

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 81

DECEMBER, 1953.

22nd year



🌀 Christmas Greetings 🌀

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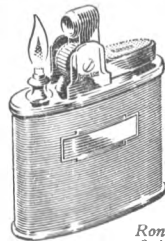
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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 81.

DECEMBER, 1953.

22nd year

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EDITORIAL

As readers of the *Bulletin* will have learned with great regret, both Mr. W. T. Cooper, the Editor, and Mr. R. H. J. Kepple, the Business Manager, gave up these offices after the publication of the September issue.

This December number is therefore "under new management". We hope you will like the new arrangement by which the right hand pages contain reading matter only, and the advertisement pages are on the left. We thought this would make the reading matter clearer, while at the same time keeping the advertisements well before your attention.

Newcomers to Bookham have occasionally been heard to remark that there are no entertainments or attractions here. A

glance at the Directory enclosed with this issue will prove how mistaken they are. Of course, anyone *could* be a hermit even in the midst of a great city, if his or her inclinations tended that way. Such a person could settle down in Bookham, and take no interest or part in what goes on in the village. But anyone wishing to be friendly, and to take part in the life of the community, will find plenty of interest going on. The Community Association sponsors a number of activities; there are the various Church organisations, and in addition many independent clubs and associations, providing between them something to suit all tastes, from the very young to the over 60's. For the old, who are frequently house-bound—at least during the winter—there are several voluntary organisations whose members are anxious to do everything possible to relieve the loneliness and discomforts which so often accompany solitary old age.

Partly for the benefit of the many newcomers to Bookham during the past year, this issue of the *Bulletin* is mainly devoted to reports of the activities of some of the clubs and associations in the district. But there must be many other matters of interest,

and questions of great importance to residents, which could with advantage be ventilated in the *Bulletin*, if it is to be truly representative of life in the Bookhams. Why not write to the Editor on any matter which interests you? All such contributions will be welcomed, together with criticisms and news items, and should be sent to the Editor at The Haven, Downs Way.

OUR FORMER EDITOR

As you will have read in the September *Bulletin*, our former Editor, Mr. W. T. Cooper, in his editorial notice thanked all those who have done so much to ensure the continuance of the *Bulletin*. It is often said that "A prophet is not without honour save in his own country", but I am sure we cannot say that of Mr. Cooper. The Community Association let his resignation pass without expressing their gratitude to him for the splendid work he has voluntarily done as Editor during the past 4 years. This has meant the giving of much time and careful thought.

As our Business Manager rightly emphasised, his own work in securing the financial backing would have been very difficult if the editorial work had not been

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attractive to readers. We feel sure that our readers will agree that Mr. Cooper has maintained a high standard of reading matter throughout his editorship, and it is with much regret that his resignation has had to be accepted.

E. E. OLDERSHAW,

Hon. Secretary,

Bookham Community Association

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Nicolas Parish Church, Great Bookham.

- Dec. 17. Service of the Nine Carols, rendered by the Bookham Choral Society, assisted by the St. Nicolas Club, 8 p.m.
" 20. Preparation for Christmas Communion, 6.30 p.m.
" 24. Midnight Eucharist.
" 25. Holy Communion at 7 and 8 a.m. and 12 noon. Sung Eucharist at 10. Matins and Sermon at 11.

Little Bookham Parish Church.

- Dec. 25. Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and 12 noon.
Morning Prayer and Carols at 11 a.m.
Evening Prayer at 3.30 p.m.

The Catholic Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Lower Road, Effingham.

- Dec. 24. Midnight Mass, preceded by carol singing.
" 25. Mass at 8.30 and 11 a.m.

Baptist Church, Great Bookham.

- Dec. 20. Sunday School Carol Service, 2.45 p.m. Special Christmas Music, 6.30 p.m.
" 25. United Service with Congl. Church and Society of Friends, 11 a.m.
Jan. 3. Sunday School Toy Service, 2.45 p.m.

Congregational Church, Gt. Bookham.

- Dec. 13. Children's Gift Service, 11 a.m. Carol Service, 6.30 p.m.
" 20. Maunder's Christmas Cantata "Bethlehem", by augmented choir, 6.30 p.m.
" 25. United Service with Baptist Church and Society of Friends, 11 a.m.

A FILM SOCIETY IN BOOKHAM?

The Atlas Film Unit was formed in May last year by three 14-year-old enthusiasts, namely M. Woods, T. Illingworth and K. Croft. The only equipment possessed then was three cheap projectors and a few accessories.

The three boys gradually built up funds for further equipment by holding public film shows of "silent" classics. After six months a Garrard automatic record-changer and a more expensive projector was obtained. They were then able to cater for film shows at children's parties, operating from the address below.

Last July an article was published in *The Dorkinian*, as the three founder-members are studying at Dorking County Grammar School, and were asked to write an essay for the School Magazine. The activities of the A.F.U. are also followed in the *Pathéscope Monthly*, a journal for amateur cinematographers.

The value of their equipment stands at £200, the most recent additions being a Truvox Magnetic Tape Recorder, enabling sound to be synchronised to silent films; and a Dekko ciné-camera with a lens capable of securing a good image in semi-darkness.

To-day the A.F.U. has a reasonable list of apparatus, and is able to concentrate on cinema-photography as an art. The members are now planning their first big film.

In the near future they are hoping to form an under-21 film society, which will make, show

and discuss films regularly. Anyone interested is invited to get in touch with Keith Croft, Hon. Secretary, Atlas Film Unit, 8 Lower Shott.

CHORAL SOCIETY

Bookham Choral Society, being affiliated to the Leith Hill Musical Festival, is hard at work studying the music set for this season's competitions. This consists of works by Vaughan Williams, Kodney and Gordon Jacobs, with two madrigals by Elizabethan composers for a contrast. Although the competitions, held usually in early spring, are the spur to concentrated work, to most of us the combined choirs concert, held in the evening of the competition day, is the real climax and reward for the season's efforts. Our hopes of success this year are rendered more than doubtful at the moment by the lack of tenors. There is of course room for all voices, but the men would be especially welcome.

We shall hold, as in the past, a Carol Service in Great Bookham Church, with the aid of the St. Nicolas Youth Club, and later in the season we expect to put before Bookham residents the results of our practising, in the form of our annual concert.

May I urge on all who have experienced the joy of singing in harmony, and all who can sing but have yet to experience that joy, to come along on a Tuesday night to Eastwick Road Congregational Hall, and give us a trial.

L. R. NEVILLE,

Hon. Secretary, Choral Society

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

A pleasant little ceremony took place at Bookham on November 7th, when, to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, a Cedar of Lebanon tree was planted in the grounds of the Old Barn Hall, before a small but representative gathering which included Mr. T. F. Devitt, Chairman of the Leatherhead U.D.C., and a number of other prominent local personalities.

The proceedings opened with a short speech by Dr. N. E. Waterfield, O.B.E., D.L., President of the Community Association. The actual planting of the tree was undertaken by two schoolchildren, Christine Cameron and David Thrush, representing the children of Great and Little Bookham. Christine and David were each presented with a book as a memento of the occasion.

A short religious service followed, conducted by the Rev. Canon A. M. Hughes, supported by the clergy of the Bookhams.

Tea was afterwards served in the Old Barn Hall, where friends old and new spent a pleasant half hour in the cheerful social atmosphere which prevails at Community Association gatherings.

As many people appear to be unaware of the social, sport and other facilities sponsored by the Community Association, we give below a short description of the activities of the various groups.

The Over 60's Club is a social club, which meets each Tuesday afternoon at the Old Barn Hall.

The members play cards and games, and arrange little entertainments. They also arrange outings to the theatre and coach trips to the country and seaside. Those who through infirmity are unable to get to the Barn Hall on their own, are fetched and taken home by car. Any member absent from the club through illness is visited in her own home.

That "over 60" in these days does not necessarily mean "inactive" is proved by the energy with which the members of the club run various events to augment their own funds. And not just for the funds of their own club. They held a Sale of Work on October 30th to raise money towards clearing off the debt on the new floor at the Old Barn Hall. Members of the club had worked with energy and enthusiasm for some months, with the result that a fine collection of hand-made articles was on sale, together with cakes, sweets, a white elephant stall, etc. In spite of heavy and persistent rain, so many people attended the sale that at times it was difficult to get near the stalls. After all expenses had been met the sale resulted in the gratifying total of over £87 being handed over to the Community Association, which has enabled the Association to clear off the debt on the new floor.

The Over 20's is also a social club, open to anyone between the ages of 20 and 60, and meets every Tuesday evening in the Old Barn Hall, from 7.30 to about 10.30 p.m. There is table tennis

for the more active, and cards, etc., for those who are not so energetic. Light refreshments are served and it is the aim of the Committee to make new members welcome in the friendly atmosphere which prevails. Whist Drives are held once a month on Thursdays, the dates of which are announced by posters in the village.

The Table Tennis Club is enjoying a very active season. The club meets in the Old Barn Hall, and has about 20 playing members, 8 of whom have entered the national *Daily Mirror* contest. Owing to the constantly increasing applications from various sources for the use of the Barn Hall, the club is not able to obtain the hall as often as they desire, and has had to curtail its activities somewhat. Consequently, no new members can be accepted at present, but applications to be placed on the waiting list will be accepted by the Hon. Secretary.

The club's Annual Tournament will be held during the week ending December 19th, and will include Men's, Women's, and Junior Singles. Participation is open to anyone resident in the Bookhams and adjoining parishes. Spectators will be welcome at the tournament and also at the club matches on Mondays. The Annual Dance, which is open to visitors, will take place at the Old Barn Hall on January 30th next.

The Badminton Club meets at Church House every Tuesday. This season the Committee have

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arranged a club tournament, where all the members play each other for the Club Trophy. Matches are also being arranged with other clubs in the locality.

The Old Time Dance Club underwent several changes last year, and this autumn marks the beginning of the first full season during which classes have been held under the instruction of Mrs. Olga M. Clarke, the Club Demonstrator. She is partnered by her father, Mr. A. Smith, and both are fully qualified to teach Old Time dancing.

Class nights are held on alternate Wednesday evenings in the Old Barn Hall, where instruction is given in the many revived dances. Beginners are specially welcomed. On the second Saturday of each month a dance is held at Church House. There is a good band, and excellent refreshments are served. Evening dress is optional.

The club hopes to encourage the friendliness which is such an enjoyable feature of Old Time dancing, and to this end is exchanging visits with several of the neighbouring Old Time Dance clubs; Dorking, Oxshott and Redhill clubs have already been visited.

The Gramophone Club endeavours to fill the continuing need to meet others of similar tastes to share the enjoyment of good music. It is not the preserve of the technically minded, nor the musically advanced, but exists for all who like to listen uninterrupted

to the best of all kinds of music performed by the finest orchestras and artistes and reproduced on good equipment.

The Club meets on alternate Thursday evenings at the Old Barn Hall, where musical evenings of the new kind can be enjoyed in the right atmosphere. There is plenty of room for new members, and those interested are invited to write to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. Everett, Brandreth, Sole Farm Road (tel. 2404).

CHRISTMAS

How was the night when Christ was born?

Cold as the dew on the desert thorn,

Bright as the tears that glittered fair

On the cheek of the weary Mother there.

How was the world when Christ was born?

Cruel and sharp as the desert thorn;

Loveless and hopeless from land to land,

Parched as the drifting desert sand.

But, on the night when Christ was born,

A wild rose bloomed on the desert thorn,

And nature lifted her face to take
The dew of love, for Jesus' sake.

D.S.

A REMARKABLE MOVEMENT

Is it generally realised what a remarkable organisation the British Savings Movement is? In Surrey there are 6,000 workers, whilst in the United Kingdom as a whole the number is 300,000, who have between them over 7 million members. No other country in the world has a voluntary movement that can in any way compare with it.

Lord Mackintosh, the Chairman of the Movement, has asked for a big advance in savings this winter, and the South Eastern Region have launched a Coronation Year Competition between counties and local committees for increased membership and savings.

The Leatherhead and District Local Committee (of which Bookham Ward is a part) have incorporated a subsidiary competition in each Ward between Group Secretaries on a similar basis.

It is hoped our readers will do their best to increase their purchases of Savings Stamps and Savings Certificates, so that not only will Bookham Ward provide a good response to the Chairman's appeal, but will also play a full part in the competitions which have been arranged.

The name of the nearest Group Secretary can be obtained from either the Ward Chairman, Mr. Kepple, The Tyrrels, Church Road, or the Ward Secretary, Mr. Young, Grange Cottage, Maddox Lane, Little Bookham.

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SCOUTS AND GUIDES

We are indebted to the District Commissioner of Scouts and the leaders of the local Guides and Rangers for the following reports.
First Bookham Scout Troop

It may not be generally known that the Bookham Scout Troop has been in continuous existence since 1912, and over the period since its foundation literally hundreds of boys have passed through its ranks.

Many of these "Old Scouts" now have homes in Bookham of their own and have desired their boys to follow in their steps and become Cubs and Scouts.

The Troop over the years has built up a fine record of achievement, but in recent times has, in common with other Youth Organisations, suffered from a malady difficult to diagnose, which caused some of its members, like leaves from a tree, to drop off.

To-day, however, it may be said that the Troop is convalescing, and there is every sign of its being well on the way to regaining its erstwhile strength. There is the great and ever present need for more Scouters to work with the Cub Pack and Scout Troop, and if some of the "Old Scouts" referred to above would come forward with offers of help, we feel sure that the health of the Troop would all the more quickly be restored.

During August the Scouts under Scoutmaster Ted Shepperd went into camp at Flansham Farm near Bognor, and at the same time the Cubs — 29 of them — with Miss

Attawell in charge, camped at Filford House Farm near Farnham.

In July Mr. Cameron, our Group Scoutmaster, unfortunately had to resign, and Mr. Hutchison (our previous Group Scoutmaster of many years standing) is temporarily acting in that capacity.

We are also pleased to record that Mr. Davie, an Old King's Scout and father of two boys in the Troop, has undertaken the charge of the Senior Scout Section.

First Bookham Guide Company

1953 has been a busy and happy year for us. We camped at Whitsun and in the summer, and were blessed with grand weather most of the time.

In July we attended the North Surrey rally at Hampton Court, and five girls represented the Company at the Service of Dedication of the new North Surrey Standard—an exquisite piece of workmanship, in which some pupils of the School of Stitchery and Lace had a share. The Company enjoy their Saturday afternoon expeditions with these girls, and the happy tea-time at the School afterwards.

A steady flow of Brownies "Flying Up", and other recruits, has meant that we are now a full Company of six patrols.

First Bookham Land Rangers.

The Land Rangers are the newest part of the Youth Movement in the village, having been formed a year ago. Our aim is a wider application of the Guide to life in general. Our members are girls, not necessarily former Guides, from 15½ to 21 years of

age, and we are proud to name among them girls from the School of Stitchery and Lace.

We meet officially once a week and extend a welcome to any girl who has an evening to spare.

THE MID-SURREY FILM SOCIETY

The Society began their third season on 27th September, 1953, with a showing of "Occupe-toi d'Amélie". This is an ingeniously scripted satire on the French boulevard farce, directed at a breath-taking pace by Claude Autant-Lara. The programme also included "A Visit to Picasso", which deals briefly but effectively with the work of this painter.

In its two previous seasons the Society has shown feature, documentary and cartoon films from 10 countries, ranging in time from 1912 to the present day. All the foreign language feature films are, of course, sub-titled in English. Besides meetings at the Crescent Cinema on Sundays, there are also evening meetings at which a break for refreshments gives members the chance to meet socially.

The programme for the remainder of the autumn session includes:

11th Dec. "A Night at the Opera" (U.S.A.), at the Red House, Leatherhead, 7.30 p.m.

20th Dec. "Les Million" (France), at the Crescent Cinema, Leatherhead, 2 p.m.

Full details of the Society's activities can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, 4 Greville Close, Ashted (Ashted 3384).

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BOOKHAM JOTTINGS

It must have been a source of great satisfaction to those responsible for the Great and Little Bookham Coronation celebrations that, after all expenses had been met, a surplus of £160 15s. was still available. The Committee met recently to discuss how this money should be distributed. Mr. T. Kille (Chairman of the Committee) presided, supported by Mrs. Bowen (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. N. Cox (Hon. Secretary).

After some discussion it was agreed to apportion the surplus as follows: £36 to St. Nicolas Parish Church for regilding the clock face; £36 to Bookham Silver Band; £38 to Bookham Primary School for gymnasium equipment; and £50 to be divided equally between the eight halls in the village to enable the managements to purchase small permanent mementoes of the Coronation. The halls concerned are the Barn Hall, the Baptist Hall, Church Hall, Congregational Hall, Co-operative Hall, Little Bookham Village Hall, Bookham School Hall and the Scout Hall.

A successful Home Nursing Course for housewives, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, has just been concluded in Bookham, and early in the New Year a course in First Aid, to be held in the afternoons, will be arranged. Anyone interested in this course should get in touch with Miss Prior, Commandant, Leatherhead Detachment, The British Red Cross Society, at Elm-

field House, Barnett Wood Lane, Ashtead.

It may not be generally known that sick room requisites may be borrowed from the Red Cross, and are obtainable locally from Miss C. Shosmith, Oaklawn, Oakdene Avenue (tel. 54).

A nation-wide campaign was launched in October to draw people back to a deep and regular study of the Scriptures. The campaign was inaugurated at a service in St. Paul's Cathedral on October 20th, which was attended by Princess Margaret. The congregation included representatives of 50 local councils of churches, parties from schools, training colleges, and national organisations. Sponsored by the British Council of Churches, the campaign's motto is "The Bible speaks to-day". The programme includes public readings, exhibitions, Biblical plays, debates, brains trusts and lectures, and will lead up to the celebration next March of the British and Foreign Bible Society's 150th anniversary. In conjunction with this campaign a branch of the Society has been formed in Bookham. Those interested are asked to communicate with Miss D. Joce, Foxmead, Little Bookham.

Congratulations to P/Ldr. Robin Leonard, who was recently presented with the Queen's Scout Badge, the most coveted of all Scout badges, which is awarded only after passing a series of exacting tests. This brings to a climax a fine record of achievement. P/Ldr. Leonard joined the Bookham

Troop in 1946, and in spite of a number of setbacks, which included a broken arm and broken collar bone, he has persistently gone forward, and in 1951 was one of the two Scouts in the Leatherhead District selected to attend the International Jamboree in Austria.

Congratulations also to Mr. R. J. Collins, of Roslyn, Blackthorne Road, who was awarded a bronze medal at the Model Engineering Exhibition in Westminster for his scale model of H.M.S. Prince, 1670. The model was valued at £100.

A small group calling themselves "The Friends of the Elderly" was formed in Bookham early in September. The objects of the group are "to bring comfort and friendship to lonely and/or housebound elderly people in the Bookhams", which they hope to achieve by regular friendly visits at frequent intervals, and offers to render any kindly service which may be acceptable, such as washing up, changing library books, shopping in bad weather, etc. Members of the group are already visiting regularly about 30 elderly people in the district, and great appreciation has been expressed of these visits. As one old lady remarked, "It makes all the difference to feel that I am not quite forgotten, and I look forward all the week to your visit." As the winter advances, more helpers will be needed, and anyone willing to take part in this

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worth-while work is invited to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, Friends of the Elderly, The Haven, Downs Way.

To allow more space for general reading matter in the *Bulletin*, the Directory of Bookham Organisations has been published as a separate leaflet, which will be issued with the *Bulletin* once a year only, i.e. with the December number. Please, therefore, keep the leaflet by you for reference.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

It is with great satisfaction that the Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Garden Society reports a substantial bank balance of some £124, an increase of £70 over last year. When it is realised that two years ago the

Society was on the verge of winding up through lack of funds, this is a gratifying situation, due to a very hard-working committee and strong support from the members. Thanks are due in particular to those who so willingly gave articles of various kinds as prizes in the raffle, and also to the exhibitors at the Flower Show who put up their exhibits for auction. This spirit proves to those responsible for organising the Flower Show that it was well worth the effort, and that the Society is as strong, if not stronger, than it has ever been. The quality and staging of exhibits at the show were highly praised by the judges, thereby proving the object of the Society, which is to improve the standard of horticulture.

J. H. STEPHENS,
Hon. Sec., Garden Society.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 10. Over 20's Club Whist Drive.*
 „ 16. Stoolball Club's Christmas Whist Drive. At Church House.
 „ 17. Congregational Church Guild Dramatic Evening.
 „ 19. Table Tennis Club Annual Tournament.*
 „ 31. Community Association New Year's Eve Dance.*
1954.
 Jan. 2. Community Association Children's Party.*
 „ 4. Baptist Women's Own 30th Anniversary.
 „ 5. Community Association Over 60's Party.*
 „ 8. Camera Club Dinner.
 „ 21. Over 20's Club Whist Drive.*
 Feb. 4. Community Association Annual General Meeting.*
 „ 14. St. Nicolas Club. St. Valentine Dance.
 „ 18. Over 20's Whist Drive.*

* Asterisk indicates to be held at the Old Barn Hall.

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