

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 117

SUMMER 1963

31st year



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*Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association*

No. 117

SUMMER, 1963

31st year

## EDITORIAL

Has the Swimming Pool at Gilmais gone? If it is lost it is not because the people of Bookham ignored the threat of closure, but because they got the warning too late to devise effective counter measures.

The first fight to save the Pool was short and sharp. Those who knew about it did all they could by petitions, letters and lobbying of councillors to induce the U.D.C. to buy the Pool. They seemed to be getting some success; but at the special Council Meeting the vote on the proposition was 10 to 10 and was defeated by the Chairman's casting vote. If all our Bookham councillors had been able to vote the situation might have been reversed. The bitter fact now is that the village, which is below standard in open playing space, seems to have lost an amenity which cannot be replaced — and this at a time when more children than ever before are being taught to swim.

Hope, however, is not dead! A second battle has started, which we hope will be successful.

There is a lesson here for us all. Constant vigilance is necessary if we are to preserve the things we

value, and corporate action must be taken if they are threatened. It might be timely in this connection to draw attention to our joint responsibility for the Barn Hall, which is our village hall, bequeathed to us by the generosity of former residents. The Community Association, acting for the village, has done well in maintaining it financially, and in improving it. The time has come, as it must with all buildings, for structural repairs and extensions. These cannot be undertaken without local support. Appeals have gone out for help, and it is vital that this should be given quickly and generously.

### Mr. R. H. J. Kepple

The recent removal to Storrington of Mr. R. H. J. Kepple deprived Bookham of an old and distinguished resident who, for many years was closely identified with the religious, social and political sides of life in the village. To mention only a few of his numerous activities, he was Vice-Chairman and Joint Hon. Treasurer of the St. Nicolas Parochial Church Council, Vice-President of the local National Savings Movement and Vice-President of the

Bookham Community Association — he was ever a worker, never a mere figure head. The Community Association will always remember him as business and distribution manager of the Bookham Bulletin in bygone years, as Chief Steward at the annual Shakespearian Production at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre, and as the genial gatekeeper who, year after year, collected entrance charges to the Barn Hall Grounds on Village Day.

Mr. Kepple will be missed by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances, not only by reason of his communal work, but also because of his unvarying friendliness and good humour. We wish him and his wife many years of good health and happiness in their new surroundings. V. L. A.

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## VILLAGE DAY

The Hall will undoubtedly be a main attraction with its colourful and varied exhibits and its demonstrations of popular crafts such as pottery, flower arrangement, painting, millinery and so on. Behind it all is a message—that the discovery and development of our skills can not only bring us pleasure but can give purpose to our leisure, and that the Community Association in encouraging, providing the space for them, and making known the facilities is serving a very useful function.

The outside displays underline the same theme. From school onwards we can develop interests which will help in both work and play. Eastwick School will give scenes from their operetta, Bookham School will dance and make music, the Epsom School of Art will stage a dress and costume display, the Scottish Dancers will

perform traditional dances, and there will be a P.E. Display.

It goes without saying that there will be the usual sideshows, roundabouts, ponies, stalls and refreshments. All our affiliated organisations are helping us.

We hope that this description of the Day will reach you in time to tempt you to come along, bring your family and spend your money in a good cause which is for the benefit of the whole village.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

All our clubs have now closed down for the summer but the secretaries are busy arranging programmes for the re-opening in September. The Gramophone Club, which had opened its session with an increased membership, had to report a considerable falling off in attendances during the bad winter weather. At its annual general meeting in May the question of closing down the club was raised, but the proposition was firmly rejected. It was felt that, even though many people nowadays had better recording equipment and more records, they still appreciate the opportunity to meet and listen to a wide range of records in a pleasant atmosphere and amongst friends. Mr. H. Haig was elected Chairman, the former chairman, Mr. J. E. Davies, signified his willingness to serve on the Committee, as did all the previous members, and Mr. A. Baker was

happy to continue as Secretary.

One does not need to be an expert to enjoy the Gramophone Club evenings, and new, as well as old, residents of the village are invited to come along in September to sample the pleasure the club can provide.

The Old Time Dance Club is so enthusiastic that it would like, if this were possible, to carry on during the summer. With a peak membership of 71 it knows, however, that when September comes it will start again with new vigour after a short break. At the annual general meeting members were sorry to hear that the Chairman, Mr. L. G. Clark, had to resign because he was leaving the district, but they were pleased that Mr. E. Dunmur, a former popular chairman, was willing to take his place. The Club, which has already donated £25 to the Barn Hall Building Fund, agreed to give another £10, and, at the same time promised to go on with money raising efforts for the same purpose.

The Building Fund is very much to the fore with all the clubs. It is encouraging to hear that the Over Sixties, which will benefit considerably from the new extensions, is working hard on its own contribution. It has already raised money by small competitions and plans to use this as a float for a series of monthly afternoon whist drives, the profits from which will go to the Building Appeal.

BOOKHAM COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

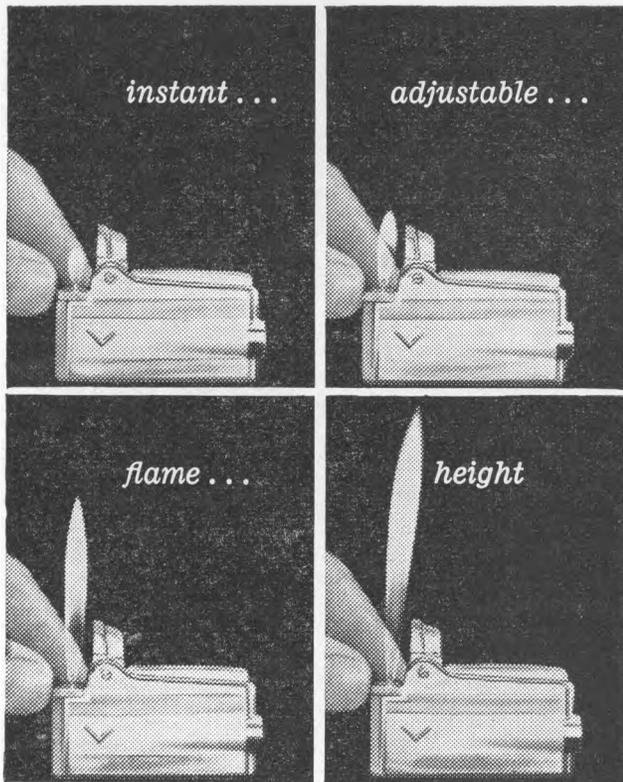
## VILLAGE DAY

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The Committee of the Association is planning to widen the activities of the Association in the September session. It is thought that the time might be opportune to re-start the former Naturalist Group. Requests have also been received for the formation of a Flower Arrangement Club. Anybody interested in either of these propositions, or with ideas about new groups, is invited to get in touch with the secretary, Mrs. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive.

### OBITUARY MRS. N. COX

Few men or women can have given greater service to their neighbourhood than did Mrs. Nelly Cox. Her untimely death has left a gap in village life which cannot be filled. In her work for the old people of Bookham, and of the wider Leatherhead district, she gave everything she had—her time, her health and her warm sympathy and abundant vitality. As chairman of the Bookham Over Sixties Club from its beginning in 1962 and as secretary of the Leatherhead and District Old People's Welfare Committee from its formation, she was tireless in providing amenities and comforts for old people in need. Her final achievement was the foundation of the Day Centre at the Barn Hall which, in itself alone, is a monument to her devotion. Although she will be remembered for her public work, she will be

most loved for her countless acts of kindness to sick, lonely and troubled people. It was always the individual she was concerned about and she was prepared to fight, if necessary alone, for the alleviation of their distress.

Those of us who knew her will recall that she was outstanding not only as a champion of the elderly but also of all movements striving for social justice, as she saw it. People of all ages came to her for help because they knew that she would not turn them away. During the War she gave much time to the Citizens' Advice Bureau and she was also the local representative of S.S.A.F.A., a position she held until her death.

We who worked in the Community Association, of which she was an active founder member and, latterly a Vice-President, will always remember her as a gay person. Dances, socials, parties, and even meetings, were livelier when she was there. Difficulties never daunted her. She was quick to laugh with others and at herself. Fundamentally a very modest person, she conquered by her deep belief in the causes for which she fought.

She had a country upbringing and loved all things that grow. When she needed solace—and there must have been many times when she struggled with disappointment—she found it in a garden. Mindful of this, the Community Association will plant bulbs in her memory in the Barn

Hall Grounds. As they flower year by year they will give pleasure to all those who use the Hall, and this, we are sure, is what she would have wished. E. H.

### POLITICAL PARTIES

The Annual General Meeting of the local Liberal Association took place in May and now we know the form all the Bookham political groups will take for the next year, an important year for them in view of the impending General Election. The pace is quickening, and canvassing and meetings are being arranged with enthusiasm among the respective supporters.

Two of the Parties have new chairmen. Mr. W. B. White, who was for three years the hard-working secretary of the Liberals, has been made their Chairman. The Secretary is Mr. C. E. Breed,

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who stood as candidate in the recent local U.D.C. elections. Treasurer is Lt.-Col. H. F. Rayner.

Mr. V. L. Austin, who has devoted much time to the Great Bookham Conservative Association, was unable to carry on in this capacity, and Mr. M. J. Easun has been elected to this position. The new Secretary is Mr. D. J. Woolsey. Mrs. L. Bowen continues her long service as Treasurer. Vice-Chairman is Mr. J. B. Elliott. Members of the Committee are Mesdames J. Douglas-Thomson, D. Bailey, E. M. Easun, E. M. Cannon, M. J. Elliott, Miss E. M. Johnson, Miss K. Loat. Messrs. P. L. Blackstone, E. J. Jarvis, A. Woodrow-Clark.

The local Labour Party re-elected their present Chairman, Mr. A. Harrison. They have a new

Secretary, Mr. D. Farrow. Serving on the Committee are Mrs. O. Stemp, Messrs. J. Bethell and R. Butcher.

### EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Most secondary schools nowadays arrange visits abroad for parties of their pupils, accompanied by teachers and, sometimes, by parents and friends. It has been found that their value in widening the horizons of the children is such that they have become almost part of the school curriculum. The same enterprise, naturally enough, has not been found in the junior schools. It is, therefore, all the more encouraging to learn that our own Spinney School, as well as the Eastwick County Primary School, took parties of their children to

the Continent during the holidays and found the experience very rewarding.

From Eastwick School 26 children, accompanied by six members of the staff, went to Paris and stayed for eight days in a boarding school on the outskirts of the city. The all-in cost of the trip was £18 per person, and this included many excursions to places of interest. Most popular of these was the day spent at the Palace of Versailles. Its associations with Marie Antoinette interested the children and they were fascinated by the painted ceilings. They also visited the Louvre and took special note of the Mona Lisa and the Venus statue. The Eiffel Tower, the Place de la Concorde and Napoleon's Tomb were in the itinerary. Last of all the shops had for the boys, as well as the girls, all the glamour which is associated with Paris.

From the Spinney School, 11 pupils from eight to ten years old, went with two of their teachers, Mrs. Hallawell and Miss Koster, who was born in Holland, to Amsterdam. They stayed in a small hotel at Ymuiden and were able to meet local people. The journey out was an experience as they went by air to Schiphol Airport and the sun shone all the time they were away. This made their day in the bulb fields most enjoyable and, although the tulips were only just opening, the daffodils were at their peak. When

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they visited the islands of Volendam and Marken they were delighted to see the inhabitants in their national costumes, which are worn daily. The harbour of Rotterdam gave them an insight into the manifold activities of a country which has quite a tradition of seafaring, and the children were thrilled to see, at a short distance from their hotel, the largest lock in the world. The decimal coinage system, which they had studied at school, held no terrors for them — indeed it added excitement to their small purchases.

In both schools careful preparation had been made in the previous term for the great adventure ahead.

#### **Appreciation of Miss Attawell** On her retirement as Cubmaster of the 1st Bookham Wolk Cub Pack.

Boys have an uncanny way of finding those whom they wish to have as their leaders, and so it was that in 1932 the Cubs "discovered" Miss Attawell, then a new teacher at the Primary School, and invited her to join their Pack as an Assistant Cubmaster.

Possessing that special and rather rare gift of being able to tune-in to the boys' particular wavelength, she quickly won the confidence and affection of the Cubs, which she has held ever since.

Now, after over 30 years' con-

secutive service with the Scout Movement, she has claimed a well earned rest, and retires from the position of Cubmaster.

Looking back over those years, we find that it was in the early part of the War that Miss Attawell took over the Pack as Cubmaster, and it was under her guidance and inspiration that they set out to make their contribution to the war effort. By collecting scrap iron, wastepaper and jam jars, they raised a total of over £200 for various charitable causes, completely wearing out the old Troop trek cart in the process.

Emerging from the war period, Miss Attawell then concentrated on a full programme of Cub Training and, so that she should be better able to do this, she attended a Cub Training Course at Gilwell Park, and was subsequently awarded the Wood Badge as a mark of proficiency. In 1950 Miss Attawell was awarded the Medal of Merit by the Chief Scout.

Among Miss Attawell's achievements in the Scouting world reference must be made to the many happy and successful Cub Summer Camps of which she had charge—at Shere, at Tilford, then further afield at Lymington, and at Sidlesham near Chichester.

Now, on her retirement, she has been elected an Honorary Cubmaster of the 1st and 3rd Bookham Groups and has been co-opted to the Executive Committee

of the Leatherhead and District Boy Scouts Association.

We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

L. R. H.

#### **BOOKHAM BREVITIES**

**Good wishes.** Jenny Vervain, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Davies, of Eastwick Drive, was married recently to Mr. Hamon Douglas James, and we extend our good wishes to them. Jenny, who was educated at Manor House School, was an artist by profession. She met her husband when they were both studying at the Kingston School of Art. He is an architect. After their honeymoon in the Scilly Isles they returned to their new home in Surbiton. The reception for 104 guests was held at Briary House.

**Flying High.** Seventeen-years-old Graham Clark, of Vicarage Close, has been selected as an Officer Cadet and will be going to Cranwell in January, or perhaps earlier as he is on the reserve list for September. He is now studying for his A Levels at King's College, Wimbledon.

He is also one of the 135 air cadets from public and grammar schools who has been awarded an R.A.F. flying scholarship. This will enable him to obtain a private pilot's licence at Government expense. The course of 30 hours' flying time must be completed in three months and includes two consecutive weeks in a flying club. He plans to take this fortnight

(Continued on Page 18)

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during the summer vacation at a club near his home.

**Another Chemistry Student from Bookham.** John Hudson, of White-way, has been awarded an Open Exhibition in Chemistry at Southampton University and will take up residence in October. He is a pupil of Dorking County Grammar School, which is noted for its high successes in academic awards. His elder brother is a research student of London University.

**The Bookham Choral Society** did not score quite so highly at the Leith Hill Festival of Singing as it has done in other years. This was probably because they had fewer singers than usual, ten less than the other choirs. They were, however, second in the sight reading class and third out of 27 in the quartets, scoring a mark of 80 per cent which denotes quite a high standard. Bookham competed in the advanced choirs section. Dr. Hopkins, one of the judges, commenting on the madrigals, said of Bookham that they maintained a good pace under secure control, giving a "confident performance," full of "vitality and variety."

**Freedom from Hunger Campaign.** The door-to-door collection in Bookham realised a sum of £275 and the Committee wish to thank the collectors and residents who contributed so generously. The top road was Eastwick Drive and we congratulate them.

In view of the fact that the one day Hunger Lunch at the Congre-

gational Hall coincided with the collection, the organisers were delighted to raise £32 from the lunches.

**Honours for Scouts.** Clive Pulling is going to Buckingham Palace to receive a Gold Medal under the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. He is also travelling to Greece for the International Jamboree in July to serve as a helper on the Greek staff. He will be joined there by two other Scouts, Graham Skinner, of Little Bookham Common, and Ian Howard, of Leatherhead Road, who have been selected on a national basis, with one from Leatherhead and one from Ash-tead. It is many years since Bookham was represented at an international jamboree and the local Scouts are naturally proud, with parents and supporters, to raise the sum necessary to cover their expenses, which will be £80 each.

**Bookham Over Sixties take Top Prizes.** Our Over Sixties Club is a lively one, and they added to the gaiety of the Annual Party given by the Old People's Welfare Committee for the old people of the Leatherhead District. The Fancy Dress Parade is one of the big features of the occasion and the Bookham contingent carried off many of the prizes and scooped the top ones. Mrs. Peart, as a Snowman, took the first prize and Mrs. Dawes, as a Tramp, the second. The prizewinning couple was 85-years-old Miss Freeman

and Mrs. Perry as Black and White Minstrels.

**The Bookham Youth Centre,** a £20,000 project, should be started on the Southey Hall Estate before next March. The County Architect is drawing up the plans. It is anticipated that there will be a large Hall, which could be divided into two rooms, and a number of smaller rooms for crafts and group activities. Although it will be used in the main by the Mixed Youth Club it will be available to other youth clubs in the area and, therefore, there will be need for good storage space. It is hoped that there will be what is generally known as a "dirty workroom" for work of the nature of motorcycle maintenance, boat building, and so on. A feature of the building will be a coffee bar with generous kitchen accommodation.

**Polesden Lacey Entrance Charge.** In an attempt to check hooliganism, the National Trust has been reluctantly compelled to make an entrance charge to the grounds of 1s. for adults and 6d. for children. Wanton damage, to the tune of £500, has been done over the last two years by breakages of statues and ornaments, overturning of seats and mutilation of trees and shrubs. It is a pity that irresponsible behaviour of this kind has robbed the public of the privilege they have enjoyed for so many years of wandering freely over these beautiful grounds. Mr. Ivan Hills is very aware that this will be most regretted by local residents

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but he hopes that all those who were accustomed to take their evening walk over to Polesden will buy a season ticket for the reasonable charge of 7s. 6d., or become members of the National Trust. Their guinea subscription will enable them to visit other National Trust Properties throughout the country.

Polesden Lacey is very popular with the general public. More than 50,000 people visited it last year; 15,000 viewed the House.

**Silver Star for Choir of Bookham Afternoon W.I.** The County Festivals of the Women's Institutes are of high standard and much credit redounds to any group which wins an award in them. The Bookham Afternoon W.I. Choir, which is not a large one, was therefore very proud to win a Silver Star in the County Festival of Music at Dorking. For a long time in advance they had worked enthusiastically at their entries and they were pleased to repeat them for the benefit of husbands and friends at a Coffee Evening held at Church House in May. We congratulate the Choir and its conductor, Mrs. Garrett, on the quality and sensitiveness of their singing.

**Obituary.** Mr. Andrew Freelove, who died at his home last April was well known in Bookham. He had been in poor health for some time but he had carried on gallantly with his work as a taxi proprietor. Up till five years ago he had organised trips in his

coaches which were very popular with local organisations and groups. He will be most remembered for his work for the British Legion, of which he had been a member for 34 years. He was chairman of the Effingham and Bookham Branch for three years but illness obliged him to retire last year when he was made a Vice-President. His widow is chairman of the local Women's Section of the Legion.

Many members of the Legion were present at the funeral service at St. Nicolas Church, which was conducted by Canon A. Hughes. The coffin was covered by the Union Flag and the British Legion Standard was carried.

**Ken Barrington, friend of Eastwick C.C.** The full Surrey county cricket team was present at a "Welcome Home Ken Barrington Dance" organised by the Eastwick Park Cricket Club. A trophy, subscribed to by all members of the club, was presented to Ken Barrington in appreciation of his achievements in the Australian tour. This was a complete surprise to the cricketer, who said that it would always have a place of honour in his home. The club secretary, Mr. Brian Downing, said that they very much appreciated Ken Barrington's interest and his many visits to club functions. He was, said Mr. Downing, so confident of the success of the new club that he was willing to be a Vice-President before the club had played a single match.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

- June 22nd.—Village Day.  
July 5th.—Brandy Tasting Evening, Barn Hall. Freedom from Hunger Campaign.  
July 6th.—Visit of St. Pancras Old People to Barn Hall.  
July 13th.—Fete, Eastwick School.  
July 17th, 18th, 19th.—Performance of Ruddigore, by Gilbert and Sullivan, by pupils of Eastwick School.  
July 18th, 19th, 20th.—Julius Cæsar at Polesden Lacey.  
July 19th.—Finals of Carnival Queen and Ball, Bull Hotel. in aid of Old People's Welfare.  
July 27th.—Garden Society Show, Barn Hall.  
September 14th.—Scouts' Jamborette, Barn Hall.  
September 28th.—Bazaar, Eastwick School.

## HIGH STREET PARKING

**Does History always repeat itself?**

The following quotations from the Bookham Bulletin need no comment:

Bookham Bulletin, December, 1947.

The Council is preparing plans of a scheme for parking on one side of Bookham High Street.

Bookham Bulletin, March, 1948.

Consideration is being given by the L.U.D.C. to the question of parking of vehicles in Bookham High Street, and it has been suggested that it be confined to one side, the north-east side, adjoining the majority of shops.

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## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

- Barn Hall Club. Miss P. Barfield, Merrilees, Maddox Lane.
- Camera Club. S. C. North, Spindles, Woodlands Road. Bookham 4209.
- Gramophone Club. A. E. Baker, 81 Eastwick Drive.
- Old Time Dance Club. R. H. Pimm, 27 The Garstons. Bookham 4196.
- Over Sixties. Mrs. T. Weston, 50 Keswick Road. Bookham 2706.
- Scottish Dancing. G. R. Marshall, 63 Eastwick Drive. Bookham 96.
- Hon. Sec., Community Association. Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 2702.
- Membership Sec., R. S. Woodrow-Clark, 21 Barn Meadow Lane.
- Barn Hall Manager. A. M. Marson, 94 Kingston Road. Leatherhead 3053.
- Bulletin Editors. Mrs. E. Harrison, Bookham 2702; Mrs. M. Everett, Bookham 2404.

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## BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

- Bookham Bowling Club. S. F. Pearce, 7 Swanns Meadow.
- Boys' Brigade. L. S. Kay, 20 Cannon Grove, Fetcham.
- Bookham Boys' Club. K. A. Vincent, 1 Sole Farm Avenue.
- British Legion, Effingham and Bookhams Branch. M. S. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effingham.
- Choral Society. Mrs. L. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive.
- Bookham Cricket Club. L. W. Denning, 48 Middlemead Road. Bookham 3091.
- Eastwick Park Cricket Club. B. Downing, 33 Hazel Way, Fetcham. Bookham 3876.
- Conservative Association, Little Bookham Branch. J. M. Rose-Cormack Lyons, 25 Childs Hall Road. Bookham 2880.
- Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch. D. J. Woolsey, 17 The Lorne. Bookham 3777.
- Young Conservatives. D. Wheeler, The White House, Burnhams Road, Lt. Bookham.
- Football Club. R. Scott, 14 Middlemead Road.
- Bookham Football Supporters Club. Mrs. M. Longhurst, 276 Lower Road. Bookham 3946.
- Garden Society. R. C. Wing, 4 Long Meadow. Bookham 3687.
- Girl Guides. (Friday) Mrs. Mills, 38 Strathcona Avenue. Bookham 3602. (Tuesday) Mrs. E. Graneek, 19 Melvinshaw Avenue. Leatherhead 3632.
- Grove Association. F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Road. Bookham 3113.
- Labour Party, Bookham Ward. D. Farrow, 48 Merrylands Road. Bookham 3951.
- Liberal Association, Great Bookham Branch. The Willows, Fiona Close. Bookham 4182.
- Bookham Girls' Life Brigade. Mrs. F. Palmer, The Lodge, Randalls Road, Leatherhead.
- Music Club. Mrs. Muriel, Jangada, Lower Farm Road, Effingham.
- Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Road.
- 1st Bookham Scouts. G.S.M. B. Charles, Chapri, Dowlans Road.
- 2nd Bookham (Baptist) Scouts. G.S.M. E. Tarrington, 4 Dowlans Close. Bookham 2960.
- 1st Bookham Scout Supporters Association. R. S. Smith, Nyetimber, Sole Farm Road. Bookham 2361.
- Bookham Stoolball Club. Mrs. B. King, 12 Groveside. Bookham 2330.
- Women's Institute (Afternoon). Miss M. G. Corner, Westcott, St. Nicholas Avenue. Bookham 2250.
- Women's Institute (Evening). Mrs. M. Cooper, 282 Lower Road.
- Bookham and Effingham Youth Tennis Club. Mrs. A. Ray, St. Jean, Crabtree Lane.
- Bookham Youth Club. Mr. K. Strudwick, 1 Police House, Leatherhead Road.

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