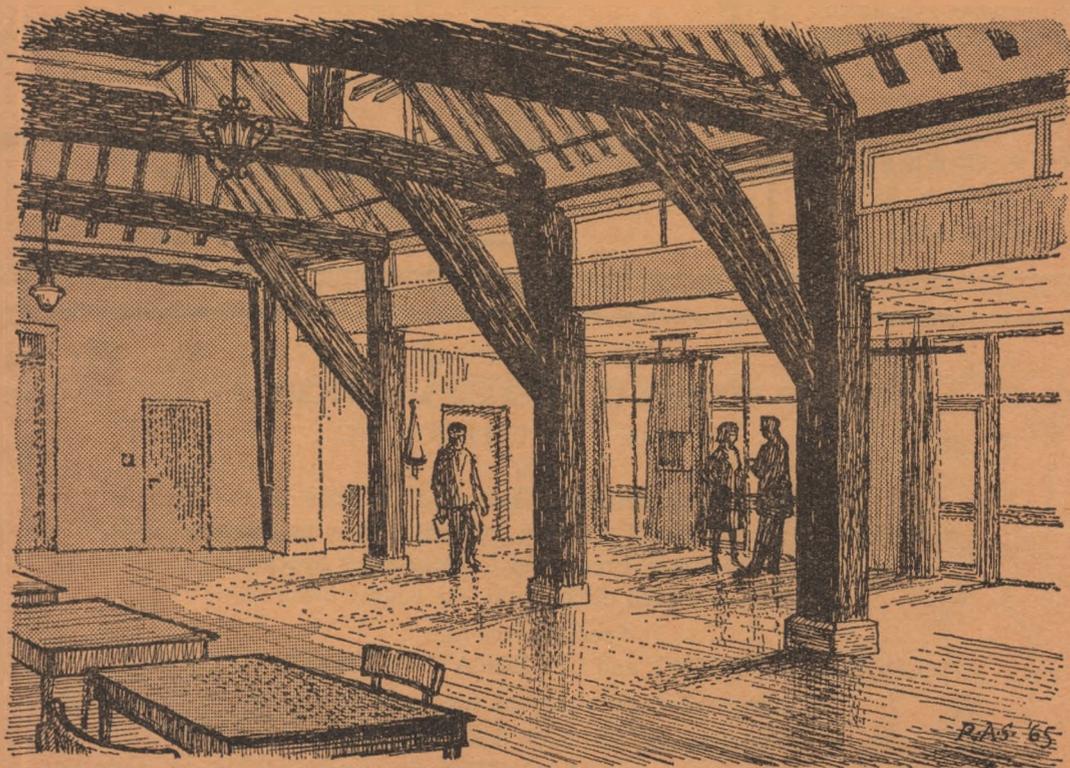


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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

~~1970-1971~~
1971
~~1972~~



No. 144

JANUARY, 1971

37th Year

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No. 144

JANUARY, 1971

37th Year

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We offer our apologies to all who supported us on this occasion for our delay in printing this list but we are taking the first opportunity available to us to fulfil our promise and thank them.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club celebrated its 21st year with a Dinner Dance at the Burford Bridge Hotel. Dinner jackets and evening gowns are a feature of most Old Time Dances but, on this occasion, the ladies wore their loveliest dresses. Flowers, soft lights and beautifully decorated tables added to the glamour and made this a scene to be remembered. Formality was blended with friendliness to create an atmosphere of general well-being.

From its inception members of the Old Time Dance Club have played an active part in the committees and enterprises of the Community Association and made generous donations to its funds.

Those who join the club find many new friends. It is not necessary to know the dances because on each club evening there is an opening session at 7.30 for beginners. It meets every Wednesday at the Barn Hall at 8 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. Monthly dances are also held in the Barn Hall on the second Saturday, until the end of May when the club closes for the summer.

The Bookham Bowling Club held its annual Dinner at the Barn Hall at the end of November. It was a well-attended and enjoyable function. Councillor Taylor, Chairman of the L.U.D.C. was present, with his wife. He replied to the toast of 'our guests' and Mrs. Taylor presented the many trophies to the winners who were greeted

Join the Walk
'FEAT from FEET'
on Sunday, March 28th
For and from Bookham Barn Hall

with cheers and applause. Mrs. E. Harrison, President of the Community Association, proposed the toast of 'the club'. The proceedings were guided by the new President of the Club, Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue, who succeeds Mr. Markwick who has moved to Eastbourne and has relinquished this office after 18 years.

It will be remembered that the green at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground was laid by the club in 1933, the date of its formation. The secretary, Mr. C. E. Flowers hopes that the membership, which is increasing rapidly, will reach 90 in 1971.

Indoor bowls is also provided by the club at the Barn Hall. It now has two rinks to meet the demands of those who find it a fascinating pastime. Details can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

The Gramophone Club season is going well, with an increasing membership and some very good programmes. The old amplifier, which had given nearly 20 years' service, has been replaced by a Leak model and the turntable has been completely overhauled; reproduction is now more satisfactory than it has been for very many years.

The Leak was expensive and, because of the Club's modest finances, it was originally intended to take advantage of the B.C.A.'s willingness to make a grant; however, in view of the

Association's preoccupation with the Barn Hall Extensions, this idea was dropped and the money was raised by interest-free loans from members.

The Social side is not neglected—there was the Bring and Buy in early December and the traditional New Year Party scheduled for January 7th.

Flower Arrangement Group. January brings the end of the Group's year and the A.G.M. will be on February 1st in the Barn Hall. It has been an eventful and stimulating year with the standard of the competitions, especially in the Novices' section, steadily rising. Entry for new members is seriously restricted because of the capacity of the Hall.

Whatever the Group does is well done; this was noticeably true of the annual show held in the Barn Hall in late November. It was the third show organised by the club and was well supported by entrants and visitors. The imaginative title, 'Prelude to Winter', reflected the season and the theme—the musical interpretation was carried through all the class designations. We had, for example, Five Finger Exercise, The Melody Lingers on, Candlelight Serenade, Winter Pastorale, Tuned In and Small Scale. Six out of the eleven classes were open to all comers, indicating the club's wish not to become an exclusive group. One class, which

was beautifully executed and an inspiration to all beginners, was presented jointly by a number of Surrey clubs, by special invitation.

An Important Post in Art Education has been taken by Mr. Robert Strand who is well known in Bookham. He has been appointed Deputy Chief Officer of the National Council for Diplomas and Design (N.C.D.A.D.), a high academic body which is responsible for courses and standards throughout the Art Colleges and Schools of the country.

As a member representing the vocational schools, of the commission which has recently produced the Coldstream and Summerson Report, he has experience of the field he is now covering. While he was Principal of the Epsom School of Art he demonstrated the high levels which can be reached in a 'vocational school'. His progressive approach and his deep understanding of the qualities that are required in students who are hoping for worthwhile professional positions will be invaluable in the exacting work he has now taken over.

A high academic joins the Governors of Howard of Effingham School. This rapidly expanding school will be strengthened by the appointment to its governing body of Professor J. E. Salmon, who heads the chemistry department of the

University of Surrey. He is an acknowledged leader in those institutions involved in higher education, especially in the scientific field, and has recently been pro-vice chancellor of the University of Surrey, with special responsibility for developing the links with industry which, from the beginning, this new university with its pronounced technological leanings has propounded as one of its first objectives.

Professor Salmon lives in Bookham and is active in the locality. He is interested in education at all levels and is already a Governor of the Epsom School of Art.

Howard of Effingham Examination Results in 1970 reflect great credit on all concerned. In Form VA there was an average pass rate in 4.5 subjects—it must be remembered that a pass in 4 academic subjects gives an entitlement to entry to a Grammar Sixth. One boy obtained 8 O Levels including a number in science and mathematics. He has decided to stay at Howard, along with 3 fellow pupils, for Sixth Form work leading to A Levels. Two other students gained 7 O Levels, two 6 O Levels, two 5 and four 4 O Levels.

The school is noted for its prowess in the field of athletics

but not all our readers may have heard that Lesley Rice, of Bookham, a record for the under 15's javelin throw and will be in the All-England team. We congratulate her.

The past year has been an active one—encouragement has been given by the seven form entry of new pupils in September. Professor Salmon was the guest speaker at the annual Prizegiving and the Hall was packed with pupils and parents, as it was at the annual Fashion Show and the annual Concert. The Friends of the School are also active and have made a number of generous donations. Their autumn fair had a record attendance and record profit of £230.

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For the first time the school will be sending a party on the 'Nevasa' Surrey Cruise in March. A party of 22 girls and 13 boys will be accompanied by Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Dancer. Among the ports to be visited are Athens (there will be a shore excursion to the Acropolis), Heraklion in Crete (including the Palace of Knossus), Brizerta (visiting Carthage and Tunis) and Naples (stopping off for Rome and Pompeii).

The Eastwick W.I. is the fourth institute to be formed in Bookham, which indicates that the ladies of the village are very 'club-able'. It meets at the Congregational Hall at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday in the month. With a membership figure reaching a 100 it is beginning to think about a waiting list. The secretary is Mrs. G. O'Brien, 7 Burney Close.

The Bookham Choral Society is in the middle of its 43rd season with a record membership, now passing 70. The success of the club is not surprising because there is a very friendly spirit which makes the rehearsals fun. At the same time the singing is taken seriously; for example there is quite a challenge in producing a madrigal with 70 voices and so lightening and controlling the tone that it does not sound too different from the rendering given by the small groups for which it was written.

The main work for the year is Bach's B minor Mass, which is being prepared for the Leith Hill Festival, and the choir enjoys the thrill of the large scale works. Another special occasion is the annual Christmas Concert in the Barn Hall with its traditional decorations and enthusiastic audience

Any newcomers, with a voice, are always welcome and the secretary will see that they are brought into the fold if they will get in touch with him.

L. S. H.

Bookham Rifle Club has a long history of triumphs in national competitions. They recently scored a record at this level in the 50 metre Standing and Kneeling League; Bookham C Team won their division of the Metric League and came home with silver medals. In the National Pistol League the club's A team got very close to winning by finishing a close third in division nine.

Individual honours, however, should perhaps be given to young S. Barton who won the first division of the Surrey Small-bore Junior Summer League for the 18's and under.

Back in Kenya after a long leave in Bookham are Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Savage. Mr. Savage has agreed to continue for another 15 months to teach local finance and accountancy at the Institution of Administration in

Nairobi, a task for which he is well qualified after 36 years experience as Treasurer for Leatherhead Council. We were glad to see them round and about in the village. They were very busy putting their lovely garden in some sort of order and it was good to welcome Mrs. Savage back to the meetings of the Flower Arrangement Group, of which she is a founder-member. She was able to tell us something about new ways with flowers which she has devised because the garden of their bungalow near Nairobi produces a profusion of tropical plants and foliage, including hibiscus, bougainvillea and oleanders. She has even introduced the art of flower arrangement to some of her neighbours.

Mr. Savage finds teaching a congenial occupation but he also sees a social purpose in what he is doing. His students are young Kenyans who will increasingly take over the administration of their country, as is right and proper, though Kenya is very much a multi-racial society with no racial separation at all. His wife, too, shares the same view. She has started a small club for African servants who are so keen to learn English and needlecraft that they insist on meeting almost every day. It is no coincidence that their 25 year old son, Michael, elected to join the missionary order of the White Fathers and is in Zambia. His ordination ceremony took place

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at St. Andrew's Convent, Leatherhead, where he received his early education, and, as it coincided with his parents' leave, they were able to be present. He celebrated his first Mass at the Catholic Church, Effingham, whose parishioners hope in due course to establish a link with his new Mission.

Mrs. Savage was also able to be for a time with her daughter, Sheila, who had come home from Copenhagen to have her first baby. She is married to an Italian musician whose professional engagements involve much travelling.

Is Bookham Still Rural? If horse riding is a test, then Bookham is undoubtedly rural. The triumphs of the Bookham and Kenilworth Riding Club, whose secretary, Mrs. Pain 'ives in The Glade, demonstrate that we are an equestrian centre—at least for the women of the locality. Their Prix Caprelli team won the national Riding Club championship which comprises a number of tests to judge the riders and not the horses. This success was followed quickly by another in The Horse of the Year Festival at Wembley, when many of our readers may have seen them come second in their Quadrille. Competitors are required to perform to music a

little story or incident in costume. The Bookham club, selected the theme of National Quadrille and each of the four riders appeared in the costumes of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and their horses were decorated with the appropriate traditional emblems. The music was taped and was a medley of the well-known national songs.

Mr. Pollak is a Vice-Chairman of the Club, in recognition of the fact that the Club originated at the Kenilworth centre but later developed on a wider basis. It now has a membership of 170. He came to Bookham some 18 months ago and has expanded and improved the facilities at his Dorking Rd. establishment. Training at all levels is given there. Among the regulars are a group of 12 pupils from the Howard of Effingham School who go there once a week. An interesting new development, sponsored this year as a pilot scheme by the Levy Board, under Lord Wigg, is a six weeks course for apprentice jockeys who reside at Epsom and come to Kenilworth for training. This has proved its worth and other like courses are planned.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Many of our new members and some of our old ones are puzzled by the structure of the Community Association. Its complexities are the result of

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trying to combine the utmost democratic participation of all members and affiliated organisations with the maximum efficiency required to manage a hall and organise a wide variety of village activities both in it and outside it. The amazing thing is that it works reasonably well, thanks to the help of so many well-wishers; but it is still our constant endeavour to improve it in the light of experience.

It all starts with **the A.G.M.**, which takes place towards the end of October, and is open to all members, and representatives of affiliated organisations. This has the important duty to elect the officers of the Association. For the coming year they are President — Mrs. E. Harrison, Hon. Sec. — Mrs. P. Meehan, Hon. Treasurer — Mr. A. G. Medway. It also elects the Hon. Solicitor—Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue and the Hon. Auditor — Mr. A. H. Kirkby, as well as the Membership Secretary. Miss M. Corner has succeeded Mrs. B. Oldershaw whose increasing commitments as Booking Officer for the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre prevent her from carrying on her valuable and important work for the Association in this capacity.

It is important that individual members of the Association have a say all through the year in policy decisions which are made at the meetings of the Council, the governing body of the Association which meets 3 or 4 times

a year. At the A.G.M. one representative is elected for every 50 members to attend the Council and act on their behalf. The great increase in membership resulting from the highly successful Drive, organised by Mr. W. E. Larkin, meant that for 1970 - 71 thirty individuals have been appointed. For the record they are Mesdames Medway, Stratford, Godwin, Catt, Whalley, McLeod, Forbes, Sayers, Sansom, Wing, Bruce, Clark and Messrs. Humphreys, Frohock, Bruce, Rombach, Flowers, Harold Freeman, Larkin, Clark, Preston, Edge, Harry Freeman, Whalley, Puttock, Wing, Snow, Emery, Dr. Thorley, Dr. Sowerbutts.

The Council is a sort of Parliament of the Association. Together with the members' representatives sit the representative of the affiliated organisations, close on 40 (see Directory on back page), and the delegates from the B.C.A.'s own clubs. These are entitled to one nominee for a membership of up to 50 and two for over that number. There is a link with the County Council, who are invited to send a member or officer, and the L.U.D.C., who are similarly requested to appoint a representative. It is also a help to have present the District Youth Officer, the Area Principal of the Adult Education Institutes and a spokesman for the W.E.A.

Finally **the Executive** of the Association is elected by the

Council of the B.C.A. and automatically becomes the body of Trustees of the Hall. For 1970 - 71 it consists of Mr. W. Rombach, Chairman and Mr. R. Catt, Vice-Chairman; Mesdames Cuddeford and McLeod and Messrs. W. Clancy, R. Snow, C. Flowers, K. Preston, R. Wing, L. Clark. The officers of the Association and ex-officio members of all committees.

As this is the first Bulletin to be published since the annual meeting our readers may be interested, even at this late date, to be informed of points raised in the reports. The Statement of Accounts, presented by Mr. Medway, showed that for the first time for many years the Barn Hall had more than paid its way. The reason for this is undoubtedly the voluntary work done by the Hall Committee and the Grounds Committee. On this showing, as well as the knowledge that many would-be hirers cannot be accommodated, there is confidence that an extended building could be financially sound.

Village Day and Village Festival Helpers will be pleased to hear that the profits exceeded those of previous years. It was emphasised, however, that, with the massive attendance at this annual function, it should be possible to raise much more money in the important year ahead.

Please turn to page 18

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The Secretary's report underlined the success of the Association's clubs, with many of them announcing increased membership. Special mention was made of the appreciative response to the recently-formed Theatre Club which had exceeded all our estimates.

A satisfactory feature of the year had been the get-together of the affiliated sports organisations, the first ever in the village. Many suggestions were made for the improvement of the existing facilities, which were afterwards discussed with an officer of the L.U.D.C., and there was mutual agreement that all users of the Grounds could gain by these. A yearly meeting of the same kind was envisaged.

The National Trust had thanked the B.C.A. for the great help it gave in the administration of the successful production of "The Comedy of Errors" at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre.

OBITUARIES

We record with sadness the deaths over recent months of three Bookham residents. Each, in their own way, made a contribution to village life; the character of our neighbourhood has been influenced by their participation in it.

Captain L. R. Hutchison, M.C.

"Hutch", as he was affectionately known by the hundreds of boys he inspired to take an interest in outdoor pursuits, was a leader of stature in the Scout Movement not only in Bookham but also in Surrey. When he returned to the village from the army after the First World War he found the remnant of a troop that had been formed by a Miss Arnett prior to 1914. By early 1921 he had built it up into a first rate group which met in a small hut in the garden of Mr. Bostock's house, Fife Lodge (now demolished). Shortly afterwards it moved to what seemed palatial headquarters in the new Scout Hut along the Lower Road.

He became District Commissioner for Leatherhead from 1934-1939 and again, following the evacuation of his firm during the Second War, from 1947-1950. His services were recognised by the award of the Medal of Merit in 1931, the Silver Acorn in 1951 and Bar in 1960. It was during this period that he took a leading role in the Surrey contingent to several international jamborees.

After his official retirement in 1956 he gave active assistance on the local scout executive. His home at Maddox Farm was always open house for scouts and cubs and their camping equipment was stored in his barns.

He also gave devoted service to St. Nicolas Church and was

Rector's Warden there as well as at Little Bookham Church. Much time was given by him to the project to replace the bombed east window in St. Nicolas Church. He took a lead in the first Planned Giving Campaign. He was never too busy to take on the small things which count for so much in the daily round—the care of the church clock in the tower, the maintenance of the churchyard, participation in the well-remembered Church Scenes, attendance at parish social and official functions.

As Chairman for a number of years of the National Trust Committee for the Bookham Commons he was indefatigable in his efforts to maintain their condition despite lack of funds and much local apathy.

It can truly be said that the call of 'Church and Country' was the mainspring of his life. He was 80 when he died and he held to his standards to the end.

Mrs. M. M. Kleboe

Mrs. Kleboe came to live in Bookham more than 50 years ago and brought up her large family of nine children in The Croft, next door to the Rectory. Some of them she out-lived. Her son Peter, a Wing Commander, awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry, was killed in action. Another son, David, is still in the Air Force as Flight Lieutenant. A

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third son also won distinction in the War as Lt. Commander in the Navy.

While her sons fought for their country their mother was active in the war work which went on in the village. As a member of the Nursing Association she was involved in the necessary preparations that had to be made for possible emergencies. She gave much hospitality to the Canadians who were stationed at Southey Hall. The natural cheerfulness and sociability of her personality made this a pleasure to her and not a dutiful task.

Neighbourhood activities flourished in Bookham during the War. Probably, per head of population, more went on then than today when we think of ourselves as a very lively community. Her 'big room', as it was known, on the ground floor of her large and rambling house was quite a centre for local groups. The W.I., of which she was President for some years—there was then only one W.I.—met there; somehow she managed to provide tea and refreshments. A 'Brains Trust' which specialised in gathering together individuals of the most diverse outlook drew to the Croft very sizable gatherings. Whist Drives have gone on at her home for as long as we can remember. And—after the War—the Camera Club started in the Big Room.

Mrs. Kleboe was always ready to give her support to the major events of the village—the Coronations, the Festivals of Britain, and so on, which were always celebrated with zest and, it must be confessed, with some improvisation.

She was a friend of the Community Association, her main interest being its work for the over sixties. She was a founder member of the Over Sixties Club, served for some years on its first committee and, even when she was only able to come occasionally to its meetings, she continued to help it with gifts for its stalls.

She enjoyed life and helped others to enjoy theirs. Although she was 83 when she died we shall never think of her as an old lady.

Mrs. M. A. Perry

Every day until two years ago we saw Mrs. Perry in her drapers' shop. Trim and upright, she was always ready for a chat and a gossip about village doings. She had seen boys and girls grow up, have families and then watched their children going to school and on to careers, many far away from Bookham. Her customers were her friends and much good advice passed over her counter with the baby clothes, the wool, the cottons and the pins.

She moved from her wooden fronted little shop into a modern glass-fronted establishment. It reflected her own personality which always kept pace with the changing times. She was not one to bemoan the passing of 'the good old days'—to her it was people who mattered and she recognised that human nature was much as it always was, even though affluence was much more widely spread in Bookham than when she first came to it in 1916. At that time the population was under 1,000 and there were only four shops in the village, as she remembered it.

The youngsters of the village had many parties in her home, but her main work was for the local Catholic Church at Effingham where she was a pillar of strength. It was not until she was in her seventies that she stopped cycling to Church on Sundays, and allowed herself the luxury of a hired car. She was untiring in organising social events for the enjoyment of the parishioners and the upkeep of the church which, in the beginning had a quite small congregation. She had been Chairman of the Catholic Women's League and helped to launch it. She had also been President of the Effingham W.I.—an indication that her interests were not all parochial.

Her death at the age of 88 means that we have lost a friend and a great Bookham character.

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