

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 107

NOVEMBER 1960

28th year



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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 107

November, 1960

28th year

EDITORIAL

Although we live in a restless and fast-moving age there is one concept which has not changed substantially in all the centuries. It is the concept of home, the place in which we have our roots. In the course of a lifetime we may move our residence a number of times but we are not content until we have struck new roots and the strange neighbourhood then becomes home.

It is difficult to define home. It is a combination of family, friends, the shops, roads and views to which we have become accustomed, and the joys and sorrows we share with the people who live around us. We rarely analyse this feeling and it may only come to the surface if there is a threat to our locality, either a challenge or a disaster which brings the realization that we are a part of it and have a contribution to make. Psychologists, however, constantly emphasise that home is the foundation of "the good life", and that full maturity can only be reached in the warm atmosphere of belonging.

Our locality, however, is not merely the place in which we live but it has been shaped by the generations who have gone before. We can get much interest from learning about the past, the old place names, buildings and relics. There are many people in Bookham who want more information about its past. We hear from time to time of articles dug up in gardens which throw light on the past, and those who find them are eager to follow up the implications of their discoveries.

As a stimulus to the interest which already exists in local history we propose to reprint from time to time extracts from John Harvey's Short History of Bookham which has been published in its entirety in previous Bulletins. People who missed them will thus have an opportunity to read a fascinating story of the neighbourhood and those whose collection is not complete will be able to fill the gaps. The first of these articles appears on another page. We hope that residents who have records or relics of the past, or who may find them in digging or spring cleaning operations, will be encouraged to tell us about them. The suggestion has been made

that a local museum might be a good idea. This, perhaps, is a bit ambitious; but we can at least collect together the evidence we get from "finds" of today to throw light on the events of yesterday for the benefit of the people of tomorrow.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION

We are still without an Advertisement Manager. No special experience is necessary.

Unless a volunteer comes forward the Bulletin will cease. Do not hesitate. Ring now Bookham 2702.

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**To All Members of the
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Bookham Community Association will be held at the Barn Hall on **Friday, February 10th, 1961**, at 8.15 p.m.

Agenda

1. Election of President to succeed Dr. Waterfield.
2. Minutes of 1960 Annual General Meeting.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Amendment of Constitution. Notice of Motion: To amend the title Bookham Community Association to The Bookhams Community Association.
6. Amendment of Constitution. Notice of Motion: To delete all words after Annual General Meeting in 7(c). This now reads: The Council shall consist of
 - (a) The President, Vice-presidents, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.
 - (b) One representative appointed by each of the constituent bodies, organisations and sections named in the First Schedule and Groups of the Association named in the Second Schedule hereto having up to fifty members; and one additional representative if

having more than fifty members.

(c) One representative for every fifty individual members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Members elected to the Council shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

(d) The Local Authorities shall have the right to appoint annually one member each to the Council.

(e) The Council shall have the power to invite a representative from any organisation unable to affiliate to the Association by reason of its constitution. The Council shall elect from its members its own chairman and vice-chairman.

7. Election of Officers and Council Members.

8. Any other business.

Nominations for officers and committee may be sent to the Hon. Sec. in advance of the meeting.

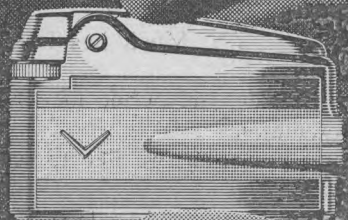
Members are invited to come to the A.G.M. in good numbers. After the formal meeting there will be tea and biscuits followed by a discussion on the Association's work and prospects.

Members are also reminded that the annual subscription 1960, 1961 of 2/6 is now due.

OBITUARY — V. G. ROGERS

Much has been written about the public life of "Vic" Rogers but we like to remember him as one of us. He was a founder member of the Community Assn. and he lived amongst us in the village. Aimiable and unhurried, he was to be seen at village events and we felt that he enjoyed them and was not there just out of duty. Yes, we shall miss him, for he was one of us.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

Part I

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

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Bookham is at the geographical centre of Surrey; the exact spot lies near Goldstone Farm. In shape the ancient parish was long and narrow, stretching from the ridge of the North Downs to the River Mole, a distance of five and a half miles, while its breadth is little over one mile. This shape had been reached in Saxon times, and remained essentially unaltered for at least 800 years.

Long before the village or its boundaries came into existence, the chalk uplands had been inhabited by Neolithic men, whose discarded arrowheads and implements of flint delight the gardener-antiquary. Little direct evidence for the Roman period in Bookham has been found, apart from an earthen pot of brass coins of the third century A.D., turned up at Bagden Farm about 1716. It is only with the Anglo-Saxon period that we reach the threshold of history.

The early Teutonic colonists of the fifth and sixth centuries pushed up the river valleys and as the country became settled, met other tribes on the watersheds. This process led to the formation of the hundreds, the early divisions of the county, with bound-

aries lying along the ridges and across infertile tracts. Central Surrey was included in the Hundreds of Cophthorne and Effingham, with a single Moot (meeting-place) shared between them. In pagan times this may have been at Horsehead Cross in Fetcham*, but by the thirteenth century it had become fixed at Leith Pit, where the Lower Road crosses the boundary between Bookham and Fetcham, which is also that between the two joint hundreds. There the Hundred Court was held, and nearby was the gallows.

Investigation of place-names makes it possible to reconstruct something of the tribal history of the district, and shows the keen eye for natural features possessed by the Saxon settlers†. But it is not until the Christian period of the seventh century that documentary references are found. The Venerable Bede relates that Earconwald, who became Bishop of London in 674, had founded a monastery at "Ceortesei" (Chertsey) by the Thames, and according to a charter whose original dated from about 675, the Bishop and Frithwald, viceroy of Surrey, granted to the Abbey twenty dwellings at "Bocham cum Effingham". Though this charter exists only in a later and spurious form, it is accepted that it preserves a genuine tradition. The grant was confirmed by four Saxon Kings: Offa in 787, Athelstan in 933, Edgar in 967, and Edward the Confessor in 1062.

Athelstan's coronation at King-

ston in 925 is an historical landmark, when Surrey first appears as a district of national importance. The famous stone at Kingston was probably an actual boundary mark, symbolizing the meeting-point of the four spheres of influence: Kent, Wessex, Mercia and Middlesex. Surrey, which had been the "South region" of the Middle Saxons, became a part of Wessex by the end of the seventh century, and for this reason Bookham was historically always within the diocese of Winchester.

Bookham was one of a deliberately laid-out system of parishes which follow the northern slope of the Downs from Croydon to Guildford, taking advantage of the several sorts of land. Towards the high, southern end were beech-woods, which gave Bookham its name: the dwelling at the beech trees; at the opposite end, separated from the River Mole by rich water-meadows, was a forest of oak growing on the London clay. In between lay downland, much of it already ploughed, well drained by the chalk subsoil. An outcrop of Thanet Sand marks the northern edge of this downland, and along this ran the accommodation road which linked village to village (the Lower Road). The main settlement (Great Bookham High Street) was laid out on a gravel bed which had silted up in Bookham Dean (i.e. valley). Wells sunk in the chalk provided a good water supply. The regular plots on each side of the straight street, and the corner site allocated to

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the church, show that Bookham is the outcome of deliberate town-planning.

* See Surrey Archæological Collections, Vol. L (1949), 157-161.

† English Place-Name Society, Vol. XI (1944); S.A.C. 161-165.

(By kind permission of John Harvey, F.R.S., we are reprinting the first article of his series on the History of Bookham and we will continue the series periodically in other issues.—Editor.)

YOUTH PROVISIONS IN BOOKHAM

The Surrey County Council is asking the Ministry of Education to make provision in the 1962—1963 building programme for a Youth Centre in the Southey Hall Grounds. This is a great step forward and fits in with our present population trends. It is obvious that many young married couples are settling in Bookham and in a few years we shall have

to cater for the leisure time activities of hundreds of young people. We should be planning for this now.

We cannot, however, wait until a fine, new building goes up. There are many young people in Bookham now who have nowhere to go. The uniformed organisations cater for some of them, the Churches have small groups, a few are accommodated in the Football and Cricket Clubs. What about the rest? For years the Community Association has been saying that this is a village problem. It has just issued a policy statement: it makes the Barn Hall available one night a week for activities exclusively for young people, it encourages young people to join its other clubs meeting on the remaining nights and assures them of a welcome. It emphasises, however, that more halls are needed more nights of the week for specialised youth activities and that more volunteers must come forward from the adult population to guide these activities.

The recommendations of the much publicised Albermarle Report on the Youth Service, which have been accepted by the Government, have given new life to this service which has been much neglected in the past. Our readers might be interested in a few relevant quotations from this Report.

“A particular weakness in the Youth Service, for which all of our witnesses have shown concern, is its failure to reach so many of the young people of today. The figure often quoted was that the Service was attracting only one in three and we found confirmation of this.”

* * *

“To those who doubt the need for a Youth Service we would put this question. The State makes extensive provision for social development, parallel with its provision for intellectual development, up to whatever age young people remain in full-time education: is it right that this social provision should end so abruptly for the less intellectual, simply because they have been withdrawn from formal education? One can contrast the standard of premises usual in organisations within the Youth Service with those of a residential hostel or undergraduates' Common Room in almost any redbrick university.”

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“Another way in which the requirements of the Youth Service can be combined with other forms of social investment is by the addition of facilities for youth groups to be integrated with community centres. We are aware of the conflicting bodies of opinion in this matter and we should like to see experiments with provision that is ‘insulated but not isolated’. We recommend this on two grounds: first, the economical use of sites, staffing and servicing; second, the desirability of helping the adolescent to pass easily into the world of adult organisations.”

* * *

“We welcome industry’s interest in young people and would like to see it extended . . . We would urge this same consideration on adult societies, especially on sports clubs and associations which have so much to offer which corresponds with the chief interests of the majority of young people. We would urge it also on all groups who have some interest they could share, some know-how or skill to hand on: naturalist societies, brass bands, photographic societies, gliding clubs, sketching and painting groups, pot-holers, to mention only a few of the manifold associations in which people meet together to pursue some interest and to enjoy the creative use of their leisure.”

“We have stressed the need for many more voluntary helpers . . . The help of the ordinary citizen is the most needed, and particularly during the next ten years of development when there is bound to be a shortage of trained leaders. Let no-one be held back by doubts of his ability or skill; a basic kindness, a simple commonsense and unlimited patience are the most important qualities.”

NEW SCOUT TROOP

The 2nd Bookham Scout Group has been formed. Scouts meet every Friday at 7.30, Cubs Wednesday at 6.0, at the Baptist Hall, Lower Road. The group is non-denominational. This should be good news to boys wishing to join the Scout movement as the 1st Bookham has a long waiting list. Scout Master: J. Bundell, 11, Twelve Acre Close. Group Scout Master: E. Tarrington, 4, Dowlans Close.

OLD TIME DANCING

Ballroom dancing provides popular recreation for all ages throughout the country, and during recent years, due possibly to publicity given by the presentation of dancing on television, its popularity has increased. It is clear that with a recreation attracting people of all ages and all walks in life, various styles of dancing have evolved, and one of these is known as ‘Old Time Dancing’. It must be emphasised that OLD Time Dancing is a style of dancing and does not include dances of any particular period; in fact it includes genuine Old Time Dances which were popular before and during the early years of the current century and also new dances executed in the Old Time style invented during later years and known as Twentieth Century Sequence Dances. These latter dances have been largely inspired by the introduction into this country about the time of the First World War of the fox trot, the tango and one-step.

During the Second World War little dancing in the Old Time style was done, but after the war there was a resurgence and Old Time Clubs were formed all over the country and generally speaking they have gone from strength to strength. In Bookham, a number of enthusiasts got together in 1948, and as a result the Old Tyme Dance Club was formed; it is now a permanent feature of

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the social life of the village, but its activities should be more widely known and patronised than they are now.

Membership of the Club is open to all members of the Community Association and the Annual subscription is 1/-, in addition to the Association subscription. The Club meets every Wednesday evening from September to June in the Barn Hall from 7.45 to 10.30 p.m. and a dance, when live music is provided, is held on the second Saturday in the month, normally at the Church House. Admission on Club nights is 1/6 and to the dances 3/-. During recent years the Club has held an annual party, free to members and last year, in addition, a Dinner Dance. Regular visits are made to other Clubs in the vicinity, and return visits are made by these Clubs to the Dances held in Bookham.

The Club is affiliated to the Federation of Surrey Old Time Dance Clubs and once a month representatives from the Club attend the Federation to learn new dances which are subsequently demonstrated at the Club and added to the Club's repertoire which at present comprises some 120 dances; last season eight dances, all new, were demonstrated.

From the foregoing it is clear that the Club is a live institution and it is a matter for regret that more young people in Bookham do not attend; during recent months National journals devoted to dancing have reported on the growth in the popularity of Old Time Dancing with youth and in many districts Clubs have opened a separate Youth Section. There seems no reason why Bookham should lag behind, and although now a special appeal is made to youth, people of all ages are cordially welcome to the Club.

Those who have seen Old Time Dancing performed on television cannot but have been impressed with the grace and beauty of this style of dancing; fundamentally the basic steps of the style are not difficult, but nevertheless the dances are attractive and offer a great variety. One of the features of most Clubs is the readiness of more experienced members to encourage and help new members, and this is the case at Bookham.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. J. W. Hilder, 247, Lower Road, Great Bookham (Tel. 3525), or better still a visit to the Club will prove rewarding.

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

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Conservative Assn, Gt. Bookham Branch. G. W. E. Cooper, 282 Lower Rd.

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

Grove Association. Mr. V. A. Ewer, 23, Overton Way.

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

Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Garden Society. Mr. H. J. Palmer, 153, Lower Road, Great Bookham.

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Cubs. Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

Women's Institute (Afternoon). Mrs. M. Gant, 50, Barn Meadow Lane.

Women's Institute (Evening). Mrs. P. Hester, 57, Keswick Road.

Youth Tennis Club. Miss B. Kay, 12 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

The 1st Bookham Scout Group. Supporters' Association Secretary: Mr. L. King, 6 Allen Road. Bookham 3631.

The Bookham Bowling Club. Secretary: J. H. Saunders, 22 Grove-side. Bookham 2827.

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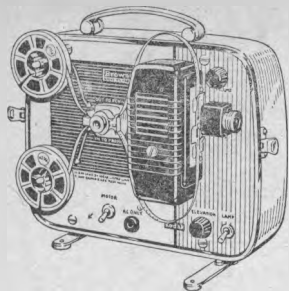
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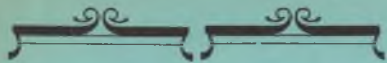


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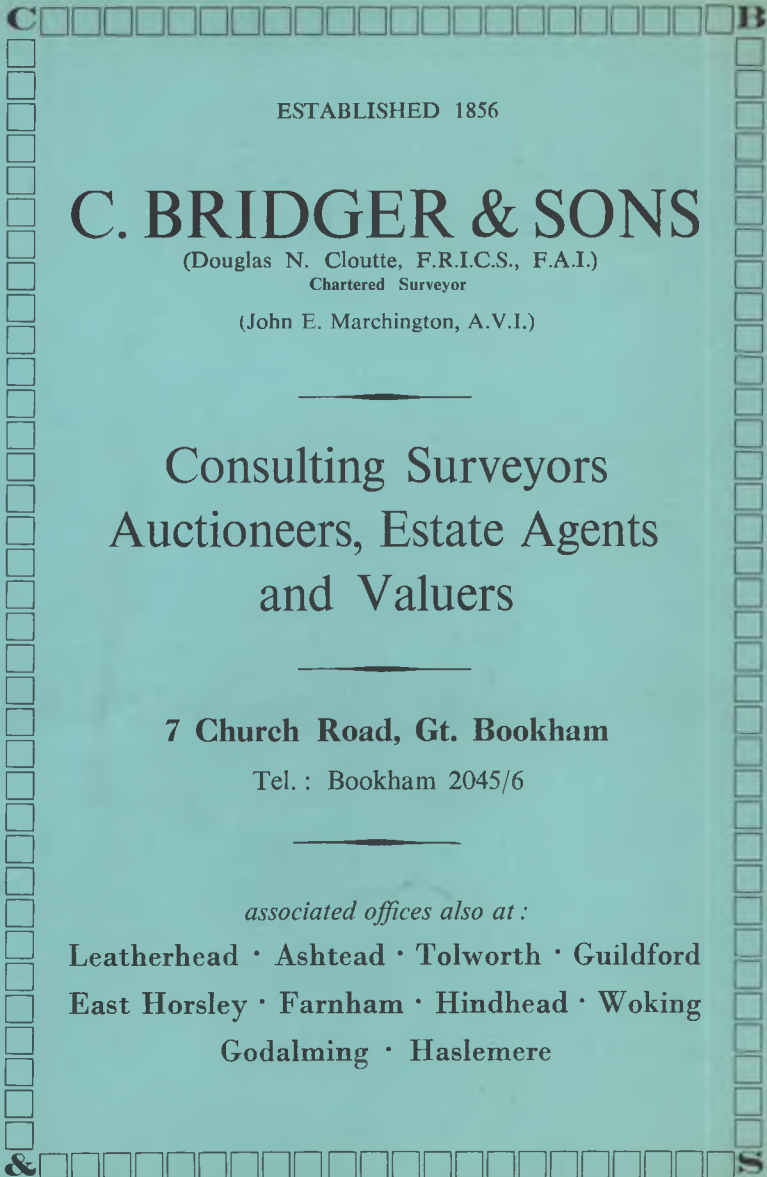
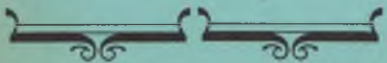
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