

August 1972  
No 149  
39th 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

August 1972

No 149

39th Year

*Editor:* Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 5702

*Distribution:* G Everett. Telephone Bookham 2404

*Advertisements:*

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 5730

## PROGRESS REPORT

### Well done Bookham!

By our own efforts we have raised over £16,000 towards the Barn Hall Building Fund.

This is almost double the amount received in the combined grants from the Department of Education and Science, the Surrey County Council and the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

It is a splendid achievement as well as a real team effort, which 'community association' is all about. Large donations have been relatively few. Wealthy philanthropists are not on our mailing list. We are, however, proud and grateful that so many clubs, organisations and individuals have worked so patiently and continuously on money-raising projects. Their motives include some self-interest, but this has been minimal. The main inspiration has been the acceptance by all that they are creating a lasting amenity for the neighbourhood. As one elderly member of the Old Peoples' Day Centre so aptly put it: 'We shall not gain much from this as our days are numbered, but we are glad to be doing something for those who will come after us.'

**Village Day and Village Week.** Past issues of The Bulletin have listed the events preceding their publication but so much has happened in this last quarter that we have only space to record the big money raiser and community get-together, Village Day and Village Week.

Takings were well over the £1,000 mark and the profit is thought to be over £900, quite a windfall at this critical point when we are facing up to the last of the Builder's account.

Close on 3,000 came to the Day which was a sunny oasis in what had been a bleak summer. It was, as it is traditionally intended to be, very much a family occasion. Most of our affiliated organisations worked with the verve we have come to expect of them in order to give everybody a good time. Unfortunately the exhibition had to be abandoned because of general dislocation but lots of people took the opportunity to inspect the halls and their extensions. They lingered over the exhibit on the new stage which showed in detail the many-sided activities of the Community Association, they found the panels of old photographs, postcards and records assembled by the Local History Society most interesting and the stand of the WEA attracted many inquiries.

The theme for the occasion was incorporated in the outside displays, namely 'Youth in Action,' and was illustrated by the numbers put on by the Boys' Brigade, the Bookham Youth Centre and the Fetcham and Bookham School of Dancing. A Disco and Barbecue for the teenagers drew a large crowd who enjoyed in a most orderly way the excellent show, so kindly put on by a local boy and disc jockey of national reputation.

The traders and firms did us proud and were more generous than ever before in their gifts. In accordance with our promise we list their names below:

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Village Week was packed with entertainments of all kinds and credit is due to the organisers for arranging a programme which catered for all tastes. Quite a number of enthusiasts turned up every day and, apparently still in fine shape, came to the Village Day Dance on the final Saturday. It was a good evening. The comfortable seating in the side extensions contributed to the relaxed and friendly feeling and the extra dancing space in a completely cleared hall added significantly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

This report would not be complete without a brief reference to the Service held by the Leatherhead Council of Churches, this year at Bookham, and, because of the rain, inside the Hall. The theme was 'Community', excellently documented and presented by the Rev Miles Parkinson. The Rev A Morris, Vicar of Leatherhead, gave the homily. Those of us who have seen the Barn Hall grow and those who may have been visiting it for the first time must have been moved by the occasion. The participation of all denominations in common worship, especially in a lay setting, is, in itself, an inspiring occasion. As one who was there—and one can only speak for oneself under these circumstances—I had the feeling that the bond which linked all present was the act of joint worship wherein the parts became a whole.

Sociologists argue that community is a basic part of human existence. It is an abstract idea and, at the same time, a living entity. The final prayer of intercession on

this memorable afternoon expressed it thus. Minister: 'Lord, as You have loved us.' People: 'Help us to love one another.'

## LOOKING AHEAD

The summer has seen much activity in Bookham but, with the onset of September, it will grow in volume when the clubs, which have had a recess, start on their autumn session.

The Community Association is compelled to continue with its appeal. One need not be a mathematician to work out the total of loans which have been taken up and which have to be repaid, some with heavy interest. Equipment and furnishings have to be acquired and, though volunteers give labour willingly, materials must be bought. Our little team of gallant painters and decorators are getting desperate. They can see themselves committed endlessly unless they are re-inforced. This journal has no agony column but no editor could resist their plea for a big space for their SOS submitted as they have presented it.

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Willing hands have contrived backcloths for the stage and a variety of ingenious designs have been produced to hide the desolation behind. We have also been fortunate in a gift of drapes, formerly part of a Little Theatre, which are now filling some unsightly gaps. But we cannot delay our order for stage curtains, even though they will cost us £400, at cost price. The first big stage

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performance will be on November 30th, December 1st and 2nd when our own Bookham Dramatic Society will be realising their dream of coming 'home' to a stage where they have the space to show their talent and where they will be able to widen the range of plays they can put on. Prospective actors and actresses please take note. Now is your chance to get in on a good thing. Contact the Secretary, Miss Linda Covey, 78 Woodlands Road. And do it now! The committee is about to select its play. Young men are in great demand!

While on the subject of curtains, our readers may be interested to know that material of most attractive design has been ordered from Ireland for the Old Hall and the Modern Sequence and Old Time Dance Club have kindly offered to make it up. Another mammoth task of sewing the curtains for the new Hall has been undertaken by a group of ladies under the leadership of Mrs McLeod who, as we know, is untiring in her service to the BCA.

You should be warned that a number of people are dreaming up ideas of extracting money from you painlessly by providing events which are enjoyable and, at the same time, very reasonably priced. Watch out for the notices at the Barn Hall Entrance. But note this one in your diary:

**Flower Demonstration**, Thursday, September 14th, 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.15 pm entitled 'Pandora's Box' by Mrs Joan Owen. Tickets 25p in aid of BCA to be obtained from Mrs S McLeod, 11 Allen Road, or Mrs J Owen Bookham 5266.

**Bookham Antiques Fair** is a completely new and exciting project. It will take place in the Barn Hall on October 7th from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Antique dealers from a wide area will have stalls and customers are expected in considerable numbers. The Hon Secretary is Mrs A Stark, who is well known locally and, as a dealer herself, is bringing quite a professional touch to the arrangements. Another BCA enthusiast is the Hon Organiser, Mrs R Wear, who is working with his usual efficiency to make this a big money-spinner and, at the same time, to spread the fame of the Bookham Community Association.

We propose to do the refreshments ourselves because these should provide a

good income. So we shall need plenty of helpers, both male and female, on the Friday and Saturday and prior to the week-end.

The BCA will have its own stall in a prominent position and we appeal to all our members and friends to assist by searching their attics, odd cupboards and corners, and even the top of the piano for items which are no longer wanted but could bring in the shekels. Anything over 40 years old comes under the heading of antiques. To know the date is not really necessary because we shall have experts to advise us as to what is saleable.

Mr Ray Wear lists articles such as kitchen utensils, copper or brassware, metalware, jugs and bowls, small pieces of furniture, jewellery, jet, silver etc. Nothing is too small, so do not be diffident. Mr Wear, 28 Allen Road, Telephone 2250, will be pleased to visit you and collect. Any member of the BCA Committee will also be delighted to receive items for the stall which will, we hope, be an imposing one. Finally, do not forget that you may have relatives outside Bookham, especially those who are getting on in years, who may be only too glad to unload unwanted trinkets for such a good cause. Needless to say the cause is the ongoing one of the Barn Hall Building Fund.

## **LOOKING FOR A PLEASANT EVENING IN CONGENIAL COMPANY?**

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**Have you tried a BCA Club?** A glance at the Directory on our final pages will give you a comprehensive list.

**Dancing.** The Old Time and Modern Sequence Club introduces many new dances to its members so that there is never a dull moment. The new leaders, Hugh and Joyce Westaway, are also eager to help beginners and newcomers to 'find their feet'. Visits are arranged regularly to neighbouring clubs and they, in their turn, are always pleased to reciprocate by fixing up parties for the Barn Hall where, as they say, the atmosphere is always so friendly. The new season starts on Wednesday, September 8th, 8.00 pm to 10.30 pm, and, thereafter, weekly. Prospective members can

be assured that modern sequence dances are most prominent in the programmes, mixed with a few in the old time tempo, and that a warm welcome is awaiting them.

The Scottish Dancers specialise in the traditional country dances and are much in demand at fetes and other functions where their expert performances are greatly appreciated. They will now be meeting regularly in the new Hall every Friday, beginning September 8th. Those who wish to keep fit, in the pleasantest possible way, should sample this club. Visitors are invited. Although the not so young know that they can preserve their figures and nimbleness without strain, the twenties and thirties will soon find that their lissome bearing, which may be disappearing with too much car driving, will quickly return as they dance away the inches appearing in the wrong places.

**Bridge.** The Afternoon Bridge Club, which meets every Monday, with the exception of the first Monday in the month when it meets on Thursday, has been in continuous session all through the summer and is flourishing. Play is from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm but members may arrive or depart at whatever time suits their convenience.

The Evening Bridge Club, which started in a modest way in the old Waterfield Room, is now ripe for expansion, and open to new members. The extended facilities of the new Hall are available to them, and prospective members can start now. Play is from 6.30 pm to 11.45 pm every Tuesday and the same condition of come and go as you please, which operates in the Afternoon Club, also applies here.

**Indoor Bowls** with two rinks available starts in the Barn Hall on Monday 2nd October. By this date outdoor bowls in the Dorking Road Recreation Ground will have finished. With an enlarged Barn Hall there is room for more members who will undoubtedly find this an exciting sport and in no way inferior to the outdoor variety.

**Listening.** The Gramophone Club caters for the demand for good music played on good equipment in pleasant surroundings in congenial company together with that most important element, a Presenter who is well

acquainted with his (or her) own subject.

The first half of the season looks exciting on paper with at least three new names, all carrying good credentials in the list of Presenters of Concerts, and the remaining five being of established reputation among members.

The opening date is September 7th. Full details will be circulated to members shortly and sent to anyone else interested (telephone Bookham 5702).

**Flower Arrangement** is almost universally practised among the women of Bookham. So many of them wish to improve their skills and extend their range of ideas that membership of the BCA Flower Arrangement Club is at capacity and includes qualified demonstrators who are much in demand in County classes and novices who are provided with the opportunity to learn about the basics and who quickly progress as entrants in the monthly competitions. There are, also, of course those ladies who are looking only for a relaxing and pleasant afternoon, just watching the beauty of colour and design put on by visiting experts.

With the extension of the Barn Hall and the stage it will be possible to accept new members. The Club meets monthly on the first Monday in the month at 2.30 pm. On November 6th Miss Phyllis Burdett will be demonstrating 'Christmas'. December is a Member's Day in which all join in arrangements and are helped by the skilled ones there. On January 8th Mrs E. Marsh has taken as her subject 'Pot-et-fleur'.

**Theatre Visits** are steadily supported and we are indebted to Mrs Mabel Everett for the enthusiasm she shows in selecting and booking the shows, arranging the transport and publicising the programme. The October visit to Drury Lane for the Musical 'Gone with the Wind' was fully subscribed by early July.

**Our Affiliated Organisations** cover virtually the whole range of activities—social, cultural, educational, sports and specialised interests. The Directory sets them all out but we append below brief reports sent to us of forthcoming programmes.

**The Choral Society**, an old-established but

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still popular society, opens its 1972/73 season with practice in the Congregational Hall on 19th September. It will be preparing the works it will sing in the Leith Hill Musical Festival in the Spring, the main item being Haydn's Mass in C.

The Society – and the village, too, we are sure – is looking forward to its annual Christmas Concert in the Barn Hall on December 19th, when we shall have the benefit of the enlarged Hall and fine stage.

Bookham won the banner for the full-chorus item in the 1972 Leith Hill Festival. Soon afterwards, as part of the centenary celebrations of Vaughan William's birth, we gave a concert in the Gloucestershire village of Down Ampney, his actual birth-place. Since then, members have joined with other Surrey choral Societies in singing his 'Sea Symphony' in Guildford Cathedral, under the baton of our own conductor, Ralph Nicholson.

There is no audition for new members who will be welcomed by the Secretary. (Telephone Bookham 2785). L.S.H.

Bookham Winemakers are looking forward to their visit to an apple and pear farm in Hampshire in September. A Talk on 'Eastern European Wines' has been arranged for September, and in October the AGM will be combined with the autumn wine competition.

The membership stands at 55 and the best attended meeting of the last session was for an evening entitled 'Drinks and Drinking' given by a representative from Booths. Fifty

four members and friends turned up.

The club meets every second Wednesday of the month at Little Bookham Hall. Details from Bookham 5711/3475. D.B.

The Adult Education Institutes, which is the new name for the former 'Evening Institutes', attract an ever-increasing number of students. Most of our readers will have seen the exciting supplement put out by them in the local newspapers. Individual prospectuses for Effingham and Leatherhead will also be available. Enrolment evenings for both are 18th, 19th September for classes; 20th for clubs. Time – 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

The Garden Society Show in July exceeded expectations. It was fortunate that the enlarged Barn Hall enabled the increased

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number of exhibits to be adequately staged. There were 100 more exhibits than last year, which was surprising in view of the bad summer. This, combined with the fact that there were a fair proportion of members who had never before put in entries, indicates that interest in the Society is growing.

And it is likely to grow further. The Members Room at the Barn Hall has been booked for every fourth Thursday, beginning September 25th, for an open evening when anyone can come along for coffee and a chat. Experts in the Society on a variety of subjects will be available to talk over problems encountered by the amateur gardener.

Another innovation is the decision to present the Show Trophies at a Social arranged for October 20th at the Barn Hall, 8.00 pm. Entrance 25p and open to all.

## BREVITIES

**The Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre** productions of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'The Country Wife' attracted good attendances despite the bad weather in the first week and had notices in the national press as well as on the radio. The thanks of the Advisory Committee are extended to all members of the Community Association and their friends whose willing assistance as stewards and usherettes enables the enterprise to run so smoothly and happily. Special recognition should be given of the unstinting service given by Mr Reg Snow, as Business Manager, and Mrs Barbara Oldershaw who has been running the Box Office for so many years.

**Assistant Youth Centre Warden Marries.** The young people and the adults who help at the Youth Centre were sorry to say goodbye to Alice Ross who, in the year she has been in Bookham, has made many friends who appreciate the enthusiasm she has shown in stimulating activities for our young people. We wish her well in Nottingham where her husband has taken a post as Lecturer at The Trent Polytechnic after completing his B.Lit. in Economics at Oxford University. The wedding will be at Inverness, the birthplace of both of them. Alice will carry on her work in the field of youth and community work in Nottingham which has a reputation for pioneering in this field.

The Bookham Centre has been fortunate in attracting Miss Jane Barkell who will take over as Assistant Warden in September but who is already visiting and meeting members and helpers.

Youth Centres, like Community Centres, have no official recess. The Youth drama group is rehearsing for its next production of 'Oh What a Lovely War', to be produced October/November. Archery has proved to be a winner as a new project and is quickly recruiting enthusiasts. Pat Erricker is particularly pleased with the way the Bingo Evenings have caught on because this is one of the few occasions when the young people can bring along their parents who soon learn that the Centre is no something peculiar and disturbing but a friendly place where the teenagers can relax and meet their friends and make new ones. Not everything happens within the walls of the Centre. Over and above Canoeing, which is well supported, excursions of different kinds are arranged. Enthusiasm is growing for a proposition that a party of members will be accompanied by the Warden on a trip abroad some time in December.

**New Safety Officer for Dorking** is Mrs Audrey Edwards, President of the Great Bookham Evening WI. She will be missed from Eastwick Junior School where she has taken a prominent part in the Cycling Proficiency Tests, but her wide experience in the work here, and in other schools in the district, together with her administrative flair, will enable her to fill the new post with distinction.

**We were pleased to meet Melvin Gardner** and his wife, Sue (Nee Sue Le Nobel) at the Village Day Dance. They are now living at Oxshott where Melvin is running a successful Plant Hire Service. We sent out good wishes to Peter, who together with Sue, was prominent in the Dramatic Society. He has moved, we hear, with his wife and baby daughter, from Toronto to Montreal.

**The Chief Scouts Award** has been gained by David Frohock, of the Garstons, son of our good friend, Ron Frohock who does so much for the Barn Hall. Numerous tests



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were successfully completed by David before concluding his probation, including instruction in gliding at Lasham, Hants. He has now become a Venture Scout. He is a pupil at Howard of Effingham School and is specially interested in electronic and draughtsmanship. His ambition is to become an electrical engineer. .

**Authorship is his Hobby**, engineering his profession. Dr D.R.Hill, of Amey Drive has achieved distinction in both fields. He is a BSc in Engineering, a Master of Letters in Arabic history, and was awarded a PhD last year by London University. The research he did for this formed the basis of his book, 'The Termination of Hostilities in the Early Arab Conquests', which earned good reviews and comment on the BBC. He is now working on an annotated translation of 'The Book of Ingenious Devices', written in 1206 by an Arab scholar, al-Jazari. The public generally, as well as students, will be interested in the ideas, some of them prophetic, propounded by this ancient scholar.

Dr and Mrs Hill have not lived long in Bookham but have already made friends. Mrs Hill is a keen member of the Bridge Club and a worker for the Charity of Mother Teresa. She regrets that their sales centre in Cobham had to close down but her group are hoping to find a new outlet for fund raising.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM (continued by request)

By John Harvey, FSA

### Part VIII

The earliest of the Bookham charters copied into the Chertsey Cartulary is of the time of Abbot Martin (1197-1206) and records a grant to William 'chaplain' of Bookham of one acre of land which Gilbert le Huchier held and on which the said William had built his houses, and 22 acres next Pollesden Wood on the left hand of the road which leads to the Dunleys. The witnesses to this grant, made at Chertsey, were not local men, but the next deed, granted by Abbot Adam (1207-1223) is witnessed by a whole series of parish chaplains including 'E' (presumably Edward) 'chaplain of Bookham'. In this charter John Saracen of Bookham and his wife Beatrice, daughter of

Roger de Esse (Ash), obtained five acres which had belonged to Therrie the bailiff, and the messuage which Robert, son of Gonnilde, had held of the abbot in the township of Bookham, to be held by rent of 2s 6d. In the fifteenth century these lands belonged to Edmund Shaa, trustee for Norbury, who had acquired the Polesdon estate in 1470 from Thomas Slyfield.

The early history of the Slyfield estate at the north end of Bookham is obscure, but it may have been the half-hide of land 'in Slifield' disputed between Robert, son of John, and Adam de Aldham in 1207-08. Before the end of the century it was in the hands of William de Slifeld, a witness to local deeds as late as 1301, and who may have been the son of Geoffrey and Alice de Slifeld, living in the district in 1262.

Little Bookham continued in the family of Hansard, one William Hansard being mentioned in 1189 and another at several dates between 1210 and 1244. This William's sons, Sir John Hansard (died 1275) and James Hansard, and the latter's son James (born 1245), held the lordship of Little Bookham from the Honor of Bramber as subtenants of the family of Braose until about 1300.

At the other end of the social scale, serfs were disposed of or mentioned by several of the deeds enrolled in the Chertsey Cartulary. Abbot Alan (1223-1261) acquired from Alda Bluet of Bookham the latter's bondman Richard de Watere, while Abbot John Nedmenham (1261-1272) exchanged a certain 'nativus', Ralph Blunt, 'with his appurtenance in Great Bookham for ever' for two 'nativi' or 'villani' of Henry de Doune, namely Thomas de la Sale of Eastwick and Gilbert Broune of Preston. In 1292 Abbot Bartholomew de Winton granted to Peter Atte Welde of Bookham a tenement once of Gilbert Atte Welde, with a messuage of land which Robert and John, brothers of Peter, had held in Bondage; Peter was to pay 6s rent yearly. In this and many other instances substantial money rents were taking the place of services long before the great pestilence of 1349. But earlier plagues may have had something to do with the growing freedom from servile status, for in 1292 the abbey was allowed to appropriate

the revenues of the church of (Great) Bookham, void by the resignation of John de London, late rector, on condition of presenting a suitable vicar to perform the services; the reason given was that the funds of the monastery have decreased in various ways, both by exactions and pestilences and inundation of waters affecting the animals, flocks and other things. Although a few labour services on the demesne lands survived after 1300, the essential change to a money economy had already taken place in thirteenth century Bookham.

**Obituary.** We were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Suzanne Bowden, formerly of Eastwick Drive. Old Bookhamites will remember her. She was a devout Catholic, a good neighbour and, with the exception of the editor, the last surviving member of the Eastwick Housewives' Point set up during the last war. We extend our sympathies to Mr Hubert Bowden whom former members of the Home Guard will remember was in charge of the orderly room. He continues to reside in Wonersh Park to which they moved after leaving Bookham.

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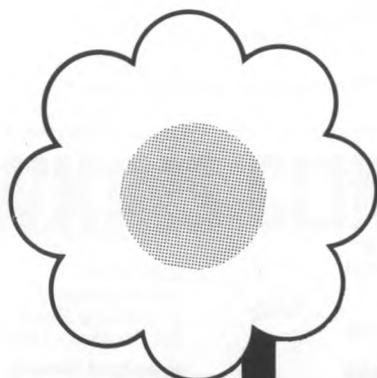
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