

December 1974
No 158
42nd Year

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Bookhams Bulletin

Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

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EDITORIAL

Good wishes to all our readers, especially to those among you who give voluntary service. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the months ahead will be grim and that those who assist the 'caring' groups must have all our encouragement.

First of all our good wishes and thanks to our helpers in the Community Association; without them we would have no Barn Hall and no Bulletin. High on our priority list come greetings to those who work with Youth because they are so often discouraged by the criticisms levelled at them. Greetings, also, to those who assist the elderly, the disabled, the sick, or pioneer the small groups, which are rapidly increasing, to deal with problem individuals who do not come under the umbrella of the social services or the health service. Nor should we forget our councillors and others engaged in public works, for they get most of the brickbats and little thanks.

Although we think it unlikely that our young people will read this page, we conclude, nevertheless, by wishing them well. Banner headlines in newspapers highlight the misdeeds of a section of them but the service they give rarely receives more than a small paragraph. Yet, in schools and organisations, within our own locality much is done by children and teenagers for those less fortunate than themselves. It is fitting that we should note this and ask them to persuade more friends to join them and discover—what we are sure they have found for themselves—giving is more rewarding than taking.

GLIMPSES OF OLD BOOKHAM

We have been asked by the many people who were unable to see the quite outstanding Village

Day Exhibition on Bookham Past to write some notes on the houses and personalities selected to illustrate the history of the village.

The Elizabethan period was exemplified by *Dawes Cottage*, Little Bookham Street, which Dr Wichells is now restoring and renovating. It was constructed in the early 16th century as two semi-detached cottages with the 7 foot square chimney stack in the party wall. The bread oven, now opened up, was in the first home. The structure of the gable is termed queen pin and dates as from about 1560.

There appears to have been one window in each room but there was no glass in them. Quite early in its development an extension was added to one cottage and underneath this is a cellar, unused, it is thought, for at least 100 years. A single staircase for each cottage led to a room above. Tradition has it that there is a spring in the garden. Both cottages were joined together in the 20th century. The local history society has a series of interesting photographs showing the stages of development in this old house.

For the Stuart period, *The Tyrrells* was selected. Its name was probably derived from one, Terrel, maltster of Leatherhead who bought it, together with 10 acres of land, for £110. The half timber core of the present house dates from this period, with a hall and staircase separating the parlour from the kitchen. An extension was added to the back in 1750 and the house was re-fronted in 1750.

The colonnade of *Polesden Lacey* depicted the Regency period.

About 1470 it belonged to the Slyfield family. Of the many owners who followed one was the dramatist, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who bought it in 1796 with part of his second wife's marriage settlement. He extended the grounds considerably and added to the long terraced walk. He led a gay and reckless life and piled up debts, including some to Bookham tradesmen. He became a bankrupt and Polesden Lacey was taken over by the bailiffs and sold in 1812. It was, however, destroyed by fire. In 1824 Joseph Bonsor demolished what remained of the structure and built the Regency villa which



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forms the basis of the present house.

The final owner was the Hon Mrs Greville who entertained lavishly; Edward VII was among her guests. Everyone remembers that the late George VI and the Queen Mother spent part of their honeymoon there in 1923.

On her death, in 1942, the house passed, as she had willed, to the National Trust together with 1,000 acres of estate and a fine collection of works of art.

A unique example of Victorian architecture is *Ralph Cross Cottages*, at the SW corner of Crabtree Lane built 1864, at a cost of £300, for the Dawnay Estate. William Butterfield (1814–1900) was the architect who designed the 4 stepped cottages of a similar appearance, known as Flint cottages, which were recently demolished. A remnant of his work also remains in the old Bookham school.

Ralph Cottages show a change from Butterfield's earlier buildings which were highly decorated in brick and stone. The Bookham construction is on three levels with a large tiled roof and a groundfloor lean-to at the rear. All the chimneys are gathered into one long line and add to the verticality of the composition.

It is said to stand on the site of the old Bookham gallows where Ralph Sutherland is reputed to be the last man to be hanged for the crime of stealing a sheep from Polesden Lacey. We do know that when the Leatherhead Council were widening the road at this point a coffin containing a skeleton was found.
(*To be continued*).

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

Re-elected as the officers of the Association were: President Mrs E Harrison, Hon Secretary Mr L Clark, Hon Treasurer Mr A G Medway.

It was agreed that the Vice-Presidents list should stand as before: Mesdame B Oldershaw, D Cuddeford, M Longhurst and Messrs S Fortescue, B Stockwell, G Everett, R Marshall, R Catt, A Harrison, W Rombach, H Cuddeford. Honorary Life Members are Mr R Saunders, Mr C Beddous and Mrs B Longhurst.

The following were also elected: Mrs F Catt as Hon Assistant Secretary, Mrs S Dennington as Hon Membership Secretary, Mr S E D Fortescue as Hon Solicitor and Mr A H Kirkby as Hon Auditor.

Individual Members' Representatives are Messrs J Stemp, W Bourne, C Flowers, W Barnish, W E Larkin, R Frohock, E Tarrington, R Wear, D Bruce, C Upton, C Whalley, R Wing, C Emery, K Preston, A Snow, Robinson. Mesdames M Snow, M Flowers, C Medway, S McLeod, W Clark, V Taylor, M Everett, M Emery, F Catt, J Preston, M Corner, S Dennington, S Snow, J Tarrington, Robinson.

Secretary's Report. Shortly after last year's AGM the Executive appointed Mr Len Atkins as caretaker whom you will all have met at various functions and appreciated his helpfulness. We are very pleased with the way he carries out his duties in trying to satisfy all the hirers and the attention he gives to cleaning problems.

During the year the Migraine Trust, Avant Garde Group, WEA, Emlyn Downs Group WI have affiliated to the BCA and the Camera Club have re-affiliated.

In February the BBC 'Any Questions' programme was broadcast from the Barn Hall.

We entered the Best Kept Village and Hall competition again this year and thank all who helped in the cleanup campaign. We were highly commended for our efforts and the evidence of community participation.

BCA members again provided assistance at this year's Polesden Lacey productions and a letter has been received from the chairman of the advisory committee thanking the Association for its support.

Owing to the high cost of producing the Bulletin the Executive reluctantly decided to limit it to three editions a year. I am pleased to report that our 25th Village Day, back again to its usual date in June, was well supported. We thank you all for this, especially those who provided extra financial help with the Village Week events. It is remarkable how the clubs, affiliated organisations and other interested groups join together for this occasion to give a real atmosphere of family and community.

In July we welcomed the return of the Dorking Palm Court Orchestra with its production of 'A Tribute to Ivor Novello'. It was an enjoyable evening supported by an audience of over 150. Also well supported was the Antiques Fair, organised by Mr R Wear in September, which added substantially to our funds.

Several elms at the rear of the Grounds were

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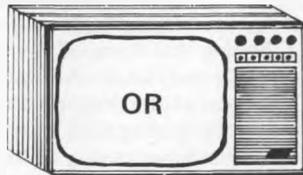
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badly infected by disease and have had to be felled.

The Grounds are kept in good order throughout the year and maintenance and improvement work continues in the Hall, mainly at weekends. Much of this is done by volunteers, without whom our overheads would be much higher. Even so, a modest increase in our hiring charges will be necessary in the New Year.

Our Booking Officer is to be thanked for carrying the increased responsibility resulting from the almost constant use of the Hall.

The usage of the Halls ranges from the Childrens Welfare Clinic to the Over Sixties and there are many educational classes run by the Evening Institute and other organisations and groups. We can claim that the BCA has made possible a wide variety of activities for Bookham people.

Treasurer's Report. The accounts and balance sheet of the Association covered 4 foolscap sheets and were presented to the meeting with admirable clarity. Only a brief summary is possible. Total assets at the end of the financial year stood at £8467.31. Against this had to be set possible liabilities on the Hall Extensions of £5600 and loans from the Mole Valley Council totalling £4831.74. The Barn Hall account, thanks to the work of many volunteers, again showed a surplus. Over the year all loans from individuals had been paid off and the debt to the local council had been reduced, making a total reimbursement of £1250.

A breakdown of the lettings income was—for affiliated organisations £1031.50, for BCA clubs £893.50, for other hirers £1901.05.

The Barn Hall Building Account stood at £4145.56. Among the items listed in this figure were Village Day and Week proceeds 1973 of £831.00, Village Day and Week proceeds 1974 of £953.38, Christmas Fair 1973 £390.76, Antiques Fair 1973 £642.75, New Year's Eve Dance £157.00, Palm Court Orchestra £28.69. Donations had been made of £40 from POSE, Flower Arrangement Club of £20, Local History Society £12, Garden Society £10, Bookham Winemakers £10 and two personal gifts totalling £80.

Some of these donations had resulted from organised functions and to these should be added a sum of £10.00 from the Theatre Club activities, £231.44 resulting from the Bingo Drives, and collections and other events organised among the over sixties by Mrs Peart

and Mrs Edge which brought in over £55.

Please note that Village Day 1975 is Saturday, June 21st to be followed by Village Week. A coordinating meeting for this has been called for January 14th at the Barn Hall, at 8.00 pm, to which are invited all organisations and any interested individuals.

BCA New Year's Eve Dance. Tickets £2.50 from Mrs D Cuddeford.

BCA Jumble Sale. Barn Hall, 12th February.

BREVITIES

BCA Membership Secretary. Mrs Sylvia Dennington, of 19 Richmond Close, Fetcham, has gallantly agreed to act as Membership Secretary for the Community Association. We appreciate her willingness so to do because she already gives much time to youth activities. We ask our road collectors to note the change in officer and give her as much support as possible. Her telephone number is Bookham 52551.

Meanwhile we thank Miss Mary Corner who, during the past 4 years, has given great service and built up a fine team of helpers who all deserve our gratitude.

May we remind our readers that we listed in our last issue the names and addresses of these road collectors, hoping that some of you would get in touch with them and join the Association. The response has been a little disappointing. Surely more of you could afford the 15p per annum which is all that is necessary to show your support.

Mr A G Medway Retired at the end of October from his position as manager of Lloyds Bank which he has held for 9 years. Bank managers, like doctors, are of two kinds—those who are respected and those who are feared. Allister Medway was undoubtedly an outstanding example of the first category. He was regarded as a trusted friend by his clients. Outside his profession he was equally popular because of the active part he took in so many worthwhile causes. Listing a few of them: Treasurer of the Bookham Community Association, Chairman of the Leatherhead & District Savings Committee, Secretary and Elder of the United Reformed Church, Treasurer of the Leatherhead & District Scout Council.

We are delighted that he is staying in Bookham and that he intends to carry on with his voluntary work. In this he will have, as ever,

the support of his wife who has been a tower of strength in the many activities she has undertaken.

They are looking forward to a well earned holiday when in February they will spend 11 weeks in Bulawayo with Mr Medway's brother who has been there for 18 years. When he returns his leisure will, as he admits, be as fully occupied as his working life. He has become a keen bowler, he is an expert bridge player and an outstanding instructor in it. In his younger days he was a good cricketer and is still an interested spectator. He is a member of the Surrey County Cricket Club and enjoyed an occasional day off at the Oval. Next summer he is looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time watching his favourite sport.

Flying Back from Rio de Janeiro, on Christmas Eve, is Graham Rombach, son of the chairman of our BCA Council. He will spend Christmas and the New Year with his parents. Graham is Senior Accounts Executive in South America of Ogilvie and Mather, probably the largest advertising agency in the world. He was for a short period in their London office before taking this important promotion. The accounts of firms with household names are handled by him in South America and include Shell, Beechams, and Skoll.

Bookham has lost Mr and Mrs Frank Watkins. It seems so short a time ago that his retirement as Head of Effingham's Primary School was marked by a demonstration of affection and esteem by the whole parish unparalleled in my experience. Meanwhile his wife's retirement as Deputy Head of Bookham Infants' School, although a less ambitious occasion, also manifested the appreciation by parents, pupils and colleagues of the many years of service she had given. We had hoped that they would remain with us in their home in Greenacres because of the considerable contribution they could make to our neighbourhood. Our loss will be their gain. They moved, in July, to Leckhampton, near Cheltenham, to be near their son and his family. We wish them every happiness.

We also say *aurevoir* to Mr and Mrs Buckland, also of Greenacres. They have moved to Chaldon and we are sure they will keep their contacts with Bookham. Mr Buckland has been promoted Manager of Merstham Bank; we remember that, when we were in great need, he took over as Advertisement Officer for the Bookham Bulletin and held this post for several

years despite heavy business commitments. Mrs Buckland was well known to WI Members and, as clerical assistant at Eastwick Middle School, won the trust of children and parents. Their younger son is at Guildford Grammar and their elder son, Alan, is working for a degree in European studies at Manchester—a 4 year course which includes 6 months in France.

Sports and Drama Fans will be pleased to hear that Geoff Harrison, now living in Coulsdon, has been appointed to the board of directors of HS Weavers (Underwriting) Agencies. They may be surprised to know that he has also become interested in gardening. His friends in Bookham do see him from time to time as he has retained his membership of Tyrells Golf Club.

Engagements. Gillian, daughter of Dr and Mrs Lloyd-Jones, of The Spinney has become engaged to Michael Taylor. The couple have just graduated at Cardiff University and, when they marry in September, they will settle in Burnley where Michael is now working. Gillian, not surprisingly, was a keen guider, as her mother has been active in the movement since the family moved to Bookham some 7 years ago and is now President of the local Girl Guides.

Another young Bookhamite, also an enthusiastic guider, Miss Barbara Bruce, is to be married in July to Mr Philip Butler, a construction engineer and a Southampton graduate. Gillian will be her bridesmaid. Barbara is at Bath University and it was here that she met her husband-to-be while he was working on the university building. The common interest to draw them together was morris dancing which is having an upsurge in popularity. Barbara is busy developing a women's morris team—formerly this type of dance was a male preserve.

Barbara's parents take an active part in community activities. Her father is a prominent figure in the local history society and keeper of its records. He is also on the executive of the BCA. Her mother is a founder member of the Bookham Townswomens Guild and an instructor at the Howard of Effingham Adult Education Institute.

An Encouraging Report has come to us of Nicola Roberts, of Hawkwood Rise, who entered the medical school at University College some years ago. She passed her 2nd MB in March 1973 and was invited to go on for a

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B Sc in Anatomy. This she gained with Honours and is now doing her clinical training in University College Medical School.

Her brother, Julian, who was at Bookham School, has just begun his studies for a BA in History at King's College, London.

Their mother tells us that they regret leaving Bookham for the Portsmouth area where her husband has been appointed to a senior position. 'We shall be taking with us', she says, 'fond memories of Bookham and the people who live in the village.'

Bookham Men for Leisure Centre. The Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club, to be based at the Leisure Centre, is under way. Chairman of the steering committee is our Mr M McLeod and Mr Charles Flowers is on the committee.

The New Day Nursery at Goblins is supervised by Miss Linda Covey. She will enjoy working with the children because she believes that play leads to learning and she will use the many toys they have collected to develop their interest in construction, measurement and observation, so leading on to an interest in reading, which precedes desire to write. She is just 22, for 11 years she has been a keen member of the Red Cross. She has been an assistant at a day nursery and also supervisor at another industrial day nursery. As a member, and formerly secretary of the Bookham Dramatic Society, she has all the know-how of an effective play leader.

The Community Health Council has another Bookham member in Mrs Anne Sansom who represents Mole Valley and is well equipped to make known our needs in a vital aspect of our daily lives.

A Virtuoso in the Making. We have, from time to time, recorded in our columns the achievements of pupils of the Howard of Effingham School who, inspired by the teaching of Miss Portlock, moved on to high levels in the field of Music.

Among these Bookham has reason to be proud of Douglas Weiland, whose parents live in Crabtree Lane. He became a Fellow of Trinity College, London, last year and was advised by his tutors to enter for one of the first two scholarships awarded by the Royal Philharmonic. He was selected from many entrants and is now at the Institute de Haute Etudes Musicales, in Montreux. Leading

musicians from all over the world visit the establishment to give personal advice and guidance to the chosen few who are in residence for a year to develop their particular instrumental skills to the highest possible level. Yehudi Mehunin, for example, is an adjudicator in the selection procedure and also one of the Institute's participating celebrities. Douglas has been, since October, under the personal direction of Peter Gurth, leader of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; the violin is his instrument and he hopes, one day, to have his own. The cost would be in the region of £10,000.

Higher Education is rapidly developing along new lines. The organisation of society, economically, politically and industrially has brought about a reappraisal of universities. The colleges of technology have multiplied and the university of the air has taken shape. Coincident with this, the National Council for Academic Awards was created with the responsibility for establishing and monitoring degree courses outside the universities. Two well-known Bookham residents hold important posts in this influential body. John Salmon, formerly Professor at Surrey University, has been appointed Registrar and Robert Strand, who was on the National Council for Diplomas in Art and Design (now merged with the CNA), has been made Assistant Registrar with special responsibility for Art and Design.

ROUNDBOUT

The BCA Executive has elected Mr Ron Frohock as its chairman. Other members are Mesdames Catt, Emery, Harrison, McLeod, Messrs Bourne, Medway, Wear, Bruce, Preston, Rombach (chairman BCA council), R Catt (vice-chairman BCA council).

The Bookham Players is the new name adopted by the Bookham Dramatic Society. Since the opening of the season they have been busy with a Revue for the Red Cross Disabled, the thriller 'Night Must Fall' and are now rehearsing their entry for the Betchworth Festival. They are planning a comedy for the spring production at the Barn Hall. New recruits will be welcomed by this lively group. Just ring Ron Frohock 58474 or pop in to their evenings on Mondays at the Barn Hall.

Note: Everybody is invited to the Spring Sunday Lunch, Barn Hall, March 16th.

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Would you like to Fence? The Ranmore Foil Club could interest you. Its teacher is Mrs S Parker, of 50 Durlleston Park Drive, who has fenced in two Olympic Games and represented this country more than thirty times. She believes that the right age to begin is 10 or 11. One of her pupils, Caryn King (now 16) was selected for the contest between English and Scottish schools. She was then asked to go to Israel for training and competition and later for intensive courses at Crystal Palace. She has now been informed that she has been picked with 19 others to train as a possible member of the next Olympic team.

The club is not, however, restricted to young people. All ages can join and enjoy the sport.

The 1st Bookham Scouts have a new Leader, Roger Nelson, of Long Meadow. In December of last year, after the resignation of Alan Watson, they have been working under difficulties with assistance in a temporary capacity from Bruce Wood, acting as GSL despite his heavy commitments with the Venture Scouts.

Mr Tom Jinks has taken over as Chairman of the Group Council so that Mr Don Townsend can take a well-deserved retirement after 15 years of fine service in which his wife has nobly assisted.

Following their successful Jumble Sale, when they raised over £75, plans are being made for a Barn Dance in the Barn Hall on March 1st and a Parents Evening, also in the Barn Hall, on April 4th.

Scouts and cubs are combining on a scout hut facelift starting now and continuing to the summer.

The Bookham Groups are pleased that Mark Alexander has been chosen as one of the two to represent Leatherhead at the World Jamboree in Norway next year.

Bookham Silver Band have found a regular meeting place at the Reading Room in Cobham Road, every Monday and Friday from 9.00 to 10.00 pm. They have 25 members of all ages, young and old, but would welcome new instrumentalists. They have been booked to play at a number of local events in the year ahead.

Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre. Plays chosen for 1975 are Tobias and the Angel, by James Bridie, from 2nd to 5th July, and

Shakespeare's 'King Lear' from 9th to 12th July. We ask our many Bookham helpers to note this date in their diaries. When the National Trust took over complete responsibility for the productions after the pioneering efforts of the Community Association the promise was given that the link would continue and help would always be forthcoming. Mrs E Harrison, who started the venture, has retired from the Advisory Committee and Mr Brian Stockwell will now represent the BCA. Now that Mr Alan Burr is acting as Chief Steward, Mr A Harrison also feels that the time has come for him to come off the committee. But two BCA stalwarts still remain, Mr Reg Snow as Business Manager and Mrs M Oldershaw, whose late husband did so much for the Theatre, continues as Booking Officer.

Bookham Scottish Dancers were honoured to provide one of the two teams of 8 who danced at the Festival Hall before a packed audience on November 9th in a programme entitled 'This is Scotland.'

A Parish Council for Bookham? Under the Local Government Act of 1972 it is now possible for wards of the enlarged local government areas to acquire parish council status by application through the district council to the Boundary Commission. The Bookham Residents Association are to be congratulated on exploring in depth the advantages and disadvantages of Bookham becoming a parish council. All members will be receiving a memorandum on their findings and, if necessary, the Community Association would join with them in calling a public meeting to discuss the possibilities. Parish Councils have the right to see all planning applications, to represent the inhabitants in public inquiries, to appoint trustees of charities, to make appointments to school managers, to administer certain services such as public lighting, allotments, playing fields etc as may be deemed appropriate. The necessary finance would be received by 'precept' from the district council and the cost would be included in an additional levy on the rates of those residing in the area.

This is a very brief resume of the deliberations of the Residents Association to set us thinking and talking about an important matter which is of concern to all of us.

Antiques are In. There are so many talks, books and classes on this subject that most people must have some knowledge of them. Virtually every village has at least one shop specialising in antiques. Victoriana has come back into the decor of our modern homes. Nevertheless the BCA has decided that because of the escalation of Antique Fairs throughout Surrey it will not organise a similar one in 1975 although it will think again in the following year. Ray Wear, who has been so successful in promoting these for Barn Hall funds, tells us that, as a result of the 3 Fairs held to date £1500 has been paid into the BCA account. The exhibitors have expressed their appreciation of the setting and facilities available to them in our Hall and local people have enjoyed the opportunity to extend their knowledge and interest by talking to the

experts and examining the wide range of curios they have put on show.

We appreciate the drive and enthusiasm Ray Wear has put into this worthwhile activity and we hope that he will be in the field again in 1976.

Trillers draw in Audiences. The Bookham Players (which is the up-dated title of the Bookham Dramatic Society) found this to be so for their production of 'Night must Fall'; at the Barn Hall in November, which was a sell-out on the Friday performance and well patronised on the other evenings. This should be most encouraging for the Group which is attracting new members and planning novel fund-raising events. Like the professional theatre, amateur groups find it difficult to 'make ends meet'.

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directed 'Night must Fall', on her first production for the Bookham Players—her mother, Nessie is well known in WI drama circles. Character and action are important ingredients in the play; on both counts the performances could not be faulted. Right to the fall of the curtain the tension was maintained. Those of us to whom the play is familiar still found ourselves awaiting breathlessly for the next move in a plot where the sinister and comedy were so cleverly intertwined.

Rehearsals are now under way for the Betchworth Festival. The Chairman, Ron Frohock tells us that male members are still urgently needed and he, or any other member of the committee, will be pleased to welcome anyone interested—experience is not essential.

Bookham Youth Club, with over 300 members, is attracting young people interested in specialised activities such as archery, photography, sport of all kinds, trampoline, drama and hiking. A recently acquired minibus has enabled members to take excursions to local beauty spots, the coast, the theatre and sports centres. Garry Dean and Peter Essex are encouraging this project of giving members a wider view of the opportunities available to them outside their immediate neighbourhood.

Sylvia Dennington and Janice Mallinson helped the club in an improvised version of Aesop's Fables which they played for the entertainment of the residents of Keswick, having previously amused invited over sixties and guests from The Grange at the dress rehearsal.

Saturday morning at 10.00 am is a red letter day for the very young. The 8 to 12 year olds are invited to come in and enjoy the facilities available in the club and are able to use the equipment there. The trampoline is, perhaps, the most popular item but the children enjoy ball games outside, while some of them practise crafts in the workroom. Members of the management committee and the staff help to keep some 70 or more youngsters amused and out of mischief for two hours. Parents are invited to come in and help. More are needed, so that the rota could be spread, and volunteers are invited to offer assistance to Barry and Carol Mills, Warden and Assistant Warden.

The new and first woman chairman of the Management Committee is Mrs Margaret Jack, who lives at Fetcham. She has a natural gift for getting on with young people because of her

warm personality and natural charm of manner. She has, too, special skills to offer in this field of voluntary work. She is an Associate of the London Academy of Music which also covers Drama, in which she specialised at the college in Edinburgh. She was born in Australia but, early in her childhood, returned to Scotland with her family. She worked professionally, as stage manager, in the theatre for some years. Later she switched her interests and became personal assistant to the Director of Chanel, the glamorous perfume makers. With two children to look after she now describes herself as a housewife. Some of us would call her a chef. The delicacies she provided for the Helpers' Christmas party were a joy to the eye as well as the palate. No wonder the girls look to her as a model to be followed.

She follows a succession of distinguished chairmen: Bob Bishop, formerly Chairman of Leatherhead UDC and a firm supporter of Youth, Jim Bethell who represented the Churches' Joint Action Committee, Derek Pegg whose knowledge of Building and Architecture enabled him to give wise advice in the maintenance and development of the Club's premises.

Pose has established itself as a well integrated group, following on its successful production of 'O What a Lovely War'. Over the pre-Christmas season it has been responsible for what it calls 'a road show' composed of three items a pantomime Peter Pan, a medley of songs, and Aesop's Fables contributed by the Bookham Youth Club, from which two are selected according to the preferences of the audience visited. They have taken their 'show' to the Yehudi Menuhin School, to the School for the Blind and given it to an invited audience in the Harrison Room of 100 schoolchildren followed by another evening in the same venue for relatives and friends of the Pose Group.

They were pleased to participate with the Bookham Players and others in the highly successful Music Hall with Cheese and Wine organised in mid December by the BCA.

Age is no bar to membership of this lively group which will be starting rehearsals in the New Year for its next production.

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Friends of Keswick has been launched to raise funds for comforts for the residents in this fine new home for the elderly. They visit regularly and arrange transport for those who have no relatives near at hand. Bookham has quite a tradition of care for its over sixties who may be lonely, or in need of help. The organiser of the Friends of Keswick is Miss K M Wilson, 1 Millside Court.

OBITUARIES

Doreen Hiscutt. It was with a deep sense of shock that the village heard of the sudden death of Doreen Hiscutt on 12th September. Most people taking part in local activities knew her well as little went on in which she did not help. At the time of her death, she was secretary of the Local Association of Girl Guides, and, over the years, she had taken a deep interest in the Scouts, Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association and the Friends of Howard of Effingham School. She, and her family, must have helped at every kind of stall at the fund-raising events arranged by these groups, as well as attending so many of their dances and socials.

Above all, however, Bookham will remember Doreen's glorious contralto voice. She sang with various choirs, including that of the Booking Evening WI and St Nicolas Church. With them, and also as a soloist, she gave hours of pleasure to many people, particularly the elderly and the disabled. Who could forget her singing of 'Love's Old Sweet Song?' It is only a couple of months ago that she sang so enchantingly in the production of 'Oh What a Lovely War', put on by a group determined to show that people all ages could work together successfully.

She is much missed by the Bookhams Evening Womens Institute, whose President she once was. When volunteers were needed for its various sub-committees and events she was always one of the first to enthusiastically give of her time and energy.

Doreen Hiscutt had a vibrant and generous personality. She was a good friend to those lucky enough to know her well. For them, the village will not seem the same without her.
S.B.

Winifred Holmwood. We shall remember Winifred for her gentleness and rare gift of friendliness she communicated to all whom she met. It was a friendliness which arose from her innate love for people. She radiated at all times a serene cheerfulness and thoughtfulness for others. This was most evident in her work for old people and the disabled. She was always ready, in her characteristically unobtrusive way, to give help at Victoria House and a number of local homes for the elderly. She had nursed her mother for many years after a severe stroke and cared for her father until he was close on 95 years old.

She came to Bookham some 22 years ago. During the second world war she had volunteered for national service and was posted to Wildts. After this she and her husband resided for a time in Wandsworth but, 10 years ago, they moved to a bungalow in Sole Farm Avenue where they were able to create a garden full of unusual flowers and plants. Win and Bert enjoyed the open-air life and it was for this reason that they kept their cottage on the banks of the Thames where they could sail and cultivate a different type of garden sloping to the river. There they were welcoming hosts to many friends; those of us who had the privilege of visiting them will hold in our minds the picture of the fresh country fare they provided for us, happy talk on the lawn, shaded by willows from the summer sun, and, at our feet the waters lazily flowing by.

The chapel was filled at her funeral service on October 29th with friends and relatives, some of whom had travelled a long way to pay their last respects. The Bookham club had made three perfect flower arrangements to show their sorrow on the death of a member they had hoped to welcome back after a short period in hospital. She was a founder member of the Flower Arrangement Club, had served on its various committees and, for some years, had been in charge of the sales table.

She, with her husband, had given much service to the Community Association to whom donations have been made in her memory. Their's was a true partnership and we offer him our deep sympathies in his bereavement.



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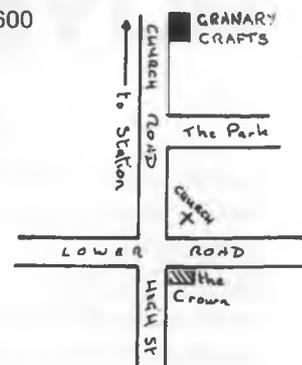
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