

THE  
**BOOKHAMS BULLETIN**

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 5.

SEPTEMBER, 1934.

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## *Better Late than Never!*

Like most proverbs, this one is not always true. One can recall many things that have happened late, but which it would have been far better had they never happened at all. However, it is hoped that all will agree that in the case of this late issue of the "Bulletin" (which should have been published last month), the saying "Better late than never" does definitely apply.

The continuation of this journal has been made possible by the helpful support of the advertisers. But advertisers are business men, not philanthropic institutions, and not unnaturally look for some return for their expenditure. If, therefore, you value the "Bulletin" ever so slightly, and wish to see it continued, you should study the advertisements, and as far as possible give the advertisers your support. And if, as a result of reading this paper, you decide to deal with any particular advertiser, **tell him you saw his advertisement in the "Bulletin"!!** In this way you will also help the Bureau.

In this issue will be found the first of a series of articles which it is proposed to publish, showing the distress which is even now to be found in our village. The object of these articles is not to wring our readers' heart-strings—we are more interested in their purse-strings—but just to indicate how poverty (frequently bravely hidden) and comparative plenty can be found here side by side; and it is mainly to help cases such as those which will be described that the Bureau exists. A Health Visitor, speaking recently of the pluck and patience and endurance shown by many mothers in almost incredibly distressing circumstances, remarked: "It makes me proud to be an Englishwoman; but it does not make me proud of England." The aim of the Social Service Bureau is to work in such a way that if a record of its activities were shown to this lady, she would remark: "I feel prouder of England now."

C.H.

## *The Camp Fire Girls.*

Within the last year a considerable development has taken place in Youth work at the Congregational Church, and one very interesting and successful branch of this work is in connection with the Camp Fire Girls' Group.

A year ago this Group was founded, with Mrs. Hawken as Guardian. It has proved very attractive to the girls, and a very keen Group has been gathered.

The Camp Fire Movement came from America, where it had secured a great hold on young girlhood. Something of the idea of it can be gathered from the slogan which everywhere the girls sing: "Wo-He-Lo," *i.e.*, "Work, Health, Love." In the Camp Fire Monthly Journal this brief description is published: "The name 'Camp Fire' tells its tale of the out-of-door life; it also pictures the hearth as the centre of the home. Fire has always been the centre of family and social life, as well as the meeting-place of the clan. Something in the warmth and comfort of a fire brings the feeling for home, even in the remotest places."

The Group meets every Tuesday evening; and Nature-Craft and House-Craft are worked out in a carefully planned and varied programme week by week. As in the Guides, there are various tests to be passed, and "ranks" to be won. A relief to the more serious work of the evening is generally given by a period of country dancing.

This autumn the Junior Section of the Camp Fire Girls has been added. It takes in girls up to eleven years of age, and, as with the Senior Section, is under the control of Mrs. Hawken, the Guardian; but the work is actually done by some of the senior girls of the Camp Fire, who find real joy in helping and guiding their younger sisters.

It only remains to be said that around this work there is a very definite religious atmosphere, and in the hearts of those who lead there is the one aim and desire that our girls should go out into the world equipped with the sure strength of a sound Christian character.

W.L.T.M.

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## Some Local History.

### *Polesden Lacy and its Surroundings.*

In this delightful corner one can go (in a flight of imagination) back to the beginning of time; for all around one are the hunting grounds of the neolithic tribes, dating back centuries before the dawn of the Christian era. One can follow the flight of the Roman Eagles over hill and dale, or walk in the footsteps of the Roman Legions of nineteen centuries ago. One can see the fields they tilled, or the roads they made, and stand in woods that were mere spinneys when the Tudors came.

Polesden was included in the Manor of Great Bookham. After the suppression of Chertsey Abbey, it was granted by Edward VI. to the Castletons, who held it until 1630, when it passed to the Rons family. Elizabeth Rons (afterwards Elizabeth Harris) sold it to A. Moore, Esq., in 1720. From the Moores it was conveyed, in 1747, to Captain, afterwards Admiral, Sir Francis Geary, Bart., whose son and successor sold it to Richard Brinsley Sheridan. (The great dramatist and wit resided here until his death in 1816. Richard Brinsley Sheridan at this period was also the owner of the Drury Lane Theatre, and it is related that on the night of February 24th, 1809, this building, with others adjacent, caught fire, and was completely destroyed. While the theatre was ablaze, Sheridan was found by his friends in a nearby tavern, calmly sipping a glass of port. In reply to their exclamations of surprise at his indifference, he made the witty retort: "Surely a man may drink a glass of wine BY HIS OWN FIRESIDE.")

Two years later the old mansion was purchased by Joseph Bonsor, who caused it to be demolished, and the present building to be erected for him by Messrs. Cubitt (A.D. 1824). He enlarged the estate by successive purchases. His son, about 1850, disposed of it to Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., and it is now in the possession of the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville, a well-known society hostess and friend of our Royal Family.

Separate and apart from Polesden were the Manorial Rights and Heritages of Polesden Lacy. These were held by the Stydolf family, an offshoot of the famous Kentish family of "Stydolf Place," Kent. They were also the owners of Norbury Park, and held it for many generations. Sir Francis Stydolf, in 1734, disposed of the Polesden Lacy Manor to the Edwins, the last of whom bequeathed it to his

nephew, Charles Windham, in 1756. It was later sold to Admiral S. F. Geary of Polesden in Bookham (1784), and with that estate it passed to Mr. Bonsor. From that time these Manorial Rights were merged into one, and the whole became known as Polesden Lacy.

The Helm and Knights banner of Sir Francis Stydolf may be seen hanging over the Chancel arch in Mickleham Church; tombs and monuments of this ancient family may also be seen there.

Close by is Blagden Farm. A considerable number of Roman coins have been found here, as well as many specimens of Stone Age weapons. It is presumed by some historians that somewhere close by there stood in Roman times, a Guard House, or Troop Station, to protect the Romans' western flank from the inroads of our fighting ancestors, while building their road across Mickleham.

Nearer Bookham, we find Phenice or Venice Farm, apparently a strange corruption of the ancient name of Vines Farm.

Some parts of this are very ancient, and still retain their old character. Its chief claim to fame is the fact that General D'Arblay, one of the French Royalist refugees (who later became the husband of Fanny Burney, the novelist), lived here for a considerable time, before their marriage at Mickleham Church on July 28th, 1793.

They spent their honeymoon here, and were so delighted with its surroundings that they stayed on until they could find a cottage in Bookham Village.

"Ho! Norbury's banks are fresh and fair,  
And Polesden woods are green;  
For garlands can be gathered there  
Fit for any Summer Queen."

G. W. RUMGARY.

### *The "Good Companions" Club.*

The Club started the autumn session on Thursday, 4th October, with a Social for members and friends, at which there was an attendance of fifty.

The interest of members and helpers is keen, and we look forward with hope and confidence to an enjoyable and profitable session.

Mrs. Stanley Russell has kindly accepted the office of Chairman, and very keenly desires the continued success of the Club; she is supported by a Committee of ladies and the Rev. W. L. T. Merson and Mr. Hall of the Brotherhood.

The Club will meet on Thursdays for handicrafts, games, music, etc., and it is hoped to devote another weekly evening to gymnastics and band practice.

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## *This Happened in Bookham!*

"It makes me laugh, to think how we live on nothing." These words were actually spoken to Miss Gilham (an officer of the Bureau), who was visiting a sick woman in Bookham; and enquiry as to the financial position of the family showed that they were almost literally "living on nothing." In normal times they struggled on without complaint; then sickness came, and it "made her laugh"! Hollow, mirthless laughter, probably: but it needs courage to laugh at all in these circumstances.

The Bureau has never used the columns of the "Bulletin" to appeal for money. It is not its policy to compete with charitable institutions, either local or national. Whenever possible the Bureau tries to put anyone needing help into touch with the organisation best fitted to give it; but there are many cases which cannot be passed on in this manner. Sometimes the help needed is that little additional comfort which means so much in cases of sickness—often it must be given at once if it is to be really helpful. Sometimes the Bureau has to supplement help given from other sources. Certainly no-one starves in Bookham—the Relieving Officer sees to that—but there are many cases where our neighbours go short even of the necessities of life. In the first fifteen days of September there were seven cases of distress reported to the Bureau, and all of them, except one, were found on investigation to be really genuine.

There is no space to give details of these cases, and of what was done to assist them. Even if there were, respect for the feelings of those we helped would forbid it. But those who are sceptical of the need for Social Service should have a chat with Miss Gilham (at Mrs. Cordingley's, Church Road), or Miss Thompson, "Two Oaks," The Park, who would give facts which would surely convince them.

Last year the Bureau spent £20 in assistance of the nature mentioned above. This money was raised by private efforts without any public appeal. But now funds are exhausted. The winter is beginning, and you are asked to help

the Bureau to help others. Not a penny will be spent on administration—it will all go to help someone in trouble. So next time you pass Messrs. Jackson's shop in the High Street, will you drop a few coppers in the box outside marked "The Bookhams Bulletin"; or, better still, send a donation, however small, to Mr. Groom, the Treasurer, at "Wych Wood," Sole Farm Road, or to either of the ladies mentioned above.

The Bureau is particularly anxious to revive its "Milk Fund," out of which milk is provided for nursing or expectant mothers, and weak or under-nourished children. Half-a-crown provides milk for a month for a child. Would you pay 2/6 to save a child's life? Of course you would: and here is a way in which you may be able to do it. "Inasmuch as . . ."

### COULD YOU LIVE ON THIS?

The week's budget of one of the recent cases assisted by the Bureau:—

Wages	...	26/- per week.
Rent	...	10/- per week.

Balance ... 16/- for food, clothing, firing, light, etc., for a family of two adults and two children.

Gifts of cash, coal, clothing (new or part-worn), boots and shoes are needed. Please bear this in mind when you are "turning out" your cupboards to make room for your new winter outfit!

C.E.

## *The Car Rota.*

We shall be glad of offers from car owners willing to be called on as required for taking necessitous emergency cases to hospital, etc. Several of those on the rota have left Bookham, and it is necessary to have new names to fill the gaps.

## *Scouts and Guides.*

Two Dances are being held in aid of the Scouts' and Guides' Funds. Make a note of the dates—Friday, November 2nd, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, November 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.—and then see one of the officers about your ticket.

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# DON'T FORGET !!

## REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

### Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

### Mondays—

Women's Thrift Club.

Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).

Women's Fellowship, 2.30 p.m. (Church House).

Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).

Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Junior Club, 7 p.m. (Church House).

Boys' Brigade, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Boys' Club, 7 p.m. (Congregational Church).

Girls' Friendly Society and Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m. (Congregational Church).

Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

### Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Blue Birds, 6 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Camp Fire Girls, 7.15 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

### Wednesdays—

Children's Guild, 7 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).

Choir Practice, 7.45 p.m. (Congregational Church).

Orchestra Practice, 8.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

### Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).

Choir Practice, 8 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Scouts, 8 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

### Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Scouts' Headquarters).

Christian Endeavour, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Mixed Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

**Will Secretaries please notify any additions or alterations for inclusion in the next issue.**

## OTHER EVENTS.

### October.

Wednesday, 3rd, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society; Conversazione (Church House).

Thursday, 4th, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 10th, at 7 p.m. "Life Boys" Parents' Night (Baptist Hall).

Friday, 12th, at 7 p.m. Christian Endeavour, Annual Meeting (Baptist Hall).

Tuesday, 16th. Whist Drive, Ratepayers' Association (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 17th, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society Lantern Lecture, "Adventures in Africa" (Church House).

Wednesday, 24th, at 7 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope (Congregational Church).

Thursday, 25th. Women's Institute (Church House).

Friday, 26th, at 8 p.m. Kodak Fellowship Lantern Lecture by C. L. Clarke, Esq.; open to all (Congregational Church).

Sunday, 28th. Choir Festival (Congregational Church).

Wednesday, 31st, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).

### November.

Thursday, 1st, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Friday, 2nd, at 8 p.m. Scouts' and Guides' Dance.

Saturday, 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. Scouts' and Guides' Dance.

Saturday, 3rd, at 6.30 p.m. Concert at Baptist Hall (free).

Thursday, 8th, at 7.30 p.m. Girls' Life Brigade Display (Baptist Hall).

Saturday, 10th, at 3 p.m. Planting of Trees and Short Service (Congregational Church).

Wednesday, 14th, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society Lantern Lecture, on "Sicily" (Church House).

Tuesday, 20th. Whist Drive, Ratepayers' Association (Barn Hall).

Wednesday, 28th, at 7 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope (Congregational Church).

Wednesday, 28th, at 8 p.m. Camp Fire Girls' Concert (Congregational Church).

Wednesday, 28th, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society. A Comedy, "Caste" (Church House).

Thursday, 29th. Women's Institute (Church House).

### December.

Wednesday, 5th, at 3 p.m. Missionary Sale of Work (Baptist Hall).

Thursday, 6th, at 3 p.m. Epsom Division Constitutional Association, Women's Branch (Barn Hall).

Saturday, 8th, at 7.30 p.m. Concert by Southfields Baptist Church Choir (Congregational Church).

Wednesday, 12th, at 8.15 p.m. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society Lecture on "Birds" (Church House).

Thursday, 20th. Christmas Whist Drive, Ratepayers' Association (Barn Hall).

Thursday, 27th. Women's Institute (Church House).

**The Secretary of the Bureau, whose address is "Two Oaks," The Park, will be pleased to furnish information regarding any of the Organisations mentioned in this Calendar.**

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