

# The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 16.

AUGUST, 1937.

Price 1d.

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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No. 16.

AUGUST, 1937.

Price 1d.

## Editorial.

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The "Bookhams Bulletin" is *your* Journal. It is not the mouthpiece for any political or any other submersive matter, but merely a quarterly Journal intended to be of some general interest, and furthermore, a profitable concern whereby to assist in a small way those whom the Bureau know require temporary assistance.

In these days of publicity it is the only effective method available to maintain sufficient financial support in the cause of local charity, and once again, those concerned in the operation of the Social Service Bureau, extend to all those Traders our very warm thanks.

We appeal therefore to all Traders to continue their support, and it is a pleasure to record that after four years Advertisers have been on the increase.

As will have been observed the number of Traders advertisements have increased, and in proportion, readable matter has also increased.

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Although unemployment has decreased to an almost negligible quantity, we cannot assume that the present state of things will be of a permanent character, and in consequence preparation must be made to meet any future demands upon the very small funds at the disposal of the Bureau. Moreover, there are still poor children receiving free milk for which the Bureau contributes 50 per cent. of the cost. It is earnestly hoped that the funds will continue to come in so that this special need may be met.

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As a result of the ever increasing population of the Leatherhead Urban District, the necessity arises for increasing services, and what greater service in the cause of humanity is there than in the establishment of an up-to-date Hospital?

The local demands are becoming greater as

the days pass, and with the resultant dangers of traffic, the need becomes more and more urgent to provide these facilities for the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital.

Up till last October, there were 2,697 inhabitants on the Local Register. What an achievement it would be for the Bookhams for every one to subscribe One Shilling towards this undertaking, or better still give as much as you can afford. Deny yourself that trip to the "Talkies," or dispense with that extra packet of cigarettes in the knowledge that you are subscribing to an appeal for so worthy a cause.

As it is understood every person in the Urban Area has had an appeal from the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital for £20,000, send your contribution, no matter how large or small, to the

Honorary Treasurer,

Leatherhead Cottage Hospital,

Epsom Road,

Leatherhead.

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There have appeared in the columns of the "Bookhams Bulletin" during the past two years various notes upon certain activities of the British Legion, and for the benefit of all Ex-service men, although it is not generally known, the British Legion have a Legal Department where advice can be obtained over a varied range of legal matters, such as Landlord and Tenant, Construction of Wills, Presumption of Death, Statute of Frauds, Patents, Disputes, etc.

Any information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Local Benevolent Committee, "St. Jean," Crabtree Lane, Great Bookham.

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.—Volunteers are still required for all Branches. Information from Mr. L. Robertson, or The Clerk to the Leatherhead Urban District Council, Kingston House, Leatherhead.

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## Civic Notes

(By Mitre)

### *Repugnance of Rates*

How often has it been heard in the Council Chamber, on the platform, and in the railway carriage, or read in the newspapers, that there seems no limit to the increase in local expenditure? Even if the rate poundage has not increased this year, as in Leatherhead, the total amount of money spent by the Council is continuing to increase and will still do so for some time to come.

Spending by a local authority has always been subject to criticism because the man-in-the-street or rather the ratepayer, considers that as it is his money that is being spent, he could use it himself to better advantage. But there are several functions which should not be left to individual effort. Private enterprise has in the past undertaken many tasks which are now more efficiently performed by the local authority, although the latter is still aided by the supplementary and valuable help of voluntary organisations, especially in Surrey. The local council however has the advantages of continuity of effort and the force of authority delegated by the King in Parliament. Further it has the benefit of the economies which are obtainable from associated and monopolistic activity. Finally, certain quasi-charitable duties, e.g. public assistance and education, are lifted out of the atmosphere of patronage and fitful and indiscriminate benevolence of private philanthropy.

Quite true, the individualist will say, such items as education, public health, and social maintenance must be undertaken corporatively, but let the expenditure be the minimum possible. "Economy" is used to add unmerited lustre to parsimony and meanness. The public conscience remains dormant until something drastic, like a cholera epidemic or burglary outbreak occurs, then there is a noisy outcry for large expenditure on the remedies,—main drainage or more police. Without such catastrophic events and the urging

of public-spirited men and the departments of the central government, the natural repugnance of self-taxation is sufficient to prevent callous local councils from undertaking work at once desirable and urgent.

The word "economy" has been so badly abused and bandied about in political controversy that its true meaning has been overlooked. Its meaning is simply "good management" and it has two applications. The first is the most fruitful one (with the least waste) of available resources. The second aspect always arises whether the resources of society would not yield, on the whole, greater welfare if less were spent for public services and more left in the hands of individuals for current consumption or capital investment. Thus occasions would arise when long-term wisdom dictates less consumption and more capital preservation or less consumption in some directions and more in others. But economy in this sense is equally consistent, not with less, but with more expenditure by public authorities. The final questions are the respective values of the objects in view and the relative efficiency of the organisation and incentives of private and public undertakings. They involve subtle analysis and delicate weighings, and they are not settled but severely prejudiced by impassioned bellowing in the market place.

Critics of increasing expenditure of local authorities should remember that not only has the population increased, but many amenities of civilisation have been obtained. The rate of mortality has decreased and longevity increased. Sickness has decreased; death rate from tuberculosis has been halved, and many other diseases stamped out; streets are paved, lighted and cleansed; since 1909 a million houses have been built by local councils; nearly six million children are educated in elementary schools and half-a-million in secondary schools; law and order are maintained at an efficiency which is the envy of the world; a splendid network of roads makes the economies and comfort of motoring possible, and a million people during the year are saved from starvation and misery, and the mentally and physically sick are provided for. These services cost money, but must be regarded as essential.

There is another side to this which must be examined at some other time, i.e. the capacity of a local authority to pay for the services it requires and the relation between total expenditure of the municipality and the total rateable value.

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## Local History

Over a period of four years there have appeared from time to time in the pages of this Journal some history of the Bookhams, and as our Village is a Ward of the Leatherhead Urban District it is hoped that a further historical sketch of the various Wards will be of some interest to the reader.

To obtain a clear perspective of Leatherhead it should be entered by the west and left by the south. To meet Leatherhead on the road from Fetcham is to begin with a stretch of water, which is always a good introduction, and to leave it and travel south is to pass through one of the most fascinating valleys of all Surrey.

The stretch of water lying to the west is the mill-pond, and is unlike any other pond. It is two or three hundred yards long and perhaps eighty yards wide, slopes gradually from the sides over a chalky bottom and is of an intense clear green. Here and there are open patches of green, which can be seen, if one looks closely, to be moving—a most uncanny motion. The water wells up incredibly fast and quiet, and surely incredibly cold, from some unplumbed invisible source below, and it would be interesting to find the bottom with a plummet. It would be easy to believe that the rushing springs of the mill-pond are in reality the Mole, reappearing from the dive below the ground at Mickleham, higher up the stream.

The mill stream joins the Mole just below Leatherhead Bridge, a fine span of fourteen arches. Beyond the bridge on the left, is the site of a very famous old inn. The present inn, "The Running Horse," has been partly rebuilt and has few external attractions, but the mistress of the old inn four hundred years ago was the subject of an ode written by the Poet Laureate. She was Elinour Rummung, ale-wife of a cabaret in "Ledehede in Sothray," and John Skelton perhaps to amuse Henry VIII. and perhaps to please himself, wrote one of his pungent, mumbling romps of doggerel about her. The "Tunning of Elinour Rummung, per Skelton Laureate," as one of the old editions prints it, is an interminable piece of rhyme, most an orgy of coarseness, but with a certain rude vigour of humour and live truth.

The poem, such as it is, is far too long to be reproduced here, but briefly the story is that Skelton was a fisherman and used to come over

from Nonsuch Park by way of Epsom to fish in the Mole at Leatherhead. Perhaps he did, and drank Elinour's "nopy ale;" in any case a portrait of Leatherhead's ale-wife found its way into one of his books with a rhymed couplet beneath it. The portrait is of a hag of such ill-favour as would certainly "assuage a man's courage."—E.P.

(To be continued.)

## Wild Flowers Found in The Bookhams.

The Field Gentian with its blossoms of purplish lilac, is common on hilly pastures from August until October. The plant is between six and eight inches high and is very similar to another species called the Autumnal Gentian, which is to be found in similar places at the same time. This latter kind may be known from its corolla which is cut into five instead of four like the field variety. Both species have a delicate fringe in the throat of the flower which is very beautiful under the microscope.

Five species belong to our British wild flowers. The Marsh Gentian, also called Calathian Violet or Harvest Bell having deep blue blossoms marked with five green stripes. It is a rare and a most beautiful flower, growing in bogs.

The Spring Gentian too is rare, but its large single bell-shaped flower is of exquisite blue, and is hardly less beautiful or less infrequent as the cluster of small Alpine Gentian which is found on the very summit of the Highland mountains.

The bitter principle contained in the Gentians has led to the medicinal use of several species. The Bitter Gentian of Commerce is the plant of the Alps, but the root of our Autumnal species is used in Russia; and the Purple Gentian of Northern Europe is of as much power as the species usually employed.

It was to the Gentian family that Coleridge alluded when he penned his magnificent poem to Chamouni:—

"Who had the sun  
Clothe you with rainbows? Who, with living flowers  
Of loveliest blue, spread garlands at your feet?  
God! let the torrents, like a shoot of nations,  
Answer! and let the ice plains echo God!"

A.P.

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## British Legion—The King's Review

On Sunday, 27th June, 80,000 Ex-service men and women paraded in Hyde Park to march past their King in the first Royal Review since his accession. Amid all the functions of the Coronation Year, this remarkable parade deserves all the publicity that is due to the men who faced all that human endurance could stand during those years 1914 to 1918.

There is a tendency, I think, to regard the Ex-service man as a back number—something that is a reminder of years some prefer to forget. Only those that fought in the Great War know of the sacrifices and sufferings, and how little the present generation seem to realise that but for these Ex-service men and the Ghosts who walked beside them in Hyde Park, Britain would be a very different place. Among this huge conclave, 28 members of the Effingham and The Bookhams Branch attended the Review, and two disabled men were allocated seats in the stands for these. The National Press has given the public impressions of this great gathering and one may ask what is at the back of it all? There is but a simple answer—Loyalty to our King who is himself an Ex-service man, and the spirit of Comradeship.

But this friendship and general feeling of comradeship that were such a feature of the War years remain among those things that we survivors cherish most. As a rule we do not talk much about this sort of thing to strangers, but when two or three men meet, say in a country inn or club, they discover that nearly twenty years ago they had all been on the Western Front in some shell-torn and battered village. Apart from their personal reminiscences, can they not say "I have served King and Country in those days of War and I can still serve in the cause of Peace."—W.A.M.

## A Holiday Suggestion *(by a Correspondent)*

The season has approached when no periodical is complete without an article on "The Ideal Holiday." One expert in vacational ideality bids the reader go and obtain change by taking a job in a lunatic asylum. Another tells us to go on a cruise. Yet a third bids us to explore our home town and see the sights, while a fourth crystalizes the idea in a nutshell by recommending us to visit Downing Street during the political rush hour, which as every one knows is in February, namely the 29th.

Let me add my small, and I hope my original quota (or should I say quotum) to this burning

topic. In the first place it is quite clear that what everyone is after during holiday time is a change. Very few of the expert suggestions offer change to me; they all seem too much like work. What is more, even if you go into the wilderness you never really get away from the normal. What I would like for a holiday is something as remote from the usual as possible. Find this and you find your ideal holiday.

My first thought was a holiday entirely spent on a seaside pier. Here, it seemed to me at first, was something quite outside the ordinary experience. Once on a pier you are out of England and yet you are not abroad. You have definitely left your native country and are in a kind of windy and wooden No-Man's-Land. You are of Britain but not in it. In theory it seemed that you could snap your fingers at the Old Country, without the formalities of flying from it pursued by the police. I had never heard of anyone being arrested for exceeding the 30 mile speed limit on a pier, and I surmised that the long arm of the law ceased the moment you had turnstiled yourself into a pier-dweller for twopence. Theoretically, I am sure it should be so. Practically, I was undeceived by seeing a gentleman being roughly hauled off to prison for purloining someone else's halibut, caught a few minutes before at great expense and trouble.

So the pier dream faded and now the Restaurant Car dream has taken its place. I can see no flaw whatsoever in a holiday Poste Restant. Here is another case of No-Man's-Land—of being of England but not being in it. It is the one place in the world where no ill can befall you. Get inside, sit down, and your troubles are over. You can have what you like, not only to eat but to drink, at any hour of the day or night. You have not the slightest chance of being arrested for speeding, although you are all the time breaking every traffic law. You need not fear molestation from tax collectors, publications, or even sinners. There are no letters, telegrams, telephones, hawkers, canvassers, or unpleasantnesses of any kind. The prospect always pleases, and man is far from vile, for the attendant is the only one with whom you need have any contact, and is there to do your bidding and collect your tip. You can eat and sleep when you like. You need not shave (anyhow I have not yet seen anyone shaving in a long distance corridor train) and in fact, the possibilities of such a holiday as this are endless. If you must have a thrill, pull the communication cord—it is a cheap five pounds worth after such a rest.

## Local Organisations.

Secretaries of Local Organisations have been asked from time to time to notify the Editor of any Fixtures or other matter for inclusion in the columns of the "Bookhams Bulletin." As there has been little or no response, it has been suggested that a list of Secretaries and their Organisations might assist those interested, so this is given below :—

### AIR RAIDS PRECAUTIONS

Mr. L. Robertson, "Old Rectory,"  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 227.

### BOOKHAM SCOUTS

— Waterfield, "Foulis,"  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 19.

### BOWLING CLUB

Mr. R. Andrews,  
"Five Beeches," Dorking Road,  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 201.

### BOYS' BRIGADE

Mr. D. Cook, Flushing Farm House,  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 320.

### BRITISH LEGION

(Effingham and The Bookhams Branch)  
Mr. F. Bishop, Forest Road,  
Effingham Junction. East Horsley 147.  
Mr. W. Mugeridge,  
"St. Jean," Crabtree Lane,  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 399.

### BLUE BIRDS

Mrs. Hutchings, "Dovecot,"  
Downs Way, Gt. Bookham.

### CAMP FIRE GIRLS

Mrs. Hawkins, "Portreath,"  
Lower Road, Gt. Bookham.

### CRICKET CLUB

Mr. W. J. Dawes, "Alsager,"  
Lelliotts Lane, Leatherhead Common.

### CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION

Miss Beddoe, "Kendenis,"  
Leatherhead Road, Gt. Bookham.

### FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr. R. Gidden, "Rendezvous,"  
Woodlands Road, Bookham.

### FOOTBALL CLUB—Wednesday.

Mr. H. Ranger,  
7, Church Place, Gt. Bookham.  
Asst. Sec. Mr. C. Hunt, "Lewis,"  
Blackthorne Road, Gt. Bookham.

### GARDEN SOCIETY

Mr. C. Saunders, "Sycamore,"  
Eastwick Drive, Gt. Bookham.  
Mr. S. Pearsall, "Sherwood,"  
The Park, Gt. Bookham.

### LITTLE BOOKHAM BOYS' CLUB

Mr. J. Greathurst,  
Merrylands Road, Bookham.

### LITERARY & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Mrs. Bowen, "Sunnycot,"  
Lower Road, Gt. Bookham.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

Mr. O. Groom,  
"Wychwood," Sole Farm Road,  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 285.

### LIFE BOYS' BRIGADE

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"Glandore," Keswick Road,  
Gt. Bookham.

### LIFE GIRLS' BRIGADE

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Rookery Close, The Ridgeway,  
Fetcham Park. Leatherhead 420.

### NURSING ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Benest, "St. Helliers,"  
Hawks Hill Close,  
Fetcham Park. Leatherhead 384.

### RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. R. Bishop,  
"Jonod," Dowlans Road,  
Gt. Bookham. Bookham 465.

### SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

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The Park, Gt. Bookham.

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### WOMEN'S GUILD

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### **Bowls in Bookham.**

Since our last issue the members of the Bookhams Bowling Club have again commenced a new season of enjoyment of the game.

The Club owing to death and removals, lost several of its members over the winter months, but newcomers have joined and the membership is larger than ever.

The Club is a lusty youngster, having last May commenced its fourth year of life. There are very few, if any Clubs within a large radius of this village which can put 32 players in matches on one day, but this Bookham did on Saturday July 3rd. Furthermore its list of fixtures each season is now always a large one.

Both sexes at the commencement of the season entered for the County Competitions and it is with great pleasure that we mention success came to one of the ladies, Mrs. Williams, who has now played for the County. Considering the large number of bowling clubs which this particular County covers, it is an honour both to the lady in question and to Bookham.

Whilst the membership of the Club is large, there is room yet for more members, especially ladies, and new ones will always receive a hearty welcome, as bowls as played at Bookham is without a doubt the most democratic game.—R.A.

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