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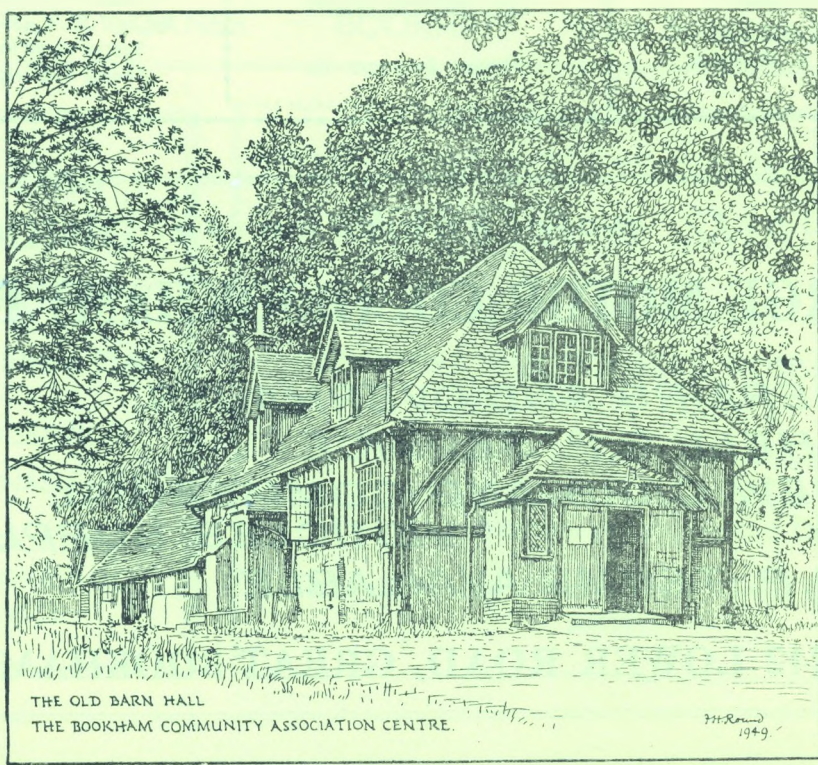
The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 97

MARCH 1958.

26th year



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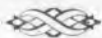
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 97.

MARCH, 1958.

26th year

EDITORIAL

The future of "Gilmals" Swimming Pool still lies in the balance, but it is encouraging to know that the Leatherhead Urban District Council has recommended that planning permission should not be given to a scheme for the demolition of the Pool and the erection of houses on the site. The Council were undoubtedly influenced by the strength of public opinion in this matter. The Community Association was able to act on this occasion as a vehicle for local feeling. By its constitution it provides a means whereby the reaction of local organisations as well as individuals can be made known and presented in the proper quarters. It was at a meeting of its own Council, which includes representatives of all affiliated local organisations (including the local Conservative and Labour Associations), representatives of individual members and of the Urban District Council and the County Council, that a unanimous resolution was passed deploring the possible loss of the Swimming Pool and requesting the Local Authorities to adopt all means within their power to preserve this amenity for the neighbourhood.

For many years now the Association has stressed the need for more open spaces and recreational facilities. We are aware that the cost of these must be reflected in the rates, but, at the same time, the increase in population should absorb the extra cost. Moreover self help on the basis of united action to preserve some existing facility can often be more effective than money, provided that an organisation exists through which that voluntary help can be channelled. It would be a tragedy if Bookham became just another suburb for the lack of a long-term plan for the provision of facilities for healthy and worthwhile leisure. It will be too late to moan when the neighbourhood is built up and no space is left. Our observation of other neighbourhoods shows that this has happened all too frequently in the past, when the public and its representatives were not alert and willing to shoulder individual and collective responsibility.

It is ironic that while citizens of Dorking are pressing for swimming facilities and trying to raise the money to provide these, Bookham should be in the situation of destroying a Pool which is re-

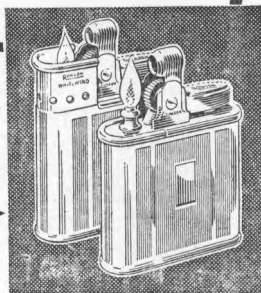
garded generally as a major attraction.

One can sympathise with the feelings of private proprietors who are faced with the hazards of the weather and the fickleness of public support. It would be a good thing if some method could be devised of guaranteeing public support. It must be remembered, however, that not all desirable things show a cash return. One principle does seem to stand out clearly, that for the citizens of today and to-morrow the people of this village must see to it that amenities must not only be preserved but increased, and there are many ways of doing this.

The Community Association claims that it exists for this purpose and that it has shown this by actions as well as words. The Association, however, is only as strong as its parts and it cannot work miracles. A much larger membership is necessary if its aims are to be carried out. For a modest fee of 2/6 per annum any individual can give this support. If, over and above this, he can give his personal service, so much the better. The address of the Secretary can be found at the end of the *Bulletin*.



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OBITUARY

The sudden death of Mr. Percy John Hewitt on January 10th at the age of 56 was a great shock to all of us. During his fourteen years as the first Headmaster of the Howard of Effingham Secondary School he had taken an active interest in local affairs, and, after his resignation from this post in 1954, he continued his work for local sport, in which he had taken a leading position. Swimming, fishing and golf were his own particular hobbies and he was a member of Effingham Golf Club, but it was in the direction of boxing, especially for boys, that he gave his outstanding service. He had been Secretary of the Leatherhead Working Men's Club Boxing Team and later became Secretary of the Southern Counties Amateur Boxing Association, an office he held up to the time of his death. He officiated at several of their big international meetings.

He was always willing to assist in those activities which could stimulate an interest amongst local people in their own affairs, and it will be remembered by parents of his former pupils that he had been instrumental in forming a Parents' Association at the Secondary School. Unfortunately, owing to difficulties of transport and the scattered nature of the school's population, this came to an end. He had also given much of his time to the development of an effective Youth Council for Bookham and Effing-

ham. In the early days of the formation of the Community Association he served on the Committee which did so much to make this a practical proposition.

Our deep sympathies are extended to Mrs. Hewitt and her family in their sad loss.

As we go to press we learn with great regret of the death of Mr. F. H. Round, who was a good friend of the Association and will be remembered not only for his work on the covers of the *Bulletin*, but also for his etchings generally.

His work will be seen for many years on the cover of the Parish Magazine, as well as *The Bookhams Bulletin*. As an artist his work was a delight, always so meticulous in detail and restful to look at.

Perhaps better known to our readers for his etchings, his water colours were colourful and had a lightness about them that were typical of Mr. Round's style. He was a great supporter of the open-air theatre at Polesden Lacey, and made the original sketch of the proposed stage. Year by year he made the "notices" which were such a help to the audiences, a dreary routine job always cheerfully carried out in his clear script.

He will be missed by many, but his art will live on.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Congratulations.

To Walter Thrush who has gained entry to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

To Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Gay on the birth of their son, Robert John.

To Mr. John Lambert who, after leaving Oxford, attained the distinction of a place at the College of Europe, Bruges.

Convalescents.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. E. E. Oldershaw, and Mr. V. Rogers who are now home after a period in hospital.

Wedding.

Our good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. John Kates who were married recently at St. Nicolas Church. Mrs. Kates (nee Miss Margaret Edwards) was well known in the village and she has many relations here. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Edwards, gave much assistance in the early days of the Community Association, and Margaret, even in her schooldays, was interested in its activities. We hope that she will settle happily in her new home in Harrow.

OLD TYME DANCE CLUB

The Old Tyme Dance Club is having a very successful season. Club nights every Wednesday evening at the Barn Hall are well supported by members, and the monthly dances at the Church House attract many visitors. There are now 50 members.

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NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE ENGINEER-OFFICER IN THE ROYAL NAVY

We live to-day in an age of complication. The engineer and scientist have altered almost every part of our material lives. These changes have been manifest in the Navy, which has rapidly become a highly technical service. Our ships are now equipped with automatic control of machinery, radio and radar in vast quantities, guided missiles and many other products of recent research.

Such equipment requires fully trained engineers for its control and maintenance.

The basic training of these engineers is a very long process, as they must learn to be naval officers as well as engineers. (My training started seven years ago, and still has not finished!)

Naval life began for me as a Cadet at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. We continued our "schooling" there, for two years, in company with the non-technical Cadets. At the same time we were introduced to the naval life and prepared for going to sea.

After this we went to sea for sixteen months for practical experience and for further instruction in naval matters.

Then our engineering training began in earnest at the Royal Naval Engineering College in Plymouth. Two years of concentrated study of "Basic Engineering" qualified us for the

G.M.I.Mech.E. (if we passed the final examinations).

We were then sent to sea again to obtain a machinery watch-keeping certificate and to gain experience in "engineering at sea".

At this juncture the engineering training sub-divided. Each Engineer-Officer chose his "specialisation". He could then specialise in ordnance, air, or marine engineering. The specialisation course is about a year in length and, when completed, qualifies the engineer for a sea-going appointment.

There is much to be said in favour of a naval engineer's career. Firstly it is professionally satisfying, as the study of engineering covers a very wide field of modern achievement and facilities and encouragement are given to anyone who wishes to make a special study of a particular aspect of his work.

Secondly, the naval way of life gives an ordered and yet varied set of daily experiences. It provides a considerable degree of security and a clearly defined relationship between all the "members of the team".

Thirdly, whole-hearted encouragement is given for sport, recreation and hobbies, and also opportunities of visiting foreign lands are quite frequent.

Much more could be said for (and against) this career, but I will just end by saying that I have enjoyed my naval experiences

very much and would recommend the life to anyone who is prepared to endure a certain amount of the rough with a lot of the smooth.

B.J.C.

A VISIT TO CANADA

During the summer vacation engineering students from Bristol University are expected to obtain some practical experience. This summer I was fortunate in getting a job in Canada which provided a great opportunity to see North America. I sailed from Liverpool at the beginning of July and, after an enjoyable trip, arrived in Montreal a week later. After visiting the firm's head office there and the field office in Shawinigan Falls, I went to Thetford Mines, some seventy miles north of Quebec, where I worked for nine weeks on the construction of an electricity terminal station.

This part of Canada is almost entirely French speaking so that many of their customs were not Canadian at all. Then my knowledge of the country is only really adequate as far as Quebec Province and other French parts are concerned. Here I found that the general standard of, and attitude towards, work was much the same as in Britain. While I was working I stayed with a French-Canadian family and so became acquainted with the people in general. I paid two visits to Quebec, which I found to be a fine and interesting city with its French history reflected every-

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where in the styles of architecture. As Thetford is the centre of the asbestos industry I also went to two mines and saw most aspects of the operations, all of which was very interesting.

After I had finished working, I had a fortnight's holiday which I spent in travelling around. First I went to Montreal where I visited a great aunt whom I'd never seen before, and also MacDonald College, part of McGill University. From there I travelled to Ottawa by long-distance coach, as I did in all subsequent journeys, as they are very fast, comfortable and cheap. Canada's capital is another fine city and, as with Quebec, I wished I could have stayed longer so as to really see everything. I only stayed a few hours in Toronto which appeared to be just a big city and to contain little of real interest. The next attraction was Niagara Falls which provided a very lovely spectacle, including a rainbow, caused by the falls themselves, down in the gorge.

My next two days were spent at St. Lawrence University with two students who had spent their previous year at Bristol, then I had a small insight into American university methods and customs. Still travelling on, I next came to New York where I spent two rushed days visiting the United Nations, Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building as well as taking a boat trip all the way round Manhattan Island and

going to a major baseball game. Going back north through some lovely scenery, I spent one night with the parents of one of the students from St. Lawrence before arriving at Montreal to catch my boat back here. I finally got back at the beginning of October after a memorable three months.

Altogether it was a very good experience and I quite enjoyed it, although the work I had to do wasn't really what I'd expected. I found things hard at times, especially to start with, and from what I saw I would prefer not to emigrate, at least to Eastern Canada, but that is only my personal view.

A. J. SMITH.

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15. Sea Breezes—Miss J. Tombs.
29. Finale—Mr. J. E. Davies.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

(PART 17)

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The eighteenth century witnessed, in England, revolutionary changes even deeper than the obvious transformations of the economic and political scene wrought by the Industrial and French Revolutions. For it was between 1700 and 1800 that an age-old relationship between man and man gave way before the pressure of social changes due to the impart of a new economy upon a country formerly dependent upon agriculture in one form or another.

Under the old system, rich and poor had had a fundamental identity of interests, and there had seldom been (apart from a few crises due to pestilence or famine) an atmosphere of class-warfare. Class had been a matter of blood: the aristocrat knew himself to be different from the peasant, with whose offspring marriage was unthinkable. Secure in this confidence and with the backing of a chivalrous code he was able to treat his social inferiors as human beings equal before God and with, more often than not, personal consideration. A similar social condition of close personal intimacy linking persons of different classes across an impassable gulf still survives to some extent in Spain and in Ireland, countries relatively little affected

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by the idea of money as such.

In England, ever since the fourteenth century when personal services became generally commuted for money payments, and the wars with France had to be financed by heavy taxation and borrowing at interest by the Crown, a change had been in progress. Very slowly at first, more rapidly after the immense redistribution of landed estates in the sixteenth century, social class became less and less a matter of blood, more and more of ability to acquire cash and credit. A chivalrous code of honourable behaviour was being undermined by a purely material system of "*Caveat emptor*". The newly arrived class, by monied power and lack of scruple, invaded the privileges of the aristocracy and intermarried into its ranks. By the eighteenth century the result was a squirearchy of very mixed origins. The landed proprietor, no longer internally sure of himself, began to fence himself and his family off from his social inferiors by the creation of a new set of "snob" values, and to treat "the poor" with a callous disregard only relieved by occasional acts of ostentatious condescension.

It is against this background of fundamental changes that the history of Bookham must be viewed. Still largely a rural community of yeomen and cottagers at the end of the seventeenth century, a hundred years later it had become

a group of game-preserving, largely non-productive, estates, interspersed with several very large farms, some of them artificially formed by a complicated system of sub-letting the individual strips in the mediæval open field, which still survived uninclosed. Beneath the squires and the wealthy farmers was a population of servants, minor tradesmen, labourers, and (steadily growing in proportion) paupers.

The old manor-house of Great Bookham Court still stood in 1721, when it was a farm occupied by Thomas Martyr,* but it was soon to be absorbed into Eastwick Park. A new estate was being formed at the southern end of the village by the creation of what was to be known as Bookham Grove.† In this case the gradual agglomeration of small properties began about 1680, the main road to Guildford and the old north-south lane called The Whiteway were diverted about 1721 for greater privacy (the origin of the awkward double corner at the "Victoria" which has only just been abolished after some 235 years), and the seat became a nobleman's residence on its sale to Viscount Downe in 1775. The pleasure-grounds of Polesden were enlarged, and the first section of its great terrace built in 1761 for Captain (later Admiral Sir) Francis Geary, R.N., who had bought the estate in 1748 for £5,500. Meanwhile the ancient manor of Slyfield had become a

mere farm let for the benefit of Exeter College, Oxford, and by 1744 its splendid Jacobean and Carolean mansion had been dismembered. On the other hand, another new estate had been formed further west, on the boundary of Little Bookham, out of mainly copyhold lands of both manors, and a substantial residence called Hill House built there.

Not all the estates and farms were in the hands of the newly rich. For most of the century a few of the old families held out: notably the Martyrs of Phœnice Farm and the Woods of Bagden, while the designation "yeoman" still occurs in wills until after the middle of the century. Examples are those of Thomas Bysshop (1706/8) and Thomas Cook (1715/16) of Little Bookham; and of James Bourn (1720/22), George Heath (1724/5), George Cook (1729), William Berry (1746/8), Charles Gurr (1761/2) and George Tickner (1765) of Great Bookham. Such self-descriptions have to be used with caution, for Charles Gurr, who made his will as a yeoman, had been a shopkeeper when he married in 1728. Several trades occur among Bookham testators: baker (Thomas Wood, 1753); blacksmith (Richard Hubbard, 1732); maltster (George Gills, 1722/3), (John Wood, 1766/8), (Thomas Cooper, 1769); victualler (Robert Charman, 1782/8); weaver (Francis Stint, 1732), besides such descriptions,

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mostly later in the century, as farmer (Joseph Fish, 1778/93) and schoolmaster (Henry Crawler, 1796/1802). In a few cases even self-styled labourers made wills.‡

Weaving, which had for long been an important home industry in Bookham, was probably almost extinct by 1750, while by the end of the century the annual fair had died out, though the domestic accounts of the Howards of Ashstead show that cheese and hops were still being bought at "Buckom Faier" in 1711-18.¶

* Indenture of 20 Oct., 1721, enrolled on Close Roll (Public Record Office, C.54/5188).

† See article by F. B. Bengier in *Proceedings*, Leatherhead and Dist. Local History Soc., Vol. I, No. 9, pp. 21-25.

‡ Wills at Somerset House in Pre-rogative Court of Canterbury; Commissary and Archdeaconry Courts of Surrey; double dates are those of the making and probate of the wills.

¶ See *Proceedings*, Leatherhead and Dist. Local Hist. Soc., Vol. I, No. 8, 1954, p. 3; and details kindly supplied by Mr. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A.: hops were bought at about 10d. to 1s. a lb.; three cheeses, of unspecified size, cost 12s. in 1712, and £1 14s. in 1718.

OVER SIXTIES CLUB

The Over Sixties Club held its 6th Annual General Meeting on January 14th. In her Report the Secretary (Mrs. A. Perry) said the Club had been fortunate in having Mrs. N. Cox as Chairman throughout its existence. They were fortunate, too, in having the use of the Barn Hall at a nominal weekly rent, together with the

group of helpers who are members of the Association and who, with Mrs. King, prepare and serve tea each week and on special occasions. The Club has 90 members who come regularly to the weekly meetings, with a short list of members who are for various reasons unable to attend. There is no longer a waiting list for membership.

DIRECTORY OF BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

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

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

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

Football Club. R. S. Young, Santa Cruz, Sole Farm Road.

Grove Association. Miss U. Dean, 40 Dorking Rd.

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

Brownies: 1st Pack, Mrs. E. Cameron, No. 3 Rayleigh House.

3rd Pack, Miss P. Dye, School of Stitchery and Lace.

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

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

Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch. W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Ave.

Music Club. Miss A. Ryerson, Basilodon, Halepit Rd.

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

Scouts. Group Scoutmaster, L. R. Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm. Scoutmaster, E. Sheppherd, Rosedale, Downsway. Cubs, Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

Women's Institute. Mrs. M. J. Brown-ing, School House.

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

BODIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Leatherhead & District Old Peoples Welfare Assn. Mrs. N. Cox, Theldor Keswick Rd. Bookham 2706.

Leatherhead Urban District Council, Red House, Leatherhead.

Surrey County Council, Kingston-upon-Thames.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

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

Gramophone Club. Mr. D. G. Gay, Collin, Dowlans Rd., Bookham 3576.

Old Time Dance Club. J. W. Hilder, 247 Lower Rd.

Over Twenties. Mrs. L. Bambury, Arundel, Sole Farm Road. Bookham 2921.

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

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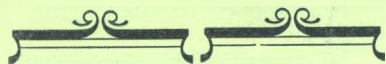


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