

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 92

DECEMBER 1956.

24th year



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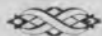
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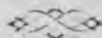
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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 92.

DECEMBER, 1956.

24th year

Greetings to all our readers

Our Christmas wish. "Peace on earth. Goodwill to men."

EDITORIAL

In this, our last issue of the *Bulletin* for 1956, we wish to express our satisfaction that, despite our gloomy forebodings at the beginning of the year, we have been able to maintain its publication and increase its circulation. We are confident that, with the continued generous support of our advertisers and with the assistance of new volunteers who have now come forward, we shall establish it on a much firmer basis in 1957.

We hope that it has been of interest to some of you. We are deeply indebted to Mr. John Harvey for his scholarly series on the History of Bookham and we look forward to the continuance of his articles. We would welcome more news items from our readers, more information from the organisations, and more suggestions and constructive criticisms.

THE EDITOR

"Brandreth", *Sole Farm Road,*
Gt. Bookham.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Young Nurses.

Congratulations to Miss Ann Edwards on winning the Junior Prize in Nursing Subjects at the Ewell Technical College.

Nursing is a fine profession to adopt and many more nurses are needed. We are proud to hear that quite a number of Bookham girls are preparing for it. Among them are:—

Miss Diana Chitty, who is in the pre-nursing course at Raynes Park County Secondary School.

Miss Gillian Godfrey, who is at Great Ormond Street, working for the exam of State Registered Children's Nurse.

Miss Cynthia Black, who is at the London Hospital.

Miss Susan Land, also at the London Hospital.

Miss Priscilla Waters, at St. Mary's, Paddington, who speaks highly of the facilities allowed to the staff.

Miss Pamela Grainger, who will shortly be sitting for the

S.R.N. exam at the Westminster, where she is also playing hockey for the hospital.

Miss Gillian Pelling, who was at University College Hospital and Bristol and is now doing her Midwifery Course.

Miss Pam Edwards, who is about to start training at the St. Helier Hospital.

Serjeant at Arms.

Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., will take up this high office in January.

Local History was portrayed in dramatic form in the "Scenes from the Church Life of St. Nicolas" as a combined act of worship in the church. The period covered was from 1292 to 1785. All those who saw them were once more reminded of the heritage which a village passes to succeeding generations.

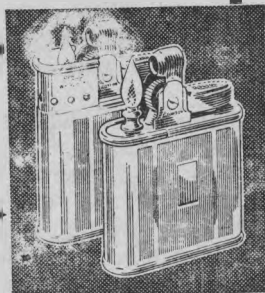
W.I. Silver Star has been awarded to the Bookhams W.I. Drama Group in the first round of the W.I. National Drama Festival for its performance of Robert Gitting's "Our Clouded Hills".



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GARDEN TOOLS

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY
(PART 12)

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In 1498 the Manor of Little Bookham had come into the hands of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey and later Duke of Norfolk, and it was settled in 1536 on Lord William Howard, his son, created Lord Howard of Effingham in 1554. But before this Lord William had obtained, in 1550, a grant of the Manor of Great Bookham from the Crown. Thus the whole of Bookham came for a short time under a single lord, though this lasted only until 1573 and no effort was ever made to unite the two lordships. At William Howard's death in 1573 Little Bookham descended to his heir Charles, who in 1588 was to command the fleet which beat off the Spanish Armada. But Great Bookham had in 1569 been settled on the younger son William, and neither of the brothers seems ever to have lived at Bookham. The younger William sublet Great Bookham in 1580 to Henry Goldwell, Esq., but in 1607 it returned to Howard's son Sir Edward, in whose line, afterwards Earls of Effingham, it remained until 1801. Little Bookham belonged to Charles Howard until his death in 1624 and to his widow until 1635, after which it was sold out of the family.

During the period of Sir Edward Howard's lordship of Great Bookham a detailed survey of the manor was made with a map, probably the first of Bookham ever produced. Great impetus had been given to surveying by the break-up of monastic estates in the mid-sixteenth century, and the new landlords were eager to know what their lands were worth and how they could get the best yield from them. A numerous new profession arose, of land surveyors skilled in the making of measured plans by the use of the recently invented plane-table and theodolite, and who in many cases also wrote treatises on estate management.

One of these was Thomas Clay, a Reigate man who married in 1609-10, and later published "Brief easie and necessary tables for the valuation of leases" and "A chorologicall discourse of the well ordering disposing and governing of an honorable estate". He surveyed various estates in Surrey, among them Great Bookham, where he began to work under a commission of 1st June, 1614. His map* was "viewed platted and admeasured" on two sheets of parchment sewn together to form a total area of 62 inches

by 19, the scale being 30 perches to an inch or $10\frac{2}{3}$ inches to 1 mile (1:5940). It is finely drawn and beautifully lettered in brown ink, and coloured to show the holdings of the various manors and the different land tenures, freehold, copyhold, indenturehold and the demesnes. The map is remarkably accurate and enables all the houses and plots of ground to be identified on the modern Ordnance Survey except where, as in Eastwick Park, the whole area had suffered a major change in the interval.

The value of such a survey is naturally very great and makes direct comparisons possible with the state of the village at earlier and later periods. Much of the written survey of 1548, otherwise obscure, can be explained, while the contrast with modern times is visible at a glance.

As compared with the Ordnance Survey map of 1895, made before recent development of the district, the amount of change is very slight. The boundaries of the parish remained the same except that it became enlarged at the north-east by extending to the

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Mole opposite Woodlands Park. The two great wastes, Ranmore Common and Bookham Common, were almost identical, though a few more small enclosures were made after 1614. The main differences concern the agricultural pattern and the roads. The open arable fields, cultivated in common, disappeared at enclosure in 1822, giving place to several new farms, while some old roads had gone out of use and the main highway between Leatherhead and Guildford had been diverted to avoid the eighteenth century mansion of Bookham Grove. The lost roads were the White Way, which linked Townshot Close to Connicut Lane as a continuous route, and the old causeway over Bookham Common which had extended Church Road to Stents Lane and went on through the meadows to River Lane at Cobham Tilt, crossing the Mole by the old ford a quarter-mile west of Stoke D'Abernon Church. The Admiral's Road had been made to give Admiral Geary a direct access from the Leatherhead turnpike to his house at Polesden.

One important house, originally the most important in Great Bookham, had disappeared altogether: the old manor-house or monastic grange, Bookham Court, which had stood close to where Park View now is, and described in Clay's survey† as let to Robert Marshe: "well and sufficiently builte and covered wth Tyle togeth wth . . . ij greate Barnes whereof one covered wth tyle and sufficiently boarded rounde aboute

. . . and the other covered with thatche and walled about wth loame . . . one Stable covered with thatche . . . one Stable or Oxehouse, a gatehouse and a granarie on ye south side of the Courte covered wth tyle, the gatehouse being now much in decay and wth age and for want of reparacion ready to fall."

Analysis of the survey-book, which gives acreages, shows that in round figures the old enclosures accounted for 45% of the total area, the common arable fields for 25%, and the wastes for 30%. This contrasts sharply with the percentages at Aspley Guise in Bedfordshire, a classical open-field parish of the Midlands, which are 30, 50 and 20 respectively.‡ The figures show how much more important enclosed lands were in Surrey, and how correspondingly less vital to the villagers were the open lands. The greater proportion of waste land reflected the still prevalent sheep-farming of the North Downs and possibly some survival of pig-keeping in the oakwoods of the clay. Another instructive set of figures shows that while 80% of the freehold land was enclosed, the figure was only 57% for indenturehold, 54% for copyhold, and 27% for the glebe. The parson's holding was least affected by the progressive modernisation of land-tenure.

† Surrey Record Office, Kingston; fo. 14.

‡ G. H. Fowler: "The Strip Map of Aspley Guise, etc., Beds. Hist. Record Soc., Quarto Memoirs, vol. III, pt. iii, 1932, Table II.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Bookham Jazz Club.

We are pleased to report that this new group of the Community Association is doing well, but new members will be welcome. It is predominantly a club for young people and enquiries may be made to the Secretary, Mr. Brian Hayter, Church Road.

The club meets on the first and third Fridays of the month at the Barn Hall and there is an average attendance of between 20 and 30. Traditional jazz with an interval of mainstream is played one evening, alternating with modern and some mainstream on the other evening. Traditional jazz seems to be the more popular, but it is the aim of the club to present the best of American and English jazz which can only be done by records. This seems to be better than so-called jazz played by some local pick-up groups.

Quite a good selection of records can be heard as members bring them from their private collection and it is hoped that as funds build up new ones can be procured. Enthusiasts who do not possess many records appreciate this facility, the more especially as jazz programmes on the B.B.C. are not frequent. It is anticipated that a Dance for people who want to jive may be arranged, but this will be separate from the normal evenings which are specially designed for listening only.

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Happy Meetings at Over Sixties Club.

We extend our good wishes to Mr. W. A. Scoble and Mrs. Scoble (Mrs. Taylor) on their recent marriage. And to Mr. A. V. Viney and Mrs. Viney (Mrs. Mills) who were married on Village Day. We hope that they will have many happy years ahead and that they will continue to enjoy the Club.

Men's Committee.

For a number of years now a Women's Committee has given invaluable assistance to the Community Association. The men have at last caught up on this good idea and have launched a Men's Committee to assist in the upkeep of the Hall and the care of the grounds. Here is a job for any handyman who likes to work with a friendly group. Mr. G. Everett, Brandreth, Sole Farm Road, will welcome you.

Bazaar for the Barn Hall.

Working parties have been formed for a grand Bazaar on Saturday, March 30th, 1957, in order to pay off the debt on the new oil heating installation in the Barn Hall. As the maintenance of the Hall is a village responsibility it is hoped that volunteers will come forward to help in this good work. Please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive.

Music Club.

Dates for your Diary:—

Fri., Jan. 25th, at 8 p.m., at the Barn Hall. Elizabeth Darbishire, soprano, and Victor Yates, piano.

Sat., Feb. 23rd, at 8 p.m., at the Barn Hall. Concert to be arranged.

Sat., Mar. 23rd, at 8 p.m., Church House. Michal Hambourg, pianoforte (Public Concert).

Fri., May 10th, at 8 p.m., Barn Hall. Felix and Ann Kok, violin and piano.

Applications for membership to W. F. Waters, Esq., Vine Cottage, High Street. (Annual subscription, £1 1s.)

HISTORY OF THE BARN HALL

(PART II)

On the inner wall of the Old Barn Hall is a plaque bearing the inscription that on Empire Day, 1906, this Hall was conveyed to the people of Bookham by Arthur Bird, Esquire. Mr. Bird, who resided at The Grange, now the School of Stitchery and Lace, was a person of great influence in the neighbourhood. In a letter written to the Trustees with the Deed of Conveyance of the Hall he says he hopes "that it will be of some benefit and help to the inhabitants both rich and poor." He adds: "there is one point on which I have a strong opinion, and that is, that there should be some pecuniary subscription from members of any of the Clubs which may use the Hall." These are sentiments which are echoed by the Committee of the Community Association which is the direct descendant of the original Trustees.

Prior to this date there must have been much interest in the little community of Bookham. (in those days it was in the real sense a village) in the work in progress on the site. The Old Barn had come down in the world and was being used as a cowshed. The concrete base with its runnels for water, which was exposed when the new floor was recently laid,

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shows that this was so. The loftiness of the roof, supported by fine old beams, does indicate, however, that in still earlier times grain was probably stored there and threshing done within its cool walls. The cost of transforming this into a Hall and adding cloak-rooms and a kitchen was met by Mr. Bird. New use was to be made of a structure which our forbears had built solidly and well. Though the Hall is small for our needs to-day it is still a most attractive building with a dignity and warmth of atmosphere which goes with old buildings which have been lovingly preserved and used.

The little party of Trustees and village notabilities which gathered for the opening ceremony must have been delighted with the transformation of the farm building, with the panelled walls, the 4 stained long tables, the 150 Austrian bentwood chairs, the 6 walnut circular tables, the 8 Douglas armchairs, the 2 open fireplaces for warmth, and the curtains at the windows, all supplied by the generosity of the donor,* together with a cheque for £50 for initial expenses. We know that the builder, Mr. E. H. Cummins, who was in charge of the work, was very proud of the job. He has visited us on two Village Days from his home at Brighton and told us many anecdotes of the occasion. We hope that he is still in good health.

The original Trustees, who may well be remembered by old village folk, were the Rev. G. S. Bird, son of the donor and for 19 years Rector of the Church; W. Keswick, M.P. for the Epsom Division, Messrs. W. J. Procter, R. H. Lindam, T. Pickering Pick, S. C. Bristow and Miss Hilda M. Bird. The Chairman was the Rev. Bird, and the first Secretary, Mr. Lindam. It is interesting to note that the grandson of the donor is still a neighbour of ours. He is the Rev. A. L. Bird, Vicar of Banstead, and a member of the Central Divisional Education Executive. In this latter capacity he is concerned in the schools of Bookham and takes a lively interest in the activities of its inhabitants.

* Estimate from Maple & Co., May 23rd. 1906.

Congregational Church Guild.

Programme of meetings on Thursday at 8 p.m. Open to all;—

- Jan. 3. New Year's Social. M.C., Mr. Marsh.
- 10. United Service. Week of Prayer.
- Feb. 14. Missionary Evening. Film on Madagascar.
- Mar. 14. Chairman, Dr. R. Man- clark, and panel of 4 experts on the "Colour Question".
- Apl. 18. Lenten Drama, "Sunrise over Olivet".
- May 19. A.G.M. and Supper.



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Christmas Parties

JANUARY 5th:

Community Association
Members Party

JANUARY 19th:

Community Association
Children's Party

FEBRUARY 16th:

Grove Association Parties

JANUARY 26th:

W.I. Member's Party

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bookham Community Assn.

Friday, February 8th, 1957

BARN HALL 8.15p.m.

Election of Officers.
Reports
General Business

DIRECTORY OF BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community
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Badminton Club. A. Bishop, 5a
Cannon Grove, Fetcham.

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

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

**Conservative Association, Gt. Book-
ham Branch.** Miss A. Mattison.
Cloveley, Downsway.

Football Club. T. W. Wynn, 37 Sole
Farm Ave.

Grove Association. F. A. Edwards, 22
Dorking Rd.

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

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Women's Section: Mrs. Street, St.
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tague, 53 Sole Farm Ave.

Poultry and Rabbit Club. Mr. Bur-
ford, 5 East St.

Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latch-
ingdon, Dorking Rd.

Scouts. Group Scoutmaster, L. R.
Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm.
Scoutmaster, E. Sheppherd, Rose-
dale, Downsway.

Cubs. Miss Attawell, Rosemary,
Lower Rd.

Silver Band. W. J. Powell, 49 Oveton
Way.

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

Women's Total Abstinence Union.
Mrs. Bradshaw, 22 Merrylands Rd.

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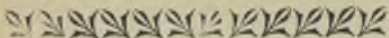


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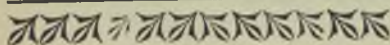
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