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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

August 1973
No 153
40th Year

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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August 1973

No 153

40th Year

Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

Distribution: G Everett. Telephone Bookham 52404

Advertisements:

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 58730

BOOKHAMS DAY OF THE YEAR

Village Day

BARN HALL & GROUNDS

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The holiday season is over and we are now looking forward to the many interesting events and activities which September brings in:

Village Day – Saturday, September 8th.

Village Week – Bingo, Wednesday, September 12th, 8.00 pm.

Garden Society Show – Barn Hall, Sunday, September 9th.

Film Show – Barn Hall, Tuesday, September 11th, 8.15 pm.

Bridge Drive – Thursday, September 13th, 7.45 pm.

Musical Tableaux – illustrating 4 centuries of music, Friday, September 14th. Guest artistes from the Royal College of Music.

'What is Community Association all about?'

Monday, September 24th, 8.00 pm. Open meeting arranged by the Community Association in cooperation with the WEA. Led by speaker from the National Federation of Community Associations.

Indoor Bowls starts at the Barn Hall at 7. pm, October 1st, then every Monday. The Bookham Bowling Club, which is a part of the BCA, has had a successful outdoor season, one of the highlights being the 40th anniversary celebration when a party of 48 members and guests toured the Isle of Wight and received a warm welcome from the island's clubs, playing matches against 6 of them.

Afternoon Bridge Club meets Monday at 1.30 pm, with the exception of the first Monday in the month when it meets on Thursday at 1.30 pm. This is a friendly and rapidly growing group and most helpful to the BCA. Its recent Bridge Luncheon raised £75 for the Barn Hall Funds; visitors came from many parts of Surrey. It is interesting to note that the buffet was organised by six volunteers from the members, so that the burden on the committee could be lifted, and that all but one of these came from outside Bookham.

The Evening Bridge Club, which is also popular, meets every Tuesday at 7.00 pm, in the Harrison Room, at the Barn Hall.

The Scottish Dancers are enthusiasts but would welcome new members at their weekly evenings on Friday at 8.00 pm, beginning on October 5th.

The Gramophone Club has had a change of officers. Its new secretary is Mr J Marriage and its new chairman is Mr R Wear, who tells us that the first meeting of the club is on September 6th at 8.00 pm in the Barn Hall and that it will be an Open Evening when non-members and friends of present members are invited to come and enjoy a 'mixed' programme. Tea and coffee will be provided. Thereafter the Club meets fortnightly when the presenter of the programme is specially asked to select and talk about records on a theme in which he has a personal interest. The result is a happy and relaxing evening for the enjoyment of music, well produced in ideal surroundings.

Antiques Fair – September 21st and 22nd (see notices). The Preview is on Friday 5.30 – 9.00 pm. Admission 30p. On Saturday admission is 15p from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm. Mr Ray Wear, who is organising the event, asks what is 'ethnographica?' If you do not know the answer you can find out on the 22nd when one of the exhibitors is making a special display of ethnographica and items of ancient African art. We understand that all the stalls in the Hall, as well as the Harrison Room, have been booked. Several dealers have taken double stands so that larger items of furniture etc, can be shown. Another is concentrating entirely on antique jewellery. Two well known horological experts are exhibiting some beautiful clocks.

Last year's target figure was £400. Mr Wear has raised it to £500 this year; he appeals for items to sell on our own BCA stand and reminds anyone wishing to dispose of old articles to ring him at 52250 so that he can give them a valuation and fix a realistic price to the mutual benefit of both parties.

'Lunch a la BCA' will be provided by Mrs Everett and her band of helpers. An excellent meal can be guaranteed, so why bother to cook? Tea, coffee and a Licensed Bar are also available.

The Dramatic Society is preparing for its November production. It meets on Monday and Tuesday at 8.00 pm, in the committee room or the Harrison Room.

The Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club begins its season on September 5th weekly from 7.30 pm giving over the first

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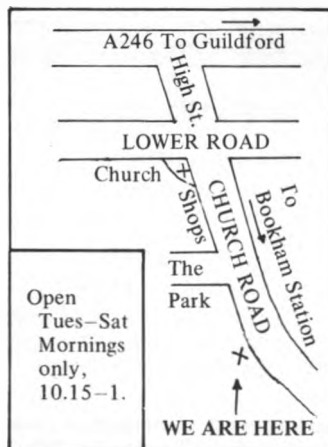
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BCA Bingo is every Wednesday at 8.00 pm in the Harrison Room. There is a warm and hospitable atmosphere and the internal self management is running smoothly. There is no shortage of willing helpers to make the evening a pleasant social event. Within the first two weeks 52 new members of the BCA were enrolled. Our Warden, who launched the venture, is sure that quite a number of our existing members would find it an enjoyable way of passing an autumn evening.

Bookham Folk Dance Club re-opens September 10th at the Congregational Hall at 8.00 pm and meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month. New members welcomed.

Flower Arrangement Group meets the first Monday in every month at the Barn Hall at 2.00 pm. There is now no longer a waiting list as the magnificent new stage and the Extensions make it possible to accommodate more members.

Community Association AGM – October 23rd, 8.15 pm. All members welcomed.

Adult Education Classes. Enrolments 7.00 – 9.00 pm, September 17th and 18th. Howard of Effingham and Therfield.

Floral Exhibition. September 29th. Barn Hall. Theme 'Celebrations' to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Flower Arrangement Group. Preview Evening on September 28th with Buffet and guest speaker, Miss A Spanier, from Peter Jones Interior Decorating Department.

Grand Christmas Fair, Barn Hall, November 10th. Presents, Decorations etc for Xmas – all handmade.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE AND HALL

We were, unfortunately, not successful in this competition but, with your help, we intend to enter again next year. The comment of the judges was that the standard was uniformly high and they found great difficulty in making the selections.

Winners:

<i>Large Villages</i>	<i>Small Villages</i>
1st Woldingham	1st Thursley
2nd Churt	2nd Hascombe
3rd Womersley	3rd Holmbury St Mary

Village Halls

- 1st Churt
- 2nd Puttenham
- 3rd Woldingham

Nine village halls were selected for the second round of judging. The Barn Hall missed this by one mark, achieving 86%. The surrounds and car park were considered very good, with no litter. As was obvious, the structural condition was very well maintained, and this is a tribute to our band of volunteers who worked so hard on it after the builders moved out. Our notice boards were declared excellent. The decoration, also, was deemed excellent, with a most welcoming appearance.

It would appear that our kitchen and toilets let us down. We are all aware that these are in need of refurbishing; the old kitchen, especially, needs new equipment and adjustments. When we have paid off our debts on the new building we can turn our attention to this. Yet once again we appeal to our friends and supporters to keep up the Barn Hall Fund.

The village itself can pride itself on being included in the short list for the second judging. Perhaps if we had followed up spring cleaning Sunday with more enthusiasm we could have achieved an award. We received 86% marks on the preliminary round. The judges stated that the outstanding feature of this village are the well kept verges and hedges. The gardens, they said, were well kept and that there was every evidence of community effort in giving a well cared-for appearance to the village. When they were around, there was remarkably little litter about. Of the local inns, they commented that one was excellent but the other two were only moderate.

Unfortunately on the Intermediate Round the judges remarked: 'Generally good, but too much litter about, particularly round the Churchyard. The surrounds of the Barn Hall were immaculate.'

Commendation must be given to the young of the village and, more especially the school-children, who maintained a continuous drive on litter all through May and June. The Scouts made a drive on their Hut, but this was no easy task with the builders on the site. Members of the Youth Club made a clearance round their Centre. The Guides and Brownies always keep their own Headquarters in fine condition and a goodly number of them turned

up on spring cleaning Sunday to clear litter. We have to thank the WI's and the Townswomen's Guild for their assistance. We were particularly impressed by the endurance of the Little Bookham Evening WI who, despite the weather, fought a losing battle with the overgrown garden round the Little Bookham Hall. We pay tribute, too, to all householders who cooperated by tidying their own frontages, and to the Boys Club for neighbourhood help. Finally we acknowledge the assistance given by Mr McNeil, on behalf of the LUDC, in speeding up grass and verge cutting and providing more litter bins.

We have got so far. Let us not slip back! And next year we could reach first place.

FROM BCA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Miss M Corner tells us that we now have 52 Road Collectors, seven of whom are new this year. Many of them complete their collecting before Christmas, or very soon after, which is a great help. Some would seem to be most persuasive when following up new-comers to their roads!

The Bookham Community Association is very grateful to all collectors. They would be very glad to hear from any who would collect subscriptions in some of the new roads, namely: Pine Dene, Priors Mead, Proctor Gardens, Richmond Close, The Paddocks, Durlston Park, Squirrels Green.

Any offers, please, to Miss M Corner. Bookham 58691.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Golden Wedding. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Turville Kille on fifty years of happy married life. They met at the Bookham Infants' School (then in Eastwick Road) and, having worked and lived in, and for, the village so long, they are known to almost everybody. The Anniversary was on June 9th, but they will celebrate it in August when their son, also Turville, returns with his wife and family from Rhodesia for a long vacation. The younger Turville is 41 and was educated at Bookham School and Dorking Grammar School.

The Wedding of Geoffrey Harrison and Pamela Hamilton Wood was celebrated at Croydon on June 29th, where the newly-married couple are now living. Geoff is well known in Bookham sporting and dramatic circles and

he and his wife will still be seen around the village where he intends to carry on with his interests among his many friends.

He is a Deputy Underwriter for a Group of Insurance Companies operating in the City and it was in the course of his business that he first met his wife.

Retirement of Deputy Head. The retirement of Miss Pat Stewart after 30 years as Deputy Head at Great Bookham School was marked by a memorable party at the Barn Hall on July 13th. Over 200 guests—parents, former pupils and friends filled the Hall. The school-children had their own presentation ceremony in the school. Many well-wishers contributed to the cheque which was handed to her to show the affection and esteem felt by all those who have appreciated her encouragement and dedicated teaching. She was also given a silver sweet dish, a garden lounger and a painting by Mr Braly of the school.

Miss Stewart, apart from her work in the school, is well known to old Bookhamites for the very active part she has taken in village life. She came with her parents to live at Altadore, in Eastwick Drive, in 1944 and soon became involved in the numerous neighbourhood enterprises which characterised Bookham during the War.

Starting as a Brown Owl she quickly moved on to assist Miss Betty Loveless, the then Guide Captain in Bookham. She joined the Bookham Choral Society, of which she was a member for many years. She also assisted in the organisation of a youth club in the Little Bookham Hall at a time when the children of the village and the many evacuees had little with which to fill their leisure time. When the Bookham and Effingham Youth Club was formed by Miss E Micholls this little club continued at the Spinney School, by kind permission of Miss D Joce. Young people from the School of Stitchery and Lace were welcomed to the weekly meetings and participated in the plays which were put on annually on the Mound in the Spinney Grounds.

Miss Stewart has an encyclopedic knowledge of the careers of the generations of children whom she has taught. It will be remembered that she took up her duties when Mr Richards was Headmaster of the School. She will be much missed but we wish her long life and

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happiness in the bungalow to which she is moving, with her sister, in Worthing.

About to be Published is a book by Miss Dorothy Joce on The Spinney School, of which she was the founder and Head for many years. We shall look forward to reading it. Miss Joce has a pleasing and flowing style of writing and has kept careful records of the children who passed through her school and the interesting careers they took up.

An Endurance Test was completed by Alan Griffiths, of Beales Road, when he completed the River Trent 100 mile canoe test at Newark, arranged by the National Association of Boys' Clubs, in May. Alan is a member of the Bookham Club and the second in Bookham to pass this test. He is 17 years old, works in the computer department at Ronsons, and was a pupil of Howard of Effingham School.

Two Honours for Bookham Man. Mr Albert Bell, of Woodlands Road, was awarded the MBE in 1946 in recognition of his services in the War Office. He will be retiring in September from his position as Deputy Secretary of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, to

which he has given 39 years of outstanding work. He was listed OBE in the recent Honours List to mark the contributions he has made to the public good in advice to the Government and in maintenance of surveying standards. He has been specially interested in the organisation of training and courses leading up to the final qualifications approved by the Institute.

He hopes to be able to devote more time to local affairs when he has more leisure. His daughter, however, has participated in various village activities, including the Football Supporters' Club and the Dramatic Society.

So Young and yet so High. Jayne and Tracy Lepine-Smith, of Eastwick Park Avenue, are much in demand in professional Variety shows for their skill as trapeze performers and wire walkers. Jayne is 10 and Tracy only 8. They have been trained by their father who usually appears with them in their acts. They have appeared several times at the Circus at Chessington Zoo where they will be seen again in September. It is possible that they will figure in the Water Rats annual Variety Show, which is one of the highlights of the year's charities. And Peggie O'Farrell has them

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Although they have some professional training at a gym in Putney their main practice is in their own home to which Mr Lepine-Smith has added an annexe with a 16 to 17 foot trapeze on which they practice daily. They thoroughly enjoy their unusual hobby but they do not neglect their studies. They are both at school at The Rowans. If the necessary apparatus can be erected we hope to see them in action at the Barn Hall in the not too distant future.

Their father is naturally proud of the prowess of his daughters but he himself is a man of many gifts. He still has in his garden, in good running order, a miniature trolley bus which he constructed some five years ago.

Musician and Composer, nineteen-year-old Douglas Weiland, gave the first complete performance of his 'Symphony for Two Unaccompanied Violins' (Opus I) at Cambridge in July, playing with his fiancée, Linda Rhodes, a violinist from Nottingham, who is at Trinity College of Music where Douglas holds a Fellowship.

Douglas was at Eastwick School and then at the Howard of Effingham School where he was able to develop his interest in the violin, which he started to play at the age of eight. He has been at the Trinity College of Music for three years, and has had quite a number of professional engagements.

Bookham Music Workshop. As announced in 'Something for Everyone', a concert is to be given by the Music Workshop on Friday, September 14th. Our Warden, Mr A Bradford, is the founder and director of the Music Workshop. He tells us that rehearsals are going well for the concert. He says: 'Rehearsals are going well. Most of the performers are still at school and I am grateful for the time they have put in despite the immense pressures of school work with 'O' and 'A' levels looming ahead. The concert will be in the form of a Tableaux, illustrating four centuries of music. We assure you that there will be something for everyone. There will be several guest artists from the Royal College of Music plus some of our own 'Hidden Talent'. We are still seeking woodwind and brass players to help expand our activities, and it is my intention to try to arrange a "Mini Music Festival" here in Bookham to take place next Autumn'. ARB

Bookham Silver Band. After many years of inactivity Bookham Silver Band has now reformed. They have asked to become a section of the Music Workshop and we are only too glad to help them re-establish and provide a useful activity for the BCA. Although not very large in numbers the spirit is there and I have full confidence that they will continue to expand. Their recent appearance in the 'Summer Revue' has helped to boost their morale and, as a result of this, tentative offers of bookings have been made. They still need a great deal of support both financial and, of course 'more players'. If you can help in any way please contact the band secretary, Mr J Powell, 3 Dean Walk. We shall be with you again on Village Day. ARB

Footnote to Village Day. The transference of the traditional June Village Day to September so that the Spire and Wire Fete could be accommodated will not, we hope, reduce our usual considerable support. The Exhibition on 'The Arts and Crafts of Bookham' has as its centrepiece a selection of articles created by members of all the WI's, chosen and displayed by Mrs Margaret Roper. Beekeeping and its attendant skills will be demonstrated by Mrs Clark, of The Park, formerly Surrey County Adviser. The Bookham Winemakers have been allocated a section of the Hall which, we know from experience, will attract many interested observers. A selection of paintings by Bookham artists is to be arranged by Mrs Salmon and will, we hope, include drawings from the Bookham schools on the theme of tidying up Bookham.

Local organisations, despite heavy pressure on them this summer, are generously giving their usual valuable support and our village traders have never failed to contribute gifts to this great day of the year and we know that we can rely on them.

From the opening at 2.00 pm there will be a round of activities including items from our Scottish Dancers, the Silver Band and a demonstration of 'Hai Sut', the new art of self defence. Negotiations are going ahead for a surprise item which will be enjoyable and exciting.

Help urgently needed for Xmas Fair. We take off our hats to Mesdames Chris Medway, Sybil McLeod and Vi Taylor for their energy in making articles for the Christmas Fair. They do, however, need support. There must



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be many ladies in Bookham with nimble fingers who would help. Materials and guidance would be given them for the type of goods required if they contacted any of the organisers. Meanwhile they are invited along to the working parties in the committee room of the Barn Hall, arranged for Tuesday, September 11th; Thursday, October 4th; Thursday, October 11th.

Well Done Afternoon Bridge Club for the £75 donation to the Barn Hall Fund from the Bridge Luncheon Drive, to Ron Frohock who organised the 'Summer Revue' with the Dramatic Society, the WI's, the Youth Centre, the Scouts and the Silver Band, which added £45 to the Fund, and the Whist Club for its donation of £5.

Bookham Youth Centre is ill-served by local critics who attempt to discredit it by picking up accounts of unfortunate incidents which are not always caused by the members. Much good work is being done by a band of devoted helpers, professional and voluntary, in encouraging the talents of the young people as, for example in Judo, Archery, etc.

We are proud to congratulate the Club on its success in Drama. With its play 'The Laboratory' it won through the District Competition of the NABC and was highly commended in the Regional Round at Birmingham. Steven Mann, of Little Bookham, received the national award of the Best Actor of the Year. The runner-up from the Birmingham Round was also from Bookham.

Have you visited Bookham Ponds in Eastwick Drive? The Community Association is proud to have led the fight for their preservation as a place of natural beauty. Unfortunately the LUDC neglected them for some years but have now put them in reasonable order. The Council cannot, however, do everything and it is up to local people to keep a watch on them and assist in the preservation of their amenity value. Congratulations, therefore, must go to the Doomwatch team of the Glade: Susan Whiffen (9), Deborah Bamford (9) and her brother Ian (7), who regularly patrol the area, remove debris and rescue wildlife in distress. Much rubbish is dumped in the area illicitly and quite recently the district angling society cleared out a ton of it. Perhaps nearby residents would follow the example set by the

children and form themselves into vigilantes.

The Freeman Island is the name to be given by the NT Bookham Commons Committee to the island constructed well back from the banks of the Isle of Wight Pond as a sanctuary for wildfowl. This is a fitting tribute to the devoted work given to the Commons by the late Harold Freeman; the village will applaud this decision; not only did he give service to the Trust but also to the Community Association, the Church and many other good causes. Tribute should also be paid to the Keeper, Eric Youngman, who has worked wonders in the rehabilitation of the area.

The WEA (Fetcham & Bookham Branch) is a lively body which arranges classes under tutors of academic distinctions in conjunction with London University and the London District of the WEA, which are a little different from the Adult Education Institute syllabus. Classes ahead are 'The English Novel from Henry James to Virginia Woolf,' Bell Lane School, Wednesday 8.00 pm. At the same school is 'Philosophy to probe into Power and its cause and effect on Society', Wednesday 8.00 pm. 'Astronomy from Newton to Skylab,' Thursday, 8.00 pm.

At the Bookham Junior School a class on 'Local History and Archaeology' will continue its further study of the history of Surrey on Thursday at 8.00 pm. A new course on 'The Social History of Transport' is to begin in the Committee Room of the Barn Hall on Tuesday from 1.30-3.30.

All classes will start from September 25th. No enrolment fee is charged for the first few meetings so that all are welcome to come along to see if they like what is to be offered. For further particulars ring Mrs Foster, Bookham 54364 or Mrs Everett Bookham 52404.

Institute of Adult Education. Prospectuses for the coming session are now freely available. Demand for day classes is heavy and 25 to 30 of these have been arranged. In all, there will be 110 classes available in a wide range of subjects. Among the new ones proposed are Music & Musicians to include English customs and festivals, Farmhouse and Cottage 15th and 16th century with the object of researching and photographing those in Surrey which may be lost for all time with re-development.

A new type of craft class is to be tried covering modern resins, enamelling and silk screen printing.

Obituary. Emily Boddy died on May 26th at Rookstone Old People's Home, Penge, at the advanced age of 102. All connected with the BCA Over Sixties Club remember her as a gay,

dainty lady, with a marvellous pink and white complexion, and a love for pretty hats. We recall, too, her fondness for dancing: she attended all our parties until she left Bookham and, when the music struck up, she would be on her feet dancing merrily. Her many children, grandchildren and great-grand-children are entitled to be proud of her.

BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd October at 8.15 pm in the Barn Hall.

Election of Officers and Reports.

Election of Representatives of Individual Members. 20–30 nominations required. Please send your nominations in advance to Mr L Clark, 1A Howard Road

All members are advised that this is an important meeting.

A number of amendments to the Constitution will be presented. Copies of these may be seen now in the Barn Hall, or on application to the Warden, or to Mr L Clark.

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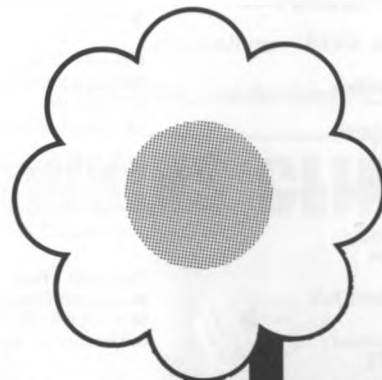
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