

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 139

JUNE, 1969

35th Year

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No. 139

JUNE, 1969

35th Year

VILLAGE DAY & VILLAGE FESTIVAL

June 16th—June 29th
sponsored by Bookham
Community Association

Bookham is a centre of wide-ranging activities and many interest groups and it therefore seemed appropriate to have our own festival. We do not seek to emulate an Aldeburgh, a Bath, a Brighton, a Guildford, or even a Haslemere event. Our proposal is to extend the concept of Village Day—to bring together local organisations and show them in action, to take a closer look at one aspect of Bookham's past, present, or future, to provide entertainment for all tastes, and to set aside a fortnight when we can meet friends, make new friends and, above all, enjoy ourselves.

An official programme will be available in May. But we are preparing our copy for the Bulletin in February and it is only possible, at this juncture, to indicate provisionally what we plan and to tell you that a lot of people are working hard to offer you an attractive event. We advise you to check details in the Programme and, where you can, get your tickets early.

Monday, 16th. Old Time Music Hall, Church House. This brought us a packed house two years ago. Audience participation will be welcomed.

Tuesday 17th. Youth Centre Open Day.

Thursday 18th. Joint W.I. Coffee Morning and Exhibition, Barn Hall. Afternoon W.I. Golden Jubilee Celebration. Choir and Drama 8 p.m., Church House.

Saturday 21st. VILLAGE DAY. Opening 2.30 p.m. Morris and Folk Dancers, Silver Downs Band, Punch and Judy, Pets Show, Children's Corner and many stalls and sideshows.

Exhibition in co-operation with the University of Surrey, Ewell Technical College and Epsom School of Art. Barbecue and Group at the Youth Centre.

Sunday 22nd. Dorking Road Recreation Ground, Bookham Bowling Club Open Spoons Drive, 3.15 p.m. Refreshments available.

Tuesday 24th. Comedy "The Fish," by Yves Cabrol, Bookham Dramatic Society, Church House.

Wednesday 25th. Old Tyme Dance, Barn Hall.

Thursday 26th. An evening of 18th century, modern and contemporary Music, Barn Hall.

Nonesuch Ensemble:

John Pullen—Oboe/Recorder

Alan Baker—Flute

Barry Wordsworth—

Harpsichord

Anne Barber—Cello

Friday 27th. Hair Styling and Dress Show, Barn Hall.

Saturday, 28th. Festival Dance, Barn Hall.

Sunday, 29th. Stoolball Tournament, Dorking Recreation Ground. United Service of the Council of Churches, Barn Hall Grounds, 6.30. Salvation Army Band (indoors if wet).

TRIBUTE TO MISS E. MICHOLLS on her 90th birthday

Friends of Miss Micholls from all sections of village life turned up at the Barn Hall in good numbers on February 1st to extend good wishes to her on her 90th birthday. To those of us who have known her for a long time it seems that the years pass her by and leave her untouched. She is more forward-looking, mentally alert and spirited than many under-sixties.

This was an occasion on which she shone. The Garden Society, of which she is President, gave her a Cotoneaster Conubia which she planted in the Barn Hall Border. She needed little assistance from Councillor Turville Kille who, as a Vice-President of the Society, also thanked her for her interest in local activities and said that their friendship dated from the 1920s when, as a postman, he was bitten by her dog, but only regarded this as an occupational hazard. Miss Micholls' speech in

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reply was humorous and quite without nostalgia. It was heard and applauded by a sizeable outdoor audience.

Within the hall there was coffee and conversation and a further presentation of a bouquet was made to her by Mrs. E. Harrison, President of the Community Association, honouring her as the first past-President and a pioneer of the Association.

Miss Micholls came, with her mother and sister, to live in the Manor House in 1923. A few years before their arrival this lovely Queen Anne House with a Regency front was gutted by fire but the outer shell remains as it always was, and now is the Manor House School. In 1933 she and her sister transferred to the converted farmhouse over the road which is still her home and includes a magnificent Tithe Barn.

Youth was, and still is, her main interest. She is President of the Guides. During the War she was instrumental in founding the flourishing Bookham and Effingham Youth Club. She gave much time to this but also continued to supervise the Macklin Street Youth Club in a difficult area of Soho. Although it was closed last year on losing its leader she has not ceased her efforts to find a new one so that it can be reopened.

Few people know that she was a student at Girton College, Cambridge, and passed the exams at a time when degrees were not awarded to women. She could, however, now claim her M.A. She also holds a titular B.A. of Trinity College, Dublin.

We wish her many more active and happy years.

SALUTE TO THE AFTERNOON W.I. ON ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

On February 27th, 1919, The Bookhams Women's Institute was established at a meeting in the Parish Room. Mrs. Willock-Pollen was elected President and there were 15 members. By 1920 there were 85 members and in 1969 the Gt. Bookham Afternoon W.I., as it is now known, has 150 members, and a waiting list. And all this despite the fact that there now exist within the confines of the village two flourishing Evening W.I.'s. The growth of Bookham is partly responsible for the increase in demand but the nature of the W.I. movement is also a prime factor. It has kept in step with the times—the type of meeting it arranges appeals to all ages; the scope and quality of its activities bring in women who want to learn new skills or develop those they already possess.

Service to the community is encouraged in all W.I.s. To take a few items from the long list of amenities the Afternoon W.I. has pressed for: in November, 1919 it asked for, obtained and assisted with an Infant Welfare Clinic once a fortnight at the Barn Hall: in 1921 it opened a Girls' Club in Little Bookham; it raised funds for the Little Bookham Hall which was completed in 1922: in 1949 the local Council was approached for a new clinic, main drainage for all the village, new library, public conveniences and bus shelter at the station.

Over the years the Afternoon W.I. has had a number of outstanding producers and consequently drama has always been

strongly supported. Choral work, too, has been encouraged. It is fitting that the Dramatic Section will entertain us during the Village Festival on June 18th and that the Choir, re-inforced by members from Fetcham and Oxshott W.I.'s, and conducted by Mrs. C. Garratt, will sing "The Brilliant and the Dark".

A highlight of the jubilee celebrations was a luncheon in the Barn Hall on 17th April to which were invited all past presidents and Miss Yates, the Secretary, and Mrs. Shearer, the President of the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes.

RETIREMENT OF RIFLE CLUB STALWART

The Bookham Rifle Club held its 26th Annual Meeting in February and it was rather a sad occasion because it marked the end of the long reign of Mr. O. J. Rattenbury as Secretary.

Over 20 years ago, when Mr. Rattenbury became Secretary, the Club had a four target 25 yards range at the Grove. This was lost when the L.U.D.C. started building there and for some time shooting could only occasionally be arranged at other ranges, but the Club carried on. Then the site of the present range at Thorncroft was offered by the L.U.D.C. to the Club and it has carried on there ever since.

To turn this into a rifle range was a tremendous job, carried out by the members, and here Mr. Rattenbury really showed his worth. He had to spend much time securing the necessary licences and permissions from many authorities, but he also gave much help with the hard manual work.

Finally the Club took shape and although additions and alterations are going on all the time, there are now 18 targets at 25 yards, 12 at 50 yards, and 9 at 100 yards. There is, too, a standard and kneeling range up to 50 metres, with five positions, and a 20 yards pistol range for six firers. There is a spacious Club House, a large car park, and it is almost entirely walled in. The fact that it is one of the biggest and best equipped ranges in the country is entirely due to the hard work put in by some of the members under the energetic leadership of Mr. Rattenbury.

Meanwhile the administrative work of the Secretary has been rapidly increasing. Over and above the many National and County Leagues in which the club participates there are also the Pistol Leagues and the three positional Leagues. To quote one example of successes gained—in

1968 the Standing and Kneeling Team were again the National Champions, for the third time running, indeed a wonderful achievement. Special mention should be made of the triumphs of Margaret McQue in the Competition for the Dewar Cup, the most important held by the N.S.R.A. She got into the last 60 and shot off at Bisley to the final team, managed to get into the last 40, but just missed the last 20. So she brought great distinction to herself and the Club.

The innumerable successes, the steady growth of members (now 130) and the healthy bank balance of the Club reflect the great work of Mr. Rattenbury. He has put his considerable talents entirely to the furthering of the good of the Club and has won the esteem and affection of all the members. Over £100 was subscribed as a testimonial to him. He was made a Vice President and Life Member

and everybody hopes that they will see him often at the range for many years to come.

G.R.B.

ROUND AND ABOUT

At home at Kensington Palace. Kathleen Snow, whose parents live in the Park, is enjoying her new post as a cook to Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon at Kensington Palace. She took the Catering Course at Brooklands Technical and was formerly a pupil at Eastwick and at the Howard of Effingham School, where she acquired her interest and initial skill in Cooking.

Growing interest in Local History. The Class in Local History at the Bookham and Effingham Institute of Further Education holds the record for enrolments and attendances. It has been directed by Mr. Derrick Renn, of Burrows Close, who is chairman of the Leatherhead and

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District Local History Society, Mr. G. J. W. Lewarne, who is secretary of the Local History Society, has given some of the lectures, and he tells us that the Society has recruited members from the Class. The figures are now some 275, probably the highest in its long existence.

Ken Barrington has come to live in Bookham. We are proud to have so distinguished a sportsman with us and we welcome him to our neighbourhood.

The Bookham Bowling Club has become a member club of the Community Association which is proud to welcome it under its wing. It is interesting to note that there are already historical links. The Bookham Bulletin, taken over by the B.C.A. many years ago when it was on the point of extinction, was started by the Bookhams Social Service Bureau. The Bureau also commissioned the Bowling Green on the Dorking Road Recreation (it may be surmised that the late Councillor Andrews who was a stalwart of the Bureau and also a keen bowler was instrumental in this).

Our readers may be interested in points from the original contract which is still the possession of the club. It was laid in 1933 by Mr. A. Longhurst, of Sole Cott. Clauses 2 and 3 of the contract are the "Contractor undertakes to employ up to a total of 16 men on the work, weather conditions permitting, for a working week of 3 days per man, and a working day of 8 hours per man or a total working week of 24 hours per man. The Contractor undertakes to employ men for the said works whose names appear upon the

register of the unemployed kept by the Bureau, and further undertakes to pay the said workmen at the rate of not less than one shilling per hour during their period of employ." Clause 2 of the specification provides for good clean turf obtained from the Bookham Common Outfall works to be laid. The contract, dated February 11th, stipulates completion of the work in readiness for play by June 5th of the same year—speedy work!

The Club was formally established under the Chairmanship of Mr. W. W. Leavis at the Barn Hall on October 16th, 1933, and was open to both sexes.

In 1936 a winter bowling section was formed to play in the Barn Hall and, if satisfactory arrangements can be made, it is hoped to revive this.

Mr. S. Fortescue has presented a trophy for a pairs competition to take place on Bank Holiday, May 26th—Fortescue Trophy Day. The season has started with a full fixture list but new members will be welcomed at any time and will then be able to play any day and all day until October. The Club is only too happy to teach non-players.

C.F.

Howard of Effingham Sweeps the board in Gymnastics. The County Schools Competitions in Gymnastics were played off in February and the girls of the Howard of Effingham School scored outstanding successes.

In the preliminary rounds there were about 200 competitors, representing about 30 schools. Individual results, out of 40 finalists, were 1st Elaine Allen, 3rd Pauline Easton, 17th Sally Powell, 22nd Jennifer Higgs.

A list of the school placings indicates the strength of the opposition faced by our local school:

- 1st—Howard of Effingham
- 2nd—DeBurgh
- 3rd—Warlingham
- 4th—Bishop Simpson
- 5th—Nork Park
- 6th—Norbury Manor
- 7th—Hinchley Wood
- 8th—Rowan
- 9th—Tolworth

At a still higher level the London and S.E. Counties Competition in Beam, Vault and Floorwork took place at Croydon. In Bars, out of 16 final competitors, E. Allen came 1st and S. Powell 4th. In Beam E. Allen came 1st and S. Powell 5th. The Vaulting and Floorwork Competition took place at Lewisham Sports Centre and E. Allen came 1st. Pauline Easton 3rd.

The village should be proud of such an achievement. We extend our congratulations to the girls and the school.

Further Light on Old Bookham. Hidden in the archives of the Surrey Record Office at County Hall are documents from which scholars could furnish us with the most interesting narratives of our forebears and their villages. Landmarks, alas, may quickly disappear, but, with the aid of what may seem musty papers, we can trace the skeleton beneath the sometimes discordant superstructure.

Only recently one of the latest Chertsea Abbey deeds known to survive has been acquired by County Hall. It is dated 1530 and is a 21 year lease from John Abbot of Chertsea, to Robert and William Alforde of the rectory of Great Bookham, to run from the

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feast of St. John the Baptist, 1534.

More relevant of our times, deeds relating to the Corner House, now occupied by Porter and Smart, have been deposited with County Hall. The deeds include a half acre of land, called Stivers, on West Down. They go back to 1673 when Matthew Carleton, a London merchant was interested in the property which is known to have existed in 1550, when Henry VIII was the reigning monarch. By 1682 the house had become an inn, the King's Arms, and later the King's Head. It is thought that during the 18th century it was for some years a butcher's premises and slaughter house, but by 1831 it had again become a private residence.

The last we know of it is that some 80 years ago a shop front (not the present one) was constructed on the open land around it. It was a bakery for some time and then passed to the Cordingly family for an ironmonger's busi-

ness. Mrs. Edith White, one of the daughters, spent her girlhood there and remembers well the old rafters and old nooks and corners, some of which are, fortunately, still preserved. Long may it be so!

Bookham Young People Travel Fast and Far. So many Bookham young people have gone out to Canada that we have almost lost count of them. Just over a year ago Mr. Colin Smith, of Little Bookham, having completed his Degree in accountancy and economics, left for Toronto. He was followed shortly afterwards by Mr. Peter Waldock, a graduate in economics and geography of Keele University. Within a few weeks they were joined by Mr. Peter Byrom, of Tudor Close, a student of architecture who opted to take his year of extra-mural practical work in Canada.

Meanwhile Mr. Jim Cromarty, of Kennel Lane, also an economics graduate and a fellow student of Colin and Peter

Waldock at the Glyn Grammar School, took a round-the-world trip on tramp steamers to Vancouver and hopes soon to join the little colony in Toronto. The group was enlarged by a chance meeting and a renewal of links with two young ladies who have been some two years in Canada—Miss L. Rawlins, of Mead Crescent, who works for C.B.C. (Television) Toronto and Miss Jill Savage, of Lower Rd., who is in C.B.C. (Sound) Toronto.

Nothing, however, remains static for long. Mr. P. Byrom is now back home to carry on with his academic studies at the Kingston College of Technology. Mr. C. Smith is in Montreal where he has joined the internationally famous accountancy firm of Price Waterhouse.

In July Mrs. Clack and Mrs. Trust are flying to Toronto to spend a holiday with their daughters who have been out there for nearly a year. Linda is continuing her hairdressing career and Christine is in insurance. They keep in touch with Val Wreford, of Woodlands Rd., who is now married.

We hear that Mr. and Mrs. LeNobel, who recently left Bookham, were pleased to have a visit from their son, Peter, and his wife, whom he married in Toronto, where they have made their home.

The married daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, of Ravleish House, are happily settled in Australia and write home frequently. Christine, who is married to an industrial chemist and lives in Bunbury, W. Australia, teaches Science to the upper forms at the High School. At Brisbane, 2,000 miles away, Pauline is fully occu-

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pied with her baby daughter. Last year the sisters had the opportunity to meet when Christine flew to Brisbane, after attending the wedding of her brother-in-law en route.

Mr. Malcolm Bristow, who is in Melbourne, has just become engaged.

Miss Paula Absolom, after two years in Australia, returned home at Christmas.

The University of Braunschweig, Germany, will be the home for two years of Mr. Richard Dunmur, of Dowlans Close. Having completed his Degree in chemistry at the Loughborough University of Technology, he and three fellow students were invited by their tutor to return with him to Germany to do research on a project leading to a Ph.D.

A Ladies' Bridge Club, to play on Monday afternoon, has been formed, as a club of the Community Association. Inquiries to Mrs. Fell, Byron House, Church Road. Tel.: 5892.

A Presentation to Mrs. E. Longhurst of a standard lamp was made at its Council Meeting in March to mark the B.C.A. appreciation of the long and devoted service she has given, with her husband, as caretaker of the Barn Hall. She has done far more than could be expected of her. We are glad to know that she will continue to take a practical interest in our activities.

An International Event. Mr. George Brion is a member of the British Rifle Team which is going to Canada at the end of July. This is not the first time he has had this high distinction. He was in the Team which visited Canada in 1960. The annual event is held in

different countries. He has been with the team in Australia and New Zealand, and also in Norway.

Mr. Brion is a Vice-President of the Bookham Rifle Club and gave enthusiastic support to its foundation and growth. He was also a pioneer member of the Community Association when it was hoped that the Club's Range would be incorporated in a Community Centre campus. This was not to be; but the Rifle Club has remained an affiliated club of the B.C.A. ever since.

The Stoolball Club season is well under way. At their annual dinner and dance the premier award was again made to Angela Chitty for the highest average runs.

Following a Prince. Congratulations to Mr. Richard Brackenbury, son of Councillor and Mrs. Brackenbury, who has obtained entry to Trinity College, Cambridge, where the Prince of Wales was a recent student. He will go up in October on what is anticipated to be a 5 year course in Architecture. He was a pupil at St. Peter's School, Leatherhead, and Wimbledon College.

Guildford Festival Poetry Prize was one of the major events of a full programme arranged by the Surrey University Union in March. Mrs. E. Harrison was on the panel of adjudicators, with Mr. A. Gronow, Surrey County Inspector for English, and the poet, Brian Patten. The Prize was sponsored by the Guildford & District Co-operative Society, of which Mrs. Harrison is a director and chairman of its Education Committee. The competition was organised by the University of Surrey Union in co-operation with the Surrey Education Committee.

and open to all students over the age of 16 at schools, colleges and universities in Surrey as well as post-graduates.

"Richard III" at Polesden Lacey. Advance bookings will start on 1st May (10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday) at 99 The Street, Little Bookham. Tel: 2241, the home of Mrs. B. Oldershaw.

A fine cast has been chosen and an exciting set is in construction. There will be evening performances on 16th, 17th, 18th July at 7.30 p.m. In response to many requests, a change has been made in the Saturday timings. There will be no afternoon matinee. The first performance will be at 5.30 p.m., and there will be "a midnight matinee" starting at 10.30.

Betchworth Triumph for Dramatic Society was to secure second place in the British Drama League Festival. They will go forward with the three other Surrey winners to the Divisional contest at Croydon which also covers Kent and Sussex.

We shall be able to see the play at our Village Festival in June. It is 'The Fish', by Yves Cabrol, produced by Mrs. J. Ackroyd.

A Young Musician of Promise. We have previously recorded in our columns the progress made at the Royal College of Music by Mr. John Pullen, youngest member of a well-known local family, members of whom have been talented amateur musicians. John is now becoming known as an instrumentalist of great talent on the oboe and recorder. He is playing in many concerts and has performed on a number of occasions in the Purcell Room at the Festival Hall.

(continued p. 18)

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We shall have an opportunity to hear him in the Noneseuch Ensemble he has helped to establish which will be playing during the Village Festival on June 20th. This group of harpsichord, oboe, flute, viola, will concentrate on eighteenth century music—graceful, rhythmical and delicate compositions, devised mainly for festive occasions in the great houses of that period. The setting of the Barn Hall should add to the pleasure of listening to playing which a music critic has recently described as “in no significant way short of virtuosic.”

The programme will include modern music composed to demonstrate the subtlety and versatility of instruments of ancient lineage which have great potential for today.

Author and Broadcaster, John Lambert, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Lambert, of Hale Pit Rd., has had a second book published, entitled ‘Britain in a Federal Europe’. He is a strong supporter of Britain’s entry into the Common Market, and is an expert on international affairs. He is on the staff of Agenon. If you wonder, as we did, what this means—here is the answer. Agenon is the mythical father of Europa.

21 years’ old Christopher Holmes, of Keswick Road, can be seen from time to time on your television screen. He is a member of the Farnham Repertory Company, having already had a useful year’s experience with the well-known Oldham Rep. The Farnham Castle Theatre stands high in local esteem and is a good jumping off ground for a young actor whose sights are set on the Royal

Shakespeare Company.

A Theatre Trip. A number of successful coach parties to theatres etc., have been arranged by the Community Association. In response to requests from members it has been decided to start a Theatre Club which will operate from September next. It will be for members of the B.C.A. and a charge of 2/6 will be made to cover postage costs. Enrolments will be taken on Village Day but members wishing to join now should pay their subscription to Mrs. D. Cuddeford or Mrs. M. Everett. Concerts and other entertainments will also be included.

The B.C.A. Youth Club Closes. Now that the new Youth Centre offers such fine facilities it is no longer necessary to provide for the under-twenties at the Barn Hall. For many years, going back to the Grove Youth Club, the Community Association has tried to give a meeting place for young people. The Bookham Youth Club was officially opened 8 years ago, with Miss A. Harrison as secretary and Mr. A. Begbie as leader. Shortly afterwards the leadership passed to Mr. and Mrs. Strudwick and, when they retired, volunteers manned it.

Tribute should be paid to Mr. R. Batts (Treasurer), Mr. J. Stemp (who took over the chairmanship from Mrs. E. Harrison 3 years ago), Mr. R. Snow, Mr. Margetts, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Perry and the small band of ladies running the canteen. Helpers have come and gone—youth work is a demanding service. The Community Association offers its thanks to those who have stayed with the Club all through and to those who have had to give up. Without them

the B.C.A. policy could not have been carried out of catering for youth until the time when official premises were built.

Triumph for local W.I. Choir. The Bookham (including Afternoon and Evening), Fetcham and Oxshott W.I. Choir has won the Regional Round in the operetta “The Brilliant and the Dark,” composed for the W.I. Festival by Malcolm Williamson on a poem by Ursula Vaughan-Williams. They will sing at the national performance at the Albert Hall on June 4th. Congratulations to all and to the conductor, Mrs. C. Garratt, who is a member of our Afternoon W.I. Congratulations, also, to Mrs. M. Would, also of the Afternoon W.I., who has won through the county and regional round for soloists, finally the national round, and will have a solo part at the Albert Hall.

OBITUARY

Mrs. L. Bowen. The 46 years of service given to Bookham by Mrs. L. Bowen, who died in December, cover a period in which the neighbourhood has grown so rapidly that we have almost forgotten that it was once a small and almost self-contained unit. Mrs. Bowen will be numbered amongst those who have helped to forge the link between the old and the new.

We remember her long connection with the St. Nicolas Parochial Church Council and her chairmanship of its entertainments committee, which benefited from her knowledge of music and her versatility as a pianist. The monthly lectures she arranged on literary and other topics were a highlight in the local calendar of events.

In 1939 she joined the W.V.S.

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and was Billeting Officer for Bookham, ran the evacuees canteen, and later the Canadian Soldiers' canteen at the Barn Hall. Following this, she administered the Hall, in a voluntary capacity, for the L.U.D.C. until it was taken over as a Centre by the Community Association in 1942.

She assisted in fund-raising for the building of the Little Bookham Hall, was a founder member of the Bookham W.I., and its Secretary for 10 years.

Three years after moving to Bookham she joined the local Conservative Association. For 16 years she was Treasurer and only retired in March, 1967.

Her energy was colossal and her spirit undaunted to the end—it is significant that it is only six months ago that she resigned as the W.V.S. clothing officer.

Her fine record in public work was matched by her devotion to her family. She leaves a husband who has also given great service to the village, a daughter, Mrs. Maisie Skinner, well known in the neighbourhood, and two grandchildren with whom she had close links.

Mrs. Anne Bailey died on February 22nd. The comfort and reassurance she gave to patients who attended the radiography unit at Leatherhead Hospital, where she had worked for over 8 years, will long be remembered.

She was active in many village groups, but her main interest was the Afternoon W.I., where she had been secretary of the Drama Section, leader of the Produce Guild, and finally Vice-President while still continuing to act as a sick visitor. The warmth of her personality was felt by all who

came in contact with her. In her memory the Afternoon W.I. organised 'A Friends of Anne Bailey Fund' from which equipment will be donated to the X-Ray Unit at the Leatherhead Hospital where she had done such worthwhile work.

MRS. DORIS STREET died suddenly on Boxing Day. She had moved from Bookham to Tadworth some years ago, on the death of her husband, so that she could be with her daughter and grandchildren for whom she had great affection.

The name of Frank Street is commemorated at the Barn Hall in a plaque on the Chairman's chair. Like him, she was a founder-member of the Community Association and an enthusiastic supporter. As a member of the Women's Committee, she helped run the monthly socials which were a feature of those early days.

She was always ready to give a hand in the kitchen, and this was a labour of love in the dilapidated premises at the rear of the hall. She helped in the formation of the Over Sixties Club over 18 years ago, at a time when there was no provision for the social needs of the elderly in Bookham and the Community Association decided that this was a duty they should undertake. She was also a founder member of the Old Tyme Dance Club which has the distinction of being our first club to be formed.

With her husband she was closely associated with the Bookham Ward Labour Party, and many of its meetings were at their home. She was also an active member of the Co-operative Women's Guild which has since gone out of existence.

Her interest in Bookham never lapsed and it is fitting that she should now rest in the graveyard of St. Nicolas Church.

Mr. J. Hilder, O.B.E., had been in failing health before his death in December. His wife, who survives him, continues to reside in their home in the Lower Road, and we offer her our deep sympathies.

They came to Bookham 14 years ago, and shortly afterwards joined the Old Tyme Dance Club where they made many friends. He was Secretary for quite a number of years and afterwards he, partnered by his wife, became demonstrator.

He received the award of O.B.E. when he retired from the War Office six years ago.

His keenness, perseverance and attention to detail made him a good administrator. His courtesy and quiet manner earned him the respect and affection of those who met him.

Mrs. P. Wall, who died at the end of the year, was also one of Bookham's older residents. She settled here in 1924 and occupied the first house to be built in Downsway. Originally a member of the Mothers' Union, she transferred to the Afternoon W.I., whose meetings she enjoyed and attended regularly.

She was always prepared to give service in a quiet way, and much of her work was only known to a few. During the War she was a collector for the local Savings Group and a volunteer fire-watcher. It was typical of her willingness to help that, when the Bulletin distributor for her road resigned, she took on the task without hesitation.

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