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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



No. 143

AUGUST, 1970

36th Year

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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 143

AUGUST. 1970

36th Year

EDITORIAL

Our readers, as well as the Editor, will probably be glad to return to the regular Bulletin format after our special Community Association edition.

The Membership Drive was well worth while. We are grateful to Mr. W. E. Larkin, who organised it, and to the canvassers and backroom helpers who participated so well. We also thank all those who so kindly welcomed our representatives and became members of the B.C.A. The support given 1. Reports. will give great encouragement in the fund-raising efforts for the 2. Election of officers. Extensions to the Barn Hall.

Village Day and Festival were 3. well patronized. Some of the proceeds will be allocated to the maintenance of the Hall but we hope that a substantial sum will go into the Building Fund. The response from organisations and clubs was magnificent. The local traders supported the occasion with their usual generosity. We 4. Election of Representatives are indebted to all who came and all who helped.

TO ALL B.C.A. MEMBERS

Bookham Community Association A.G.M.

Tuesday, October 27th, 8.15 p.m., Barn Hall.

We hope that many of our new members, as well as our old. will come along and make this a lively meeting.

AGENDA

- Election of Vice-Presidents. To date — Messrs, C. Beddous, S. E. D. Fortescue. W. Bell, G. Everett, R. Marshall, A. Marson, B. Stockwell, A. Harrison, Mesdames B. Oldershaw, D. Cuddeford, M. Longhurst.
- Council of Association.

Present Members: Mesdames Stratford. Medway, Catt. Godwin. Messrs. Larkin, Rombach. Cuddeford, Flowers, Catt. Freeman. Bruce. Clark. Preston, Dr. Thorley, Dr. Sowerbutts.

- 5. Tea Interval.
- 6. General Business.

Please bring their agenda with you. Nominations in writing for Officers and Individual Members' Representatives will be welcomed in advance by the Hon. Sec., 48 Downsway.

B.C.A. CLUBS **AUTUMN SEASON**

Bookham Gramaphone Club will open its season on Thursday, September 10th, at 8 p.m., with a concert on records of Individual Members to presented by its Chairman, Mr. A. E. Jeal. It meets again the

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following Thursday (17th) and thereafter fortnightly until April. The Club's equipment is under constant watch by its technical expert, Mr. F. W. Morris, and, on his advice, it hopes to replace the Amplifier in the near future. Unlike some clubs which have a waiting list for members it can absorb additional members immediately. Visitors are always welcomed, particularly as they usually end up by joining the Club after they have experienced the pleasure and relaxation of listening to music presented in so many different ways by people with wide and varied interests.

Bookham Bowling Club goes indoors in September and members enjoy the game, for which special equipment has been obtained. They meet in the friendly atmosphere of the Barn Hall on most Mondays in the season and find that just as much skill is needed inside as on the outdoor rinks at the Dorking Rd. Recreation Ground. Membership is growing rapidly. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. Charles Flowers

Members of the Club won a number of coveted awards at the Surrey Area Show but its big triumph was to secure the second prize in the inter-society class, competing against many theme Swings."

The Bridge Club, which meets every Monday, with the exception of the first Monday in the month, is so popular that it has had to fix a ceiling of 70 members. It has already contributed £50 to the Barn Hall Building Fund by organising Duplicate Drives and has a target of £100 which it hopes to reach soon. Association." W.P.A.

Old and Modern Sequence Dance Club is the new title adopted by the Olde Tyme Dance Club to correct the wrong image it may convey to some Club is Mr. R. G. Morgan, of people as a relic of the Victorian era. Modern rhythms are the basis for the many new dances that are initiated by the Federation and taught at the weekly meetings on Wednesdays. These begin on September 2nd., but new members are always welcome and can, if they so wish, come along at 7.30 p.m. when experienced dancers are present to help with informal instruction.

Anyone interested is invited to petition. the Folk Dance Club which meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Congregational Hall from September 14th.

Group Reaches its Peak. The membership of this flourishing Projects. Photographic Journals. long-established groups, on the club, of which Mrs. S. McLeod

the point where the club has been obliged to start a waiting Among its numbers are list. several accomplished and qualified arrangers. Mrs. J. Owen. who is on the Committee of the club, entered the competition at the Ideal Homes Exhibition and won a First and Third Prize.

A date to be entered in the diary of all flower lovers is Saturday, November 28th, when the Christmas Show will be held. petition.

New Secretary for the Camera Fetcham. He succeeds Mr. J. A. Carver, who has held this post for 3 years and now becomes Chairman. During this period Mr. Carver has worked hard to build up the membership which has nearly doubled now Standards, too, have risen and this is reflected in the successes gained in competitions, the most outstanding being to reach the Semi-Finals of the Surrey Com-

The Club meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Great Bookham County Junior School, commencing September 3rd. Visitors and new members are welcome at any meeting. Activities cover Talks, Demonstrations, Practical Bookham Flower Arrangement Evenings, Discussions, Competitions, Colour Section, Outings,

Those who visited its 24th "The Pendulum is now chairman and Mrs. E. annual Exhibition in the Barn Smith secretary, has grown to Hall must have been impressed not only by the technique of the caught by the photographer, for secretary example the peace conveyed by Marshall. Razzell's 'The

W. P. Ashton has taken over the him from continuing as secretary the Club has contributed more secretaryship of the Scottish of the Club. Members regret his than £1,000 to the funds of the Dancing Club and we have resignation but we are happy to Association." received from him this apprecia- know that he will remain with tion of the former secretary which we are delighted to are grateful, too, for the help publish.

"The Club was formed on than a decade by Iris Marshall. prints but by the mood so subtly February 10th, 1959. Its first If all the contributions Iris has was Mr. G. M.B.E., and L. Neil's 'Evening Solitude' and eleven eventful years he has the like were put end to end the whole gamut of emotion served the Club as scribe, as they would surround the Barn from defiance to despair in P. tutor, as member of a highly Hall, many, many times. Both Immigrant', successful demonstration team, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have Pictures like the 'Pollen Hunter', and as an esteemed and well- been untiring in their support 'Stag Beetle', 'Sea Shells' gave loved friend. Mr. and Mrs. fo the Club and for Bookham new meaning to natural objects. Marshall now live in Wey- Community Association, It is in bridge, and Bob Marshall feels large measure as the result of that distance from Bookham, their endeavours that, in the The Scottish Dancers. Mr. amongst other reasons, prevents eleven years since its formation. us as an active member. We given to the Club over more

R. extracted from willing victims for for the White Elephant Stall and

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ROUND AND ABOUT

Mrs. Thomas, its secretary, tells importantly, guarantees practise together The idea arose towards the rent of the Hall. after "The Workshop" the Community Association. instrumentalists played for the Children's Dance.

is frequently spoken of, but signified by loud applause. rarely seen. As its name implies. sequences can be performed on Ackrovd, were of great value. grass but much use made of hoops, balls and clubs. Other Groups, as well as the Bookham ones participated Movement. under the direction of Mrs. J. the Bookham Women's Insti- fully in the 1970 celebrations. tute's classes. She tells us that encouraged to take it up.

Treasurer, Mrs. E. Cameron, and Surrey North took part. The Musicians' Workshop? was able to give the satisfactory Our own Bookham Guides pre-We have been questioned about news that there was a balance sented the Elizabethan era. Mrs. this event which was organised in hand of £104 which will Edith White was their producer during the Village Festival by enable the Club to indulge in and adviser on costumes and the Bookham Folk Dance Club. occasional 'treats', but, more thanks are due to her and the us that it was an open session annual summer outing to the made up the costumes. More for all instrumentalists wish- coast, including tea and lunch, than a 100 of our local Guides ing to learn some of the old. It is noteworthy that this good played in the traditional folk tunes, Instructors financial situation is due, for the travelled to Twickenham in were present to give individual most part, to members' own special coaches. A chartered tuition and there was ample efforts and the generous contri- train was laid on by British opportunity for the musicians to bution made by the L.U.D.C. Rail from Bookham and stopped

children in joining with the Folk are the same as last year, except friends. Dancers in their display last that Mrs. B. Oldershaw has Village Day. In the afternoon, joined as a representative of the tunity to see a re-enactment of

> The members for the devoted service

Parmiter, who is the leader of Association have participated a permanent home.

The highlight of the year,

Over Sixties A.G.M. The Guides from Greater London the parents and supporters who scene at stations en route to pick up from the obvious delight of the The Officers and Committee other brownies, parents and

> We all enjoyed the opporthe Bookham part of the producappreciation of the tion on Village Day.

It is hoped that 1970 will also given by the Secretary, Mrs. be marked by a start on the Mary Longhurst, and the Chair- construction of the long hoped Medau Rhythmic Movement man, Mrs. Thelma Weston, was for Guide Hut. All planning permissions have been finalised It was emphasised that the and it is anticipated that there it is a graceful exercise and monthly visits of the County will be sufficient financial backattractive to watch. Not all the Council Chiropodist, Mrs. J. ing. Premises are urgently needed. The Guide Movement has always been strong in the village and it is going from Diamond Jubilee of Guiding strength to strength. In the last The Bookham 12 months the membership has District of the Girl Guides increased by 100. They deserve

Medau is suitable for women of however, took place on May An important step to Village all ages. Those of us who may 16th at Twickenham. It was the unity was made at the A.G.M. be losing our figures were in- historical Pageant — Reach for of the Residents Association in terested to watch and, perhaps, the Star — directed by John April when it was agreed that Padgham in which all the application should be made for

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affiliation to the Community The motion was Association. of 48 votes to 5. Both bodies should be strengthened by this action. The Residents Association will have a voice on the Council, the governing body of the B.C.A., which is composed of delegates from 33 affiliated organisations, 11 B.C.A. clubs and representatives of individual members of the B.C.A. itself.

The Community Association will gain from the experience and strength of the Residents it can make from its unique head Urban District Council.

carried by a significant majority year added zest to the Spring Season which culminated in the Leith Hill Festival.

> of the Society to give us his personal impressions of this out-

standing occasion:

seen, possibly without expecting it, the recent appearance of Bookham Choral Society on made. For the performance we television in the B.B.C. 'Omnibus' programme on Vaughan Williams. No doubt round many Association and the contribution screens in the village there were initiated into further mysteries exclamations of 'Oh! There's knowledge of local planning and Mrs. So-and-so' as certain indithe deliberations of the Leather- viduals came very recognisably into view. Commiserations to

The Television Triumph for the those who did not have the Choral Society earlier in the gratification of seeing friends or relatives in their brief glory!

"The Editor has asked me to give a few impressions of the We have asked the Secretary event from the point of view of the participants. Perhaps our first reaction was keen interest in a new and rather special ex-"Many residents will have perience. We had a briefing visit from the producer a few days before the recording was assembled in St. Nicolas Church under the very hot glare of banks of lamps, and were concerning clap-boards synchronisation of sound and vision. We were allowed a few dummy-runs to steady nerves and voices. For the 'pukka' run the sound and vision were recorded separately. First we were marshalled in the arrangement which best suited the microphones and a soundtape was made. We were then re-disposed to suit the cameraman, our sound recording was played to us and we went through the motions of singing to it. This may seem false, but it was not actually so because we found it much easier to sing out again than to pretend to sing. I am sure the illusion was pretty complete.

> "The experience was in all ways rewarding and helped to give our season a wonderful start. To anyone else facing the prospect of a similar perfor-

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mance we can say — 'have no Leatherhead there was no 'flap' nor fuss.

another turn?"

are always welcome.

Congratulations to Mrs. E. Examination in certificate. Her studies are in at the Barn Hall. Department of Home Economics, Social and Health Studies.

Although no longer residing and her husband are well-known in the neighbourhood. For a long time they were keen members of the Scottish Dancing Club. Distance has severed this link but we still see them quite regularly at the Community Association Dances.

A Cup for the outstanding

and fear'. The B.B.C. staff involved District. Ann played the diffi- ties as the male mounties and were so easy to work with that cult part of the ageing actress, will be called upon to be present "Please, when can we have Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" demonstrations L.S.H. put on by the Bookham Youth potential trouble spots. Special The first practice for the Centre. A certificate of honour duties will also be allocated to winter season is on Sept. 15th, 8 was also presented to the Book- them such as searching the p.m. in the Congregational Hall. ham Youth Centre Drama women and children in open or New members and new voices Group for the best team effort.

The Youth Centre playing in the Finals at Haslemere in a well appointed theatre setting.

Ewell Technical College. The first-rate Bookham Dramatic award was for her perfor- Society presenting, as they did mance in the City and Guilds in their May production of "My Advanced Three Angels," such outstanding Domestic Cookery. She is now entertainment, it is surely high P. Salmon who has been cocompleting the final examination time we were able to start conwhich will give her a teaching struction of the projected stage

First of Women Mounties. Close on two years ago we in Bookham, Mrs. E. Knight reported that Miss Ann Macpherson, of Eastwick Drive, had been accepted for training by the Metropolitan Police. 21-year-old Ann has now become, with one other colleague, the first policewoman on horseback in the Metropolitan Force, thus breaking into another male stronghold. She is now on her six month them. probationary course at Imber

Epsom will have the same responsibili-Judith Bliss, in an excerpt from at crowded football stadiums, and scrub areas.

First ever member from With such promising young Bookham W.I.s of the County Knight who, for the second year actors and actresses coming W.I. Executive is Mrs. Audrey running, was a prizewinner at on in the village and with a Edwards. Her co-option to this important Committee is a great honour for Bookham and a tribute to her competence.

> Congratulations, also, to Mrs. opted to the Executive sub-committee for Art.

Quiet Corner for the children of Eastwick County Infants School is planned by the Staff, Parents and Managers in memory of Mrs. Blanche Silvester. It will be sited near the Adventure Playground which she suggested and did so much to equip. It will be a pleasant place in which the children can relax, read books, or just look at the trees and flowers around

As first Headmistress of the Court, learning to perform the school, she had less than two Actress, was awarded to 16- same duties as the men, including years to transform it from a years-old Ann Griffiths in the the cleaning and grooming of the shell to a centre of vitality and first round of the County Youth horses. When they have com- great promise. She created a Drama Festival covering the pleted the course the two recruits stimulating and at the same time

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secure environment for the little time much favoured by Gypsies Willock-Pollen, noting what had ones under her care, she earned who found it a convenient taken place in Great Bookham, and gained the confidence and venue to congregate active support of their parents, and she won the enthusiasm and complete loyalty of her staff. She was only 38 when she died. It is fitting that her indomitable spirit and bravery should be ash trees—which it was learnt thus permanently remembered.

BOOKHAM COMMONS

Bought by the People for the People

Contributed by Mr. Harold Freeman

To tell the story of the Commons it is necessary to divide the area into three parts: Great Bookham Common, Little Bookham Common and Banks' Common, a total of some 447 acres.

Early in the 1920s the Lord of the Manor of Great Bookham, Mr. H. Souchon, planned to sell his estate—Eastwick Park reason to be grateful to those - with the intention of living residents who-almost 50 years abroad, but it was only when a ago-saved the Common from new entrance road (known today destruction and presented the as "The Park") was made into Rights into the keeping of the Eastwick Park from Church National Trust for all time. Road, that residents became aware that not only had Harvey of Little Bookham—to the west Esq., M.C., of Little Bookham. Estates, Ltd., acquired portions of Great Bookham Common and of the parkland but also the extending as far as Hundred rights over the Waste of the Pound Bridge still remained in Manor known as Great Book- private ownership, and the Lord

before moving on to Epsom Downs for Derby Week; the land was used for grazing and the purpose of acquiring these rights was to possess the timber—fine oak and that the Contractors intended to north of Bookham, Mr. R. R. cut down and remove.

prominent residents was held and, as a result, Mr. Souchon as Banks' Comomn. was requested to halt the sale of the Manor Rights over the Com- custom, brought into being a mon. To save the Common Management Committee confrom this pending vandalism the sisting of local residents to be residents were given 3 weeks to responsible for the maintenance raise £1,200 and buy back the of this whole area, in consultarights. The population of Bookham at that time was about Polesden Lacey. 2,000; it was essentially a rural area and £1,200 in those days of Bookham Common would be was a very large sum to raise, particularly in only 3 weeks. But it was accomplished and by not more than 23 subscribers, but who opened up the foot and those who gave loved Bookham and gave generously.

ham Common, an area at that of the Manor, Mr. H. C.

generously presented to the National Trust the Rights held by him over Little Bookham Common.

Shortly after this gift, in order to bring together the whole area of Common land lying to the Calburn of Effingham presented A hurried meeting of a few to the National Trust the third portion, some 33 acres, known

> The National Trust, as is its tion with their Area Agent at

No account of the early days complete without reference to David Longhurst, Common Keeper for 30 years; he it was bridle paths, cleared undesirable undergrowth and did so much to The present generation has preserve the Commons from despoilation by man and vermin.

And today-1970 - this good work is being continued with equal vigour by Keeper Eric

Youngman.

For this information we are A strip of the land—the Waste indebted to L. R. Hutchison.

(to be continued)

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OBITUARY

Victor L. Austin, O.B.E.

The death of Mr. V. L. Austin in March, after a short illness, was a shock to his many friends in Bookham. He seemed to be recovering well from his serious operation last year, he Association's was in good spirits and was again taking up some of his previous activities which he had been obliged to curtail.

He was an outstanding figure in the neighbourhood. He had great integrity and a deep sense of service. To the various posia good neighbour, ready to help tion and Vice-President of the to duty earned our respect and his many acts of kindness won our affection.

before his retirement from a Bookham Conservative Associa- dependent in December he was made first tolerance President.

Association had his active and school — Rochester Mathecontinuous number of years he was in day grammar schools of ancient

charge of the Bulletin Distribu- lineage—and regularly attended tion, then he became a Vice- its reunions. Hhe was devoted President, and was President to his mother, and from this from 1966 to '68, when his skill grew his chivalrous attitude to in negotiation helped to resolve women. He stood out, in an age the difficult situation created by which has become casual and controversy concerning the Barn permissive in its standards, as a Hall Backlands. Right to the fine example of the true gentleend he attended meetings of the man. Council enjoyed the quiet relaxation of the Gramophone Club evenings.

Gardening was, for him, an engrossing hobby. The garden of his home in Eastwick Drive was a delight to all who passed by, and in his greenhouse he reared a wide variety of colourtions of authority he held in the ful and exotic plants. He was a locality he brought dignity and keen member of the Eastwick unfailing courtesy; he was truly Allotments and Garden Associain any emergency. His devotion Garden Society, regularly exhibiting in the Shows.

Those of us who were privileged to be his friends will He came to live in Bookham remember certain characteristics sixteen years ago, a short time which made up his distinctive personality. He loved reading senior post in the Civil Service on a wide range of subjects; he when he was awarded the had a special admiration for Sir O.B.E. He and his wife were Winston Churchill, whose porquickly absorbed into local life. trait had a place of honour in As a lifelong Conservative he his house, and who typified for naturally first joined the Great him the indomitable and in-British spirit: tion, of which he became Chair- although himself a committed man, later Vice-President, and Conservative he had a great and respect for different opinions; he had a Bookham Community profound affection for his old support. For a matical School, one of the noted

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