

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY.

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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 73

DECEMBER, 1951.

19th year

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EDITORIAL

With this issue we look forward to Christmas festivities heralding the New Year; and from the President, Officers and Council of the Bookham Community Association we send seasonable greetings to all our readers.

1951 has been a memorable year: the Festival alone has been an outstanding event of which the recollection will be passed down to our children and our children's children. Not for a century has there been such a great enrichment of our cultural and artistic life, enjoyed, we recall, by very many visitors from overseas. There has also been a General Election, and within the last few days an entirely new Government has taken office.

We shall remember 1951 also from the vagaries of the weather: how after weeks of rain the harvest was gathered in during a merciful period of dry weather which saved our food supplies in the nick of time. As we go to press ploughing is in full swing, and weeks of October sunshine have clothed the trees with coats of many colours.

To a visitor from the Bookhams one of the exhibits in the Transport Pavilion at the South Bank was of special interest; it was a printed bill bearing the date 1827 in which a reward was offered for the apprehension of a highwayman. He had apparently held up a coach at Givons Grove, on the Leatherhead-Dorking road, and wounded and robbed some of the travellers. One was prompted to ask oneself whether things had really changed so greatly in the years between. The countryside at least must still be much as it was 130 years ago, and for this we have to thank our County Council and all those who have contributed to the beneficent work of the National Trust. While as for highway robbery, surely many far worse crimes are not unknown to-day.

Unfortunately, the present tendency is to make the study of crime a national pastime. We revel in detective stories, murder plots and radio plays dealing with criminal psychology. From all this, and from the unending newspaper "plugging" of the cold war, the country lover turns with relief to the delights which nature offers him. Year in, year out, the seasons come and go; man with all his skill and inventiveness could not, even if he would, delay the coming of autumn or hasten the advent of spring. Growth, reproduction and decay are the essential stages by which life perpetuates itself—silently, inevitably. As Tennyson puts it:—

"The woods decay, the woods decay and fall,
The vapours weep their burthen to the ground,
Man comes and tills the field and lies beneath,
And after many a summer dies the swan."

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EXCAVATIONS AT LITTLE BOOKHAM CHURCH

During the summer months of 1951 an interesting excavation at Little Bookham Church was undertaken by the Leatherhead and District Local History Society under the direction of Mr. A. T. Ruby. The task was carried out at the request of the Rector, the Rev. A. L. Drinkwater, the object being an endeavour to trace the area of the missing south aisle, the former presence of which is clearly testified by the arches still easily visible in the present south wall.

Although there is no present sign of them, the ground south of the church has, in the past, been hopelessly disturbed by burials and this has rendered the result of the excavation less conclusive than had been hoped. In spite of the necessity not only to restrict excavation to the minimum but to avoid all burials when they were come across, clear traces were found in three places of "ghost walls", i.e. of walls or foundations that had been disturbed and were partially missing but where archaeological indications of their situation remained. All these "walls" of large flints mixed with mortar were in one dead straight line running west to east, and did not occur elsewhere. It is fairly certain that the preservation of their position was due to past sextons having dug out the foundations and tumbled them back in the same "slot" from which they came.

The most interesting part of the excavation was the "finds", i.e., the pieces of pottery and

building material. Stratification was impossible owing to the disturbance of the ground, but the pottery was easily identifiable with similar material found by the Society at The Mounts, Leatherhead, during its work in the last 4 years on the mediæval manor house there. Apart from one large rim all sherds were quite small and mostly fragmentary. They ranged from 12th century brown coarse shell-grit cooking pots to 13th and 14th century vessels. Of the latter, one piece was of a gritty grey bowl with deep green glaze inside, another of a greyish-brown ware with a green and grey decoration on the outside. Both must have been quite handsome-looking articles. The large piece of rim was that of a gritty cream-coloured bowl or pot with a broad flat rim; if the vessel was circular its diameter would have been as much as 17 to 18 inches. The latest piece (apart from one tiny fragment of Victorian china which must have got in by accident) was a bowl or pot sherd of hard gritty pottery of a terra-cotta colour, the inside glazed, probably dateable to c. 1500.

Part of a knife blade with tang, and the end of an early reaping hook, were found. Numerous nails were found, of which some were of a curious square section and require further study as being possibly of an early Norman date. There were a few fragments of glass (now awaiting expert examination), but it is doubtful whether more than two or three are of any age. A small boar's tusk turned up. In all trenches pieces of mortar and of tiles

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similar to those of the 13th to 14th century manor house at The Mounts were found, together with a few pieces of plaster still retaining the shape of the structure or decoration from which they came. One large piece with a pinkish colouring is bevelled and presumably came from an early splayed window. These will require careful examination.

It can be taken as a sound inference, even if not actually proved, that the south aisle was approximately 11 feet wide, i.e. that the length of the existing porch roughly covers its width. While no trace of the return walls was found it must have extended from the west wall to the easternmost half pillar at the beginning of the chancel. Its foundations were some 38 to 42 inches below the present grass surface; the floor some 24 to 28 inches below. The roof was probably tiled; the window ledges and possibly the walls were plastered with a pink-coloured plaster.

The pottery finds are particularly interesting, as completely confirming the dates given in the "Victoria County History" (Surrey, Vol. 3)—presumably from architectural evidence—for the construction and demolition of the aisle. In that work it is said that the aisle was built in about 1160 and pulled down—possibly because of disrepair—in the latter half of the 15th century. This is exactly the period covered by the sherds found, and if only for the sake of this confirmation the excavation has proved a useful and informative one for all interested in the history of Little Bookham Church and Parish. A.T.R.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL: RETIREMENT OF MR. L. RICHARDS

When the school reassembled this term the children found a great change. A familiar and well-loved figure was absent: Mr. Richards was no longer headmaster. Mr. Richards had been at the school for some 20 years, having come from Busbridge to succeed another figure so familiar to an earlier generation, the late Mr. Henry Griffin.

To most of us outside the circle of parents Mr. Richards was perhaps best known for his outstanding qualities as a producer of children's operas. He was not only producer but also wrote the libretto and the score. Two things I shall never forget—the delight that the children took in their parts and the Song of Athanasius. On the more formal side of school life he may like to be remembered by the remark that his was a happy school. The affection that all felt for him was expressed at the crowded gathering at the end of last term when he was presented with a wireless set from the children, staff and managers. May he and Mrs. Richards have a long and happy retirement.

His successor, Mr. Browning, was appointed after an outstanding wartime and teaching career at an unusually early age for a headmaster. The many parents who have by now met him will understand why he was the unanimous choice of the appointing board. He has the best wishes of us all over this formidable task of handling the great increase that is coming in the child population of the Bookhams. A.M.H.

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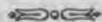
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The members come from Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham. The detachment does its best to help the neighbourhood in many ways. Some of its activities are briefly mentioned below.

Medical Loan Depot. This supplies on loan many of the items of equipment needed in time of illness, e.g., bed pans, bed rests, mackintoshes, wheel chairs, feeding cups, etc. Application should be made to Mrs. Brown, as above.

Hospital Trolley Shop. At the Leatherhead Hospital, and in the sick bay of the Royal Chelsea Hospital for Pensioners, now at Leatherhead.

Invalid Foods and Visits to Old People. There are 66 elderly folk on the books of the local detachment.

National Blood Transfusion Service. Sessions are held every 4 months at Bookham. New donors are urgently needed.

Staffing of First Aid Tents. At local events. New members will be welcomed, even if they are not able to give a great deal of time.

Lectures on First Aid and Home Nursing are held in the area.

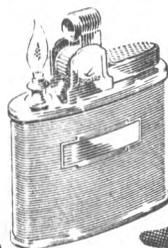
For further details inquiry should be made either from Mrs. Brown (address as above); or from Miss Jenkinson, Roseleigh, Dowlans Road, Great Bookham; or from Mrs. Hart, 1 The Old Rectory, Fetcham.

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"OUR HOSPITAL"

By REV. W. M. TRISTRAM.

The Editor has asked me to contribute an article for this issue of *The Bookhams Bulletin*, and suggests that some reminiscences of my work as a visitor to the hospital at Leatherhead will interest many. On the principle that someone ought to tell of the splendid work that is done there, I have consented to set down some of my impressions.

It has been my privilege to visit this institution almost every week throughout the past 5 years, and I endeavour to spend a few minutes with each of the patients in the public wards. May I say at the outset that although I visit the hospital as a minister of the Gospel, I am not primarily interested in any denominational label, and very rarely indeed does the question of denomination crop up. They are men, women and little children who lie there, and that is the one thing that matters. The Lord whom I seek to serve is bigger than any one branch of His Church, bigger indeed than all of them together, and one ever seeks to bear in mind that it was for each one of those whom one meets that He laid down His life.

The first time I went into "our" hospital I was impressed by two things—its charming setting and its admirable planning. Very soon, however, I became aware of something even more impressive, and that was the atmosphere of real friendliness which prevails everywhere. That impression has

only been strengthened as I have come to know more intimately the various members of the staff, and the fine work they do. It is significant that all through the years I have never heard one word of adverse criticism from any one of the hundreds of patients with whom I have talked. On the contrary, again and again one hears such remarks as I remember one woman made. She told of how she had dreaded the thought of having to lie in hospital, "but," she said, "the moment I came in I felt bathed in peace." Another, an ex-Regular Army officer, declared, "Leatherhead Hospital is the finest institution of its kind which I have found in my travels all over the world."

This is high praise, and yet, after visiting many hospitals up and down the land, my conviction is that "our own" hospital will bear comparison with any institution of its size and kind anywhere. And the secret? It is that, from the doctors and matron to the humblest member of the staff, their work is a calling, and not merely a means of earning a living; they are doing this exacting work because in their hearts is the desire to help suffering men and women. It matters not who or what the sufferer may be, each one is not just a "case" but a fellow creature in need of the help and loving care they are able to give. Such labour is not paid for in coin of the realm, but in the deep satisfaction which comes with the doing of one of the most worth while of all jobs, and

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above all, at last, in the "In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto Me."

There are many memories which crowd into my mind as I look back. Of individual cases I feel I ought not to speak, for the overall impression is one of amazing courage and fortitude on the part of the vast majority of men, women and perhaps, particularly, little children.

I do not know how my fellow ministers feel, but when the time comes round for me to take my turn in conducting the Sunday morning worship, it is with the glad feeling that one is going to meet with friends to gather around the one God and Father of us all in the Name of the Greatest of all physicians, who will Himself be "in the midst"; and never yet have we been disappointed.

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1. Applications for the Nurse's services should be made to the Nurses' Home, Lenglade, Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham. (Tel. No. Bookham 347.)

2. Requests should be made to the Nurse before 8.30 a.m. for a morning visit, and before 4 p.m. for an evening visit, and when possible the previous day. A slate is provided at the Nurses' Home on which messages should be written when the Nurses are out.

3. The Nurse may attend a patient once upon application, or in emergency, but must not continue to visit without receiving the instructions of a medical practitioner. Should the Nurse advise that a patient should call in a doctor, and the advice be not accepted, the Nurse may not attend this patient except in case of fresh emergency: she must report the matter to her supervisor.

4. Application for the services of the midwife should be made as early as possible and not later than 3 months before the expected date of confinement.

5. The Nurse shall not accept personal presents from patients.

It has been decided by the Committee that some welfare work should be started among the necessitous elderly and ailing in the districts covered by the Nursing Association.

For this purpose the Committee are assisting the local branch of the British Red Cross, who already have the necessary welfare workers, and whose area covers that of the Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham Nursing Association.

Names and addresses of known cases of need among the aged and infirm should be sent to Mrs. Brown, Commandant, British Red Cross, Surrey 26, High Barn Eaves, Effingham (Tel. No. Bookham 380). In no case should a name be sent in without the prior consent of the person concerned.

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SPORTS NEWS

Bookham Cricket Club

1951, though the weather was if possible even more unpleasant than in 1950, was another successful season for the Cricket Club. Of 47 matches arranged, 41 were actually played, and of these 21 were won, 16 lost, 1 resulted in a tie, 1 was drawn and 2 had to be abandoned because of rain.

Though the batting improved considerably on its standard of 1950 and certainly did not depend to anything like the same extent on the devastating but erratic violence of Ted Ayres, it could still be said in 1951 that it was usually the bowlers who pulled Bookham through. Indeed, despite the absence for all but one game of Allan Jones, this department of the game actually showed an improvement on its form of the previous season. Two veterans, Jack Fowler and Bert Saunders, returned the best final figures of the regular bowlers, and Jack Fowler took the highest number of wickets. Sid Rollinson bowled with an accuracy and a stamina that made him probably the most feared of all Bookham's bowlers over a long spell; Ted Ayres, after an uncertain start, recovered his best form towards the end of the season, and virtually destroyed Ewhurst with his own right arm in September; Bert Davis retained all his old guile, as Westborough discovered to their cost. Only Dick Butler could not find the consistent form that made him so

often to be feared in 1950, and against this the Club discovered in the second half of the season that Len Saunders promises to be as useful a bowler as his father.

The only consistent batsman in the club this year has been Rex Lovegrove, who scored 316 runs for an average of 14.36, and reached double figures more often than any other player, though both Ted Ayres (who dropped this time just short of the 500 runs he has passed in each of the last two seasons) and Ken Bleach were above Rex in the final averages. Against Berrylands in July he carried his bat, and with Dick Butler laid the foundation of a more than moderate score after a dreadful start. Dick himself, as if to compensate for his loss of bowling form, made a striking advance in batting, and Bob Stevenson, most canny of batsmen, played a succession of valuable innings from July onwards. Bert Saunders celebrated the tenth season of his captaincy by rescuing his side from serious trouble several times, Len Denning proved to the satisfaction of both Ripley and Ewhurst that when he really wants to he can bat as well as most, Les Bowdler achieved his first 50 for the club, and Jack Patten emerged once from retirement to redeem, to the delight of all present, his so often repeated promise to "come and show you how it should be done".

Dave Chandler, however, made the most astonishing advance of all. The worse the situation the

more Dave seemed to revel in it, and the majority of his total of 300 runs were scored when they were most wanted. His batting stands beside Sid Rollinson's bowling as the finest individual contribution to the club's record this season.

Ian Watson, since in July he abandoned juvenile exuberance for something more in keeping with the needs of the occasion, has developed into an orthodox left-handed batsman with a remarkable eye, an immense reach, and a penchant for hitting slow bowlers over their own heads until they are forced to withdraw their close-in fieldsmen. Len Saunders, another young player, has turned

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into an equally orthodox right-
hander with a capacity for driving
to the off-side which leaves cover,
extra-cover and mid-off gaping
helplessly. Nothing he did ever
surpassed that 36 not out of his
at Stoneleigh, after six Bookham
batsmen had gone for a miserable
score.

Bookham have always had the
reputation of being a good fielding
side, and in this respect the season
just past must have been one of
the worst in their history. Those
occasions when they did rise to
their best, and massacre opponents
by hanging grimly on to every-
thing that came remotely within reach—
in the matches against Bramley
and Ewhurst, for example—
merely emphasize by contrast the
generally low standard, and serve
to prove that catches really do
win matches.

J.B.H.

Bookhams Bowling Club

The club had a good season,
the Gentlemen playing 20 matches,
of which they won 13 and lost 7.
The Ladies, playing 10 matches,
won 3 and lost 7. The Annual
Dinner and distribution of trophies
was held at the Victoria Hotel,
Great Bookham, on Wednesday,
31st October, when Mr. G. Bridge,
the President, presided.

Any lady or gentleman who is
interested in the game and would
like to join the club will receive
a hearty welcome. Application
should be made to the Honorary
Secretary, whose address will be
found in the Directory of Book-
ham Organizations (see page 16
of this issue).

Bookham Football Club

Held over to next issue.

THE EXILED COUNTRYMAN

The moon is no more friend to me
Since I forsook her country ways,
She gilds a roof-top, not a tree,
And coldly now she glides above
Far from the place that I do love.
When I was young and full of joy
She shed a low and silver beam,
And fields and woods did then
deploy

A magic and a pageantry
That never more my eyes shall
see.

Yet I'll not fret or meanly think
That other hearts may not per-
ceive—

(Beyond this bare, benighted brink
Of chimneys)—all that may be
known

Of beauty that, for me, has flown.

D. STIMPSON.

BOOKHAM ORGANIZATIONS

Official, address, telephone, meeting
place, time, all refer to Bookham
unless otherwise stated. Asterisk
denotes affiliation to the Bookham
Community Association.

CHURCH, ETC., ORGANIZATIONS

Brotherhood. E. C. Hall, Elsenham,
Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Ch., 1st
Sun., 3.0.

***Congl. Ch. Guild.** H. H. Semken,
Berberis, The Park. Congl. Ch. Hall,
Thurs., 8.0.

Friends, Society of. W. T. Cooper,
The Croft, Dowlans Rd. Tl. 2256. Co-
op. Hall, 2nd & 4th Suns., 11.0.

Mothers' Union. Mrs. Jacob, Wood-
cote. Tl. 2699. Ch. Hse., 2nd Thurs.,
3.0.

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St. Nicolas Ch. Council. P. Fogden, Bonnymuir, Childs Hall Rd. Tl. 2897.
St. Nicolas Club. Miss Clack, Malveen, L'head Rd. Tl. 246. Ch. Hse., Mon., 7.0.

St. Nicolas Folk Dancers. R. Lambert, Fowre Wynds, Hale Pit Rd. Tl. 2206. Ch. Hse., Sat., 5.0.

White Crusaders (Christian Spiritualists). Co-op. Hall, Thurs., 6.30. Services & Healing. Enquiries Mrs. Wooten, 1 New Parade. Tl. 575.

Women's Congl. Fellowship. Miss Cripps, Charmdene, Kennel Lane, Fetcham. Tl. 454. Congl. Ch. Hall, Wed., 3.0.

Women's Fellowship. Mrs. Edkins, The Small House. Tl. 187. Ch. Hse., Mon., 2.30.

Women's Own. Miss Hull, Ewhurst, Groveside. Tl. 191. Baptist Hall, Mon., 3.0.

Young Wives' Group. Mrs. Waldox, Lynwood, Sole Farm Rd. Tl. 2065.

Youth Fellowship (Congl.) Seniors: C. T. Collins, St. Edward, Crabtree Lane. Congl. Hall, Sat., 7.0. Junior Girls: Miss Hall, Elsenham, Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Hall, Mon., 7.0.

SPORTS CLUBS

Badminton (Ladies). Mrs. Lambert, Fowre Wynds, Hale Pit Rd. Tl. 2206.

Bowls. R. T. Rowley, Wilford, Blackthorne Rd. Tel. 2974. Ladies: Mrs. Saunders, Naldera, Groveside. Tl. 2827.

Cricket. L. W. Denning, 48 Middlemead Rd. Tl. 3091.

Football. D. A. Durban, 12 Station Rd.

Junior Sports (Co-operative). Mrs. Davies, Rose Marie, Howard Rd. Tl. 3093. Co-op. Hall, Tues. & Wed., 7.30.

***Rifle.** O. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Rd.

Stoolball. Mrs. Martin, Omira, L'head Rd.

Table Tennis. Miss Benn, Fetcham Holt, Lower Rd. Tl. L'head 3706.

Tennis Clubs:

Lt. & Gt. Bookham. Mrs. Street, Craig, Eastwick Rd. Tl. 2798.

Gilmais. A. M. Lee, L'head Rd. Tl. 271.

*Youth Council. Mrs. Gurnham, White Lodge, Dorking Rd.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

British Legion. F. Shrubshall, Ricasoli, Orestan Lane, Effingham. Tl. 3141. Club, day & evg., Legion Hall.

Buffaloes, Royal Antediluvian Order, Louis Kerr Lodge. R. W. Scott, Lynncote, Howard Rd. Tl. 2166. Old Crown, Tues., 7.30.

***Camera Club.** Mrs. Stephens, Mansfield, Orestan Lane, Effingham. Tl. 2758. The Croft, Ch. Rd., Fri., 7.45.

***Choral Society.** L. R. Neville, Lone Pine, Lower Rd. Tl. 2075. Congl. Ch. Hall, Tues., 8.0.

Commons Committee. L. R. Hutchison, Maddox Farm. Tl. 47.

Conservative Associations:

*Gt. Bookham. H. G. Carter, The Spinney, The Park. Tl. 2703.

Lt. Bookham. Mrs. Haslett, The Cottage, Foxmead. Tl. 184.

***Co-operative Education Committee.** Mrs. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Dve. Tl. 2702.

***Co-operative Guild (Women's).** Mrs. Cox, Theldor, Keswick Rd. Tl. 2706. Co-op. Hall, Thurs., 3.0.

Film Society (Mid-Surrey). C. J. Beddous, Micklehamway, Downsway. Tl. 3032.

Garden Society. J. H. Stephens, Roselea, Sole Farm Rd. Tl. 3026.

Gilmais Club, L'head Rd. A. M. Lee. Tl. 271. Full club facilities.

***Labour Party.** L. J. Penegar, 1 Water Lane. Co-op. Hall, 1st Mon., 8.0. Women: Mrs. Stimpson, 17 Sole Farm Av.

Local History Society. A. T. Ruby, 53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Tl. L'head 3127.

Model Engineering Club. R. J. Collins, Roslyn, Blackthorne Rd. Toc H Hall, L'head, alt. Tues., 7.30.

National Savings. W. Young, Grange Cottage, Maddox Lane. Tl. 3067.

Nursing Assn. Mrs. Emuss, The Hermitage. Tl. 80. (District Nurses. Tl. 347.)

Pig Club. A. Botten, Ivydene, Downsway. Tl. 2484.

***Poultry & Rabbit Club.** E. C. Wyatt, Cumnock, Eastwick Dve. Tl. 585. Co op. Hall, quarterly.

Residents' Assn. F. Cooper, Frantina, Keswick Rd. Tl. 360.

***Women's Club (Lt. Bookham).** Mrs. Brazier, Station House.

***Women's Institute.** Mrs. Bell, Trevean, The Park. Tl. 2640. Ch. Hse, last Thurs., 2.45.

***Women's Total Abstinence (National) Union.** Mrs. Hall, Elsenham, Lower Rd. Tl. 412. Congl. Hall, 2nd Tues., 3.0.

Youth Club (Bookham & Effingham). Mrs. Johnson, The Orchard, Manor Hse. Lane. Tl. 2332. Village Hall, Mon. & Thurs., 7.30.

Youth Council. E. E. Thornton (Youth Organizer). Tl. Epsom 4316.

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***Little Bookham Village Hall.** G. H. Buckmaster, Bookham Grange Hotel. Tl. 2742.

Old Barn Hall, Ch. Rd. E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Rd. Tl. 241.

JUNIOR ORGANIZATIONS

Boys' Brigade. D. E. Shipley, St. Gallen, The Ballands, Fetcham. Baptist Hall, Mon., 7.25.

Girl Guides. Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cott., L'head Rd. Tl. 2796. Scout Hall, Fri., 6.30. (Brownies, Wed., 4.30.)

Girls' Life Brigade. Mrs. Palmer, The Lodge, Randalls Rd., L'head. Tl. 2776. Baptist Hall, Thurs., 4.0 (Cadets), 6.0 (Juniors), 7.15 (Seniors).

Life Boys. Mrs. Palmer (see last above entry). Baptist Hall, Mon., 6.0.

*Scouts:

Gp. Scoutmaster: D. Cameron, Noremac, Dowlans Rd. Tl. 2599.

Scoutmaster: B. Charles, Allandale, Dawnay Rd. Tl. 3153. Scout Hall, Wed., 7.15.

Cubmaster: Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lr. Rd. Tl. 176. Scout Hall, Mon., 4.45.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary. E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Rd. Tl. 241. Social activities include Drama Group and Badminton, Old Time Dancing, Over 60's, Over 20's, and Table Tennis Clubs.

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