

The Bookhams Bulletin

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 41

DECEMBER 1943

One Penny

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Editorial

At the beginning of the eleventh year of publication, we extend to all our readers Christmas Greetings and the hope that the New Year will bring Peace and much happiness.

A decade has now passed, and in its long trail is much that has been written, and much more it is hoped will continue to be written for the *Bulletin*, as the only medium to place before the Bookham public the information which may concern the individual need upon a point of some new Act of Parliament or other matters; or to look for other advice.

In the latter case, the matter of advice naturally depends upon the nature of the advice required, and by the setting up of the Citizens Advice Bureaux, advice upon a thousand and one subjects can be obtained, and it cannot be too often emphasised that this service is free to every citizen, regardless of the nature of the enquiry that is made.

As mentioned in our last issue, many changes have been made concerning War Pensions, and

although the scales of payment are better (mainly due to the efforts of the British Legion) there still remains grounds for improvement, particularly as far as totally disabled ex-service men, and women and war widows are concerned.

Another step in the right direction for social security is the introduction of the Pensions and Determination of Needs Act, 1943 which will considerably assist the over 70 persons, and in this respect War Savings, Defence Bonds, Post Office Savings, and money in Trustee Savings Banks are now disregarded, as well as certain types of property.

On September 20th the new Fire Guard Orders came into Force. These Statutory Rules and Orders No. 1043, 1044 and 1045, together with explanatory memorandum cannot be summarised in the pages of this journal, but those seeking advice upon this lengthy matter should apply to the local Fire Guard Officer.

A special word of thanks must be given to the traders who have supported the *Bulletin* by the insertions of their advertisements, more especially in these days of rationing and limited supplies.

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Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

It is now possible to give a translation of the most usual Japanese words and phrases which appear on letters and postcards from prisoners of war in Japanese hands. As these cannot be reproduced in the columns of the *Bulletin*, persons interested should visit the Bureau.

The Minister of Health has sent to local authorities details of a new scheme for effecting more essential housing repair work by concentrating on it as much labour as possible. Plans already exist for dealing specifically with war damage repairs and with house repairs under statutory notices. The new scheme covers all housing work certified by the local authority to be essential, whether carried out by the authority itself or by the private owner, and gives to such authority discretion to decide which work will be the best contribution to housing conditions in the area. The cost of the work must not exceed £250 a house, or in the case of flats and tenements £200 a dwelling.

The Minister of Labour has introduced a revised scheme of "settling-in" grants payable to women and girls transferred to industrial work beyond daily travelling distance from their homes.

The increased payments are: first week in the new area 25s., second week 20s., third week 15s., fourth week 10s. These payments will be reduced by 5s. a week if the transferred worker is living in a government hostel. The increased rates began on October 11th.

The information given above are but three examples from a mass of information which is being collected daily, and is at the disposal of every citizen from the local Bureau. The address is: The Citizens Advice Bureau, Surrey House, Church Street Leatherhead
Telephone Leatherhead 3291

Arrangements have now been made for the Bureau to remain open on Fridays up to 6 p.m. for those who cannot attend at other times.

Poppy Day, 1943

The Effingham & Bookhams Branch of the British Legion desire to express their very grateful thanks to Mrs. N. E. Waterfield and all her helpers for the success of the Poppy Day collection in aid of Earl Haig's Fund, and to all members of the public for their very generous support. The collection in Effingham and Bookham has shown a further increase upon the previous year. Again, many grateful thanks.

Matters of the Moment

Many points concerning Service matters arise from time to time, and more especially they concern the wives and dependants of our fighting forces. Although only a few items can be given here, the following will no doubt help to solve some little difficulties.

Allowance Order Books. When Order No. 45 has been cashed, a life certificate will be found, which should be completed and signed in front of a competent authority, and posted to the Regimental Paymaster as soon as possible. The Secretary of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association has been empowered to witness these certificates, and his address is Surrey House, Church Street, Leatherhead.

Compassionate Leave & Compassionate Posting. The following persons, under War Office instructions, may recommend compassionate leave and compassionate posting:— Local Welfare Officer, Secretary of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, the Police and the Probation Officer.

Communications with Germany via Eire. As a great many people have relations or friends in Eire, any communications with Germany through an intermediary in

Eire is an evasion of the Defence Regulation 4 (a), and any enquirer who may refer to the possibility of such an arrangement must be warned that it is a serious offence.

Allowances to wives of men reported missing in the Far East. Allowances & allotments to wives and dependants of those reported missing in the Far East will be continued for the following periods, if the officer or man continues to be missing for so long:— Malaya and Burma, if missing before 1st November, 1942, up to 95 weeks from the date the relatives were notified, or to 31st January, 1944, whichever is the earlier.

Burma: if missing on or after 1st November, 1942, and before 1st June, 1943, up to 52 weeks from the date the relatives were notified.

Netherlands East Indies: where posted missing after 1st February, 1943, up to 43 weeks from the date the relatives were notified or to 31st January, 1944, whichever is the earlier.

Such cases, and new cases arising after 31st May, 1943, will again be reviewed before the end of the year.

May we again remind you that in all cases of difficulty or doubt, the Citizens Advice Bureau is ready and willing to help you, whatever your trouble may be.

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LITTLE CHATS

(With apologies to A.P.H.)

No. 1—The Standard Raisers

Hallo!

Hallo, old chap! Shocking weather. Where you off to?

Oh! just my Saturday round.

What, just a walk. Round the houses like?

That's about it. Round the houses. Actually seventy eight of 'em.

Fancy counting 'em and all. Well, you are a . . .

Got to! What's more, there's a right time for each call.

Call! You're calling along here? Got something good in the little bag?

I should say so. Savings stuff in fact.

Oh! I see. War Savings. Bit dull . . . Well, I must get on.

Must you? Come in here; we go round to the back.

Nothing to do with me!

Come in, I say. Just watch.

.

Well, bless me! Two Certificates.

That's thirty bob, isn't it?

She buys 'em once a month.

Ought I to know all this!

How d'you mean? Sort of care-less talk? No time for it; time is short, as Smuts said. Careful talk to non-savers is better.

Er, what's that red brooch affair

you've got on?

Have a look, close up.

"Lend to Defend. National Savings Movement."

"Movement" is right. Hurry up, it's attack as well as defence.

Well, I've really got a date, but . . . Better post-date it. This is the next one.

Who lives here?

Chap. A widower with five kids, two got 'flu. Have a lozenge to suck.

For defence. Ha, ha!

That's it. Hang on to this bag for a sec.

.

Five sixpenny stamps—one for each of 'em—never misses, and saves in his own group, too.

How d'you mean? Group.

His is a Shop group. This is a Road group. The whole thing works by groups.

Like the Army and so on?

Yes. Commando if you like. Mopping up pockets and all that. What about yours?

My what?

Pockets, sonny. Don't you know? Anything over, after essential weekly expenses, should now go straight into savings.

Essentials my foot! I don't buy anything else. Have a fag?

Not for me, thanks; I've given it up. Anyhow, in this wind . . .

You're right. And matterofack, I meant to bob in for the pictures, but I'll see you through this instead. How many more?

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Little Chats—*cont.*

Nearly done now. Spot of light on the gate, will you? This is it, and don't mind that dog, he knows me.

* * * * *

I say! That's the best so far. What a sporting old top he is. Yes. A fine celebration of that D.F.C. exploit by his boy over the Ruhr. Bombs on Bochum paid for by Bonds from Bookham, eh?

Well! I felt a worm . . .

Worms turn. Like to take a turn?

Tell you what, old fruit! This thing seems too big for you; let me take half the road next week.

Good man! Just what we want—more help. Saturday, four sharp suit you?

Rather! And oh, I say! Could I belong to the Group myself?

Yes, betcherlife! Glad you like Grouping practice . . . but application is necessary too. You see there's Combined Operations in progress for more savers and bigger savings from all; but it boils down to responsibility of the individual—and this means you. There is grave danger in unduly prolonging the war. Are you doing all you can to shorten it? In your own conscience is the answer, so . . .

All together. Raise the Standard! Hoist!!

Other Times, Other Manners

The truth of this can be seen in the changes that have taken place during the last forty or fifty years in funeral customs. No longer do children see those awesome displays of horses bearing heavy plumes drawing the hearse, and mutes with bowed heads following that vehicle. It is to be doubted too whether the male mourners relationship to the departed can today be judged by the width of the black bands around their hats.

The poorer people, however, still cling to the idea of a "big" funeral, and very often spend all they possess on it. As an instance of this, only a few years ago, a married couple (with several children) who had been on Public Assistance for a considerable time lost one of their sons, and of the £50 they obtained on his insurance policies, spent £40 on the funeral and the remaining £10 on having his body transported to a place some 200 miles away, at which place, they alleged, he had expressed a wish to be buried. After the circumstances came to light, they naturally never applied for further public assistance.

The idea, too, of wearing heavy mourning is gradually dying out, and the amount of "black" that is nowadays purchased for a funeral must be exceedingly small in comparison with that of earlier years. At a funeral a few years ago the writer noticed that instead of all the mourners being in black, the

men were wearing grey, brown, blue or fawn overcoats, and one woman described them as "quite a scratch lot," merely because their garb did not come up to her idea of what it should be, or in other words the mourner should show the extent of his grief by the amount of black he wore.

A third item in this connection is the display of flowers, and here again it is felt that convention is the chief cause. From the practical side it seems strange that so much money should be spent in wreaths, etc., only for those flowers to be more or less wasted, inasmuch as they die shortly after the burial has taken place, and sometimes the grave is in an out of the way place the whereabouts of which only the mourners know. A yarn

on this point may be apropos: The Chinese, it is understood, usually place upon the grave of their friends after burial a certain amount of food. A British admiral after attending the funeral of a Chinese friend, asked a mourner "when will your relative come up and eat the food you have placed on his grave?" and received the answer "just as soon as your friends come up to smell the flowers put on theirs!"

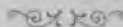
It would certainly be more practical if the money usually spent on flowers was given to the hospitals even as "in memoriam" contributions. Some people express the wish to have no floral tributes, and often seen in public notices.—R.A.



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Looking Ahead

Not the least of the enduring benefits which it is hoped would flow from the unity of people, should be the setting up of an organised body representative of the many organisations striving to attain a definite objective, and each in its own separate water-tight compartment. Such a body would find a closer and clearer understanding of each others views upon such matters as housing, education, pensions, and a great variety of other subjects that would enable such a representative body to place their collective views before the Local Authorities. and, if need be, the Member of Parliament himself.

It should be mentioned however that a similar body was set up some years ago, and although it still continues to function, the scope of its activities is limited, but it could be the nucleus for extending such a representative organised body.

It may be premature at the moment to consider such a proposal, or it may even be thought there is no necessity for it, but when it is realised the urgent needs of Bookham in the matters of housing, the feeding of school children and other social matters as part of the post-war scheme, it should be quite obvious that such organisations as the British Legion the Women's Institute, Women's

Co-operative Guild, the Trades Council, and above all the Youth Committee, must join together in a common effort for the common benefit of Bookham.

Veneral Disease—cont.

The War Hospital, Oriental Road, Woking.

St. Helier's Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton.

Croydon General Hospital, Croydon.

All the above have special days and hours for consultation, but at the big London Hospitals such as Guys and St. Thomas' free advice and treatment are both obtainable mornings, afternoons and evenings on all days of the week excepting Sundays, not only for female and male adults but also for children.

Any doctor will give addresses of other clinics, and further information can be obtained *in confidence* from the Council Offices, Leatherhead, or by writing to the Medical Adviser, Central Council for Health Education, Dept. M-12 N Tavistock Square, London, W.C. All replies are sent in plain covers.

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George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

How do, Bob, and what are you going to do now?

Well, in the winter I find there is plenty to be done, first of all I shall be repairing and cleaning up all my garden tools, washing pots for my tomato and other seedlings and collecting up all garden litter to compost for early digging in in the spring.

I'm doing all those jobs as well, and I also think its a good plan to get my seed order made out, not forgetting at the same time to order a few flower seeds, as I hear that there won't be many available and that sweet peas and asters are particularly in short supply. Then there are the various fertilisers to be ordered, and even now I am finding it difficult to obtain potash and dried blood, so I should advise you to order early.

Thanks for the tip, Bob, and talking of flower seeds have you ever tried growing salpiglossis? These make very good plants and have a variety of colours, and particularly nice for borders. They are annuals, of course, so if you havn't tried them I should advise you to do so next year.

Yes, George, I grew a few last season and I have included them in my order, together with the other flower seeds and the usual general vegetable seeds, as you can't be too early in these times.

My garden at home is now all dug over, and I am now very busy doing the same on the allotment, digging in a load of good stable manure I was lucky enough to get, and you know we really can't do without stable manure, as the artificial manures are no good by themselves, but on the other hand I always use dried blood and potash as well, when I can get them, and I always try to keep a good stock of fish manure for the general garden use. Another thing I would'nt be without after giving it a good trial this year, is liquid manure, which you can buy at 2/6 a bottle. It is highly concentrated and when diluted according-to instructions, it goes a long way. Its very good for feeding tomatoes and cucumbers, and as you only need a tablespoonful to two gallons of water you can see that the cost is very small.

Well, as usual, I've enjoyed our few minutes chin-wag, Bob, and before I go there is just one thing we should remember, and that is try and get everybody to grow as much food as possible, as there is not the slightest doubt that food is as of much importance as any other munitions of war, and the more we can pfoduce the less shipping we shall need for food imports. So long!

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