The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 137

September 1968

34th Year

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No. 137

September 1968

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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

BARN HALL, 8.15 p.m.
Thursday, October 10th
AGENDA

Reports
Election of Officers
Election of Vice-Presidents
Election to Council of Association of Representatives of Individual Members

Present Members: Messrs. Cuddeford, Catt, Freeman, Larkin, Harrison, Woodrow-Clark, Rombach, Russell-Bates, Heels. Mesdames Cuddeford, Godwin, Zoers, Stratford

(Nominations for Officers and Representatives may be submitted in advance to the Hon. Sec., 61 Eastwick Drive) Tea General Business

A Report will be given on progress with Plans to extend the present Hall and it is hoped that many members will come along to hear this

VILLAGE DAY, JUNE 22nd

Well done Bookham!

The magnificent response to Village Day shows that nothing can damp the spirits of Bookham people—not even continuous rain and a field turning to mud underfoot. The hoped-for break in the clouds never came, but everything went on as arranged, with the exception of one or two sideshows and the Band. Words cannot fully express our appreciation of the efforts made by all our volunteers to keep the programme going under the most trying conditions.

We say thank you first of all to those who turned up to support us—it was estimated that the attendance was two-thirds of last year, when the weather was gorgeous. We thank also the helpers on sideshows, stalls, the gates and the children's corner, who stayed out in the rain all afternoon and kept smiling; and we add a special tribute to the two public spirited girls who

brought their pony in response to a last minute S.O.S. so that the youngsters should not be disappointed.

Children with their pets braved the weather and a dripping judge and organiser carried through this event. The only trouble came when one white goat tried to nibble the tablecloth. The smallest dog in the show was also the beauty queen, selected by Mr. W. Codrington, M.R.C.V.S., as the one he would like to take home, and she was a little cross-breed.

Those stallholders, allocated at the last moment to the tea marquee, managed to keep dry, but their hazard was suffocation. Even so they displayed their goods attractively and record sales were made. Mrs. Louis White, who opened the Day, borrowed gum boots and visited every section. She awarded the first prize for the best presented stall to the Gt. Bookham Evening W.I., the second to the Bookham Dramatic Society and a consolation third to the Over Sixties, who were out in the field in the wind-blown committee tent.

Another undaunted veteran was Mr. George Sapwell, the Punch and Judy man, who is in his 70s. Like all old troopers he

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insisted on putting on his show and, although the noise drowned his voice, the clever manipulation of his puppets conveyed the drama to his delighted audience.

The Red Cross always give service and there they stayed in the field with their equipment in a rain sodden tent—fortunately there were no casualties. So, too, the Guides, who kept their fire going and sold hot sausages in

marathon tradition.

We are indebted to Lt.-Col. R. S. Loveridge, of the Army Careers Information Office, for the display caravan. It provided a little oasis of warmth and comfort in the forecourt. Its gay colours and the music it relayed cheered our flagging spirits; nor was its message that the Army can provide a career altogether lost, for those who went in for shelter saw a most impressive and efficient arrangement of equipment and storage within a space of a few feet

The Exhibition of Bookham and its Countryside was set in a bower of greenery. Pride of place went to the Garden Society for the centrepiece of pool and fountain surrounded by grass and an exotic collection of flowering plants. Aspects of the work of the National Trust were displayed and many people saw for the first time the scope of the service given by the Bookhams' Commons Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. M. Easton, in preserving on our very doorstep such a peaceful and beautiful tract of country. The section presented by the London Natural History Society carried

through the same theme by indicating the wealth of interest the Commons offer to those who care to study them.

The stand provided by the Phoenice Farm Experimental Unit demonstrated the methods used by scientists in improving the quantity and quality of our agricultural products, and some of the results were itemised. Had the well-behaved calf from Goldstone Farm benefited, we wondered, from behaviour therapy? Scientific method had also been used by the Winemakers in converting the fruits of the garden and hedgerows into the most delectable wines and beverages, whose colours were as fascinating as their perfumes.

From the scientists of today we moved to the scientists of tomorrow growing up in the local

schools

Starting with the new entrants: there was a delightful collage of the school and grounds produced by Eastwick Infants' School, and combined with this a fine collection of flowers and grasses gathered there by the children. This spotlighted the modern teaching principle that, when the child moves from home to a new environment, which can sometimes be strange and a little frightening, he should be encouraged to explore his immediate surroundings, until they become familiar, before moving on to studies further afield.

The development of this theory was shown in the exhibit from the Eastwick Junior School. Pupils were now looking at natural objects in greater depth

and on a broader basis. We saw in their paintings and poems how this led on to the communication of their impressions in a variety of artistic forms.

The Commons Project, which is an annual exercise of the Bookham Junior School, demonstrated a different approach to the same process. It illustrated the ways in which the capacity for minute observation and deductive ability is developed. We saw the range of the specimens they had collected and how these had been grouped correctly and in orderly sequence.

Bookham artists gave us a gallery of paintings and drawings whose intrinsic merit was enhanced by their subject matter of scenes and buildings familiar to us all. The panel of pictures set out by the Camera Club drove home the message that artists can work in different media and that the photographer's lens searches out aspects of the objects around us that we had not previously noticed or enjoyed.

Finally Percy Parslow's wide selection of small and unusual pets was permanently surrounded by admiring youngsters and their

parents.

Country dancing has always been one of the most popular items in our Village Day programmes. The children, like the adults, were most eager to carry on despite the rain. The displays given by the Gt. Bookham and Eastwick Junior Schools appeared to be more spirited and varied than ever before. It says much for the toughness of the children that they performed so well in

such appalling conditions. We thank them most warmly for their skill and courage in carrying through a programme which they had so obviously carefully rehearsed.

Those of us battling on at the Barn Hall presumed that the Village Day Silver Spoons Competition, taking place for the first time at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground, must have been abandoned. To our surprise and delight a cheque arrived later in the week for £3 10s. Thirty competitors assembled and, although they could not play, took refreshments and joined in a raffle. They, too, had caught the Village Day spirit—this is something Bookham must preserve. With enthusiasm like this it could even be extended.

We have left to the end the local traders and firms. Their

generosity to Village Day is quite outstanding. As will be seen from the long list appended, virtually all of them donated. We thank them sincerely and we are confident that we can assure them that all those who helped and came Village Day and Week will remember that Bookham traders make a noteworthy contribution to the success and enjoyment of this annual event. Thank you to the following traders and firms

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WHAT CHAIL WE DO? SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ATITUMN

Rookham Dramatic Society. Rehearsals are in progress for the next play, a comedy, to be staged at Church House on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd Prospective members will be welcomed at these rehearsals on Mondays and Thursdays at the Congregational Hall at 8 p.m. New players are needed, but the biggest gap is, as usual, among the young males.

Mrs. Ashworth, Bookham 5496. will be interested to hear from anyone ready to help on or off stage.

This is a very sociable club and friendly "get-togethers" are arranged for supporters as well as participants. Officers for the new year, elected at the A.G.M... were: Chairman—Keith Preston. Vice-Chairman—Sandy Kydd. Secretary—Sara Ashworth, Treasurer—Peter Grainger, Committee —Anne Lawrance, Jean Preston. Ted Harrop. A donation of £10 was made to the B.C.A. Building Fund.

The Over Sixties' Club and the Day Centre closed down during August while decorations and repairs to the Barn Hall were carried out. But both are now in full swing. Anyone over 60 is welcomed on Tuesdays to a pleasant social afternoon—bingo and cards are the favourite diversions. During June, a party spent a week at Pontin's Camp at Selsey. escorted there and back by Mrs Mary Longhurst, Incidentally, Mrs. Longhurst also staved for the week at Cliftonville to assist with a holiday for old people arranged by the Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Over Sixties' summer outing to Brighton took place in June.

Inquiries about the Day Centre, which meets all day at the Barn Hall and is under the auspices of the Old People's Welfare Committee, should be addressed to Mrs. Thelma Weston, who is the L.DOP.W.C.'s welfare officer for Bookham area. Volunteer drivers are still required. Mrs.

Weston would also be glad to hear from any sympathetic person who could, in an emergency, visit elderly people in need of assistance, or, if they had the time to spare, could undertake a regular visiting rota.

Effingham and Bookham Evening Institute has, perhaps, the widest variety of courses of any Institute in the county, despite the cuts which have had to be made because of the economy measures directed by the Education Committee. It will be remembered that there was some discontent last year because of the increase in fees. Students will be pleased to hear that the courses have now been restored to 24 weeks, except for the short courses, which are separately listed in the prospectuses available in the library and local shops.

Languages for travel cover Russian as well as Spanish. All levels of attainment are catered for in separate classes. Pottery. Badminton, Swimming, Architecture, Sculpture, Art, Antiques, Golf and Fencing are just a few of the subjects. A six weeks course on Computers should prove popular. The lecturer is from the G.P.O. Section, which has developed to a high degree the use and nurpose of computers. It will deal with the way they work, but it will also concentrate on their uses in a variety of fields and their significance for the future. Another "catch" for the Institute is to persuade the weather-man who writes in the "Leatherhead Advertiser" to give a series of talks on Metereology.

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centres will be taken this year at the Howard of Effingham School from September 16th. Further details can be found in the prospectus. Head of the Institute is Mr. G. Scoble.

The W.E.A. is the best medium for the study in depth of a special interest and, as it combines lecture and tutorial methods, it gives the opportunity for the give and take of discussion.

Beginning in September it is planned to continue the afternoon class in International Affairs at Leatherhead, evening classes at Fetcham in European History and the History and Appreciation of Art, it is hoped also to start a course in Sociology at Bookham.

A new and exciting Drama Class will be run in conjunction with the Leatherhead Branch and

All enrolments for the different it will be linked with the Leatherhead Theatre. A "Teach-In" is planned for the end of September when Mr. D. Jesson-Dibley, the tutor for the new course, will speak, as well as a well-known theatre personality. This should be the beginning of a happy and fruitful association between the Theatre and the W.E.A. Further particulars can be obtained from Mrs. M. Everett, Bookham 2404. who is the new Information Secretary of the Fetcham and Bookham Branch. We congratulate her on this appointment and also Mr. G. Everett, who has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Branch. It will be remembered that they have both been closely involved also in the build-up of the Community Association. Mr. G. Everett is a Vice-President of the B.C.A. and Distribution Manager of the "Bookham Bulletin."

Bookham Square and Folk Dance Club starts its new season on September 9th at 8 p.m. at the Congregational Hall and thereafter fortnightly. A slightly new format has been introduced. George Emmerson will be M.C. on the second Monday of the month and there will be guest M.C.s on the fourth Monday. A Dance has been arranged at Church House for September 14th at 7.30 p.m., when the Halfpennies Band will play and the M.C. will be Brian Heaton.

The Bookham Club, under its energetic secretary, Mrs. Thomas, arranges and participates in quite ambitious district events. For example, several members spent an enjoyable weekend at Hindhead during the summer, singing, playing and dancing with other members of the English Folk Dance, Song Society from West Surrey.

P. M. E.

Bookham Choral Society. This Society, which welcomes new members, especially tenors, starts its new season on Tuesday, September 24th. At 8 p.m. on that date and on each subsequent Tuesday throughout the winter the Choir will meet in the Congregational Hall to practice music which will be performed in the Leith Hill Music Festival just after Easter, 1969.

In the 1968 Festival competition Bookham won the Men's Song class, came second in the Full Chorus test and gained a certificate for one of their quartets.

For the 1968/69 season the principal work to be prepared is

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expects to present a Christmas concert in Bookham. Interested singers should get in touch with Mr. L. S. Hughes, the Secretary. L.S.H.

The Old Tyme Dance Club reopens on Wednesday, September 4th at 8 p.m. at the Barn Hall. This is the largest club of the B.C.A. and still expanding, but there is room for new members. who can be assured of a warm welcome and will have an entrée to inter-club dances over a wide area of Surrey. During the summer a party of members was invited and welcomed to the B.B.C. programme "Those were the Days"—quite a memorable experience!

The Club is always most generous in its donations to Association funds and this year it gave £40. This is over and above the help given in so many ways to B.C.A. activities by a lively group of members.

The Scottish Dancers start again at the Barn Hall on Friday, Sentember 13th at 8 n.m. Like the former Club, a number of its members give veoman service to the Association generally. This is a basic conception of the community association idea that the parts contribute to the whole and, by this process, the whole can become bigger than its parts. Besides personal help given, the Club contributed £20 from its surplus to B.C.A. funds.

Scottish dancing is a vigorous. healthy and enjoyable exercise and, for those who wish to develop it further, it becomes a skilful and exciting art. Teams

Brahms' Requiem, but the Choir from the Bookham Scottish Dancers have performed at many charitable functions and have also won awards in district competitions.

> The Youth Club will continue at the Barn Hall from September 9th on Monday evenings. This B C.A. Club is a flourishing one with a membership of over 150 and an average attendance of 80 plus. There can be no doubt that the young people enjoy their evening. There are a number of adult helpers who put up with the noise—and noise there is because they see that the members are having fun, but at the same time behaving responsibly. More helpers would be welcomed and should get in touch with Mr. John Stemp.

> "Fun and games" is an apt description of the Club For example, it won the Fortescue Trophy at the District Youth Swimming Gala held at St. John's School. They also carried off the District Youth Club Table Tennis Cun The oirls' team won the Youth Nethall Competition and would like to have more matches if they could find other teams to play against. As we go to press an attempt is being made to form a Five-a-Side Football Team.

The Community Association is hanny to have been able to make some provision for youth, small though it may be when no facili. ties existed in the neighbourhood It is aware that the Hall and the amenities it is endeavouring to build up in it must ultimately nass into the control of these young people, and it considers it worth while trying to make them feel they belong right from the beginning.

The Flower Arrangement Group meets regularly throughout the year on the first Monday in the month at the Barn Hall at 2.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome and new members may join at any time. Competitions are a feature of the meetings and visiting demonstrators have commented on the high standard of these. which indicates the keenness of members from the novice section to the top grade.

There is a readiness, too, to participate in district and county events, and many awards have been gained in these, among the most recent being those of the President, Mrs. Margot Camp, at the County Show. She entered three items—over 300 competitors took part-and was placed 3rd in the National Rose Award. and received a Highly Commen-

ded in the other two.

Inspired by the Chairman, Mrs. S. McNaughton, the Club is providing a Festival of Flowers at St. Nicolas Church on Sentember 20th, 21st and 22nd. It has also been invited by N.A.F.A.S. to take part in the very ambitious Festival of Flowers in St. Paul's Cathedral, planned for July, 1969. The first move in this massive effort has been completed. Three or four members went up to the Cathedral to devise a scheme for the decoration of the nulnit in the Crypt, though it does not follow that this particular item will necessarily be allocated to the Bookham Club.

(Continued p. 18)

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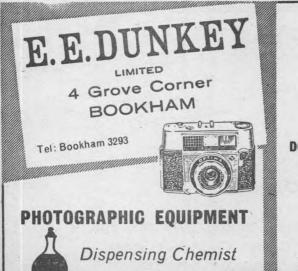
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The Gramophone Club session begins on Thursday, September 5th, at 8 p.m., at the Barn Hall, and thereafter the Club will continue to meet fortnightly. The recording equipment is good and the Barn Hall provides an ideal setting for the enjoyment of music. There may be occasions when verse and speech are included. Each evening's programme is selected and presented by a different person around a theme in which he has a special interest. Visitors are always welcome.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Congratulations to Nichola Roberts, of The Lorne, who has been presented with her Queen's Guide Certificate and notches up one more to the impressive list of the 3rd Company. Nichola is 15 and joined the Guides when she was 10½. She has just taken "O" Level French this year and plans to take another 10 next year. Captain of the Company is Mrs. R. Griffin, who succeeds Mrs. M. Mills, and has inherited a company with marvellous traditions. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mrs. Mills for the contribution she has made in starting and building up this very fine group of girls.

We welcome to Bookham Mr. George Temple, new assistant curate of St. Nicolas Parish Church, who is living in The Lorne with his wife and one son, aged three. He was born in Jersey where he spent most of his

life. He is in his early 30s and decided to enter the service of the Church while working as a mental nurse at Holloway Sanitorium. After training for two years at Wells Theological College he was consecrated deacon by the Bishop at Guildford Cathedral on Trinity Sunday.

We welcome back to Bookham Mrs. Edna Lumsdaine, formerly Edna Perry, who is returning to teach at Gt. Bookham Junior School, where she met her husband, David. They are both well known and popular in the village. We are glad to have her with us again after a few years experience teaching in London schools.

Congratulations to Councillor Stanley Taylor on his election as Vice-Chairman of the Leatherhead Urban District Council. We were proud to have Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue, Chairman for the past two years, and to note the enthusiasm and leadership he gave in this capacity. We feel that it is an honour to Bookham to have Councillor Taylor made Vice-Chairman and we know that he, too, will be equally vital and forward looking. We wish him well. Mr. Taylor was elected to the Leatherhead Council from the Bookham Ward in 1963. He is a Wimbledon estate agent and his expert knowledge in this direction made him an efficient Chairman of the Plans and Town Planning Committee. He lives in The Park and has four children and three grandchildren.

The Leatherhead Urban District Council has appointed Councillor A. Brackenbury as their representative on the Council of the Bookham Community Association Open Air Theatre. The National Trust wishes to thank the Community Association for its share in the organisation of assistance at the Open Air Theatre and, through the columns of the Bulletin, to express its appreciation to the very many helpers who came up to Polesden for the four days of the production. The dramatic critics of the various local newspapers have given deservedly high praise to this year's performance of "Measure for Measure." It will rank high in the list of productions—all of high quality-at the Open Air Theatre and it will be remembered as the first for many years which was free from rain.

At a rough estimate over 6,000 people saw the show, including the Right Hon. Richard Crossman. That these vast numbers got up to Polesden, into their seats and away again without incident, is a tribute to the efficiency of all who participated in the exercise.

Bookham people may like to know that in the British Travel Association's list of visitors to historic buildings in 1967 Polesden Lacey came 32nd with 85,400 visitors. Of properties owned by the National Trust Polesden ranks sixth in popularity.

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Former Pupils of Howard of Effingham. We are indebted to a former pupil of the school, Miss M. Stephens, for a further list of her fellow students who are doing well in further education. They are David Bramble, who is at the new University of Surrey, Brian Harwood, at London University, and John Daniel, who has received his Diploma in Design after four years at Guildford School of Art. Trevor Storey and Edward Marchant are at Ewell Technical College. Terry Leaphard, Richard Day and Ian Heathcoat are at Kingston College of Technology. Bridget Montague hopes to become a Veterinary Surgeon and has moved to Roseberry to take the necessary "A" Levels. Richard Godfrey, who is now at Guildford Technical College, also has his

We are always pleased to give news in the Bulletin of pupils of the Howard of Effingham School so that parents and others may know that our own Secondary School can provide a good base towards careers in a wide field.

sights set on university.

We apologise to Miss Shirley A. King, who was incorrectly reported in our June issue as acting as personal secretary to Mr. George Brown on one of his visits to the United Nations. Shirley was one of the few girls who went to work for the official Private Secretaries who accompanied the Foreign Secretary, but her normal duties are in the office of a Head of Department of the Civil Service.

Over Sixties' Club

At the A.G.M. of the Over Sixties' Club Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Dawes were elected to the B.C.A. Over Sixties' Committee. which also includes Mrs. T. Weston (Chairman), Mrs. M. Longhurst (Secretary), Mrs. Cameron (Treasurer), Mr. and Mrs. Edge, Mrs. E. Harrison, Mrs. C. Medway. The members of the Club were encouraged to hear that the finances were in a sound condition and showed a balance in hand. Thanks were accorded to the Leatherhead Urban District Council for its subsidy of £40 towards the rent of the Hall. Sincere appreciation was expressed for the work of the officers, the drivers and the canteen helpers for their devoted service. Mrs. Russell was applauded for her Halfpennies Collection, which had reached £7 10s. 3d. during the year.

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OBITUARY

R. H. J. Kepple, who died at the end of April was, prior to his reirement to Storrington, an active and influential figure in Bookham. He came to live at Riddlesdale during the war years and immediately took a vital interest in various village activities. He became Vice-Chairman of the Parochial Church Council and Joint Treasurer. He was also in charge of the Bookham area of the National Savings Movement, which flourished under his guidance. In 1954 he was elected a Vice-President of the Community Association in appreciation of the long service he had given as Business Manager of the Bulletin and of the work he was, with typical efficiency, doing as Chief Steward at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre—a task which he only relinquished when he left the Tyrrells to live at Storrington at the age of 75.

He will be remembered as a man on whom one could depend utterly in small things as well as big, whose care for detail was matched with organising ability of a high order and who was not deterred by difficulties in carrying through to the end the responsibilities he had assumed.

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- Gramophone Club: A. Harrison, 61 Eastwick Drive, Bookham 5702.
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- Old Tyme Dancers: E. Dodgson, 2 Fife Way, Bookham 4066.
- Scottish Dancers: G. R. Marshall, 63 Eastwick Drive, Bookham 2096.
- Youth Club: J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway, Bookham 4143.

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(Affiliated to B.C.A.)

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- British Legion, Effingham and Bookham Branch: M. S. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effingham. Bookham 5581.
- British Legion, Women's Section: Mrs. L. A. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effingham, Book. 5581.
- Bookham Cricket Club: J. Hubbard, 45 Sole Farm Road, Book. 3874.

- Cross Daggers Cricket Club: R. Lovegrove, Moat House, Eastwick Park Avenue, Bookham 3984.
- Eastwick Park Cricket Club: K. Hicks, 75 Eastwick Park Avenue, Bookham 4283.
- Catholic Women's League: Mrs. Lacey-Smith, Dean House, Kenyons, W. Horsley. E. Horsley 3256.
- Choral Society: L. S. Hughes, 2 Blackthorne Road, Bookham 2785.
- Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch: J. E. Farrier, 22 Richmond Way, Bookham 3986.
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- Bookham Football Club: B. Marshall, 63, Eastwick Drive, Bookham 2096.
- Bookham Music Club: Mrs. Muriel, Lower Farm Road, Effingham.
- Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association: K. C. Lynn, 32 Hazel Way, Fetcham. Bookham 3875.
- Girl Guides Local Association: Mrs. J. Spencer, 18 Richmond Way.
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- Mothers' Union: Mrs. D. Litchfield, 57 The Garstons, Bookham 4058.
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