

November 1971

No 146

38th Year

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

November 1971

No 146

38th Year

*Editor:* Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 5702

*Distribution:* G Everett. Telephone Bookham 2404

*Advertisements:*

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 5730

## EDITORIAL

The new format of The Bookham Bulletin has been widely praised. The editor is now faced with the task of rising to the high standard set by the printer and has little confidence in her ability so to do. Some encouragement, however, is given by the confidence that, in future, her copy will be processed on time and that the months of delay between her writing and your reading are now over.

The Bulletin does not pretend to be a literary masterpiece. It does not even attempt, as does its excellent counterpart, The Link, to provide philosophical and thought-provoking articles. It has certain limited objectives:

1

To bring to the notice of members of the B.C.A., and others, news of Community Association activities and plans for the future.

2

To give information about Bookham organisations, the interesting things they have done and what they are proposing to do.

3

To present, in a chatty way, news of people living in the district and those who have moved away but are still remembered because of the links they built up while they were with us.

4

To provide a chronicle of local events in such a way that the growth of the neighbourhood can be charted almost from its beginnings. The complete Bulletin file, starting in 1933, when the village was quite small, has fortunately been preserved. In the years to come this file, as it is added to, will

be a mine of information to sociologists and students of local history. Even, as it stands, it has been used as source material by students preparing theses on the development of rural areas into urban groups.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

**Bells are ringing in Fiji.** Bell ringers, or campanologists, as they are technically termed, are rare birds. They are specialists and enthusiasts and Mr Smith, of Oveton Way, is one of them. He belongs to the Guildford Diocesan Guild and regularly joins the small Surrey groups who travel long distances to practice their skills. He passed on his interest to his son, Alan, a bell ringer from the age of 9, who, after taking a B.Sc. in Engineering at Bristol University, took up a post as consulting engineer in the Public Works Department of the Government of Fiji.

Now, for the first time, bells are ringing in Fiji. Shortly after he arrived in the little town of Lautoka its small chapel held its first ordination ceremony and Alan, with his wife, rang the bells. He had taken with him his set of eight bells. Their two daughters have now mastered the art and the local people are delighted by the new and exciting sounds.

Old friends of Alan will be pleased to hear that he is enjoying life in this distant outpost, that the family like it, and that his wife, Pauline, who is a B.Ed, is teaching in the sixth form of a local school.

**Brother and Sister marry Brother and Sister.** David and Diana Norkett are well known in the local Baptist Church. David, especially, who is a very out-going person, took a lead in the activities of the enterprising young people of his age group and was keen on the Scouts. He took a degree in Geography at King's King's College, London, followed by one in Theology at Bristol. He then entered the Baptist Missionary Society and went out to

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the Congo to teach in the Students College.

Meanwhile, Diana entered the Medical School at University College and obtained her degree in Medicine, to which she added qualifications in surgery and obstetrics. She is completing her trainee year in a general practice at Willesden.

In August David married a Malayan girl, a pianist, and Diana married the brother who is doing medical research in London. Orchids, flown out from Malaya, decorated the Bookham Baptist Church where David was married as well as the church in Roehampton where Diana's wedding was solemnised.

David is returning to the Congo, with his bride, to teach at the College, and Diana will carry on with her medical career.

**The Oboe is his choice.** Mark Elliott, of the Garstons, has achieved his goal of entry into the Royal College of Music and is commencing his studies where other Bookham boys have previously laid the foundations of distinguished musical careers. The oboe is the instrument he has selected but he also plans to 'use his voice' as a second instrument, maybe as a result of his membership of the Bookham Choral Society.

His interest in music started at the Howard of Effingham School, where he had the opportunity to play in the school concerts. The recital he gave in St. Nicolas Church earlier in the year of works by Bach, Handel and Strauss showed that he has talent of a high order. We wish him well.

**The Violin is his choice.** Another Howard of Effingham boy, Douglas Welland, of Crabtree Lane, is entering on his second year at the Trinity College of Music. He was awarded the 1970 Beryl Searls Scholarship which gives its holder a full-time place at the College together with an annual grant of £100 per year. Before he entered he had become an Associate of Trinity by passing the violin diploma examination. While still at school he had been leader of the Surrey County Youth Orchestra and Leader of Trinity Junior Exhibitors' Orchestra.

**Bookham School has no Roll of Honour,** but if it had there would be no room for the notice board. We are continually publishing the achievements of former pupils. An interested friend of the school

has sent us a list of those who are starting at University this year and we are pleased to receive it. They are Ian Ferguson who is going to Swansea, Beverley Richards to Bristol, Hilary Foster to Birmingham, Hilary Salter to Warwick, Antony Waton to Leeds and David Audsley to Oxford. Nicola Roberts, who gained 4 good 'A' levels, has entered University College Hospital to study Medicine.

Nicola Roberts is a keen Guider. Friends of hers in the Bookham Company are also going places. Gillian Jones is off to Cardiff University to study Microbiology, Fiona Anderson is starting at Homerton College of Education for Teacher Training and Helen Spicer has begun a degree course in Language and Business Studies at Plymouth Polytechnic — a most interesting and unusual choice for a girl.

**A PhD in Electronics** has been awarded to John Dew, son of Mr and Mrs W.F. Dew, of Crabtree Lane. He returned recently from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, where he had been lecturing after taking his Degree in Electrical Engineering at University College, London. He completed his thesis at home and will be moving shortly to Walton, with his wife and two daughters. He has taken a post with an international computer firm.

**A warm welcome back to Bookham** is extended to Mr and Mrs J.A. Snell who have returned to their home at Nest O'Firs, Leatherhead Road. Mr Snell, who is in the Ministry of Defence, has been stationed for some years in Germany and, latterly in Singapore. During the short time they resided in Bookham they took a lively interest in local affairs and their two sons attended Bookham School. Mr Snell was then Treasurer of the newly opened Edenside House. He was also involved in the Community Association and a supporter of the Bookhams Commons Committee and continued to be a covenanted member of both during his lengthy period abroad.

Their elder son, Peter, is now married and living in Guildford, while the younger, Robin, is in his third year at Christ Church, Oxford, studying for the P.P.E. Degree.

**Our new Bookham Councillors,** Mrs A Sansom and Mr K Matts, are, as we expected, quickly

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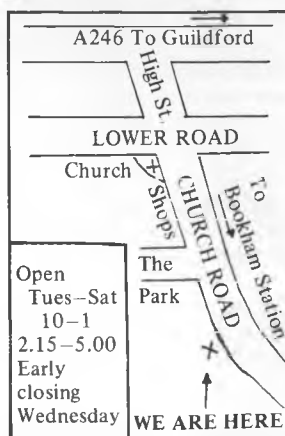
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finding their feet, and their voices, in the Council Chamber at Leatherhead. They are both so well known in the village that there is no need to introduce them in these columns.

We take this opportunity to thank the retiring members who have given us good service, Mr J. Berry, who became Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mr Arthur Blundell, who was six and a half years on the Council, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and Vice-Chairman of Planning. We are sorry that Arthur Blundell and his family will shortly be moving from Bookham but developments within his firm have made this necessary.

**Hospital School Governor.** Training Centres and Hospital Schools have now been transferred to the Education Authorities. Among these is the one at the Manor, the large E.S.N. Hospital at Epsom. One of the four members appointed by Surrey County Council is Mrs Maureen Clark. Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association are pleased to hear this because she has been active in school events and runs a French club for the children there. She took a Degree in Modern Languages at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and for nine years worked as H.M. Inspector of Taxes. She has always been interested in education and has had some part-time teaching experience. Her commitment to progressive ideas in schools has been intensified by direct involvement through her three children who are all at Eastwick School. She has also visited, whenever possible, establishments in the neighbourhood catering for the special needs of handicapped young people.

Many people in Bookham would have known Mr Vic Brown and his wife, Helen, when they resided here and will be glad to know that he, too, has been appointed by County to the Governing Body of the Manor Hospital School. His experience as Education Officer at the Queen Elizabeth College for the Disabled will be of great value.

#### **Hosts for Cycling Proficiency Finals.**

The Eastwick Schools have always been particularly interested in cycling proficiency for their pupils and it was consequently fitting that they should be hosts this year for the Final Tests in which 19 county teams competed. The Leatherhead District put in 3 teams, one of which was County Champion.

Eastwick was proud that Mrs Bailey's son, Stephen, carried off the Brooklands Challenge Trophy (presented by the British Aircraft Corporation) for the best boy's performance.

Special credit should go to Mrs Audrey Edwards who is a qualified Rospa instructor and gives much time to the continuous training that goes on all the time to obtain Rospa badges and certificates in cycling proficiency. Apart from her work for the schools Mrs Edwards is active in the Womens Institute and serves on the County W.I. Executive, the first from Bookham so to do. It is not surprising that her favourite committee of the Executive is that of Public Questions.

#### **New Leaders for Bookham Youth Centre.**

Pat Erricker, who comes from Wimbledon, brings considerable experience in his recent appointment as Warden Leader of the Centre. He worked originally at the Bank of England but his interest in young people took him to the Training College at Leicester. This was followed by a period in one of the new Youth and Adult Education Centres at Gt. Yarmouth, then three years with the Westminster Council of Social Service on a project in North Paddington in a multi racial area. He is married with three children and has a maturity of outlook which is combined with a surprisingly youthful appearance.

His assistant, Miss Alice Ross, officially entitled Assistant Leader Warden, comes from Inverness and has just completed her two-year training at Moray House. With such a background it is obvious that she has a commonsense approach to the problems of the very young as well as the young and sees clearly, as does Mr Erricker, that they are not a separate group but a part of the wider community and should see themselves as such.

**A Drama Adviser for Youth** has been officially appointed by the Leatherhead & District Youth Committee. This has become necessary because of the increasing participation of young people in club productions and County Festivals. She is Mrs Edith White, who for many years, has produced as well as acted in W.I. plays. It will be remembered that she was responsible for the Bookham Guides section of the Pageant 'To the Stars' at Crystal Palace.

She recently attended a course at Denman College and was selected for special com-

mendation. She herself would be much too modest to claim any outstanding qualities but those of us who know her work will agree that this new position could not have been more happily filled.

**Flower Arrangement Afloat.** Mrs Godfrey-Smith, of Eastwick Drive, has launched a new activity for the entertainment of passengers on the P and O Line. She was invited last year, as an experiment, to do a series of flower arrangements on board ship. These were so successful that a professional engagement was offered to her this year to repeat these on a cruise at the end of June covering Lisbon, Gibraltar, the Costa Brava, Palermo and Madeira.

At the start of the cruise she was up at 4 a.m. to buy flowers in Covent Garden Market and had a special air-conditioned and ventilated cabin in which to store them. Even so, blooms in the variety and numbers needed for daily demonstrations will not last indefinitely, and she had difficulty in buying fresh ones at the various ports of call. For example, at Lisbon, sellers were few and two-thirds of the flowers were dried and not in prime condition. Fortunately, she took with her, many of her own dried and exotic specimens and was able, with the help of her figurines and containers of which she has a wide collection, to cover all her demonstrations. She also contrived, at each port of call, to produce one special arrangement illustrating its special characteristics.

Mrs Godfrey-Smith is an active member of the Bookham Flower Arrangement Club and lectures widely through the County. She has an interesting background. She was born in Burma and was fascinated as a child to watch the men — women are excluded from this important part of the country's religious ritual — making their symbolic arrangements. When she came to England in 1959 she was intrigued by the quite different approach of using flowers for their colour, beauty and symmetry. She decided that she would make this her line and, subsequently, took a course at Woburn Abbey. She delights on occasions, as she did on board ship, to wear a sari and this seems to underline her own special approach to the whole art of flower arrangement.

**The Barn Hall Dig.** Romantics among us had hoped that the demolition of the back

premises at the Barn Hall would have provided us with relics of the bygone past, but this was not so. We did at least discover that beneath the ground were runnels similar to those found under the Barn Hall floor and we deduce that at some time the old cottage at the rear with its oak beams, quite separate from the Barn Hall, must have been joined to the original barn and converted, along with it, to a cattleshed. It may be that in the old days the Old Barn Hall was used for the storage of corn. But this we shall never know.

Four tickets were also found for performances of the Bookham Silver Band at the Memorial Hall. There is no memorial hall today, but it could not have disappeared. Could it have been, we asked, the tin hut in East Street which had been used earlier in the century for classes and smaller village events? This seemed improbable. The explanation came from members of our Over Sixties Club. It was the present Baptist Church which was erected by public subscription in 1912 in memory of the village benefactor, Mrs Chrystie, and subsequently acquired by the Baptist Church.

We hope that we shall be able, in a later edition, to write more of Bookham's doings in the first half of the century from the reminiscences of our older members at the Over Sixties Club.

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES

**The Gramophone Club** got off to a good start with the first two programmes presented by John Davies and the Club's Chairman, A.E. Jeal respectively. Some seasons ago John Davies gave up presentations because their preparation took up too much of his limited spare time; but Mr Morris (programme organiser) had the bright idea of sending him a detailed copy of a programme he had presented in 1966 and asked him to reproduce it. He pointed out that few would remember it and virtually no preparation would be involved. Mr Davies was so surprised that we were so well documented that he agreed. The result was an excellent evening with the late 18th century composers.

In his programme Mr Jeal directed our attention to the Harp and the 'Cello. He succeeded in finding Concertos for both as well as other works in which they were strongly featured.

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Looking forward to special events, the Club has a Bring and Buy Sale on November 18th, a New Year Party on January 6th. On February 17th it celebrates its 20th anniversary with a concert devised by its first Secretary – none other than Mrs Mabel Everett. A.H.

**The Dramatic Society** is now in its ninth year and is about to realise its dream of a good stage. We have laboured manfully in the past at Church House with inadequate space for storage, a small stage, very little wing space, a limited electric circuit and one only dressing room. They have, however, been enjoyable years and we have had great consideration and help from all at Church House. We would like to pay a special tribute to Gwen and John Buchan who were in residence there for several years. They were, and still are, great friends of ours and did so much, over and above the call of duty, to make our productions run smoothly.

With the Barn Hall Extension, WITH STAGE, in sight, we hope to hold our April 1972 production there. It will then be possible to put on plays that were impossible to perform at Church House because of the limitations of space. Now that we can extend ourselves, we are seeking more members urgently. Please don't be shy – we will give you a warm welcome.

A comedy, 'Semi Detached', is the next, and probably the last production at Church House. It will be on 25th, 26th and 27th November. The producer is Mrs J. Ackroyd. A.L.

**The Flower Arrangement Group** continues to grow in membership and enthusiasm and takes a full part in County events and the shows of neighbouring clubs, various members having made successful entries in recent shows.

Classes continue for beginners, imparting the essential grounding in basic mechanics and principles of design. The benefits of the past year's tuition are reflected in the improved standard of arrangements in the monthly competitions.

The Autumn programme included the annual county lunch at the Burford Bridge Hotel, giving a welcome opportunity to meet members of other Surrey clubs. The December meeting will feature 'Christmas Arrangements' by Mrs D. Woolley.

The Club learned with sadness of the

death of Mrs Winifred King who, until her tragic illness, was a most hard-working and enthusiastic supporter of the club. She will be sadly missed. P.M.T.

**The Rambling Group** of the Afternoon W.I, of which there are now more than 20 members, has discovered that the best way of appreciating our lovely Surrey countryside is on foot. Twice a month in Spring and Summer, once a month all through the winter, they set out to explore. The area includes Oxshott Heath to Headley, Ranmore, the Leith Hill and Holmbury Hill district, the Wey at Shalford and, nearer home, Bookham Common.

In wet weather mud is the worst enemy, most footpaths being churned to a quagmire by horses with walkers easily sinking ankle deep in mud. Occasionally they get lost, and have been known to crawl under barbed wire fences to regain the footpath. It is all part of the enjoyment; how good it is to get away from the noise of traffic for a while and find a little quietude and peace. M.C.

**The Bookham Branch of the N.S.P.C.** has been active for many years, their sole function being money raising. Individual cases of hardship are not dealt with by them, but they can pass on to the Leatherhead office details which require investigation.

Events sponsored by the Branch cover coffee mornings, a Fashion Show, a Wig Party and a Bridge Drive. The most popular and successful event over the last two years is the 50/50 Sale. Their recent one raised £300. Another is fixed for May 11th and 12th at the Barn Hall. Articles in good condition are brought in the day before and, if sold, the proceeds are divided equally between the Society and the donor. If not sold, the donor takes them away at the end of the Sale. A double purpose is thus served in that everybody benefits. It is stressed that the standard of the goods must be high. They are mainly clothes, but many other items are received such as jewellery, small furniture, unwanted gifts, china etc. D.C.

**The Bookham Girl Guides** are getting massive support from their friends and well-wishers. Their Autumn Fair, held at the home of their President, Miss E. Micholls, raised the magnificent sum of some £600. Their activities are developing so rapidly that

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they are overflowing their new Headquarters and the newly-formed 8th Brownie Pack has to meet in the Eastwick School.

A Brownie Folk Dance Club has been formed and will be under the care of Bookham's expert, Mrs D. Thomas. A dramatic society has also been officially established and will enter the District Festivals.

At the end of the month the coveted Queen's Award will be presented to four of the senior girls.

**The Bookham Scouts** also did well with their Donkey Derby, raising close on £350. They are working hard to raise the £1,000 estimated to renovate their present Hut, soundproof the Extension and clear the grounds around.

### **BARN HALL EXTENSIONS**

As we go to press a sum of between three and four thousand pounds is still required to reach our target figure. We are optimistic, in view of the growing support we are receiving, that the amount will be forthcoming. Our conviction is soundly based on past experience. The present Old Barn Hall and its amenities has grown out of the faith and vision of its pioneers. The Community Association started officially in 1948 when it did not even have a home. The acquisition of the Barn Hall, dilapidated though it was, gave a base. It has improved out of recognition and has become so fully used that extension is imperative.

There has never been a time when the Association had in hand the money to launch on new developments but this has not deterred it from going ahead with enterprises beneficial to its neighbourhood. All these have been successful, and all have been paid for. Such a record, we trust, will bring us the support of new residents while the older residents will, we are sure, continue to stand by us.

**How to help.** We hope that you have not thrown our appeal letters into the waste-paper basket. Read them again. Time is still with us because work on the building has been delayed and completion date is not expected until February when we have to meet the final bill. We repeat what we wrote in the August Bulletin — donations, however small, can be put into the letter box at

Lloyds Bank, Gt. Bookham, addressed to The B.C.A. Treasurer, Mr A.G. Medway. Interest free loans would also be welcomed, repayable in five years, or on demand if necessary. The offer of an interest free loan, if we do not reach our target figure, would also relieve the uncertainty which now hangs over us. We are anxious to avoid the need to borrow money which would entail heavy interest repayments to be met from income. Our policy is to keep our hiring charges moderate so that organisations and clubs using our premises for current activities are not priced out.

Can you, perhaps with your friends, arrange an event for the Appeal? This is already happening but much more could be done. Mrs Pearce ran a coffee morning at home — the first one after the Appeal was launched. She was disappointed that it only raised £1.50, but, with such short notice, we thought it good. Keith Ransom and three of his young school friends also arranged a coffee morning, issuing their own invitations and baking and serving the refreshments. They had not been able to join the Walk and decided to do this instead. They were proud to hand over and we to receive £3. The gaiety of the neighbourhood could be increased and we would be helped if their example was followed. And what about tea parties, supper parties, sherry parties? Mr and Mrs Keith Preston did just this, and a social evening in their home brought in £7. Lots of us have friends in to Bridge; Mrs Patterson invited her friends and made it an Appeal Drive, so collecting the worthwhile sum of £22.36.

Mrs Peart, of our Over Sixties Club, is so keen to help that she has collected in the Club, and at Edenside and Graham Lodge. She makes charming little gifts from odd bits and pieces which are very saleable. The result — £12 for the Building Fund. We understand that she has dreamed up a new idea for bringing in the money, but, so far, it is a secret.

One of the more ambitious enterprises was organised by Mr L. Clark — a most enjoyable Car Treasure Hunt — which raised £24.20.

The falling leaves from the trees round the Barn Hall have been turned into hard cash. The compost resulting from them is in demand and the sale of this, with other

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oddments unearthed in the Grounds, has brought in more than £12.

The 6th Brownies Pack put on a concert, quite informally, and made £2.01.

Such cooperation from the very young and the very old is most encouraging to us and we find the support from the age groups between most heartening, demonstrating, as it does, that our plea that the Barn Hall is a centre for all of us is generally accepted.

**How the Organisations are helping.** The Women's Institutes are, as could be expected, setting a lead. Bookham Afternoon W.I. gave £40 from their Coffee Morning and Sale. The Bookham Evening W.I. Jumble Sale produced £40.05. The Little Bookham W.I. have donated £5.

Donations have also been received of £23.60 from the B.C.A. Theatre Club, £25 from our Over Sixties Club, £58 from our Afternoon Bridge Club and £25 from the Evening Bridge Club, £50 from our Flower Arrangement Club, £15 from our Gramophone Club, £20 from our Scottish Dancers. Our Old Time Dance Club has really gone to town and presented us with £103.18 from their Dress Show, as well as £52 from their weekly raffles. The Bowls Club raised £10.25 on their Spoons Drive and are planning a sponsored Knit-in 10th February.

Apart from special efforts made by our clubs, their members assist in the numerous events arranged by the Community Association to raise funds and we are grateful that they are so ready to help on two fronts. The list displayed in the Barn Hall itemises these and we mention here one only – the series of Bridge Drives which have raised £86.50.

We record our sincere thanks to the following organisations who have contributed: the Choral Society £3.25, the Bookham Young Conservatives £3.29, the Effingham Over Sixties Club £2.50, the Bookham Football Supporters' Club £10, the Bookham District Girl Guides £5, the Rifle Club £5, Bookham Congregational Church £5, the Women's Section of the British Legion £2, Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association £8, the Catholic Women's League £4, the Students Union Effingham Evening Institute £4, the Fold Dance Club £8.02 (the proceeds of an under 16's folk dance). The Camping Club of Gt. Britain £10.

The Leatherhead and District Local

History Society arranged an evening on the History of Bookham which was well supported and their collection reached £23. The recent Any Questions Evening, organised by the Townswomen's Guild was another most enjoyable evening. Those who attended showed their appreciation by giving generously to the silver collection which came to £50.

The Dramatic Society, the Afternoon W.I. and the Guides combined to present an evening of Festival Plays and raised £46.10.

The major event of the Appeal was The Walk, so enthusiastically organised by our Sponsor, Councillor S.J. Taylor, and this raised over £1200. Space does not permit us to enlarge on this here but, for the sake of the record, we propose to publish an account of it in our next issue.

**Outside Assistance.** The news of our plans for the Barn Hall is beginning to reach Bookhamites who have moved away from the district but wish to be associated with the venture. We have received contributions from Mrs V. Austin, who is now living in Cheshire, from Mrs Phyllis Newman who is in Somerset, from Mr J.A. Snell, who lived at Nest O'Firs but has been for some years in Singapore and from Miss Alen Harrison now lecturing at the London Northern Polytechnic, Sir Barnes Wallis, who knew the Association in its early days and encouraged us to continue in the by-no-means easy task of building up a community association, has sent a donation. Sir David Cairns, who was associated with us in the development of the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre, has offered us a generous interest free loan. A donation has also been sent by Mr Victor Crabb who was always interested in the work done by us for old people and whose late wife gave long and continuous help to the Over Sixties Club and the Day Centre. A contribution has been given by Mr A.E. Murrells who did so much work for the district as a member and chairman of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, in recognition of which Murrells Walk has been so named. He remembers, as some of we older ones do, the preliminary work done long before the Community Association was formed. It was through his good offices that first the Grove, and then the Barn Hall, were offered to us to

develop as a Centre.

**The Record.** What has already been done has taken up a lot of space in the telling, but it is only a small part of the help that has been given. We would like to keep a permanent record of all who have participated. How to do this was a problem because no plaque would be big enough to take the names. We have, however, found the answer. We propose to print in forthcoming issues of The Bulletin the names of those who have donated. This is not intended as a gimmick but is the recognition of the fact that a building is not just bricks and mortar but it is the human endeavour which has gone into it and which creates its atmosphere. It seems fitting to us that the Bulletin file preserved by us should carry the list of those who have

made the completion of the Barn Hall a reality.

Unfortunately we did not do this with those who gave to our appeal for the first Extension but we do remember that great impetus was given to it by the memorial fund for Mrs Nellie Cox and the donation given in memory of Miss Iris Batchelor. It may be that there are individuals who would like, in the same way, to donate in memory of those who have been associated with village activities. We have already received one such donation.

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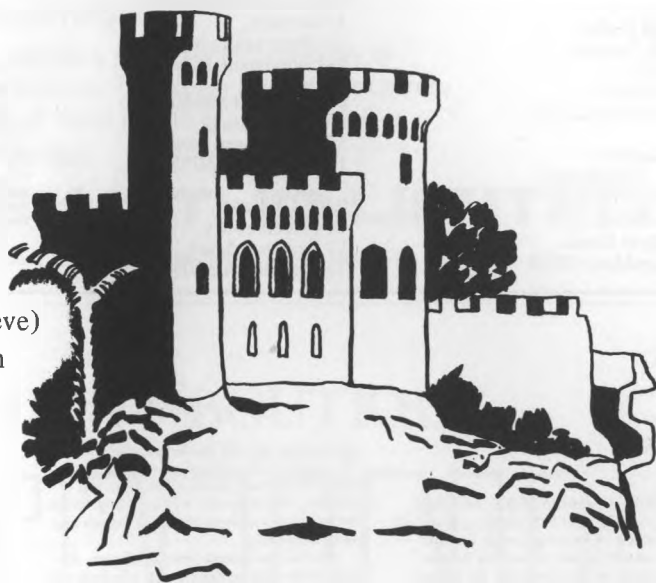
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## OBITUARY

Harold Wilfrid Freeman M.B.E., who died suddenly on October 6th, came to Bookham from Porlock 14 years ago, with his wife Vera, to reside in one of the first houses being erected in The Garstons. He joined the Community Association almost immediately and gave it great support not only as an indefatigable road collector but in many other important ways. In 1964 he became Treasurer of the Bookhams Commons Committee of the National Trust and his keenness brought in many new members.

He was a devout Anglican and his deep convictions may well have influenced his two grandsons, one of whom hopes to be ordained next year and the other to apply for entry to a theological college after he completes his degree at Lancaster University. As sacristan of St. Nicolas Church, Harold Freeman carried out his duties with

meticulous care for the detail which makes the ritual of the services meaningful and devotional. Also, in the quiet, informal manner, which was his way of doing things, he welcomed newcomers to the parish and visited the sick.

His life had always been a full one. A civil servant by profession, he was awarded the M.B.E. shortly before his retirement from Customs and Excise. He was also an honorary member of the City of London Special Constabulary, having risen to the rank of Inspector (Custom House Company). One of his treasures was a ceremonial truncheon presented to him on retirement. Until quite recently he went up to London for special occasions.

When he was at Porlock immediately after retirement he continued to help in neighbourhood affairs and was made Clerk to the Parish Council. It is perhaps no coincidence that his son has recently been appointed Treasurer of the Horsham Rural District Council.

He was a man of great integrity and utterly dependable. He carried his 81 years with ease and combined the energy of a young man with the maturity and wisdom of age. He delighted in giving and receiving friendship. For him the sun seemed to be always shining. To meet him was a tonic. Even in his solemn moments there was always a twinkle in his eyes and when he smiled, which was often, he radiated a cheerfulness which was infectious.

His personality was the reflection of his philosophy. He was a committed Christian of the rare type who did not preach but expressed his belief by good works. One can only assume, because he did not talk about these things, that the injunction 'to love thy neighbour as thyself' was the motivating force of his life. Two lines from the hymn at his Memorial Service would seem a fitting epitaph:

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