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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

February 1973
No 151
40th Year

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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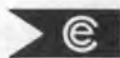
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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

February 1973

No 151

40th Year

Editor: Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 58702

Distribution: G Everett. Telephone Bookham 52404

Advertisements:

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 58730

EDITORIAL

This editorial is being written on the first day of the New Year. The bells which have rung out the old one have also tolled the end of 'our island story'. We have joined the European Community and it would be unprofitable to speculate, at this stage, what our role will be, except to recognise that our future, as it unfolds, will be radically different from what we have known.

1973 will bring other fundamental changes. The present structure of the National Health Service is about to disappear. Our hospitals, ancillary medical institutions, doctors, dentists will be neatly absorbed into what purports to be a larger, streamlined and more efficient system of management.

Headlines proliferate in our local and national newspapers on the shake-up entailed by local government re-organisation, with the uneasy hiatus before it becomes fully operative next year. This, it is argued, is the only method to achieve a high level of administrative competence. In simple words — to be bigger is to be better.

Our crystal ball is not clear enough to foretell whether the new ways will improve the quality of our individual lives. One firm conviction, however, still remains with us. It is that the measuring rod must not be poised above our heads but must be plunged in the soil of what we tritely call 'the grassroots'. Put another way, we repeat what we have been saying for years, the neighbourhood shall not only be seen but it must be heard.

Fortunately we have built up in Bookham a sense of belonging and, through our organisations which are many and flourishing, we have the ways and means to make known our needs. We are still a growing population requiring bigger schools, adequate and well-

situated playing fields, recreational facilities, better transport, to mention just a few of the essentials of which each of us will have his individual priorities. There is a natural tendency to wait until things happen before taking action. Time is not with us. At this juncture it is perhaps as well to remember that silence is not always golden.

WHYDUNIT?

Reflections of a Road Steward.

The mysteries of why people climb Everest, fly to the Moon, collect old firemen's helmets and do other improbable things are rivalled only by what motivates other people to canvass for new members of the Community Association, collect subscriptions and deliver Bulletins.

These three latter foolhardy activities leave us with mixed emotions, feelings and memories: the bewildering and irritating variations in the positions and nature of letter boxes — high, low, horizontal, vertical, non-existent, some already crammed with letters and newspapers; some letter box flaps obviously fitted with springs intended to keep out letters and making it desirable for bulletin deliverers to have three hands.

Some enclosed porches with doors obviously intended to keep *us* out.

The fantastic and maddening neatness and beauty of almost everybody else's front garden when our's is thick with weeds and high with grass.

The number of door bells labelled 'out of order' and remaining so for months on end, the label we met the other day 'Please RING the bell'. (We could not think what else to do with the thing, the other label which read 'Please do not ring the bell. Children sleeping' and another below admitting sadly 'Bell out of order'.

Those dogs that hurl themselves snarlingly at the backs of front doors as we struggle with the reluctant letter box flaps, and those other dogs before front doors as we approach nervously.



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The surprisingly large number of Bookham houses and bungalows changing hands all the time and the new ones appearing from nowhere in next to no time.

The almost universal courtesy with which we are received by humans as opposed to letter boxes and dogs.

Our delight when we get home with some new members to our credit (including old Mr Thingummy, and we did not expect him to come across with fifteen pence).

And at the end of the mystery we mentioned at the start—why we canvass, collect and deliver at all?

We jolly well know whodunit. We cannot think whydunit. Perhaps we just do not like gardening.

CTW

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Resignation of Hon Sec. We were very sorry to hear of the death just after Christmas of the mother of Mrs Pat Meehan and we offer our sympathies to the family. We much regret that Mrs Meehan has been obliged to give up the secretaryship of the BCA on medical advice and because of increased home commitments.

When she took over this office some four years ago she was new to the Association and its complicated set-up. During this period the negotiations connected with the Extension to the Barn Hall have been prolonged and difficult. At the same time the normal day-to-day business of running the Association had to be carried on. The burden she took on was indeed onerous and we are grateful to her for giving up so much of her time while coping with her duties as secretary in the department of Business Studies at Ewell Technical College.

An acting secretary will take over until the AGM when the post will officially be filled. Correspondence should be directed for the time being to the President (formerly secretary), at 61 Eastwick Drive.

The Executive of the BCA has minuted its appreciation of Mrs Meehan's services thus: 'We regret that, on medical advice and because of increasing domestic responsibilities, Mrs Meehan has resigned the secretaryship of the BCA and we record our appreciation of the service, devotion and time she has so enthusiastically given for four years to the cause of the Association'.

Our New Warden took up residence at Christmas following the resignation, owing to changed domestic circumstances, of Mr L Waite after a bare six months in post.

We were surprised to receive a good number of enquiries in response to our advertisements, especially from readers of *New Society*, which indicates the interest of social workers in the challenge of community work. 31 year old Mr Anthony Bradford was appointed from the applicants to the post. He comes to us from a community home in Kent, where he was a house master. Prior to this he had executive responsibility under Kent County Council Education Committee for the music section of its extensive visual aides section. His experience in both fields should be valuable to us.

Music is one of his prime interests. He tells us that it started at the age of seven and drew him into the Salvation Army where he quickly developed an acquaintance with brass instruments. Later, in the Army, he had the opportunity to build on his basic knowledge. Now he is an accomplished brass instrumentalist and a Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music in conducting and ensemble; he has lectured in schools and adult institutes on this subject. Music lovers may wish to get in touch with him to discuss whether there would be an opportunity to develop an orchestra as one of our Barn Hall activities.

We are pleased that his desire to give service has led him from administration into the field of social work. We welcome him and his wife and two children. We hope that he will find in our community association the cooperation and friendliness we have always striven to develop and that this will give him the encouragement he needs to spread it wider in a rapidly growing neighbourhood.

Warden's telephone: Bookham 56901.

For your information

Executive

Ex officio: Mrs E Harrison (President), Mr A Medway (Treasurer), Mr R Catt (Chairman of Council), Mr C Flowers (Vice-Chairman of Council). Elected—Messrs W Rombach, G Everett, R Frohock, W Barnish, R Wing, R Snow, B Davis, Mrs S McLeod.

Chairman of Executive—Mr W Rombach.

Past President: Miss E Micholls.

Vice-Presidents: Mesdames B Oldershaw,

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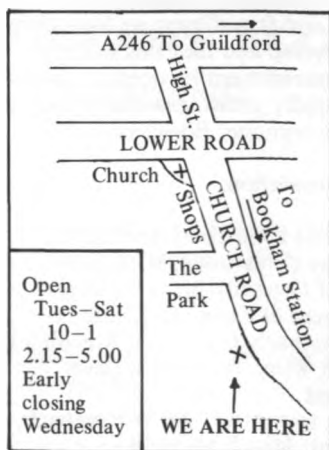
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Hon Life Members: Messrs W Bell, R Saunders, C Beddous, A Marson.

Representatives of Individual Members (elected at AGM): Miss M Corner, Mesdames F Catt, S McLeod, M Snow, M Bruce, W Clark, M Emery, M Everett, M Flowers, D Foster, I Godwin, C Medway, L Whalley. Messrs W Barnish, D Bruce, W Buckley, L Clark, B J Davis, C Emery, C Flowers, R Frohock, R Hill, C Meehan, R Snow, K Preston, K Walsh, R Wear, O Whalley, R Wing.

Where is Surrey's most attractive hall? In Bookham, of course! We hope that all those who have helped in any way will look in. The curtains are up and are really handsome; Mrs L Slark, who took responsibility for them, Mrs F Catt, who gave her much help, and the Modern Sequence Dance Club, which footed the bill, deserve our congratulations and thanks.

The new hall, by decision of members at the AGM, has been named 'The Harrison Room'. It should go on record that the President was reluctant to accept the recommendation but, at the same time, very proud of the honour. The important thing to remember is that none of this could have been achieved without a massive team effort. The Community Association has accomplished—and not for the first time in its short history—what doubters deemed impossible. Long may this spirit live!

The Harrison Room, although not so grand as the Old Barn Hall, has its own charm. This time we have to thank Mrs S McLeod for making the curtains, which are gay and warm, and so effectively match the decor. As we go to press, she is seriously ill in hospital. We hope that by the time the Bulletin appears she will be back with us and well on the way to recovery. In her quiet way she has given stalwart service. We are already missing her and saying, 'come back soon, Sybil'.

Mr R Catt and his team of painters, decorators, carpenters, electricians, sound technicians etc—you name them, we need them—are still hard at work. Quite a bit remains to be done, more especially to the heating system which, at the moment is not functioning at peak efficiency.

The Treasurer, Mr A G Medway, also has his problems. The building has been paid for but there are loans to be repaid within a specified period. The Building Fund Appeal is still very much open. We would be grateful to receive further donations, covenants and the support of those sympathisers who organise money-raising events.

The Membership Secretary, Miss M Corner thanks all road stewards who have completed their collection of member subscriptions and reminds the others, who have not yet finished, that she would be grateful to have the returns before the end of February.

The Official Opening of the Barn Hall Extensions will be celebrated on Friday, 2nd March, with a Wine Buffet.

ROUND AND ABOUT

The Choral Society's Record Membership has started rehearsals which will culminate in the Leith Hill Festival on 27 April. It has been encouraged by the success of its always-popular Christmas concert. Faithful regulars and, we believe, a fair number of first-timers braved the fog to fill the enlarged Barn Hall. Having the use this year of the fine stage, the choir was able, literally, to be heard above the orchestra. Next year we shall know better how to ensure that the back row of singers can see the conductor! Singing first with the choir and later in a group of solos was the delightful and capable young soprano, Caroline Clack.

The village will have an opportunity of again hearing the choir locally when, assisted by singers from Capel Choral Society, they perform in St Nicolas' Church Haydn's Mass in C. This performance will be on behalf of the Spire and Wire Fund.
LSH

It was a Night to Remember on November 10th 1972, when Bookham Dramatic Society had the first night of 'Celebration', their aptly titled opening production in the Barn Hall.

What a joy it was at last to have a spacious stage with its bright new curtains, plenty of wing and changing space and an attractive auditorium with softer seats for our patrons.

This was an event to which we had been looking forward for many years and we would like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to all those in the Community

Association who have worked so hard to make our dream a reality.

In this production we were able to give acting roles to several new members while others were making their debut behind the scenes. We feel sure that the Society will continue to flourish in its new home and we are already looking forward to our next production which will be a witty period comedy, 'The Noble Spaniard', by Somerset Maugham. The producer will be Mrs Jean Preston, who is still carrying the laurels of her recent presentation in St Nicolas Church of The Church Scenes, originally devised and produced by Miss D Joce.

The dates of the performance of The Noble Spaniard are April 26th, 27th, 28th.

The Society is also presenting 'I Spy' by John Mortimer at the Betchworth Festival at Walton-on-the-Hill on March 25th.

KP

Our Apologies to the Garden Society and to any of our readers who may have been inconvenienced by an error in the Bulletin. The open evening in the Members Room at the Barn Hall, when the Garden Society is at home to anybody who may like to chat over gardening problems or look at the fine selection of reference books available, is on the fourth *Thursday* in each month.

The Youth Centre has attracted more young people over the past few months and it is not now unusual to register an attendance of 450 over the week.

It is admitted that many youngsters come along in the first instance to 'do nothing'. Others, more intent upon activities, have to be restricted because of staff and/or space, even though a number of facilities are available. The staff, however, are convinced that much more could be done with extra voluntary helpers. Participation of members grows with the encouragement, help and support of an understanding adult.

A few helpers come along regularly, have learned what to expect, are reasonably content with what happens. They recognise that they are helping the young people and get satisfaction from their efforts. With a sufficiency of voluntary assistants, it is possible for one of them to 'disappear' to chat in a quiet corner, to supervise a more serious game of football, help the girls with their hairstyles, play dominoes or draughts,

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without placing too heavy a burden on those remaining to simply 'run' the Centre.

Helping is not always easy, and there are many who fall by the wayside; but those who succeed get an added bonus. It can be rewarding to discover that one has the ability to get along with the present members. Those with children of their own find that relationships with 'strange' youngsters can often be easier than with their own and the experience acquired can be applied within the home environment.

At the moment there is a gap in the provisions for the younger age group – the under 14s. There is, it is true, a Junior Club on Saturday mornings and private coaching in drama, football and dancing at other times. Other facilities such as badminton and table tennis, to mention just two, have yet to be offered. These can be put on in the late afternoon or early evening. Who knows what could be done during school holidays if help were available? If you have an hour to spare and are willing to have a go, please get in touch with the Warden.

PE

BREVITIES

Old Time meets Olden Times. A memorable event in the calendar of the Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club was the acceptance of an invitation from the Sussex Old Time Dance Association to make up a party for a Dance in the Barons Hall at Arundel Castle, by kind permission of the Duke of Norfolk. They took the floor with about 150 guests to the music of Bryan Smith and his Recording Orchestra.

Huge logs burned in massive stone fireplaces. Portraits and tapestries of bygone dukes and barons looked down from the ancient walls. It was as though the charm and zest of medieval England was alive again.

The Bookham contingent was led by Hugh and Joyce Westaway and their interpretation of the Melody Swing was a joy to watch and well deserved the applause it received. The proceeds of the Dance went to the Sussex Association for the Blind.

A warm welcome awaits all new members at 7.30 pm every Wednesday at the Barn Hall, which is the regular meeting night of the Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club. It is not widely known that there are at least

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DC

The Exhibition of Paintings by Mr M E Braly and Mr R Hutchison in the Thorndike Theatre from January 20th well deserved the praise it received from the art critics. Mr Hutchinson is an expert in interior design and his work reflected his interest in this particular field. Mr Braly's water colours are perhaps better known to Bookham people as they have been on display on a number of occasions at Barn Hall functions. He freely admits that he is not a professional but his paintings have a freshness and quality of the highest standard. It was a delight to see neighbourhood scenes through the eye of an artist. His three portraits of a well-known local character could not be passed by without a second look. It is perhaps not generally known that he recently won the top award in the exhibition staged for the Greater London Council Staff with a picture for which Mrs Larkin was the model.

Mr Braly pays tribute to the encouragement and help he has received in the Leatherhead Art Club, of which several Bookham artists including Mr R A Strand are members. Perhaps we, in Bookham, could have one of our own.

While congratulating Mr Braly on his successes we take this opportunity to thank him for the invaluable work he did in connection with the planning development of the groundwork for the new Guide

Headquarters.

Our good wishes also go to his daughter, Philippa, who has just started on the course in Architecture at Nottingham University.

The vacancy on the Managers of the Bookham Schools has been filled, on the recommendation of the SW Divisional Education Executive, by the appointment of the Reverend Miles Parkinson. As a parent and Chairman of the Friends of Eastwick Infants' School he will be able to make a valuable contribution to the work of this body.

Thank-you Parties. Mrs L Slark invited members of her dressmaking classes under the Adult Education Institute to a coffee morning at the Barn Hall in January to see

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the curtains marking the BCA appreciation of the contribution they had made in putting on the two 'Dress Shows with a Difference'.

The Staff of Eastwick Infants' School entertained to a Supper Buffet the group of helpers from the Friends of the School who had built a brick colonnaded covered way from the main building to the new FI Unit. Apart from its utility as a shelter from the rain it is well designed and attractive in appearance.

Knocking Knockers. Now is the season for the 'Knockers', those persistent and persuasive gentlemen who call and try to persuade the housewife to part with her treasures at prices which will show a handsome profit to themselves.

We have no wish to knock the knockers, but at our own Antique Fair on 22nd next we can sell for you any articles of value on a 50/50 basis, and will obtain a fair price after previous valuation by experts. This will benefit both you and the BCA. Of course, we shall be grateful for any items given freely, as last year, when our own stand at the Fair was a great success. If you have any articles to dispose of please contact Ray Wear, Bookham 52250, as soon as possible.
RW

A Diamond Wedding Celebration is not for most of us, but Mr and Mrs W Russell made it on January 13th. Among the gifts which arrived at their home in Middlemead was a basket of fruit from the Over Sixties Club, of which Mrs Edith Russell is a keen and lively member. This was followed at the subsequent club meeting with slices of iced cake all round in honour of the couple who met at the flower show. Mrs Russell is from one of the old Bookham families. Her grandparents lived on Bookham Common in a cottage along the track where Eastwick Drive now runs before the railway line cut through it. She herself was born in Post Cottage, Little Bookham, and remembers so much of the doings of the then small village – its nigger minstrels, its band, its open air dances and, perhaps her dearest love, the original stoolball club.

Congratulations, too, to Mrs Sarah Poulter, of Little Bookham, on celebrating her 90th birthday in great style with her seven children and their children about her. She is quite a

character and still vigorous and active, as was her husband who died six years ago but was able, almost to the end, to continue with his work among the carnations at the Edenside Nurseries.

Another Bookham girl for Oxford. Eryl O'Day, of Tudor Close, has recently received news that she has been successful in being accepted, from the many students who apply, for St Anne's College, Oxford. She will read Modern Languages; she will not go up until the new academic year in October but, meanwhile, she is taking a 6 month's secretarial course in Kensington. She was Head Girl last year at Dorking Grammar School; she was, also, one of the keen group of Bookham Guides who have gone on to Universities and other Establishments of Higher Education.

May be a Fellow of the CIS but she is a woman, Miss Heather Lee, of Sole Farm Avenue. Though only 21 years old she passed the Finals of the CIS after two years of study at Kingston Polytechnic – a course normally of 5 years. She is now an Associate of the Institute and in a leading London Finance House. Under their sponsorship she is studying for the Diploma in Investment Management, controlled by the Finance House Association. There can be little doubt that she will proceed to a post in top management when Fellowship of the Institute can be awarded.

We can be proud that a pupil of Bookham School and later of Howard of Effingham, where she obtained 5 GCE O' Levels taking her to Ewell Technical College, has advanced so quickly and so far in a sphere where women are few.

To Plant a Tree is a fine gesture – but what then? As 'Brighter Leatherhead' has found to its cost growing things need care and attention until they become established. It is, consequently, good to learn that the 13 trees planted along the verge of the recently widened Lower Road have been adopted by the Howard of Effingham School. The trees were donated by the LUDC, at the suggestion of the Residents' Association. The Chairman of the Council, Mr S J Taylor, and the Headmaster of the School, Mr Ewington, participated in the planting ceremony. It was a bitterly cold morning when the official



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party were joined by contingents of boys and girls from each Form in the School, but the weather did not damp their enthusiasm. Each group pledged itself, then and there, to care for its own tree.

It is widely accepted in educational circles, now that the school leaving age has been raised, that students should be more closely involved in the immediate community. This may be done in many ways. One move in this direction occurred towards the end of last term when groups of the Howard pupils suggested ways in which they could help others less fortunate than themselves to have a happy Christmas. There was, for example, the 'Hush-In' which raised £65 for extra comforts for trainees at The Grange (formerly the School of Stitchery and Lace). Another group entertained to tea twelve children from the Manor, the Hospital for the Mentally Subnormal at Epsom. The patients from the Manor were thrilled by this opportunity to meet young people outside the hospital walls and the pupils of the school were pleasantly surprised by the friendliness and obvious enjoyment of their guests. None of this would have happened if one of the staff had not taken her group to Open Day at the Manor and so stimulated their desire to forge a closer link.

The Friends of the School are also participating in the building of bridges between parents and teachers. Apart from the organisation of social events they are helping to provide amenities which cannot be got from public funds. Nearly £200 has been spent on lockers and playground seats. Another £400 has been made available for equipment which will help the many rather than the few, some items suggested being a record player, crash mats, materials for remedial class work, and so on.

Congratulations to our Advertisement Manager, Mrs M Emery, who, during her short period of office, has doubled our advertisement revenue. This is a tribute to her enterprise and an indirect reflection of the impact on the neighbourhood of the Bulletin, which makes it a good advertising media. The BCA are pleased that this will reduce their subsidy and allow more money to go towards the reduction of the debt

incurred in the Extensions to the Hall.

Globe Trotters among the Retired. Readers will have noticed frequent references to Bookhamites, many of them recently retired, who take the globe in their stride. Stalwarts of our Over Sixties Club, Mr and Mrs Edge are now in Australia, visiting a brother who went there on the post 1914-18 emigration scheme, made good, reared a large family now scattered throughout the Continent, and retired to a comfortable country establishment.

Mr and Mrs Markwick, well known in Bookham before leaving the district, are visiting their son, Keith, and his family, who is gaining a high reputation as an ophthalmic consultant in Australia.

Mrs K LeNobel has come back to the locality after the death of her husband in October. She wishes to be near her daughter and to again take up her local interests. She, too, plans to take off 3 months to visit her son, Peter, in Canada.

Greville Troop Information Officer, Mr F Minter, becomes acting Scouter-in-charge, following the departure of Mr G Child and his son who have worked so hard for this group. Mr Minter's amusing and informative news sheets have been outstanding, his public spirit in taking over at this juncture is appreciated and it is hoped that his example will encourage others to take a hand.

Academic Honour for Industrialist. Mr D Hammett, of Eastwick Drive, has been made a visiting Fellow in Industrial Marketing Analysis at Bradford University's Management School, where he will be involved in lecturing to students from pre-graduate to post-graduate level. He is industrial marketing manager to the British Petroleum Company but has wide experience in many industrial fields, as well as in the Foreign Office. Communication as well as assessment of marketing information is a sphere in which he has unique knowledge and the University students of management will gain from this.

He has participated and lectured to many conferences throughout the world on this subject. He has just accepted an invitation to be chairman of a seminar on shipping at Leningrad to be held at Easter.

OBITUARIES

Lady Tucker, wife of Lord Tucker who was formerly a Lord of Appeal, has lived in Bookham for many years and, prior to her long illness, showed interest in the village. It is remembered that, during the War, she gave much help in the canteen for evacuees at the Barn Hall. She, with her husband, opened one of our Village Days, and they contributed to the various Appeals put out by the Community Association. She also participated in the massive effort for the building of the Boys Club on the Chrystie Recreation Ground, of which Lord Tucker was Patron.

Being a semi-invalid, she has not been able of late to take part in local events, and her husband has devoted himself to her care.

Reginald F C Hall had been in ill health for some time before his death but carried on as Secretary of the Residents Association, which was one of his prime interests. He bought Sole Farm House prior to his retirement from the Diplomatic Service and, after his final term of office in Rome, took up residence there. As neighbour to the Barn Hall he was always helpful to the Community Association. Although they had been in Bookham a relatively short time, both he and Mrs Hall had made many friends among us. We offer our sympathies to his wife.

John Snell, of Nest O'Firs, Leatherhead Road, died suddenly and will be much missed in the neighbourhood. He was in the Ministry of Defence and, with his family, spent much time abroad, some of it in Germany but the greater part in Singapore where he had built

close, friendly links with leading figures in government and industry. His final assignment before coming back to Bookham was the dismantling of the British defence installations in Singapore.

During his first period of residence in Bookham his sons had attended Bookham School. He himself had been interested in Bookham Commons and the Community Association and had kept up his covenants with both while he was away from the country. His first action on returning finally was to take on again the treasurership of the Leatherhead and District Housing Society for Old People.

He was quiet and courteous in all his ways. In the words of remembrance spoken by Dr Anderson, who was closely associated with him in his work for the elderly, 'he was one of nature's gentlemen'.

Violet Dawes, an original founder member of the Over Sixties Club, died quietly in her sleep at the home of her daughter at Middlemead. She was a woman of gaiety and great courage and always welcome at the Barn Hall. Despite many serious illnesses, she came back as bright as ever and joked about her disabilities. Her lively manner appealed not only to her contemporaries but also made friends for her with young people who often came to her for advice and support and never turned away disappointed.

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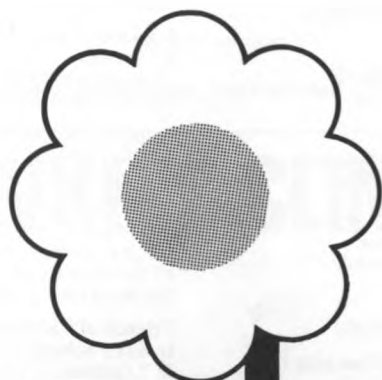
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