

THE  
**BOOKHAMS BULLETIN**

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 8.

JULY, 1935.

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# THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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## Social Service Bureau.

*"The Bulletin is published with a view to making known and thereby assisting the work of all organisations which aim at improving the conditions and increasing the amenities of the district."*

*Articles dealing with matters of general interest are welcomed, and secretaries or organisers are invited to submit contributions for inclusion in subsequent issues.*

This issue of the "Bulletin" is the last one of the Bureau's present year. In September next, a new Council has to be elected at a Public Meeting, and it will be for the new body to decide whether the "Bulletin" shall continue to appear or not. It will have to consider whether there is now such a need for this publication as there was two years ago, and whether—more difficult still to decide—we have fulfilled our objects in the past. The "Bulletin" has been the means of obtaining funds for our relief work, and has thus justified itself from one point of view.

Before laying down the editorial pen, we must thank our advertisers and express the hope that our readers have supported them as they have supported us. We can assure our advertisers that we have found the "Bulletin" an invaluable local Telephone Directory, and we should very much miss the familiar pink cover from our desks.

## Community Service.

By REV. W. L. T. MERSON.

I have been invited by the Editor to contribute an article expressing my views about Social Service in Bookham, and I gladly respond. I prefer the term "Community Service," because it is my deep conviction that a new district like Bookham should earnestly endeavour to cultivate a real community spirit. Wherever we have come from, and whatever our previous experience, in coming to live in this lovely district we have joined a community. Many have come here to enjoy living in the country, and that certainly to many of us is pure enjoyment. But to contract our interests to our own house and garden, and to shut out

any thought of the community as we close our garden gate, is to miss the added joy that comes to the heart from sharing in the spirit of the community.

Bookham is a beautiful place, but it can be made ever so much more beautiful by the careful cultivation of a fine community spirit. A spirit of selfish isolation will bring its own sure nemesis in unpleasant and disappointing ways. But a community spirit with a sincere heart and watchful eyes and the courage to do, may make a Bookham that will be a "joy for ever." It is for this high spirit of community service that I plead most earnestly in all sections of our community—the older and the newer.

We have made some progress towards it already. The religious section of the community has drawn closer together, and that is certainly as it should be. Our religious principles are dear to us because we have thought deeply about them, and our minds are differently constituted. Nothing is more foolish than to think that unity can be easily accomplished. But that is no reason why we should not cooperate as closely as we can, for the sake of the community. And that certainly the Bookham Churches are honestly seeking to do.

Again the Social Service Bureau has done some excellent community work. It has sought to express the community's care for the poor and the sickly, and especially the sickly children. It seems incredible to some people, I find, that there should be poverty in Bookham. But so it is, and the reasons, I think, are not far to seek, though there is not room for me to outline them in this article. I will just say this, that if we had some kind of Town Guild, with its eyes on the horizon, some of these reasons for poverty would cease to be. But after many years of experience elsewhere of such work I am certain that the work of the Bureau should be continued. It merits the hearty support of the whole community.

In a new growing community like ours, problems are bound to arise and press for solution. They are critical problems for the future of the village. Why should not Bookham become a model village community? With such a community spirit as I have rather hastily and crudely sketched here, there is every reason to believe that it could.

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## *Bookhams Jubilee Celebrations.*

Already it seems some time ago since these took place, but pleasant recollections will no doubt remain for years in the minds of a number of the residents, and it would be well to record some of them in a more permanent manner.

The first Celebrations Committee meeting was held on the 8th April, leaving four weeks in which to make all the necessary arrangements. However, from the start the willing spirit was very much in evidence, especially when, as was only to be expected, difficulties arose. On the evening of the 3rd May, the jig-saw puzzle was put together for exhibition on the following Monday, but even then some of the members feared a piece or two might fall away, and thus mar the picture.

The DAY arrived, and to the delight of everyone the weather appeared to be doing its best to make it perfect.

At the Barn Hall the various contingents from the Churches, Scouts, Boys' Brigade, Ex-Service Men, etc., arrived, and were marshalled in the agreed order, and, headed by the bugle band, marched to the Recreation Ground, where they arranged themselves around the platform for the united Service, at which over 500 people attended. What a glorious setting there was for this ceremony! The horse-chestnuts were blossoming, the many other trees were showing their newly unfolded leaves in different shades of green, contrasting with the red of the copper beeches.

In the afternoon people assembled again on the Recreation Ground. The first entertainer to arrive was the conjuror, who, whilst working under difficulties, kept the children, as well as a good number of adults, fully interested. On one side of him there was a comic cricket match in progress, and on the other side footballers, both parties in fantastic costumes doing their utmost to get as much fun as possible out of the proceedings and also to amuse the numerous spectators. At 4 p.m. there was a distribution of chocolate to the school children, who proceeded to the Church House and Baptist Hall for tea. This repast, judging from their happy appearance, they thoroughly enjoyed, and when it was over each received a Jubilee medal.

Then at the Church House a whist drive followed, preceding a carnival dance, which latter was well patronised and continued till 3 a.m. the following day.

At 10 o'clock the huge bonfire was lighted, and this concluded the open-air festivities.

The Celebrations Committee, however, had decided that this programme was not enough, so they had arranged for a supper to be given on the following Wednesday evening to elderly people 65 years and upwards, and some eighty-six residents sat down to this meal. Nothing appeared to have been left to chance, for the Barn Hall was well decorated with flags and the tables were beautifully set out. The fare provided was in every way excellent, and the service was exceedingly well done, so much so that one of the guests was heard to remark that he had been to a good many dinners in town, but the Bookham amateurs had nothing to learn in this regard. After the meal, tobacco, cigarettes and sweets were handed round, and an entertainment (preceded by some community singing) followed. Of course, for such a gathering there could be only one man at the piano, namely, Mr. Griffiths, and he did splendidly. The songs that followed were very much appreciated, whilst the conjuror mystified his audience with his clever tricks, and the comic sketch provoked long and loud laughter.

The Committee also a day or two later distributed to seventeen elderly residents (who through disability could not attend the supper) a punnet of fruit and a tin of sweets.

Furthermore, one of the members of the Committee on her own initiative did similarly with a number of people who were bedridden, but were under the age limit.

R.A.

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## *The "Good Companions" Club.*

The Dramatic Entertainment given at the Church House on May 1st was, in the opinion of many of the audience, an unqualified success; in fact it was difficult to believe that for the most of both casts it was an absolutely first attempt.

In the first play, "My Man John," a pastoral play, the character studies and touches of quiet humour were very convincingly interpreted by each member; all were good, and some were excellent. Being one who had not come in contact with the production, but had heard a good deal of the difficulties as the rehearsals proceeded, I was amazed at the excellence of the show, and fully agreed with one of the audience whose verdict was, "a finished performance." Performers and producers are to be congratulated on their attention to detail—birds singing in the woodland scene was a very realistic touch. The scenery and dresses were delightful, and I understand were the result of much work but of very little cost.

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Again in the second play, "The Monkey's Paw," one felt that both producer and members of the cast had combined to give their best to a production that needs to be well played to convince; each member's part was well taken, and the play "got across" in a most praiseworthy manner.

As one of the audience, my only criticism was that psychologically the second play should have come first, but I understand that the arrangement was necessitated by the difficulties attending the changing of scenery.

Well done, Good Companions! We could have done with a second night of your performance. Go ahead! You have shown what you can do and how you can overcome difficulties; give us more! We shall look forward with anticipation to another really worth-while entertainment.

ONLOOKER.

The success of the first dramatic evening has inspired the Club members to plan and work for another programme to be presented in the Autumn. Rehearsals are now proceeding. New members are welcome.

CLUB LEADER.

### *Medical Service in Schools.*

I intended writing generally on Public Services, but as I have only a limited space at my disposal, I feel it would be better to touch on one of the many Public Services promoted for the well-being of the community at large. I will therefore deal with a Service which, to my mind, is of paramount importance—the service which strives with might and main to build up the health of our future citizens, the children attending our schools in this county. It is called the Schools Medical Service, and I will say a few words to show that the public money spent in the work is the finest investment the county can make.

The school population of Surrey numbers over 84,000, and this number increases each year. All these children are examined at certain periods of their school life, by the County School Doctors, in elementary and secondary schools alike. These are not perfunctory examinations, but are absolutely thorough, and parents are invited to attend the examination to discuss the health of the child with, and to receive advice from, a doctor who is an expert in the treatment of children.

When defects which appear to need treatment are discovered at the Medical Inspection, parents are advised to consult their own family doctor. When for any reason they are not able

to obtain treatment, arrangements are made for the child to attend a School Clinic, a Hospital, or an Orthopædic Centre, dealing with the child's particular trouble. Here are some of what are called "minor ailments" treated at General Medical Clinics: Ringworm, Scabies, Impetigo, minor injuries, Skin trouble, Eye disease and Ear defects, etc. During last year, 25,187 attendances were made by children suffering from one or other of these complaints. Among other troubles there are:—

1. **Tonsils and Adenoids.** Operative treatment is undertaken at 31 General and Cottage Hospitals, and so successful has this treatment been that in the last ten years the percentage of children needing it has fallen from 4.17% to 1.60%.

2. **Defective Vision.** The County has 27 Eye Clinics; last year the attendance was 8,870. Special attention is paid to Squint, and for a year the County has paid a fee to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, which has opened a Clinic for this eye trouble,—24 attendances were made.

3. **Dental Defects.** These are unfortunately too general—resulting frequently from a lack of care of the first teeth. 47,988 children were referred for treatment, and by the end of the year 48.0% had been treated. In order to meet the large number of cases, the dental staff has been increased, and it is now hoped that a larger proportion of cases can be treated in a shorter time.

4. **Tuberculosis**—that terrible scourge! The number of children last year who received treatment under the Tuberculosis Scheme of the Council was 146 in all. These are children in whom definite signs of the disease have been discovered, and they are in Sanatoria maintained by the Public Health Committee.

5. **Heart Disease.** Children found suffering from this complaint are recommended for special treatment, and thirty-three have been admitted to residential special schools. Children with lesser degrees of heart trouble and who attend school are examined fairly frequently, and games and drill are regulated according to their fitness.

6. **Crippled Children.** 751 were treated at the various Orthopædic Centres, and made 14,928 attendances. At the end of the year 70 children were in residence in certified special schools for cripples under specialised tuition.

7. **Blind Children.** Nine totally blind and twenty partially blind children were being treated at special schools last year.

I could go on indefinitely. There are the deaf, the mentally defective, those suffering from

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rickets, rheumatism, bronchitis, alopecia (hair trouble), and many other diseases. Each and every one is treated by the best known and scientific methods, and I think it can be seen from the foregoing that every possible care is taken to remedy defects in the physical condition of the school child and thus build it up for the future. As I said before, the children are examined from time to time—routine examination—and it is intensely interesting to know that as a result of this care the percentage of pupils referred for treatment has since 1927 fallen from 13.9 to 7.22. The health of the nation according to published statistics is steadily improving, and in no small measure is this due to the magnificent medical work in our schools. Parents, Teachers, Managers, all loyally co-operate with the Medical Staff to procure the splendid results obtained, and, as I said before, the money expended in obtaining these results is the finest investment that can be made, from the individual and national point of view.

AMY CHESTERFIELD,  
Member of Surrey Education Committee  
and  
Vice-Chairman of Guardians Committee.

## DON'T FORGET !!

### REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

#### Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m. (Congregational Hall).  
See overleaf.

#### Mondays—

Women's Thrift Club.  
Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).  
Women's Fellowship, 2.30 p.m. (Church House).  
Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).  
Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).  
Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).  
Junior Club, 7 p.m. (Church House).  
Boys' Brigade, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).  
Girls' Friendly Society and Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).  
Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m. (Congregational Church).  
Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

#### Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).  
Blue Birds, 6.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).  
Camp Fire Girls, 7.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).  
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

#### Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).  
Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).  
Scouts, 8 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).  
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

#### Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).  
Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).  
Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).  
Good Companions Club, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).

!! Will Secretaries please notify !!  
!! any additions or alterations !!  
!! for inclusion in the next issue. !!

### OTHER EVENTS.

#### July.

- 15th. British Legion Surrey County Conference at Godalming.  
16th. Parish Church Workers' Party to meet the Bishop of Guildford.  
20th. Baptist Church Sunday School Sports.  
24th. Boys' Brigade and Girls' Life Brigade Garden Sale at Sole Farm House.  
25th. Women's Institute Garden Meeting.  
Lecture: "Birds."  
27th. Last day for Entries to Garden Show.  
31st. Garden Show, Southey Hall.

#### August.

- 9th to 17th. Scouts' Camp at Swanage.  
10th to 24th. Boys' Brigade Annual Camp at Swalecliffe. Girls' Life Brigade Annual Camp at Minster.

#### September.

- 26th. Women's Institute Lecture, Church House, 2.45 p.m.  
29th. Parish Church Harvest Festival (Collections for Hospital).  
29th. Congregational Church Thank-offering Sunday.

#### Cricket Fixtures.

- July 6. Stoneleigh (home), 3 p.m.  
July 13. Guildford Strollers (home), 3 p.m.  
July 17. London Transport Sports Club (home), 6 p.m.  
July 20. Brockham Warren (away), 3 p.m.  
July 27. Guildford Strollers (home), 3 p.m.  
Aug. 3. Merrow Downs (away), 3 p.m.  
Aug. 5. Balham United Services (home), 11 a.m.  
Aug. 10. Abinger (home), 3 p.m.  
Aug. 17. Chessington (home), 3 p.m.  
Aug. 24. Mickleham (away), 3 p.m.  
Aug. 31. Worplesdon (home), 3 p.m.  
Sept. 7. Cobham Avorians (away), 3 p.m.

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