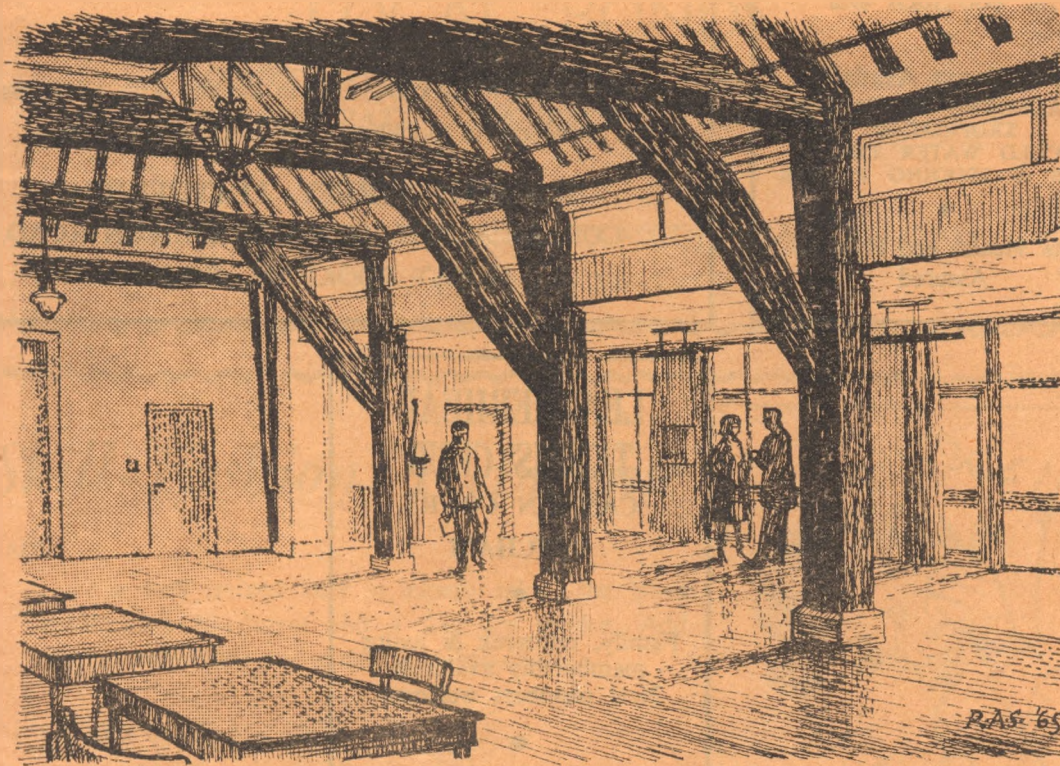


The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 135

March 1968

34th Year

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The Bookhams Bulletin

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No. 135

March 1968

34th Year

EDITORIAL

Readers of the Bulletin will be aware that appeals frequently appear in our columns for assistance in the numerous voluntary projects which go on in the neighbourhood. It may be that repetition dulls the edge of urgency but one of the objects of the journal is to bring to your notice the considerable amount of work done within our own boundaries for those in need of help or advice and also the real effort being made to extend facilities for leisure time activities for those who do not wish, or are not able, to travel far afield to enjoy them. There still remains much to be done if Bookham is to continue to be the friendly and welcoming community for which it has a reputation. If you think this policy is wrong, please write and tell us so. If you feel you can help even in a small way, please get in touch with us.

We try, within our limited space, to inform you of groups and societies already catering for a variety of interests and hobbies. The addresses of their secretaries

can be found on page 22. We are always glad to hear of new enterprises and to give them publicity. We are told that news of people is of special interest to our readers and this could be extended with your co-operation.

So much for the purpose of the Bulletin which has kept it going for 34 years. The question remains—are we wasting our time in putting so much effort into it? Only you can give the answer. It would be helpful if this was in a tangible form. Here are some suggestions.

Apart from the public-spirited individuals who produce and distribute it, the local traders, who advertise and so provide the bulk of the necessary revenue, make a great contribution. They merit support and it is hoped that you will patronise them. The Community Association is finally responsible for it and makes a substantial subsidy to it. The funds of the Association are what you give us either as members or as supporters of our money-raising activities. We can only do as much as you allow us to do and we have many responsibilities.

Our subscription of 2s. 6d. is so small that some of you may think that it makes little difference whether you, as an individual, take action or not. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that it is this individual membership which is most appreciated for its psychological value in showing active workers in the Association that their endeavours have been noticed and approved.

Two shillings and sixpence is the minimum subscription. All payments over and above this are helpful. Covenanted subscriptions are specially valuable. As the Community Association is a Charity, a refund of tax at the rate of 8s. 3d. in the £ comes to the Association on all such donations. Those of you who read the Treasurer's annual report in our December issue will have noticed that covenants and tax refunds came to £83 16s. 7d., an amount greater than all our membership subscriptions, even though the number of our covenanters is small. Our Treasurer, Mr. A. G. Medway, 35 The Garstons, will be pleased to answer inquiries from interested persons.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM

Part IV

By John Harvey, F.S.A.

The ancient parish of Bookham fell into certain natural divisions, which provided the skeleton for its history. Starting at the north there was the river with the mill and the water meadows, behind which rose wooded slopes of heavy clay land continuing for over a mile. Part of the northern slopes became enclosed as time went on, trees were cleared, and a little settlement of independent farms grew up, later known as "Northend" from its position in relation to the village.

Beyond these farms south-

wards stretched, and still stretches, the wild expanse of Bookham Common, in part thickly wooded. Across it ran a valley whose small stream was dammed to form a fish-pond. Further on the enclosures began again alongside the lanes which led to the village and its hamlets, Eastwick and Preston. At the centre of the parish were church, manor house and High Street. Gates or "hatches" shut off the streets of the village from the wandering cattle on the commons, and there were also hatches where hedged lanes led off to common land. Although the gates across the roads have disappeared, several still stand on the smaller lanes leading from Bookham and Ranmore Common.

Around the houses of the village stretched the Common Arable Field, more than a square mile in extent, running up to the Polesden boundaries on the south and filling the whole width of the parish between Fetcham on the east and Effingham on the west. The open fields of these parishes carried on in one unbroken sweep along the slope of the Downs. No fences or hedges broke the rolling sea of crops except where the groups of village plots stood out like islands, or peninsulas of uncleared woodland stretched out from the waste. This ploughland was on the chalk, which provided good drainage, so that the soil never became waterlogged. For this reason no vestiges can be traced of the old individual

strips, which in the Midland counties may still be distinguished by their humped contours, showing a series of tall and narrow reversed S-curves across the pastures. These ridge-and-furrow strips were produced by constant turning with the plough from each side towards the centre of the strip to drain the soil, while turning the plough-team at each furrow's end made the curved plan.†

At the summit of the sloping field began the great beechwood from which Boc-ham, the village by the beeches, took its name. Bocwode or Southwode, stretching across the valley to the further heights of Ranmore, must always have been an inviting forest besides which to dwell, and the enterprising Saxons Poll and Baege left us their names attached to the sections of the valley, Polesdene and Bag-dene, in which they made their homes. Polesden, indeed, seems to have been a name applied to the valley as a whole.‡

†See C. E. and C. S. Orwin: *The Open Fields* (1938).

‡See *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, vol. 1 (1949), 161-164.

SUMMER SPORT

Bookham Bowling Club. Opens Saturday, April 27th, 3.15 p.m., Dorking Road Recreation Ground.

Bookham Cricket Club. Practice Match, Sunday, April 21st, 2 for 2.30 p.m., Dorking Road Recreation Ground.

Eastwick Park Cricket Club. First Match, Saturday, April

27th, 2.30 p.m., King George V Playing Fields.

Cross Daggers Cricket Club. Practice, Sunday, April 28th, 2.30 p.m., Lower Road Recreation Ground.

Bowling Club. New members of both sexes will be welcomed into this friendly club. If you are interested, even if you have not handled a wood before, do not hesitate but come along, or have a word with the secretary, Mr. C. Flowers. **Beginners' classes**, which were organised at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground on Wednesdays last year at 3 p.m., will be run again this year. This gives an opportunity to the ladies—bowls is not necessarily a game for the middle-aged. And there are surely retired gentlemen in this area who would like to start a game which

gives full scope for the development of high skills and provides opportunities for fresh air and exercise. We cannot all be golfers.

Last season the club had the satisfaction of reaching the semi-finals of the West Surrey Bowls Association Mid-Week League, something to be proud of as this was only their second try in this League.

Stoolball Club. Fifty members and friends attended the annual dinner-dance of the club in February, when the cup for the highest average individual runs in the season was presented to Mrs. Ruth Currey.

This is a club with great traditions. Each season brings a batch of cups—four last season, including the Bookham Tournament quite fierce, as those will know who attend the annual event

during Village Week at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground.

The junior team, started last year under the energetic coaching of Mrs. Petford, a P.E. teacher, won the Junior Tournament Cup at North Holmwood last season. Unfortunately, Mrs. Petford has Cup. The competition for this is left Bookham but the team will go on under the wing of Mrs. O. Stemp, chairman of the club. Interested girls, aged 12 to 17, are asked to get in touch with her or to come along to the Practice Match on April 7th. Mrs. Chitty, Fixtures Secretary, is now busy arranging fixtures for this section, Friday being the probable evening for play.

Stoolball Club. Practice Match, April 7th, Dorking Road Recreation Ground.

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welcome at the Practice Match. A lively season under the captaincy of Angela Chitty is anticipated.

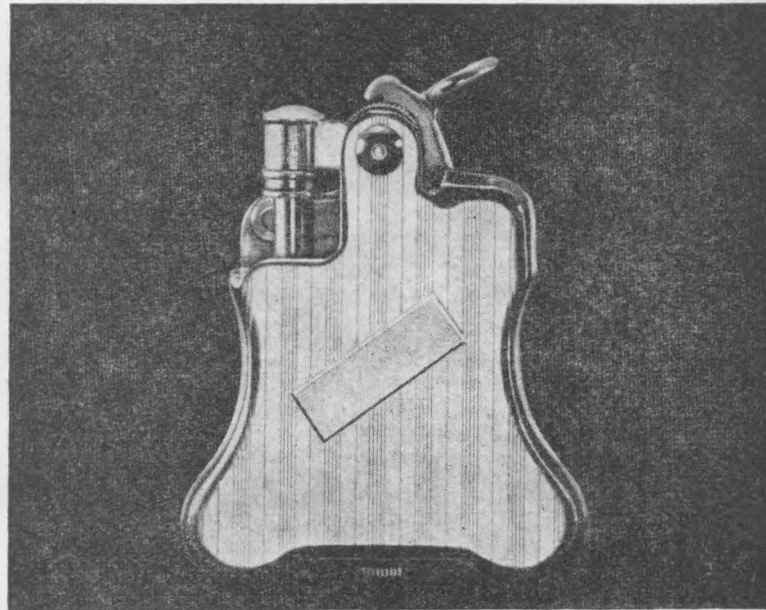
The Cross Daggers Cricket Club has lost some of its regular members through removal or retirement and is in need of new players. The secretary, Mr. R. Lovegrove, of Moat House, Eastwick Park Avenue, would be glad to give information. The Practice Match also provides another opportunity to make contact on April 28th.

A full fixture list for the season has been arranged. Many men find Sunday a more convenient day to play than Saturday and, as Cross Daggers aims to keep itself a small and friendly club, members can always be assured of a game.

Bookham Cricket Club. The Practice Match on April 21st enables interested players to make contact if they wish to join the club whose traditions go back for many years as the original village club. The first match of the season takes place the following week against Graveney.

Among the fixtures planned for the season is a repeat of the single-wicket competition held last year for the first time on Club Day. It aroused much interest. It was won by Jack Pennev, the runner-up was Dennis Lynch, and it was organised by Graham Pennev.

Eastwick Cricket Club has three elevens—two play on Saturday and one on Sunday at the King George V Playing Fields.



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It proposes to continue with its Colts Eleven which plays on a weekday evening. The Club has helped to provide good facilities on the Playing Fields and hopes to be able, in the not too distant future, to put up a practice wicket.

Bernard Aspital is now chairman after a long period of sterling service to the club as secretary. This last post has been taken over by Keith Hicks, of Eastwick Park Avenue. Dr. J. E. Morgan has consented to continue as President.

ROUND AND ABOUT

School Supporters. February 13th marked the inauguration of the new association of the Friends of the Howard of Effingham School. Many of us have looked forward to this for a long time—

indeed, ever since the original Parents' Association, to which Mr. Earle, Mrs. Reed and others gave such devoted service, faded because of lack of interest. The growing reputation of the school and the place it is destined to fill in an expanding education service means that the new association will have an impetus which the old one lacked. Local authority funds cannot supply all the equipment necessary for the new teaching methods, nor can it provide the extra amenities which add dignity to what is already a fine school building. There is no limit to the help a live organisation can give.

Local Catholics Expand Activities. Most Bookham Catholics attend the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at Effingham, and the erection of the attractive small

hall there has given an opportunity to increase social activities. The long-standing Catholic Women's League, which now meets in the evening on the third Wednesday in the month, has been extending the parties it organises for parishioners and their friends. From this has sprung a new group for Young Wives, sponsored by Mrs. Rensson.

Meanwhile, the oecumenical movement has been gathering strength. Members of the St. Lawrence Parish Church attended Mass at the Catholic Church, and on January 25th a page in history was turned when a large contingent from the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows went up the hill to the ancient church of St. Lawrence for a joint all-denominations service.

Links will be strengthened when Catholic parishioners attend the party to which they have been invited by the Rev. E. May to meet members of his own congregation, and it is anticipated that further ways will be found for bringing about closer understanding.

Key Post in Computer Development. Mr. T. A. Stones, of Barn Meadow Lane, has been appointed Manager of the Electronics Data Processing Division (Advanced Systems) of the American-based company of Honeywell. He will also control a management sciences group complementary to the industrial management organisation. Since he

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joined the company in 1965 he has had experience in sales, industrial management, and in European product and market planning. He is a physicist of Leeds University. He moved to Bookham four years ago, and for a year, until pressure on his time increased, he played for the recently formed rugby team at Effingham. He has three young children. Six-years-old Caroline, the eldest, attends the Great Bookham Infants' School.

LeNobels leave Bookham. Mr. and Mrs. W. LeNobel have left Bookham and moved to the little village of Sulhamstead, near Theale in Berkshire. They are taking charge of the Post Office and general store which, in such a small place, is the centre of local life. They will be missed in Bookham where they took an active interest in neighbourhood activities, but we are sure that they will find scope for their social gifts in their new home and we wish them success and happiness. The whole family were keen on tennis and were enthusiastic members of the former Gilmais Tennis Club. Mr. LeNobel was instrumental in finding a new centre for this club at Fetcham when Gilmais closed down.

Mrs. LeNobel will be missed by the Afternoon W.I., on whose committee she had served. Perhaps her greatest contribution was to the drama section. A presentation was made to her by the W.I. before her departure in recognition of the services she had rendered.

It will be remembered that their son, Peter, a founder member of the Bookham Dramatic Society, recently emigrated to Canada. He is stationed in Toronto where he is doing well. Just before Christmas he married a Montreal girl whom he met on his arrival in Canada. It is possible that Sue, his sister, also a talented amateur actress, will join him there.

Another Canadian settler is Peter, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Waldock, of Sole Farm Road. He is a recent graduate of Keele University in Economics and Geography and was one of a batch of Bookham young people who all entered University together and acquitted themselves well. He is working with Longmans, the well known publishing firm.

Good wishes to John Lambert who has married a Belgian girl in Brussels. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lambert, went over for the wedding and were impressed by the ceremony—their daughter-in-law is a Catholic. Reference has been made in these columns to John's interesting career. After taking his degree in P.P.E. at Corpus College, Oxford, he went over to the Continent to specialise in international affairs. He collaborated with Michael Shanks in a book on the Common Market which was unfortunately released by the publishers just as Britain's first attempt to enter the Market failed. He is a freelance journalist on European affairs. He contributes to the leading British newspapers as well as foreign periodicals,

and also to the B.B.C. and I.T.V.

A New School Manager is Mrs. A. Sansom, of Groveside. She has just been appointed to the managing body of the Bookham Schools. As the mother of 5 children, two at the Gt. Bookham School, she will make a good contribution to the deliberations of the Managers. It is most important that parents should be represented on such bodies. She also brings a lifelong interest in education. She has done a little private teaching and would have done Teacher Training but was prevented from taking up her place at a Training College by the serious illness of her mother.

Welcome to Mrs. B. T. Silvester, Headmistress of the new Eastwick County Infant's school. Prior to this appointment she was deputy Head at the Hurst Green County Primary School and has specialised in Infants' teaching. She has a modern approach and fully accepts the recommendations of Plowden. She has already met the parents, informally and formally. The school building incorporates many new features and makes a delightful setting for the more relaxed methods designed to make new entrants feel at home.

She did her training at the Maria Assumpta College, Kensington Square. She has one son aged eleven and lives at Ewell. She is interested in the Arts but her main love is Pottery which is her chief relaxation.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Monday-Saturday 9-1 and 2.30-5 p.m. Sunday 10-1 p.m.

Camera Club. Growing enthusiasm among members has encouraged the secretary to compile a programme for the season ahead concentrating, in the main, on visiting lecturers for the weekly meetings. The monthly competitions, judged by outside experts, have been popular, but it has been found that there has been some reluctance to bring along experimental work to these sessions. One of the joys of photography is to try out new techniques and new approaches and it has therefore been decided to substitute print evaluation evenings for the competitions so that members can obtain, in a more relaxed atmosphere, the opinions and advice of others on prints about which they have queries.

Bookham is one of the smallest clubs in the Surrey Federation (covering about 30 clubs) but it has raised its position in the inter-clubs knockout competitions, by reaching the third round and giving away only one point to the winner.

Bookham Dramatic Society continues its innovation of a weekly meeting for members at the Congregational Hall, a get-together which is much appreciated. It is an active and enthusiastic club and does not neglect the social side which is important especially for its younger members. It is anxious to recruit more men of the 20 to 30 age range and the secretary would welcome inquiries.

Immediately the entry in the Betchworth Drama Festival was

completed rehearsals started on the next full-length play. Patrons of the Society will like to note in their diaries the dates April 25th, 26th and 27th, when "The Whole Truth," a thriller, will be performed at Church House. This is the first time the Society has attempted a thriller and those who know the quality of the players will realise that it is something they will handle well.

The Dramatic Society's shows can be warmly recommended to anyone who likes an evening of good entertainment. Their skill in overcoming the limitation of a small stage is extraordinary, their players have the ability to exploit a comic situation to the full but are equally proficient in conveying and maintaining high dramatic tension.

Flower Arrangement Group. Mrs. S. McNaughton was elected Chairman at the A.G.M. in February. Tribute was paid to the retiring Chairman, Mrs. M. Camp, for her enthusiastic leadership and the considerable time and skill she has devoted to the group despite the many other demands upon her. Everybody was delighted that Mrs. S. McLeod consented to continue as Secretary, a position she has held since the inception of the group. There can be no doubt that the rapidly growing success of the group owes much to her efficiency and unstinted service given so cheerfully and unobtrusively.

Like so many local clubs en-

joyable social occasions, over and above the monthly meetings, are arranged, ranging from coffee mornings to continental holidays. Before the February A.G.M., for example, a cooked lunch was arranged, resulting in virtually a full attendance of members at a meeting which, in the experience of most organisations, tends to be a rather thin one.

For the benefit of ladies who might like to come along to one of the monthly meetings at the Barn Hall here are two forthcoming events of special interest: May 6th, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. E. Lamb, President of the Surrey Federation of Flower Arrangement Groups, on "Interpretative Arrangements." June 10th, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. D. Tuffin on "Colour."

Snowdrops in Remembrance. Snowdrops, planted by the Community Association in memory of the late Mr. A. Longhurst, have flowered. The first bloom opened on January 28th, the very day of his anniversary.

The daffodils on the other side of the gate are now a magnificent show and remind us of the late Mrs. N. Cox who gave such outstanding service to the B.C.A. and, through the Association, to Old People's Welfare. We recall that her memorial fund started the build-up of the money needed for the Extension which transformed the Hall as we originally knew it.

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IMPORTANT DATES

June 8th. Fete — School of Stitchery and Lace.

June 22nd. Village Day, followed by Village Week.

July 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. "Measure for Measure," — National Trust Open Air Theatre, Polesden Lacey.

OBITUARY

Danny McCormack. The sad death on January 9th of 26-years-old Danny McCormack was a heavy blow to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. McCormack, who left their home in Barn Meadow Lane just over a year ago to settle in Perth, Australia. Danny would have completed his training course at the Portsmouth College of Education by the end of the academic year, and was looking forward to starting his teaching career which had been his lifelong ambition. His 24-years-old wife, Meriel, whom he married nine months ago, is a teacher.

He died suddenly in his car by the canoe lake at Southsea. The ignition was still running when he was found. But he had always lived in the shadow of death. At the age of 10 he was found to have a hole in his heart. Despite this he was never discouraged and, although his education was interrupted, he persisted in his efforts to get into training college. He went to Ewell Technical College to obtain the necessary A levels. There he became President of the Students' Union. Principal of the College, Mr. Buchanan, says that "Danny gave much to the College and got much from

it. He lived life to the full." The Principal of the Portsmouth College of Education, Mr. Williams, confirms that he brought the same high courage and spirit to his work there. He made many friends and was completely happy in his studies and his marriage.

He was buried at Portsmouth, where his wife will continue to work. Family friends from Bookham went down to the funeral service which was attended by a host of students and lecturers.

Ada Annie Bellows was sitting in her chair at the home of her son in Ashtead when she died quite peacefully. A very short time before, she had celebrated her eightieth birthday by giving a party to the members of the B.C.A. Over Sixties' Club, of which she was a founder member. She made all the arrangements herself, including the provision of entertainment from the Ashtead Forget-me-Not Club.

She was very well known in Bookham. Her husband had started the taxi service in Bookham, now carried on by her younger son, and she had run for many years a hardware and household supplies shop in Church Road. She carried her eighty years well and right to the end she was as lively and interested in the doings of the village as when we used to chat to her over her shop counter.

Catherine Ranger, who was another familiar village personality, died in January at the advanced age of 89. Until the death of her husband, Ben, a few

months before, she had been active in local organisations and attended the meetings of the Over Sixties' Club. Then her health rapidly deteriorated and she could not leave her East Street cottage. Her neighbour, Miss Jane Lewer, herself 76, cared for her as best she could and went in several times a day to supply her simple needs.

When she came to Bookham on her marriage she joined a family which was part of old Bookham. Wherever work was to be done in the village a Ranger would be there. A generation before a Ranger had run a successful carter's business. In the days when transport was mainly by horse, Bookham had been quite a centre between London, Epsom and Guildford. Another family whose connections with this trade go back for more than a hundred years were the Poulters whose stabling by the Anchor are also a part of local history. It was a brother who started in coal distribution and the firm carried his name until the recent take-over by Charringtons. There is also mention in our archives of a George Ranger, who did the brickwork in the Barn Hall when it was converted from a cow barn to the present village centre in 1906.

One by one the old village characters pass away, and it is fitting to record in this journal the contribution they have made to the place which we now inherit.

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