that the Barn Hall needed the last penny from the pockets of all comers. Alas, not all those pennies were spent because the bottlenecks in places were such that many stalls could not be reached without a lengthy wait. There is, however, still plenty of time to donate to the Extension Fund, but we are, nevertheless, pleased to report that a sum of £854 was raised, the highest total ever for Village Day.

It would be invidious to single out for praise any individual stall where all worked so hard but perhaps we should give credit to our youngest helpers – the Guides – who, together with the Trefoil Guild, took on the organisation of the refreshments at very short notice. They produced delicious cakes, sausages and rolls, and other goodies,

all beautifully laid out and served, as well as endless cups of tea. It was a truly public-spirited gesture on their part in so far as they are heavily involved in equipping their own new Centre. At the other end of the scale we ought to note the contribution of our senior citizens, the Over Sixties, who never let us down and again manned and equipped their popular 'Pick and Take' stall.

All who visited the Exhibition, 'Our Local Secondary School' were impressed by the range and quality of the work shown by the Howard of Effingham School. Not everybody would realize that this representative collection had been assembled and set out in the middle of the turmoil caused by end-of-the-year examinations. Staff and pupils had willingly given extra time not only to the planning but also to the layout, so that a complete picture could be given of the curriculum. It could be aptly said that the best part of the exhibition was the students themselves who were so competent in answering the many questions posed to them and in explaining the significance of individual items and their relevance to the subject under study.

We were sorry that the fashion show had to be circumscribed to the pathway in front of the Hall and could only be seen by a limited number of people. Many of us had been looking forward to the gymnastic display, for which the school is so justly renowned, but this had to be cancelled because of the dangerous state of the field.

The gay music of the Group and the colourful marquee provided by the Council of Churches (which this year included all the churches in the locality) was a distinct asset to the occasion.

We attach below, as promised, a list of the tradesmen who so generously donated prizes and warmly thank them for their cooperation:

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### VILLAGE WEEK

Uncertainties as to the start of building at the Barn Hall precluded the organisation of a Village Week, but we were able to put on the usual Village Day Dance, which was an enjoyable evening with Johnny Waldoock and his Band. We are looking forward to having them again at the New Year's Eve Dance which will, as usual, be organised by Dr John Sowerbutts and Mrs Dulcie Cuddeford. We advise our readers to make a note of this in their diaries. Although by this time we shall have a larger hall, tickets will still be limited and bookings should be made early.

On the Tuesday following Village Day we took the opportunity to show live the Music Department of the Howard of Effingham School which had only been able to put on a static display in the Exhibition. It was incorporated in:

#### *An Anthology of Music, Poetry and Song*

The Barn Hall is an attractive venue for instrumental and choral music. Its atmosphere of dignity and restfulness makes listening a pleasure. Although the audience could have been larger there was a rapport between it and the participants which made the evening quite an inspiring one.

Some 21 students from the School in their attractive uniforms played excerpts from the works of leading composers, including Haydn and Schumann. An interesting item was a Soliloquy and Gigue for the French Horn, rendered by one of the girls. The 2nd year choir sang one of the few Surrey folk songs, 'The Sweet Nightingale' and another traditional piece 'The Cuckoo' was performed by The Guitar and Glockenspiel Ensemble. Miss Portlock, Head of the Music Department accompanied, directed and inspired them.

The theme of bird song and music was

taken up in the poetry readings by a male and female student from Ewell Technical College: 'Ode to a Nightingale' by Keats, 'To the Cuckoo' by Wordsworth, 'A Musical Instrument' by E.B. Browning and 'Music when soft voices die' by Shelley.

Thirty members of the Bookham Choral Society came with their conductor, Ralph Nicholson and their deputy conductor David Jones who is, incidentally, Music Director of Guildford Grammar School. They sang a selection of madrigals, both sad and glad, including the moving 'Let down the bars' by Dickinson/Barber and the lively and enigmatic 'Three of Five Epigrams' by Burns/Maw.

A noticeable point of the evening was that not only did the audience enjoy it but the participants also got pleasure from listening to each other. It was one of those combinations in which the sum was greater than the parts and we have noted the requests that we should try to arrange more such occasions.

Our Treasurer was also pleased to receive some £14 towards the Building Fund.

On the afternoon of the same Saturday, the Bookham Bowling Club, one of our Association clubs, organised a Spoons Drive. To the uninitiated this means a bowling competition to which there is an open invitation. The winners receive silver spoons. Rivalry was keen but tempers, as is the way with bowlers, were quite cool. The result was a sum of £10 towards our Building Fund.

### LETTER FROM THE B.C.A. PRESIDENT

20th July 1971

The Hon. Secretary and I have today signed the Contract with the builders to go ahead with the construction of the extensions to the Barn Hall. When you read this letter you will see the work in progress on the site. The firm of Jones and Harvey Ltd are contractors and they are already working in the district on the new block to the Eastwick Junior School and have a number of other commissions from the County Council.

As officers of the Community Association we have signed in accordance with your instructions at the last meeting of the Council of the Association. After full explanations of the financial implications, given by the

Chairman, the nearly unanimous resolution was passed that the second side extension and the stage should be completed as well as the flat, and the shell of the rear Hall.

I feel that I should remind all our members and affiliated organisations that this mandate was given by you, and it is our conviction that you will not let us down. Mrs Meehan, as Secretary, and I, as President, have accepted a grave personal responsibility; but we have faith in Bookham.

Completion of the building will be in November, when we must meet the bill. Here are the figures to which I call the attention of our members, our affiliated organisations and all residents in Bookham on whom we also rely for support.

After a number of economies, which will entail much voluntary labour on our part when the building is up, the cost of the building is some £25,000. A grant (the maximum possible) of £5,735 has been offered by the Ministry of Education and Science.

A sum of half of this in the proportion of 60% from the County Council and 40% from the Leatherhead Urban District Council, totalling £2,867, has been promised. An interest free loan of £1,350 has been offered by the Leatherhead Urban District Council. Our own Building Fund, at the time of writing, stands as follows: At December 19th 1970, before the Appeal was officially launched, £4,254. From the walk, £1193. An additional sum has been raised since December by events, donations etc. of £4,254.

When all the sums are done it is clear that we shall have a deficit of just over £5,500 to be met by November.

Unfortunately difficulties of organisation have upset our plans for the distribution and collection of letters, addressed to all residents in the village by the sponsor of the Appeal, Councillor S.J. Taylor. Some of you will have received the letters and been visited by our collectors. Some of you may have received the appeal but not yet seen our collectors. Others may not yet have received your letters. We apologise for this, but emphasise that the urgency is an immediate one.

So, may I remind you, as our Sponsor has already said, that we need, in the following order – donations and/or interest free loans. We would also appreciate the offer of interest

free loans of £100 which would only be called for if we have not met our target by November.

We can assure you that we are following up every means at our disposal of borrowing money if we fall short of the necessary £5,691, but we are reluctant to saddle ourselves with high interest payments which would impose a financial burden for the future.

I speak for the Association as a whole when I say that we are completing the extensions for the village as a whole, not for any section of it. Please help us now.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr A.G. Medway, will be pleased to receive at Lloyds Bank, any sum however small or any offer of help. Envelopes should be addressed to: Treasurer B.C.A., Lloyds Bank, Gt. Bookham.

Yours sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Harrison,* President B.C.A.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT

**Good wishes to Guides.** The Bulletin record would be incomplete without reference to the official opening of the new District Headquarters (off Keswick Road) by Lady Patience Baden-Powell. The ceremony, though formal, was a pleasant one due, in part, to the charm of Lady Patience and the poise of the Guides who welcomed the guests, offered refreshments and made them feel 'at home'.

It was a great disappointment to the President, Miss E. Micholls, who has done so much for so long for Bookham Guides, that she was in hospital, but her message of goodwill was read. The dedication was made by the Rev. Bruce Hardy. The District Commissioner, Mrs J. Spicer, offered a vote of thanks to the opener and to the many parents and grandparents, and Guides' Supporters who had laboured to decorate and furnish the new centre.

**Hughes House,** officially opened on June 12th, by Canon Alec Hughes, Rector of Great Bookham 1934–1964, is a block of four one-roomed flatlets for elderly ladies. A rent contribution of £2.50 is paid by each resident and this includes the cost of under-floor heating.

It stands on the gardens of the former tenants of Frere Cottages and was commi-

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ssioned by the Trustees of the Bookham United Charities, of whom the Clerk is Mr R. Bishop. In accordance with the various Charitable Trust Acts the Bookham United Charities, so named, was established in its present form by the Charity Commission and is an amalgamation of the Henry Smith (Iwood Estate) Charity, and the John Browne, Sir George Shiers and Frere Cottages Charities.

**National Trust.** Bookham is ringed with National Trust properties. Bookham Commons is the first that springs to mind and deserves the support of the neighbourhood. Mr Harold Freeman, of the Garstons, will be happy to answer enquiries from residents as to how they can help the Commons and become members of the National Trust. During and after the War it deteriorated. The undergrowth was rapidly taking over but the untiring work of Mr E.F. Youngman, the Keeper, is restoring the delights of the old drives and opening up new vistas.

The recently-opened Clandon Park House is within easy distance and deserves a visit. It is furnished with beautiful antiques and interesting pictures. The decorations are tasteful and the restored ceilings are quite striking. Refreshments are available in the arched basement, formerly the domestics' quarters. One room has been retained to demonstrate the old kitchen with its oven and cooking equipment of antiquarian interest. The remainder makes a restful and charming tearoom. Volunteers are on hand to welcome and guide.

Box Hill and Polesden are known to us all and it is to be noted that the latter is 12th in the league table of the 55 Trust properties visited in 1970.

Local people may not be so generally aware that Juniper Hall is a centre used by the Field Studies Council. Here hundreds of young people, mainly sixth formers and undergraduates, are able to enjoy at reasonable cost a weeks intensive course in geology or geography in the open air under the scientific guidance of its Director, John Sankey and other specialists. It is noted for its emphasis on botanical studies.

It was the home of Fanny Burney, after her marriage Madame D'Arblay, a literary figure of significance whose work was much

admired by Dr Johnson and who moved freely in the Court circles of George III. Her novels and her lively diaries are not much read nowadays but they are entertaining and evocative of the life of her times.

How many Bookhamites know that she and her husband moved later to the Hermitage, almost opposite the Bookham parish church where they spent a number of happy years. Although the frontage has changed the rear is much as it was in her day and the interior retains many of the old features she would have known.

**Former Pupil** at Great Bookham School, Judith Everett, has married and is now Mrs Wooldridge. She is living in New Jersey, USA, where her husband, who has a Ph.D in chemical engineering is working for Alcan. She met her husband at Birmingham University where she was in the Centre for Urban Studies following her M.A. from Reading University awarded on a thesis on European Contemporary Studies.

She has just joined a team of young academics who are working on an Urban Opinion Survey, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, on Poverty and Minimum Wages.

**Another Former Pupil** of Great Bookham School, Peter Waldock, who was with Judith at Keele University, has been in Toronto for some years and has also recently married. He holds a top executive position in Penguins (Longmans). Many Bookham people will remember him and his parents who, until a few years ago, lived in Sole Farm Road.

**Secretary of the Over Sixties Club**, Mrs Mary Longhurst, is just back from Canada where she has been holidaying with her uncle who has a large farm in Calgary. She was accompanied by her mother who found it all a great adventure. While they were over there they were able to meet Mary's cousin, Miss Doris Longhurst, who is in Vancouver.

The vacation was timed to enable Mary to be back in time to take charge, as she did last year, of the week's holiday at Selsey for the old people of the Leatherhead district, financed and organised by the Leatherhead and District Old Peoples Welfare Association.

**Son joins Father's Firm.** Tony Catt has joined his father's firm, Albright (Engineers Ltd), which was formed just after the War.

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Tony brings to the establishment wide experience in technical salesmanship after working in Photain, of Leatherhead, and, later as Sales Engineer South of Thames for Electro Automat, Manchester, who are in the field of transformers, rectifiers and associated Equipment.

His young wife, too, is in the industrial field. She continues, since her marriage and removal to Peaslake, to run the office in Barn Meadow Lane of her father, Mr George Baxter, electrical contractor.

**Veterans of the Old Time Dance Club**, Eric and Doris Dunmur had the pleasure at the beginning of the year of going to Regensburg for the marriage of their younger son, Richard, to Fraulein Gisela Zeli. The young couple are now living in Ludwigsburg where Richard is doing post doctoral research at Stuttgart University. Like so many of our bright young people, he started at Great Bookham School, went on to Glyn and graduated at Leicester University in Chemistry. He followed with a post graduate course at Loughborough and was invited by his professor to go with him to the University of Braunschweig, Germany, where he completed his thesis and was accordingly awarded the degree of Ph.D. of Loughborough University.

**Another Young Academic** is John Hudson, whose parents live in Whiteway. After the completion of his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Southampton University in July last year, he is now with D.O.W. Chemicals at Hargen, Switzerland.

His brother, Michael, also took a Ph.D. in Chemistry, but at London University. He is now teaching at St. Paul's School, Barnes, is married and living at Redhill.

**The Kenilworth Equitation Centre** adjoins the new South Bookham Infants School and the children are deeply interested in observing the horses in the fields around. Mr H.M.Pollak, the owner of the establishment, has been most cooperative in allowing the open fence to remain, instead of a close boarded one, so that the infants may continue to use this facility which can be utilized by the teachers for the development of the

first skills in scientific observation. It is a typical gesture of the Head of this equestrian centre with its special emphasis on education in the sphere of riding.

An example of his policy is the organisation during the summer vacation of two one-week riding camps for children with, or without, their own ponies, when instruction will be given in the care and management of horses and other related topics.

The Centre is, to use a rather inappropriate metaphor, a 'hive of activity'. During June and July many events took place, among them the Open Show in which 200 horses entered, and the Junior Jumping Gymkhana in July.

An important summer event was the Under 17's Dressage Competition. At the adult level the Bookham and Kenilworth Riding Club has won through the first round of The Riding Clubs Dressage Competition, organised by the National Equestrian Society. Our congratulations to them – we hope that they will reach the finals to be held in Warwickshire.

#### AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Evenings are beginning to close in earlier, much of the fruit crop is gathered in, the sound of lawn mowers is not quite so incessant and we are starting to think about our autumn activities.

Our Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club gets off to an early start on September 1st. Officially it starts at 8 pm, but novices are welcome, if they so wish, to come along at 7.30 pm, when experienced members are at hand to guide them in the basic steps. There is always something 'on the go' in the club. Its members give great help in Barn Hall events. A prime example of this was the 'Dress Show' with a Difference', which was organised by Mrs L.Slark who is a popular adult education instructor. The outfits made and shown by her students were truly haut couture and were modelled with quite professional elegance. Members of the Old Time Dance Club provided stalls and refreshments, and so raised £100 for the Building Fund.

The Community Association's Gramophone Club strikes rather a different note, but it is a pleasant one. It will achieve its 20th anniversary this season and plans to celebrate this appropriately in February. Membership,

*Eve*

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after a temporary recession, is quickly building up again as people find how enjoyable and relaxing it is to listen to music, ably presented, in the Barn Hall setting. It was decided at the A.G.M. that this setting was most important and that, with increased membership, it would be possible to meet the rising cost of the present Hall. The programme, which is being arranged by Mr Morris, will be well balanced. At each fortnightly meeting a different person does the presentation. Members of the club, both old and new, and enthusiasts from outside the club with specialist interests willingly give their time to the compilation of an evening's programme.

The objective is a range of music both instrumental and vocal which will meet with approval from the majority of serious listeners. J.E.Davies and A.E.Jeal are presenting the first two concerts. Two non-members who merit mention are R.M.Gascoigne, with a mainly operatic programme, and Mrs Teague, who as a one-time member of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, is certainly well qualified to present a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan.

The Scottish Dancers commence their session on September 10th and it is generally known that this is a friendly group in which there is a place for the expert and the beginner.

The bowlers come inside on October 4th and their two indoor rinks give great scope for skill quite as high as the more familiar grass ones.

The Flower Arrangement Group keeps going all the year. Its annual garden party was much enjoyed. September will be a practice meeting which is always popular. Even the most proficient seem to learn something from them even though it may only be finding new ways of helping the novices. On the first Monday of the subsequent months the demonstrators are Mrs Seaman Reed, Mrs M.Rowlatt and Mrs Woolley. A new departure this year is a luncheon on 14th October in the Leatherhead Parish Hall followed by a demonstration and an exhibition of flower paintings by Mr Thomas Hill

Another club which never takes a break is the Afternoon Bridge Club which meets every Monday, with the exception of the

first when it meets on Thursday. Play is available from 1.30 to 5.30. More variety is being worked into the programme. Once every two months there is partnership bridge and, similarly, every two months duplicate bridge.

Rehearsals will start soon in the Dramatic Society for the November play but activities are also arranged for those who may not be participating in this. Members are making strenuous efforts to raise money for the Barn Hall Building Fund. The standards they achieve on the inadequate Church House stage are quite remarkable and they are looking forward to spreading their wings on the new one specially planned for the Barn Hall.

**The Effingham Institute of Further Education** has close links with the Community Association. The Area Principal, Mr Stott, who covers the Leatherhead and Dorking Institutes, as well as our own area, attends the meetings of our Council. Mr G Scoble, Principal of the Effingham Institute is well known to many of us. Incidentally, he completed the full course of The Walk and was sponsored by the Students' Union. Mr Stott, too, although new to our area, was enthusiastic enough to participate and also completed the 20 miles.

The number of activities we can accommodate within the Barn Hall is limited but the Institute, based mainly on the schools, is an important part of the provision made by the County to Further Education. There is something of interest for everyone from the age of 15 onwards in the unprecedented number and variety of leisure courses arranged for the 1971-72 session.

It is interesting to note that no fewer than a dozen Language for Travel courses are being offered. New topics are being introduced into the cookery classes, such as cooking with wine and how to get the best value from meat and poultry.

All the already well-known courses on the physical recreation side will continue, including Fencing. Ballroom dancing with one group for beginners in Latin-American style and Archery and Tennis classes are planned for the summer.

Particular emphasis is placed on the social side. In the main centre the canteen is open during the break period to allow students to take refreshments and meet each other.

Enrolments for classes are at the Howard of Effingham School only on 13th, 14th September; for clubs 15th September. Times 7-9 pm. The autumn term begins on 20th September. Prospectuses can be obtained from local libraries and various shops. Further information can be obtained from Principal G F Scoble, The Chase, Guildford Road, or the Vice Principal, C Thompson, 'Poltarne', Chalk Lane, East Horsley.

**Bookham Football Club** has, for the first time ever, sent us a News Letter. Congratulations to Andy Nevill, who has produced it. Members of the club will undoubtedly enjoy it. Football is, of course, the main item but it is also obvious that the social side is being catered for with barbecues, dinner dances, jumble sales and a discotheque.

Play begins on the first Saturday in September but training will start earlier. Young men interested in joining should contact John Glenister (see Bulletin Directory).

**Final Note to all Organisations** and residents. The Editor is eager to receive news of your doings. We hope that in future the Bulletin will appear regularly, so, as soon as yours arrives, begin to think how you can help me to fill the next issue.

To all users of the Barn Hall the B.C.A. Executive wishes me to say that the Hall will not be out of use at any time during building operations. There may, occasionally be a little dust and dislocation, but the break-through into the main hall will be one of the final operations and the gap will be screened.

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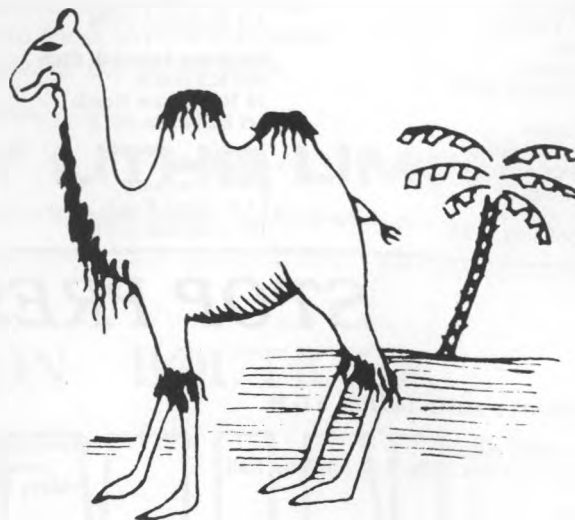
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## STOP PRESS

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

All members invited  
Tuesday, October 26th, 8.15 pm Barn Hall

#### Agenda

##### *Reports and Minutes*

*Election of Officers  
Election of Vice-Presidents  
Election of Assistant Secretary  
Election of Membership Secretary  
Election of Hon. Solicitor & Hon. Auditor  
Election of 30 representatives of members  
to Council of Association*

##### *General Business*

*Nominations may be sent for all positions to  
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*Note  
Garden Society Show is at the Barn Hall on Sunday,  
September 12th - very much a village occasion.*



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