February 1974 No 155 41st Year

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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

February 1974

No 155

41st Year

Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702 Distribution: G Everett. Telephone Bookham 52404 Advertisements:

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 58730

EDITORIAL

As we move into 1974, and look out over the year ahead, we will not see much in the way of silver linings to the clouds which overhang us. We are virtually submerged under a torrent of commentaries, not only from politicians, but also from experts whose specialities seem to get narrower as their numbers increase; consequently issues are confused and so-called logic finishes in a dead end. If we are really sinking into a morass, as some would claim, how do we cope with it? We may avert our eyes, or whistle to keep our spirits up, or just blame it on the other fellow, which is the most ominous escape route.

The term 'ominous' is deliberately used to indicate that we live in an increasingly materialistic world where the 'rights of man' are measured in terms of possessions; responsibility towards others goes by the board in working to this goal. How can we find the answers to our problems when we are travelling a road where the signposts all point in different directions?

We must go back again, if we are to retain hope, to the basic individual. We cannot decide the fate of nations but we can help to shape our own neighbourhood. Nothing can stop us, if we have the will to do it. This has rightly been the theme of many of the editorials in a Bulletin which speaks about the village to the village. Not all our appeals are answered but there has always been some response to requests for help or participation in the ventures we have publicised.

To list just a few of the projects on which groups are already working—to win the competition in 1974 for Surrey's best kept village. We got into the short list when we entered for the first time last year. If we start now we can succeed and the doing of it

would be a social as well as an educational exercise. First, we must get rid of litter, and the easiest way to do this is not to drop it. We were praised by the judges for our gardens. The passers-by who get pleasure from looking at them must watch their step in doing so. It would be a neighbourly act to look outside our gates and clear the footpaths of debris and fallen leaves, realising that the Council is quite unable to find the labour to do this for us. Those corners where the grass and weeds grow high by June could be cut before they begin to resemble miniature jungles. Nearby householders could band together for this purpose and finish off with a cup that cheers, of their own choosing.

There are among us those who give service to Youth and those who give service to Age. Can both get together and build bridges between the two groups? Few of us realize that there is a natural affinity between the under twenties and the over sixties. The generation gap centres round the middle-aged. The 'Oh what a lovely war' experiment has been planned to tackle this problem and deserves the support of all when the production is put on at the Barn Hall.

Fetcham Sports Centre is an ambitious and exciting proposition and deservedly takes up columns in the local papers. But what about our own playing fields? The schools and the adults of Bookham need these urgently. Let us speak with one voice on this issue to our local councillors—the need is apparent, so is its byproduct, preservation of precious open space.

Our concluding word to newcomers to Bookham as well as to older residents who remain uncommitted is to let us, the Community Association, know if there is more we can do to improve the facilities and amenities of Bookham. If this exhortation should be construed as averting our eyes from national problems, or whistling to keep our spirits up, our answer is that we are setting one signpost in the right direction. Example is infinitely more productive than words.



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A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM (copyright) by John Harvey

The high money rents paid (by tenants) have been mentioned already in previous issues of this series on the History of Bookham. They varied greatly and it is difficult to arrive at any clear picture of the value of houses and land. Normally each villein paid an annual rent and was also mulcted heavily upon inheriting, having to pay a heriot or death duty of the best beast on his land, and then a fine for admission to the tenement for his own lifetime. In addition to the heriot paid to the lord of the manor, the second-best beast had to be handed over as a mortuary due to the Rector of the parish. It has to be remembered that after 1292 the Abbot of Chertsey was both Lord and Rector of Great Bookham.

In the early 14th century the rents paid for cottages with a small plot of garden and up to one acre in the fields varied from 1s to 4s 6d, while the combined cash value of heriot and fine at each inheritance averaged about 4s 6d. Heriot and fine on a half-virgate farm (15 acres) averaged about 10s, and upon a virgate (about 30 acres) 20s, while the yearly rents might be about the same. Since heriot and fine would only be paid on the average at fairly long intervals, such as 20 years, this meant a yearly total rent of perhaps 2s 6d for a cottage, 10s 6d for a half-virgate and 21s for a virgate. These sums must be multiplied by a factor of about 120 to reach an idea of 1954 values (when this History was written), giving rentals of some £15, £65 and £130 respectively. Moderate as these rents appear in the urban Bookham of today, they are substantial for a rural community, and a great deal of ready money might have to be found to pay the fine on a large farm, as when John Leuayne succeeded his father Gilbert in 1340. On his father's two messuages, one with a virgate and the other with two acres of land, he had to pay £3 6s 8d, the equivalent of £400 in 1954.

The generation of Bookham's inhabitants born about 20 years on either side of 1300 AD is the first known to us by name. Earlier records yield a few isolated individuals, but of the householders in the second quarter of the fourteenth century it is possible to compile almost a complete directory. This is

due, in part, to the earliest taxation assessment for Surrey, that of 1332, but mainly to the survival of the very detailed registers of Abbot John de Rutherwyk of Chertsey, and especially to the abstract of Court Rolls of the Abbey Manors from 1327 to 1347, now forming Lansdowne Manuscript No 434 in the British Museum.

Rutherwyk, who had been a monk of Chertsey, became abbot in 1307 and ruled for 40 years; the period of his abbacy was one of great activity, and he not only reorganised the finances and administration of the monastic estates, but was also a great builder. From his cartulary, companion to the register of his courts, we know of many of his works, yet one of the most important is omitted, his rebuilding of the chancel of Great Bookham Church. The style of the windows would have certainly placed this within his long reign, but the exact year, 1341, is recorded by the Latin inscription in Lombardic capitals which still survives. The chancel and its dedicatory inscription together form Bookham's most impressive monument of the past, but we have bitterly to regret the loss of the whole of the original glazing, probably the finest and the most costly part of the work. Of stained glass of Rutherwyk's time in the Surrey churches which belonged to Chertsey Abbey, nothing now remains except small fragments in tracery at Horley and Thorpe.

The inscription now beneath the east window was on the north wall when recorded by Elias Ashmole at his visit to Great Bookham

Church on 15th October, 1659.

Several Vicars of Great Bookham of the time are known to us: William of Sutton in 1314; five years later William of Geddynge, at whose resignation in 1320 Geoffrey of Sutton was instituted; and in 1324 Thomas le Blount, who may have survived until the Black Death. when Richard Palmere and William of Blaston both appear in the year 1349. Thomas le Blount may have been related to Stephen le Blount, the contemporary Rector of Leatherhead, who died in April, 1340. But most of these early clergy are shadowy figures. Of Little Bookham we know only that Walter de Geddying was Rector in 1308, while William de Northstock and Henry atte Uethe succeeded in 1349: it would seem that no fewer than four priests died in Bookham during the plague year.

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At the taxation of 1332, 41 inhabitants were assessed, of whom 16 were described as villeins of the Abbot of Chertsey, and four were assessors of the tax, while of the remaining 21 Peter Leuwyn was to pay 4s 6d for 'all in his keeping', but who these might be is not clear. From the Chertsey registers many more tenants' names are forthcoming, and the total of those who were occupying land in Bookham in 1332 was at least 80, and probably considerably more when allowance has been made for those who held of the subsidiary manors of Little Bookham and Eastwick. This shows that the number of different holdings was already as large as it was in 1615, when the earliest plan of Great Bookham parish shows a total of 85 inhabited sites, inclusive of the manor-houses and vicarages; to these about 15 in Little Bookham must be added. In 1674 is the earliest precise record of householders, the Hearth Tax which shows a total of 106 in the two parishes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

'The Third Dress Show' 17 February 21 February Blood Donors Session

in the Barn Hall

Charity Bridge Challenge Cup 14 March 14, 15, 16, 17 -

Production—'Oh! What a Lovely War' May

Garden Society Show 25 May 15 June Village Day

Village Week

3-6 July Production—'Hamlet'. Polesden Lacey Open Air

Theatre

10-13 July 'Androcles & The Lion'

'Overruled'. Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre

20, 21 September Antiques Fair

ROUND AND ABOUT

The Third Dress Show is a follow-on of the two previous annual 'Dress Shows with a Difference'. On each occasion disappointed people have had to be turned away because the Hall has been full to capacity. This is a tribute to the fine organisation of the BCA's Modern Sequence and Old Time Dance Club, in cooperation with the Adult Education Institute's students in Mrs L Slark's dressmaking classes. Garments, Modelling and Compering are of professional standard, while the Barn Hall itself gives just the right setting.

'Oh! What a Lovely War', a project devised by Mrs Sylvia Dennington some months ago as an experiment to involve the whole community in a dramatic effort, is well under way. An enthusiastic committee has been formed, auditions have been held and, although casting is not yet complete and there are a few vacancies for young people interested in acting, the show will undoubtedly go on. As we go to press two volunteers are needed, one for the box office and another for wardrobe mistress. Thanks to the Guides and the junior members of the Youth Centre funds are building up. A few individuals have also made donations but more of these would be much appreciated. Sylvia Dennington, at 19 Richmond Close, would be most grateful for offers of financial support. She has undertaken a worthwhile and challenging enterprise with great courage and deserves our support. New ground is being broken and it is hoped that Bookham people will book tickets for the shows well in advance and fill the Barn Hall to capacity.

Village Day. The Community Association regards this annual event as their day of the year. Steering committees have already been set up but, although we have many willing helpers, we are always looking for more participants to make it truly a village occasion. The secretary of the BCA will be glad to hear from any person, or group, who can give a hand on the day, or before. New ideas are also welcome and he, or any member of the committee, will pass these on to the organisers.

There will, of course, be the usual Exhibition - the theme 'Bookham Past'. This will be the fourth presentation of this, but it is an evergreen subject which appeals to our newer residents as well as the older inhabitants. Every time we have staged this exhibition new light is shed on the past and new information seems to be found.

We are looking for individuals who will be willing to follow up the background to existing old houses and their inhabitants, old customs, old pastimes, or track down sites of paths or dwellings which no longer exist.

To capture the spirit of bygone times we appeal for photographs, programmes, records of the past. Old household equipment, ornaments, tools, pictures etc would be invaluable and, if loaned to us for the day would be carefully guarded and returned

promptly. Finally we would be glad to hear from anybody who can tell us about old Bookham, either from their own personal experience or from the reminiscences of relatives and friends.

Please contact Mrs E Harrison, 61 Eastwick

The Antiques Fair is not till September but its organiser, Mr Ray Wear, is already preparing. S8702) will take enquiries. Preliminary notices have gone out to papers and magazines and several dealers have booked space. Each year we gain experience and the layout for exhibitors will be improved in 1974.

Association, Mrs E Harrison 58702) will take enquiries. Polesden Lacey Open Air Tourism Productions at Polesden Lacey Open Air Tourism Productions Air Product

It should be a bumper year. Interest in, and knowledge of, antiques is spreading rapidly. Those who may not have the funds to buy property, which is considered the safest form of investment in the present economic climate, can often spare the few £s for antiques which are escalating in value, and will continue to do so because there are a strictly limited number of them. It is interesting to note that the recently disregarded Victorian and Edwardian items are now in great demand.

The BCA will, as usual, have its own stall for which even the smallest item will be welcome. Mr Wear will also be willing to visit you in your home and advise you on any article you might wish to sell on our stand on a 50/50 basis. Do not leave it to the last minute but contact him at 28 Allen Road.

Best Kept Surrey Village. As mentioned in our Editorial, we propose to enter Bookham this year in the Competition organised by the Surrey Voluntary Service Council (formerly known as the Surrey Council of Social Service). We shall also enter the Barn Hall. It must be acknowledged that we were disappointed not to win this latter section because we consider our Hall the best in Surrey; we can only surmise that the judges visited it on one of our rare off-days.

With regard to the village, we thought that our chances were indeed poor; but, to our surprise, we came on the short list, even though our drive to tidy up was a last-minute one and our spring-cleaning Sunday was one of continuous rain.

As we go to press the preliminary meeting has not been held but we are sure that help from the women's organisations, the youth groups, the Residents Association and the schools will be forthcoming, as it was last year.

It would, however, be easier for all concerned if the load were spread. Consequently we ask other organisations, individuals and neighbourhood informal groups to get in touch with us early, give us their ideas and tell us how they can cooperate.

As, at the moment, a coordinator has not been appointed, the President of the Association, Mrs E Harrison (Tel Bookham 58702) will take enquiries

Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre. The July Productions at Polesden Lacey should attract large audiences. 'Hamlet' is regarded by many Shakespeare enthusiasts as his greatest play. Miss Elsie Green, who has directed so many outstanding performances at the National Trust Open Air Theatre, was pleased with the talent she found at the December auditions and is confident that the high standards we have come to expect will be well maintained.

Bernard Shaw's two plays, 'Androcles and the Lion' and the lesser-known one, 'Overruled', are witty and amusing.

The action of 'Androcles and the Lion' is specially apt for production in an open air

arena

There must be many people in Bookham now who do not know that the Open Air Stage at Polesden was erected by the Community Association and that the BCA not only conceived the idea of dramatic performances at Polesden but also pioneered the first plays there. When the National Trust accepted full responsibility for the venture the BCA promised to supply all the help that was needed on the business and administrative side. This it has done faithfully up to date, and we are sure that it will continue to do so. As a token of this support members of the BCA serve on the Trust's Open Air Theatre Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr L A Smith, acknowledged this in a letter to our President after the 1973 production which reads: 'We have concluded another successful season at Polesden Lacey and I am writing on behalf of the National Trust to thank you and your colleagues in the Bookham Community Association for the considerable support you all give to the project each year. While the financial rewards to the Trust are not great, we do benefit in many other ways by the very high artistic standards achieved. Much of the credit must be given to your Association and the enthusiastic band of members who work so

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hard and without whom there would be no Open Air Theatre at Polesden Lacey'.

We are most gratified to receive such praise for our endeavour in a cause which is only one of the many we undertake. With the passage of time, however, our band of helpers is diminishing while the number of performances at Polesden are increasing. We need more names to add to our list. Bookham residents, and others, are invited to send in their names-stewards to Mr A Burr, the Old Rectory, Manor House Lane – usherettes to Mrs D Cuddeford, 8 Vicarage. Mr Reg Snow, who is known to so many of us, is the Business Manager, and he is working on the arrangements from one year's end to the other. He, too, would welcome offers from those who could help with poster display and distribution, transport, etc.

BREVITIES

BCA Council & Executive. Since the last issue of the Bulletin the following offices have been filled. Chairman of the Council, Mr R Catt, Vice-Chairman Mr W Rombach. Members of the Executive—Mesdames F Catt, M Emery, S McLeod. Messrs D Bruce, R Frohock,

R Snow, R Wear, R Wing, together with Mrs E Harrison, Mr L Clark, Mr A G Medway, Mr R Catt and Mr W Rombach. Queries on the work of the Association may be made to any of these individuals.

The New District Authority, the Mole Valley, will be formally inaugurated in April, but much preliminary action is being taken, so that the transition will be a smooth one. We extend our good wishes to our Bookham councillors, Mrs A Sansom, Messrs Turville Kille, Berry and Pedrick. We offer our special congratulations to Mr S J Taylor, Vice-Chairman of the new Council. We respect the conciliatory spirit he showed in standing down from the chairmanship, in favour of the Dorking member, despite the fact that the voting was equal. We are confident that his energy, intimate knowledge of the neighbourhood and progressive outlook will be of benefit to Bookham and the Leatherhead district generally.

Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association has completed its ambitious £3,000 project for a library for the Middle School. Generations of children will benefit from this worthwhile

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7 CHURCH ROAD BOOKHAM BOOKHAM 54710 amenity. Suitable fittings and appointments are gradually being added. There is a fine collection of books and the pupils are fortunate the first time on Village Day, is growing in to be able to sample them at leisure in an atmosphere which is conducive to quiet and exploratory study.

The Friends of Howard of Effingham School have organised a number of varied social events and are cooperating closely with the Headmaster and Staff in the provision of fringe amenities which the capitation allowance will not cover. Among these are -a hundred chairs for use in the Hall, materials to convert a classroom into a specialist Geography Room. Materials have also been donated to decorate and re-furnish the staff room which is very cramped and uncomfortable.

As this school is scheduled to be fully comprehensive for all the children of our neighbourhood, it is encouraging to note that parents are eager to participate to the full in raising its welfare as well as its educational

standards to the highest level.

Sufferers from Migraine will be interested to hear that the newly-formed Bookham and Effingham Branch, which had a small stall on Village Day, is growing in membership. Enquiries may be made to Mr H Wilkinson, 22 Sole Farm Road. Telephone 53740, or to Mrs E Petty, 'Woodlands', Mt. Pleasant, Effingham. Telephone 54141.

Migraine is much more prevalent than is generally known and, in severe cases, the pain is intense. Research has been continuing on an international scale for some years but much remains to be done before its treatment can be satisfactorily determined. The opening of the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic, at Charterhouse Square, London, last year has enabled the clinical observation of many patients, suffering an acute attack, to be observed and valuable scientific data is being assembled.

Sir Barnes Wallis, who has lost a complete year of his work because of migraine, strongly supports the local group. Another distinguished supporter of the cause is the celebrated authoress, Pamela Hansford Johnson, who, like her husband, C P Snow, is a broadcaster as well as a writer. Her personal experience of the distress resulting from this complaint inspired her to cooperate in the foundation of the British Migraine Association, of which she is President.

The Lions, the new locally based branch of a noted national charity, who also helped us for strength. Their first combined public effort was at Christmas when, as a result of the boxes positioned by them in the village shops, they were able to make up and personally distribute attractive gift parcels for old people.

The Blood Donors Service operated so successfully in the Barn Hall last year that dates have again been booked for 1974. We are pleased at the increase of welfare facilities which our extended Hall now makes available. The numbers attending the Over Sixties Club and the Day Centre are increasing and the old people show their appreciation of the pleasant surroundings by participating enthusiastically in all our money-raising efforts.

The warm friendliness of the baby clinic is increased by the participation of those of our lady members who serve refreshments under the leadership of Mrs Vi Taylor while Mrs Renee Rombach has taken over the weighing duties.

Finally we are pleased to report that the ear testing clinic for children from twelve months, another service of the County Council, has also made its headquarters for the district at the Barn Hall.

This is all in line with our basic policy as a community association to make our Centre an

attractive focal point for the village.

Perhaps this is when we again remind our readers that our Building Fund is still very much open. Our volunteer workers are telling us that improvements are needed. Both the kitchens require a facelift and better equipment. The gentlemen's cloakroom disappeared from the original plans for cost reasons, but is on our future list. The re-tiling of the roof has to be paid for and a box is now in the Hall entrance in which well-wishers can deposit trading stamps and cigarette coupons which we can turn into hard cash. Those of you who may not yet have made donations are reminded that any contribution will be welcomed by the Treasurer and will be duly noted in the pages of The Bulletin as a permanent record of the magnificent effort of Bookham in building and equipping a Barn Hall, with its ancillary rooms which we can take pride in handing on to the generations which follow us.

Any Questions? We were fortunate in having



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such a stimulating panel of speakers and such a lively audience. Bookham, and the Community time. A second daughter, Amanda Jane, has Association in particular, can take pride in the fact that the picture of our neighbourhood, as seen from the pages of the Bulletin, was such that the BBC producer of the programme judged Edith Probert. The objury of the late Edith us worth a visit.

Keswick House. We extend a warm welcome to Matron, her Staff and the residents of this new Home for the Elderly. Already the atmosphere of the house is warm, reassuring and relaxed. The dining and reception rooms are colourful and well appointed. The bedrooms, most of them single ones, are furnished with charm

and dignity.

We were pleased to hear that contact has already been established with the neighbouring Youth Centre. Many of the residents, together with members of the BCA Over Sixties Club and girls from the Grange, attended a Christmas evening of entertainment and refreshments provided by the young people. Meanwhile some of the older members of the Youth Centre took the paper chains, which had been made in their sponsored event to raise money for 'Oh! What a Lovely War', and decorated Keswick House.

Beauty Inside and Out. In the Spring of 1973, Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club decided to offer a tree or shrub for the Barn Hall Grounds. As we already have almost too many trees around and the only bed was pretty full up, the sole solution was a climber for the Barn Hall walls.

This, in turn, presented problems since two sites had previously been reserved and the remaining suitable one was in a corner facing north-east and getting no direct sunlight. However, expert advice suggested a Cotoneaster. after a very short period, had to go to Messrs Hilliers, of Winchester, produced the answer in the shape of C.lacteus. This, when mature, has large, oval, leathery leaves, grey beneath, and it is an evergreen; it carries clusters of small red berries which should remain on into the new year. It is now planted and, cars permitting, should grow well.

Grandparents for the Second Time. Iris and Bob Marshall, who is a Vice President of the BCA, are well known in Bookham for their helpfulness in village events. Even though it is now some time since they moved to Weybridge we still see a lot of them.

They are proud grandparents for the second been born to their younger son, Brian, and Debbie, his wife.

Probert was printed in our May issue. The Bookham Afternoon WI has given in her memory a Weigela 'Madam Abel Carriere'. It was planted in March in the Barn Hall Grounds and flowered this summer.

Alf and Robin Longhurst. A clump of snowdrops was planted under the Oak tree near the entrance to the Barn Hall some years ago in memory of that noted gardener, Alf Longhurst, but they were decimated when the Gas Motor housing was erected on the same site. An admirer of his gardening enthusiasm (Mrs Riley) was prompted to offer instead a climbing Rose to go on the East wall of the Meeting Room. But before this could be planted the sad death of his son, Robin (noted in our May Bulletin) occurred.

The Rose is now planted, together with two prostrate Japanese Roses, in memory of

father and son.

Obituary, Bookham has lost another of its interesting old inhabitants by the death in December of Ada Lamberth, at the age of 87. She came to the village at the age of seven and lived for 80 years in the same house in East Street. She, with her late husband, had been a keen member of the Bookham and Effingham Branch of the British Legion. After his death she joined the Over Sixties Club, but failing health had prevented her from attending in recent months. Only a few weeks ago she decided to move into Keswick House but, Hospital where she died peacefully.

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