

# The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 26

MARCH, 1940

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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Price 1d.

## Editorial

With so many calls upon our resources in these days of warfare, it is very gratifying to record that once again the Social Service Bureau in collaboration with the Bookham United Charities Mrs. H. Allen, and other subscribers, were enabled to continue the Christmas gifts to those whose situation might have been one of forlorn hope. Practical evidence has proved time after time that the interest of the Bookham residents is still the concern of the Bureau and other organisations working in close harmony, for the benefit of those whose need it is. We cannot help reiterating that whatever services have been rendered, have only been made possible by the cooperation of our local traders and your support of them, that the continuance of the Social Service Bureau can be assured.

Since the outbreak of war, paper has been on the controlled list, and is now a rationed commodity. As might have been observed, the amount of space available for topical matter in the *Bulletin* has had to be reduced. As a medium to meet the requirements for the purposes of assisting needy cases, and to give our Traders maximum facilities for advertising, this small sacrifice has had to be made. The object of the foregoing is to draw attention to the column "Let's see what's on," which enables our readers to ascertain what is happening in our Village, and this column is now a recognised feature.

Unfortunately, it may be owing to war-time activities, there has been little or no interest taken by local secretaries to inform the Editor of alterations under this heading, and an appeal is now made to these secretaries, not only for the purpose of their own publicity but also as a means of increasing their membership, that if they want particulars of their organisation to be given in this column they *must* let the Editor know. A post card or telephone message will assist, and should be addressed to him at "St. Jean," Crabtree Lane. Tel. Bookham 399

Yet another regulation affecting the community during the period of hostilities is the Prices of Goods Act, 1939. No. 1 Order fixed prices for certain commodities, and deals exclusively

with maximum prices of clothing, piece goods, household goods, household textiles, domestic ironmongery, domestic turnery, table cutlery, domestic glassware and pottery, knitting yarn, etc. If in doubt about what you have to pay, consult the Citizens Advice Bureau.

It is fitting that the British Legion and the Citizens Advice Bureau be in association, not only to meet the requirements and needs of the ex-service man, but also to advise and assist those men now serving in H.M. Forces. Many difficulties have been experienced regarding the allowances for families and dependents of men now serving, and the British Legion have undertaken the responsibility to help such cases where the need arises. The Branch Secretary has a full and complete knowledge of families and dependents allowances, rates of army pay, war pensions and numerous matters relevant to the present hostilities. The address of the local Branch of the British Legion can be found under the heading of Local Organisations.

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**Citizens Advice Bureau (Bookham Ward)**

In conjunction with the International Red Cross and the Citizens Advice Bureau, a new service has been set up to enable Nationals of Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland residing in Great Britain to communicate with their relatives in the countries mentioned. To assist those concerned the following instructions are issued:—

1. Messages must be clearly written in block capitals as these will be copied before dispatch.
2. The message can be written in English, French or German, and to consist of 20 words only, not including name and address of sender or receiver.
3. The following details must be given :
 

Name	Addressee's Name
First Name	First Name
Address	Address
Relationship	
4. The sum of 7d. must be handed to the Bureau to cover cost of international coupon.

For the benefit of above-mentioned Nationals this information is given in German :

Fragesteller  
 Name  
 Vorname  
 Address  
 Wie ist Fragesteller mit Empfänger  
 verwandt?  
 Der Fragesteller verlangt Auskunft  
 über den  
 Empfänger bitte um weiterbeforderung  
 dieser meldung  
 Botschaft, zwannig worter nur  
 Ein botschaft kann sein sendte jeder  
 21 tagen.

All information regarding this service can be had from, and the transmission of messages can be done by, the Hon. Secretary, Citizens Advice Bureau, "St. Jean," Crabtree Lane, Gt. Bookham every Friday between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

Regarding Polish Nationals residing in the district, information can now be given through the Polish Committee respecting their nationals residing in Polish occupied territory.

A full list of Pay Offices of all branches of H.M. Forces has been issued to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Information respecting these can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, C. A. B.

The C. A. B. hours are as follows: Mondays and Wednesdays at the Barn Hall, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and on Fridays at the Hon. Secretary's address, given above from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

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**Rent Act, 1939**

There have been so many enquiries regarding the question of Rents since the outbreak of war, that the following information is published to indicate the position of Landlord and Tenant.

As a result of new legislation passed at the beginning of the war, houses which were controlled on September 2nd, 1939, remain controlled, while all other dwelling houses, with certain exceptions, now come under control. The exceptions are: first, certain houses owned by Local Authorities and built before 1914; and secondly, houses having a rateable value (a) in London on 6th April, 1939, over £100; (b) in the rest of England and Wales on 1st April, 1939, of over £75; and (c) in Scotland on the 1st April, 1939, of over £90.

The effect of control is that a landlord must not increase the rent except on one of the three following grounds: first, where the rent includes rates and the local rates are increased above the level of those in force in the period which included September 1st, 1939, the landlord may add to the rent the amount of this rate increase. Secondly, if structural alterations or improvements are carried out by the landlord, he may increase the rent by 8 per cent. of the amount

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**Rent Act.**—*Continued.*

spent; he is not entitled to make this increase for ordinary decorations and repairs. Thirdly, where the tenant has sub-let, the landlord may increase the rent by 5 per cent. of the nett rent of the sub-letting.

Before any increase of rent can be legally enforced the landlord must serve on the tenant a notice in writing in the proper form, explaining how the increase is made up.

A controlled tenant who has been over-charged can get back from his landlord the amount of any over payment of rent made by him during the previous two years. He may take proceedings in the County Court to recover the excess rent paid by him, or he may withhold his rent until he has repaid himself.

Another effect of control is that a landlord cannot evict a tenant except by order of the Court. To obtain such an order the landlord must first serve the tenant with a written Notice to Quit and then prove to the Court that he is entitled to possession for one of certain specific reasons, such as that the tenant is in arrears with his rent or is a nuisance or annoyance to other tenants of the house or the neighbours.

A profit may not be made out of furnished lodgings higher than might reasonably have been expected from a similar letting in the year ending 1st September, 1939.

Every tenant of a controlled house whose rent is payable weekly is entitled to have a proper rent book, which must contain the names and addresses of the landlord and his agent, the standard rent and other information. The landlord is liable to a fine if he fails to provide a proper rent book and also if he knowingly made false entries in it as to rent, arrears, etc.

**Have Patience**

When war was declared last September, the Government put into force its various schemes for home defence, amongst which, were the evacuation of children from the towns to rural districts, the provision of canteens for the evacuees, and other A.R.P. regulations.

Generally speaking these were all novel to the majority of us, and consequently it was only natural that criticisms would be made as to the manner in which these orders were being carried out. Whilst it is only fair to the "critics" to say that their ideas were moderate, yet some of them stressed the importance of their suggestions being carried out immediately, apparently over-

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# ST. DUNSTAN'S

## A WAR HOSPITAL ON THE DOWNS

### VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

St. Dunstan's, known throughout the world for its care of those who were blinded in the Great War, will fulfil the same mission of mercy in the war to-day. "Victory over Blindness" was the motto of Sir Arthur Pearson, the founder of St. Dunstan's, who had himself become blind, and it has remained always a guiding principle in the great work of this famous institution.

The convalescent home of St. Dunstan's, which stands on the downs near Brighton, has been converted into a war hospital for the treatment of men and women of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and members of the regular Fire Brigades and Police forces who may be blinded during their active service. Serious eye cases and other incidental wounds will be dealt with at the war hospital as an integral part of the organization of St. Dunstan's, and the authorities concerned will concentrate the cases there as soon as practicable.

These arrangements were decided on before the outbreak of war at a series of conferences between St. Dunstan's and representatives of the fighting services, the Ministry of Pensions, and the Ministry of Health. The war hospital is capable of taking 200 patients. It contains a small, but perfectly equipped, operating-theatre block, with the most up-to-date ophthalmic theatre and general theatre. This theatre block, together with the incidental expenses of the conversion, at a total cost of £7,000, was the generous gift of Lord Nuffield. Surgeons and sisters from Moorfields, the famous London eye hospital, are in residence. A temporary theatre is ready, and the war hospital is fully staffed with orderlies and auxiliary nursing personnel.

#### NEW OCCUPATIONS

A statement issued on behalf of the executive council of St. Dunstan's by Lady (Arthur)

Pearson (president), Captain Sir Ian Fraser (chairman), and Mr. Edwin Fisher (hon. treasurer) points out that plans are in hand to extend the hospital as need arises, and to enlarge the present school so that all the young blinded men may learn to read with their fingers, to typewrite, to look after themselves and walk alone, to learn as little children do the first lessons of life.

"The blinded men of the Great War," adds the statement, "will hold out a helping hand to the young fellows who will join their ranks, and where possible will take an active part as lecturers and teachers. There will be workshops and lecture-rooms where trades, handicrafts and professions will be taught. Some occupations for the blind are out of date and new ones will have to be found. The new St. Dunstan's may be different in many details from its familiar prototype of a quarter of a century ago, but the spirit will be the same and 'Victory over Blindness' will be the watchword."

St. Dunstan's remains, of course, a voluntary agency, relying for support on the good will and generosity of the British people. A war fund will be created to help in the extension of its work now called for.

St. Dunstan's brings to its new war work tradition and experience. It will again help young people by healing their wounds, mending their hurt but unbroken spirits, and showing them the way to a new life of usefulness and happiness. The Government will provide pensions for those blinded in the war, and St. Dunstan's will help them to re-create their lives. This was the achievement of St. Dunstan's in the Great War and in the years that followed.

Of the 2,750 who were then treated at St. Dunstan's, nearly 2,000 still survive, and their average age is still under 50. They learned to lead, so far as possible, normal and useful lives; they followed and still follow, with St. Dunstan's constant help, many professions and occupations. The majority married after they were blinded, for they were young men—many of them mere boys in 1914. Practically all are contented, even happy.

The head office of St. Dunstan's will remain at Regent's Park for administrative purposes during the war, but the blinded men have been transferred to Brighton.

LEADING ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM

# THE TIMES

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Thursday October 19 1939

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## St. Dunstan's

On another page there is an article on the plans of St. Dunstan's for those men and women who may be blinded on active service in the present war. This work, like that during the last War, must be supported by voluntary contributions, and the appeal for help is one that scarcely needs pressing. Of all the memories of the last War, that of St. Dunstan's is, to those who were privileged to watch or to share in the work, among the most cheerful, because the men themselves made it so. The note was set by the founder, SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, himself a man blinded (though not in warfare) after having his sight till near middle age, and using it to the full in many interests and occupations. He lacked some of the gifts which certain of his war-blinded friends developed. He used, for instance, to deplore his lack of the "sense of obstacle," which enables some blind men to pick their way through a strange room without unwittingly touching a single piece of furniture. But the spirit which impelled this lover of horses to go on taking riding tours in his blindness was the spirit with which he animated all the men of St. Dunstan's. There was no grousing. A mishap—a cropper, for

instance, down the long flight of garden steps at the back of St. Dunstan's Lodge, the beautiful Decimus Burton house in the Regent's Park from which the society took its name—was not a misfortune; it was a joke, which all hearers and the sufferer himself hailed with encouraging laughter.

This was the spirit in which the St. Dunstan's men learned first to potter in the house and garden; then, under the care of kind friends, to take walks round the Inner Circle; and so on to sports and activities in which "sighted" people marvelled to see them engaged. Meanwhile they were being trained as shorthand-typists, as masseurs, as poultry keepers (at least one St. Dunstan's man became a crack judge at poultry shows), and in many other ways of maintaining their independence and being useful to society. As it was at St. Dunstan's in the last War, so it will be in this; and as the public tried to pay their debt to the blinded in the last War, so they will try in this. And as they pray that the debt may be but a thousandth part of what it was then, their motive will not be lack of the will to pay.

**Have Patience—Continued**

looking the fact that the Government Regulations took a considerable time to formulate previous to the outbreak of war, and consequently the modifications suggested subsequently would have to be considered carefully before they could, if necessary, be put into operation. It is fairly certain if the war in the first place had taken the course anticipated by the Government, a good many of the critics would have been silent, and surely it cannot be safely alleged that the Government is to blame because its original anticipations have not been realised. This more especially applies to the evacuation of the children seeing that so many have returned home. Something has been done and further steps are still under consideration.

Now as regards local activities let us consider how we stand :—

*Payment of A.R.P. Workers.*—In view of the Government's recent pronouncements on this matter the Local Authorities have this subject well in hand, and whilst it is always dangerous to prophesy, yet action will be taken, if it has not already been done by the time this appears in print.

*Social Life.*—By the taking over of our halls for A.R.P. workers and evacuated children, the Leatherhead Urban District Council, when it was brought to their notice, realised that social life in Great Bookham was practically ended, and immediately agreed that the Old Barn Hall, if suitable, should be used to keep this alive.

*Canteens.*—Here again the Canteen Committee has under consideration the various points submitted, but it must always be understood that until its recommendations have been confirmed by the Council nothing can be done.

*Street Lighting.*—As far as Bookham is concerned, the absence of this should actually have little or no effect, for it is only about two years ago that street lighting was installed and residents then were by no means unanimous as to the necessity for it.

The writer does not contend that everything is all right with the war time regulations, but wishes to draw attention to the fact that modifications cannot be effected immediately they are voiced.

Finally this article is not addressed to those who have relatives and friends on active service at the various fronts, as they possess patience to a marked degree, but to critics who are possibly more fortunately placed.

**Keep Calm!**

If anyone tells you that a new poison gas has been discovered that will pass without hindrance through the modern gas-mask, you can be certain that he is wrong. There is no such chemical now, and there never will be. The active charcoal in the canister of your gas-mask has the property of instantly absorbing the molecules of many heavy vapours regardless of its chemical composition, and will absorb and hold back the molecules of lighter vapours, such as chlorine and phosgene, for a limited period. The filter has the property of blocking the particles of any smoke, even if these particles are so small as to be ultra-microscopic. It is true that there are one or two light vapours of a toxic character—notably carbon monoxide—which would cause a fatality in a confined space such as a closed garage when the engine of a car is carelessly left running, that will pass through an ordinary gas-mask unchanged, but all such substances are known, and none of them are practicable for use in chemical warfare. You may also rest assured that such yarns we sometimes hear about "the dew of death," "death rays" and the like only exist in the distorted imaginations of sensational writers of fiction.

The safest place during an air raid is your own home. Stay in it—there is no better place. If you are out-of-doors in the immediate vicinity of a shelter when a raid warning is sounded, take advantage of its protection, but do not leave your home without cause to sprint for a shelter if an attack has started; the greatest security in a raid in general, lies in dispersal. Another and most important reason for staying at home is that it gives you an opportunity to assist in reducing fire danger as a result of incendiary bombs.

Be prepared, then, so that if the poison gas danger ever does become real, you may be protected against danger. Make your home reasonably gas proof, keep off the streets when danger is imminent, and do not panic.

**Comforts for the Services**

The many kind-hearted workers who are using their spare time in knitting comforts for the Services are doing their best, but many more are still needed. Anyone interested and would like to help in this great effort can obtain particulars of what kind of articles are needed, materials, sizes, etc. from the Citizens Advice Bureau who have the fullest details.

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## Problems of Evacuation

In the issue of the *Bookhams Bulletin* for December reference was made to Evacuation, not of its problems but in praise of the transference from an evacuation area to the local reception area. Since then there has been a steady flow back to the vulnerable areas, and the following letter from Commander Stephen King-Hall may be of interest:—

“The problems of evacuation are necessarily linked up with the duration of the war. My own view is that the strange war will either come to an end in 1940 or continue for a very long time, and it is evident we must plan at present for the latter contingency. Unless the Nazis indulge in indiscriminate bombing it seems very likely that the evacuation scheme will gradually disappear. H.M. Government are carrying on with the scheme to evacuate Civil Servants and therefore we must assume that with all the information at their disposal they consider large scale indiscriminate air attack to be an act of war against which we must be prepared. Indeed, were it otherwise, there would be no justification for the maintenance of the “black-out” and the A.R.P. Organisation. Moreover, although I do not believe that mass air attacks can produce decisive results, the matter has yet to be put to the test in densely populated areas. Finally, such attacks may well take place as a last attempt by a hard pressed enemy to escape defeat. It is worth remembering that in November, 1918, the Officers of the German Navy tried to take the High Seas Fleet to sea for a suicide battle. In these circumstances I suggest that the whole evacuation scheme needs thinking out afresh and that the evacuated children should be concentrated in School Camps. This means in effect the establishment of National Boarding Schools where the children would be educated and maintained for the duration of the war. It must, however, be recognised that to establish such Camps on the scale required would be a formidable undertaking. It has been established that it would cost £100,000,000 to build Camps to accommodate 1,500,000 persons and there would be considerable difficulty in obtaining the material. Nevertheless, such a project even if it took 18 months to complete, would produce a permanent asset with many peace time values and uses which I need not catalogue in this letter.

I am, Sir,

(Signed) STEPHEN KING-HALL.”

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## Let's see what's on!

REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

### Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m., Congregational Hall.

### Mondays—

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.

Boys' Brigade, 7.15 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Rovers, 8.15 p.m., Scout Hut.

Little Bookham Boys' Club, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Thrift Club at the School.

Citizens Advice Bureau, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Old Barn Hall.

### Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Little Bookham Girls Club, 7 to 9 p.m. Little Bookham Village Hall.

### Wednesdays—

Citizens Advice Bureau, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Little Bookham Boys' Club, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

### Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Scouts, 8 p.m., Scout Hut.

Bookham Women's Constitutional Association

Monthly Meetings at the Barn Hall.

First Thursday in the month at 3 p.m.

Leatherhead Cottage Hospital Linen Guild, 10 to 12.30.

### Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Rangers, 7.45 p.m., Scout Hut.

Christian Endeavour, Baptist Hall. Juniors

6 to 7 p.m. up to 14 years. Seniors 7 to 8 p.m.

Little Bookham Girls Club, 7 to 9 p.m.

Citizens Advice Bureau, at "St. Jean," Crab-tree Lane, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

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*Additions received too late for  
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- Bookham Youth Club  
Mr. Gordon Stevens, "Mansfield," Downs Way.
- Bookham Youth Organizations Committee  
Mr. C. V. Brayne, C.M.G., "Wolverley,"  
Little Bookham. Bookham 502.
- Boys' Brigade and Life Boys  
Mr. L. S. Kay, "Lingfield," Nutcroft Grove,  
Fetcham.
- Brownies  
Miss Riddick, "Sundial," Maddox Lane,  
Little Bookham.
- Cubs  
Miss Attawell, "Delaune," Sole Farm Road.
- Girls' Club  
Miss Joce, "The Spinney," Eastwick Drive,  
Great Bookham. Bookham 84
- Girls' Life Brigade  
Mrs. Walter Shipley, "Garlands," Rookery Close,  
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- Guides, 1st Bookham Company  
Miss Riddick, "Sundial," Maddox Lane,  
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- 3rd Bookham (Dulwich) Company  
Miss Walker, "Rue View," Lower Road,  
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- Life Boys  
Mrs. Palmer, "Groudly Glen," School Lane, Fetcham
- Little Bookham Girls' Club  
Miss Hackett, "Sole Farm House." Bookham 2704
- Little Bookham Women's Club  
Mrs. Verling-Brown, "Dalveen," Maddox Lane,  
Little Bookham. Bookham 200.

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