

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY.

# The Bookhams Bulletin

N.10

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 89

FEBRUARY 1956.

24th year



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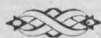
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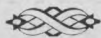
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# The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 89.

FEBRUARY, 1956.

24th year

The Editor "Brandreth" Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.

## EDITORIAL

It is with more than usual pleasure that we take this opportunity to wish our many readers in Bookham a happy and prosperous New Year, and to say to those of you who may have heard to the contrary that the *Bulletin* is going on. Towards the end of 1955 there was every indication that, owing to the resignations of our officers, we should have to cease publication. When this news got around we were bombarded with so many requests for its continuance that we decided, despite the many difficulties, to carry on for another year. Once more we have to thank our advertisers and those volunteers whose hard work alone has made this possible.

The Community Association, whose main function is to keep the village spirit alive, is only too aware that the failure of the *Bulletin*, after years of existence, would mean the severance of yet another link with the past. It was recognised that, once gone, it would be almost impossible to

revive a journal which in its small way has been a unifying influence.

During the next twelve months it is hoped that the *Bulletin* will enjoy a new lease of life and that, with your co-operation, it will be able to reflect more vividly the news and views of the organisations and people of the Bookhams. We have been told that you want it. It is up to you to support it. We are still desperately in need of volunteers to assist with its publication and distribution. If you have a little time to give, please get in touch with us.

## OBITUARY

### Albert George Street

A wide circle of friends and acquaintances will remember "A.G." as the man who would never say No to a request for practical help. Whenever there was a job to be done for the community he would be there giving of his best, quietly and unobtrusively, and there are many among us who had occasion to be

grateful for individual acts of service, always given with unhesitating willingness. All who knew him were shocked and deeply grieved at his sudden passing on the 4th November last. Few of the many who admired his unflinching good humour were aware that, despite his constantly happy and cheerful disposition, he did not of recent years enjoy the best of health, for he was never heard to burden others with his own troubles, although always ready to lend a sympathetic ear to the misfortunes of his fellows.

A prominent member of the Community Association from the earliest days, he was also a staunch and valued supporter of the Rifle Club.

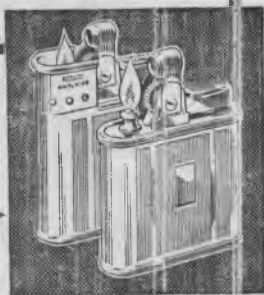
In the hearts and minds of all of us Bert Street will be remembered with pride and gratitude as a man of whom it can truly be said that his twenty years' residence in Bookham has indeed helped to make the village a happier place.

D.J.P.C.



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## NATIONAL TRUST COMMITTEE FOR DRAMA AT POLESDEN

A National Trust Committee has been formed to take over responsibility for future productions at Polesden Lacey. In appreciation of the good work done by the Association on the Polesden Lacey stage it has been asked to appoint two representatives to serve as its nominees on the Committee. The remaining members will be appointed by the Trust and will be people who have had continuous experience of the existing organisation.

It is anticipated that the 1956 production will be a Shakesperian one and that the former high standards will be maintained.

At a public meeting called to hand over the control of the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre to the National Trust Mr. I. Hills, area organiser for the Trust, complimented the Association on their excellent pioneer work in promoting the idea of open air productions at Polesden, constructing the stage and providing such fine productions there. With regard to the new venture he said: "This fusion of the Trust and the Bookham Community Association acting in harmony and supported by the public in increasing degree would mean that this venture should grow and prosper."

## NEW BOOKHAM CLUB

### WHY NOT JOIN THE BOOKHAM MUSIC CLUB?

Here is a unique opportunity to hear real "live" music in your own district. The concerts will be given by professional artists, both singers and instrumentalists, sometimes as soloists, sometimes in groups of two or three, or more.

We have already had three very happy musical evenings in private houses, which have shown that there is a large and enthusiastic audience for good music in Bookham. The first was a recital of violin and pianoforte sonatas by Beethoven and Mozart, given by Patricia Lovell and Sylvia Faust, who were joined by Adna Ryerson in a duet by Handel and the Bach Double Concerto. The second was an enchanting recital by the brilliant young pianist Eric Parkin. The third was played by Olga Hegedus, 'cello, and Viola Tunnard, pianoforte, who are well known broadcasting artists. Some charming piano solos were also contributed by Mrs. Diana Barnham, a gifted member of the Club.

For the future, we have already booked the Old Barn Hall for Friday, April 27th, when a concert will be given by the distinguished artists, Robert Irwin (baritone) and the Carter String Trio. Other concerts will be announced later.

The membership fee for 1956 is £1 1s. Members may bring friends by arrangement, who will, however, be expected to contribute to the Silver Collection for expenses.

Applications should be made to the Hon. Treasurer, Vine Cottage, Church Road, or to the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Ryerson, Basildon, Halepit Road.

### DATES TO BE NOTED

**Camera Club Exhibition, Saturday, April 21st, Old Barn Hall.**

**Community Association Dances at the Barn Hall, 7.30, on the first Saturday in the month.**

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY  
PART 10

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The disappearance of Chertsey Abbey provided the occasion for making the first detailed survey of Great Bookham which is known to survive.\* While the Manor was in the hands of the Crown it was surveyed on 17th October 1548, the entries giving very brief descriptions of each holding, its tenure (freehold, copyhold or indenturehold), the date of copy or indenture, and the rents and other services issuing from each property. In some cases the properties are given names, in others the names of one or more previous owners are supplied. Although no map was made, it is possible to identify most of the holdings with those recorded in the later survey and map of 1614.

Of outstanding interest is the fact that all the rents are in money, while many heriots are given a cash value and some are expressed as being money sums payable in lieu of a beast. The only service mentioned is Suit of Court, the universal duty of attending the manorial courts of the Manor. In five entries (out of a total of 55) a separate payment for pannage (usually 4d.) is specified, in addition to the rent; this was for the right to pasture swine in the woods of the Lord's waste. All those who paid pan-

nage dwelt along the line of the Lower Road: one in Eastwick, two in the High Street, and two in Preston, and their pigs would have been turned out on the Lower Common to feed on the acorns. Of the heriots recorded, six were horses, 18 were oxen or cows, 13 were in money, and one took the form of two sheep. Since the custom was that the heriot was the most valuable animal, it is safe to conclude that only a relatively small number of Bookham farmers owned horses, but that many kept cattle.

Apart from the descriptions of holdings, only one piece of information is given: that there was an ancient fair held at Great Bookham on the day of St. Michael the Archangel. No estimate of the profits made from dues is given, and the implication is that the fair did not count for much. Moreover, it had become a one-day fair in spite of the original grant in 1243 having been for one of two days. Bookham, however, was recovering from the decline of the later Middle Ages, and the fair lingered on to the end of the eighteenth century.

The total of 55 holdings (which does not include those in the manors of Eastwick and Little Bookham) was concentrated among 35 individual holders, showing that an appreciable degree of petty 'landlordism' already

existed in Bookham. On the other hand, this had come about without any extensive enclosures. The common fields and common wastes still made it possible for the smallholders and cottagers to survive in some degree of independence, though there must also have been a growing class of subtenants who probably paid high money-rents to the small group of landlords, men such as John Gardyner senior, Henry Hilder and Thomas Hilder. While the total of yearly rents amounted to little over £21, an average of 12s. per individual holder, these three men paid nearly £5 between them, of which John Gardyner was responsible for £2 13s. 5d. Besides these landlords there were the large estates of Polesden, for which William Castleton paid 32s., Bagden, rented at 47s. by Thomas at Wod, and Sole Farm, for which Walter Roger had to find £1 2s. 4d. a year.

While agriculture may have been the source of some of this local wealth, connections with the wool trade, then the staple industry of English prosperity, are indicated also. On 3rd February of the same year, 1548, a number of men had burglariously entered the house of 'Thomas Hylder alias Elys' at Great Bookham between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m., assaulted Thomas and Maud his wife, and stolen five pairs of sheets, a 'swath bonde', four yards

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of woollen cloth, 14 'kerchers' and 16s. in money. This suggests the stock of a draper, and the house in question was probably Frantons, on the site of Burpham, the baker's shop in the High Street.

That Bookham was riding a wave of relative prosperity in the sixteenth century is proved by the considerable number of houses built, many of them apparently between 1500 and 1560. Some took the name of the family responsible for building them, and this provides independent evidence confirming that of the structures, where they still exist. A third line of evidence has been used in one case, that of dendrochronology (dating from tree-rings), which proves that the timber of the main beams of Rolts (now Half Moon Cottage) was cut down c. 1490-1500. Also of the beginning of the century were Marters (Half Way House), and Woodcote in Eastwick, and rather later Englands (Victoria Cottages) in the High Street. Foxglove Cottage in Little Bookham Street dates from c. 1555, and Handleys Cottage on the Isle of Wight in Bookham Common, from 1556. From the latter part of the century are the old White Hart Inn (later Saracen and Ring, and now Grove Cottage), Dawes Cottage in Little Bookham Street, Tanners Hatch, and Yewtrees Farm. Remains of sixteenth-century work exist in several other houses in the High Street, at Sole Farm, Childs Haugh, Potters (The Windsor

Castle), and Bagden Farm, while a watercolour in the Loan Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum† shows a farmhouse of the same date, now destroyed. The essential material for all this building, sound oak timber, was available in large quantity, though supplies must have been greatly depleted by the Crown purveyance of timber for Nonsuch Palace from 'Bowcham Common' in 1538, for by 1614 it was said to contain only small timber trees of no value except for fuel.

In connection with the building campaign, it is interesting to note that many new families appear in the years around 1500, which were to continue for a long period to be the influential yeomanry of Bookham. Such are the names of Dudley (1523-1629), Durden (1495-1674), Eliot (1512-1800), Hibberd or Hubbard (1518-1732), Hilder (1516-1697), Hudson (1485-1761), Martyr (1508-1796), Rogers (1485-1718), Snelling (1485-1598), and Wood or Atwood (1519-1935).‡ In most cases, the later generations became less prosperous, and this almost certainly reflected the depression of their whole class during the eighteenth century. But for some 150 years they were the backbone of village life.

\* Public Record Office, E.36/168, f.106 et seq.

† No. 81-1894, by Henry Edridge, A.R.A. (1769-1821); probably of Hogden Farm, Little Bookham.

‡ The dates given are of first and last mentions in Bookham, or to the last recorded male death.

## BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Lecture Session.

A series of illustrated talks organised monthly prior to Christmas proved to be most enjoyable. Lectures with films were given by Dr. Hickin and Dr. Barnes Wallis. An "Any Questions?" Panel included Dr. Trefor Jones, Miss Hazel Vincent Wallace, Brigadier Selby, D.S.O., Mr. Crossley Clitheroe, and Mr. L. Worth. Unfortunately the attendance was not what we expected and, unless there is a wider demand in future, these evenings will have to be discontinued.

### Congratulations.

We extend our good wishes and congratulations to Mr. Alan J. Smith, a member of our Council for several years, who is now at Bristol University studying for a B.Sc. Degree in Civil Engineering. Alan was a pupil of Bookham Primary School and Guildford Grammar School, where he gained a State Scholarship.

**Annual General Meeting of the  
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## CAROL SERVICE AT THE SPINNEY SCHOOL

On December 16th the children of The Spinney School held their Carol Service. They had turned out their toy cupboards and brought a wonderful collection of toys. These were arranged round a Christmas tree, and were collected later by an Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. for distribution in the Guildford area.

As far as possible, the children conducted the service themselves. The Christmas Story was read by some of the senior children, with carols sung between each reading. A small choir sang "Sleep, Holy Babe" and "It came upon a midnight clear". They sang with great reverence and clarity of tone, holding the other children spellbound.

Only one verse was sung of most of the carols. The children had so many favourites that it would have been impossible to have had all the carols in their entirety.

The service ended with a prayer and "O come, all ye faithful".

Some of the parents were able to be present, and joined in the singing, helping the children to hold their own when a descant was sung. They came away from the service impressed with the children's sincerity and lack of self-consciousness, and thankful that they had been able to share in the children's own act of worship.

## BOOKHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Though the half-way stage of the season has passed we have not yet completed half our fixtures with either team. The Premier side is in a fairly strong position in the league, having played eleven matches, won six, drawn two and lost three. Our three defeats were very heavy and have given us a poor goal aggregate—42 for and 46 against. We were beaten in the second round of the Intermediate League Cup, after a replay, by Sutton Corinthians, and the first round of the Intermediate Charity Cup by Caterham. The only other competition left for us is our own League Challenge Cup. We should have played our first round match, at home, on Christmas Eve, but Andre Rubber Sports could not raise a full team, so the match was postponed. We have a good side, though our outstanding weaknesses have been at goal and the two wing positions. After trying many goalkeepers with little success we have persuaded "Dick" Willmer to don the sweater. As yet he has not been fully tested as we have won our last four matches rather easily, but we hope he will prove to be the answer to that problem. Ron Smith has scored a lot more goals than he did last season; in ten league matches he has netted 25 times and is in such good form he will score many more, ably assisted by big Rob Edwards and "Mick" Butler. Paul Mitchell, who was always a lively inside forward, has settled down very

nicely at right half, and with Brian Winter and "Archie" Booth playing so well, we have a very fast half-back line. Johnny Kilner and our captain, Brian Longhurst, complete the defence and there are very few better pairs in the league.

Our reserves have not had much success, though there has never been a settled eleven through trying so many players. Altogether 42 have played in one or the other of our sides this season. However, we think we have a team now that will begin to lift us from the bottom of the league and well to the top before the season ends. "Dick" Wales and Ray Self have just returned to us to strengthen our defence, which so far has relied mainly on Jack Mackness and Alec Booth, the captain. Ted Ayres has been persuaded to play again and has had two games, and we feel sure that when he has got his "shooting boots" right he will solve our Premier side's left wing position, which has not been properly filled since he left it four years ago.

Our President, Dr. Easton, still shows great interest by turning up at matches when he can, or demanding the latest information from me in Club matters. The Committee, under Mr. David Longhurst, work hard in running the Club, but we could do with at least two more members. Should any gentleman wish to help the only football club in the village, please contact Bill Wynn, Hon. Secretary, 37 Sole Farm Avenue.

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## BACK LAND DEVELOPMENT

[Editor's Note.—In view of the lively interest in Bookham Back Land Development we have asked one of our Councillors to give a short account of the attitude of the Leatherhead Urban District Council.]

Canute was never more embarrassed by his flattering courtiers than the Bookham Councillors are by the way they are urged to restrain the further development of Bookham and keep the population figure within the target set in the Abercrombie Report.

Before the last war there were many more "house for sale" boards in Bookham than new houses in course of erection. What development there was, was mostly in single units, and "estate" development was only found in districts with better communications and more modern amenities. This, however, was the Bookham we loved.

No village is more "society" ridden than Bookham and each, in varying degrees, seeks to improve the community and its amenities, particularly since the war. No wonder then, with the pressure of housing shortages and scarcity of suitable land nearer London, all the available building land in Bookham is rapidly being used up and the population consequently increased.

It was, however, the type of development which was worrying

the Bookham representatives on the Leatherhead U.D. Council and which caused them to seek a remedy. A large frontage on any road which gave access to any back land would enable the developer to open up the site by means of a cul-de-sac and build houses at twice the density or more of the neighbouring properties. The cul-de-sac with its turning space at the top being not unlike a banjo has given rise to the expression "banjo development" which is contrary to good planning principles. The chief objections have been that the density of the building has been excessive compared with neighbouring property; it has no relation to the development of adjoining back land; and often prevents any further development of adjoining back land.

These objections were used by Coulsdon U.D.C. in resisting an appeal to the Ministry by a developer, and because the Council had not prepared a plan for the orderly development of the back land the developer won his case. With the preparation of the Leatherhead Council plan for back land development in Bookham and Fetcham, any case which they might take against a developer whose plans were not considered satisfactory would be strengthened by the existence of the Council's plans.

A further consideration is that unless there is orderly infilling in the town and village areas, and full use made of the existing space, how else can we continue to protect the "Green Belt" from incursions by the builder.

The plan prepared by the Council provides for the future, not only the immediate future, but the distant future when the conditions under which the land is held by the present owners may have changed. Their financial circumstances may have changed; they will be older and unable to face strenuous gardening; they may be dead and executors might wish to sell. In which event they will be handed "capital appreciation" on a plate! And because the Council has had the forethought to prepare a "master plan".

This plan is not final. It is only a suggestion and subject to negotiation. There is nothing sinister in it. The Leatherhead Council has no intention of buying the land or to build more Council houses on it. Neither is it intended to encourage further light industry in the area by housing their employees. (They need no encouragement.)

R. B.

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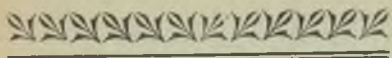


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