

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 66

MARCH, 1950

One Penny



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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Editorial

There was a prolonged discussion of the future of this journal at the Annual General Meeting of the Bookham Community Association, which despite cold winds and driving rain attracted some 60 members to the Barn Hall on Tuesday, 31st January.

By common consent the most pressing need was to improve the distribution arrangements, as it seems that the approach of the Christmas season made some of our distributors forgetful of their duty, with the result that not all copies of the December, 1949, issue were faithfully delivered. Volunteers *who can be relied upon* are needed to undertake the distribution of this issue, and will be warmly welcomed by our Business Manager, Mr. Kepple, whose address is Riddlesdale, Church Rd.

Dr. N. E. Waterfield, whose guidance from the chair has been from its inception a source of strength to the Association, was re-elected President. He said that he hoped the *Bulletin* would be expanded in size, and that he was sure many readers would agree to contribute a small sum

annually to cover the cost of printing the additional pages. He visualized something on the lines of a school magazine, which would record the activities of present Bookham residents as well as of those who have left the district—like our old friend Mr. C. V. Brayne, who though now living in Australia will, we are glad to note, remain a Vice-President of the Community Association.

The Directory of Local Organizations which appeared in the last issue of the *Bulletin* was a masterly example of the printer's art. Surely no compositor has ever compressed more information into so small a space. Nevertheless, there was an important omission—that of the Bookham Tennis Club, to which apologies are due for the oversight. The name and address of the Secretary are given elsewhere in this issue. The needs of tennis players are not well provided for in the area of Leatherhead U.D.C.; Bookham has been promised some public courts on the Paddocks recreation ground, but in view of the economy drive it seems unlikely that they will be available for another two or three years. Meantime the arrangements made by the Bookham Tennis Club for play on private courts in the gardens of local

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Editorial—cont.

residents, and the mid-week facilities for younger players to use the court at Polesden Lacey, are all the more appreciated.

We print on another page a suggestion made by a reader that the *Bulletin* should include a "Letters to the Editor" column. It is hoped to start this in the next issue. Comments, favourable or otherwise, on the activities of the Community Association in general and the *Bulletin* in particular, should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, whose address will be found on another page. It is hoped to publish as large a selection as our very limited space will permit.

"The Hermitage" Gt. Bookham

The following account of the literary and historical association of one of Bookham's landmarks is contributed by the present owner.

The Hermitage, a pretty little house in the centre of the village, has many associations with the past. Originally quite a small cottage, it has, as shown by the brickwork of its walls, been altered and enlarged from time to time. Some of the bricks in the back of the house are Tudor. An interesting find was a new penny dated 1797 under a brick path in the verandah, taken up when alterations were in progress.

In 1793 Fanny Burney, the authoress, came to live here with her husband M. d'Arblay. They

were newly-weds, and during their 4 years' residence in the Hermitage their son Alexander was born.

An extract from Fanny's diary when in Bookham in 1794 tells of looking everywhere for accommodation in Dorking "although the difficulty of finding anything is immoderate; for the dearness of provisions and the difficulty of obtaining common comforts of the family board, milk, butter, etc., make us unwilling to establish ourselves here for life."

So in 1796 they decided to build a small cottage for themselves in Norbury Park, on land leased for 90 years from Mr. Locke. This cottage they called Camilla, now part of Camilla Lacy.

An interesting item from the famous diary tells of M. d'Arblay taking their puppy, who had spent a happy hour in the coal-hole, and bathing it in a small lake nearly in front of the Hermitage.

It is rumoured, though without confirmation, that the somewhat dictatorial father of Elizabeth Barrett chose the Hermitage as a safe retreat for his wayward daughter. Certainly he speaks of taking a house for his children in Bookham, but the plan fell through.

It is also said that Nelson visited the Hermitage at times.

Without a doubt he used to walk into Bookham when staying at Burford Bridge.

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Bookham Community Association

The Community Association invites every well-wisher to become a member and so guarantee the continuance and expansion of its activities.

Our claim to be able to draw together all age groups and to cater for widely different tastes has now been proved. Space permits only the briefest record. We have our Old Time Dance Club, affiliated to the National Federation and (meeting alternate Wednesdays at Church House) under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Benham, the popular pioneers of old-time dancing in Surrey. There is our Table Tennis Club, with its headquarters at the Barn Hall, which is earning a reputation, especially among the younger generation, for its high standards. Our social evenings, once a month, are friendly and informal and designed to attract family parties and so strengthen the home ties. Encouraged by our success in this direction we arranged a New Year supper party, which brought together over a hundred of our members in a most cordial atmosphere. Two parties for the children, with a film show for the little ones and a conjuror for the older ones, rounded off the Christmas season. We now look forward to our summer event when, with the co-operation of the village and its organizations, we hope to put on in 1950 something

of the calibre of our Village Day of 1948 and our "Merrie England" performance at Polesden of 1949.

While emphasising our basic purpose we are well aware of the need to increase opportunities in the village for the enjoyment of the arts and the development of interests. To this end we are building up friendly relations with those organizations which specialize in music and drama, and those bodies which offer educational facilities.

What is our constitution? we are often asked. The answer is that we are a non-political, non-sectarian organization, based on the village, run by the village and for the village. Our growing body includes not only individual members but also local organizations as well as nominees from the Urban District Council and the County Council. Because of our representative set-up we have been asked to manage the *Bookhams Bulletin* and administer the Barn Hall as a village centre. We have not shirked the financial responsibility of maintaining this old Hall with its local traditions, but we would like to do more to brighten it, make additions to it and to improve the grounds.

We ask with confidence for your moral support—membership is only 2/6 per annum. We would welcome your active co-operation. Please get in touch with the Secretary.

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Council Chamber Notes

by "Joe Bumble"

The agenda for a recent meeting of the General Purposes & Works Committee had 22 items on it and four additional matters were considered before the meeting finally closed. This is nothing unusual for one of the most important committees of the Council.

Let us look at some of the items and see that they are no routine matters disposed of in a minute or so. There is always a routine report from the Engineer & Surveyor on highways, sewers, lighting, refuse collection, works and stores and other special items, like Red House repairs, etc. Then we received a report from a special sub-committee on the Festival of Britain, 1951, in which all organizations are being invited to co-operate.

Bus services were discussed on receipt of explanations from the L.T.E., and further suggestions have been sent back to them. Criticism from the Leatherhead Countryside Protection Society of the Council's policy on industrial development was reviewed and a reasoned statement is being sent to their Hon. Secretary. Once again the blame is being placed on the Ministry of Town & Country Planning, who have overruled the restrictions the Council would like to impose.

Operation of the Council's super-annuation scheme was amended in

certain details and the finances of the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities were reviewed in the light of a request for additional subscription.

The first report of the Local Government Manpower Committee was received and it is refreshing to read that the Government has accepted its findings, the pertinence of which was only too evident in many items under discussion in the meeting. The report stated that there was far too much correspondence and control exercised over details which could quite well be left to the discretion of the local authorities. Much of the reference to Ministries for permission at each successive stage is to be abolished. Two glaring examples of the cost of delay were as follows: First, in connection with the loan sanction for work urgently necessary, plans and tenders for which had been approved by the Ministry, permission to borrow the money necessary was not yet forthcoming; secondly, where the Council had good reason for not accepting the lowest tender for certain works, Ministerial permission was not given until detailed statements of previous experience had been supplied and the Ministry had actually been challenged to produce their authority to withhold sanction!

Surrey maps dated about 1816 were accepted from Capt. E. A. Evans, and action taken by the Surveyor in a dispute with one of

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the National Boards over reinstatement charges was confirmed.

The appointment of representatives to conferences, tenders for repair of Green Domino tennis courts and alterations at Red House, price increases, street lamp at St. Giles' Church, Ashtead, and Fetcham pumping station extensions, illustrate the variety of the remaining subjects discussed.

Although there is a feeling of frustration vis-a-vis the central authorities, there is much satisfying work to be done by the Local Council.

Date of next Council election is 13th May, 1950.

Bookham Bowling Club

The Ladies' Section of the Bookham Bowling Club would welcome new members and would willingly give assistance to any lady who would like to learn to play Bowls. Bowls are available for the use of players.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. D. E. Saunders, "Naldera," Grove Side.

The Men's Section also would welcome new members and full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. T. Street, "Askrigg," Lower Road, or from any member of the Club.

The 1950 season opens on the 29th April.

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Robert Andrews

An Appreciation

Robert Andrews represented Great Bookham on the Urban District Council, he was a Manager of our Primary School, a Governor of the Howard of Effingham Secondary School, Clerk to the United Charities, Secretary to the Bowling Club and a host of other things. Now that ill-health has compelled his retirement to Exmouth, he has left a wide gap not only on account of his many duties but also of his numberless friendships.

When he was with us, I was almost in daily contact with him and it is a rare privilege to be able to say in a man's life-time what is only too often reserved for his obituary. He is, I think in the true sense of the word, one of the most selfless of men that I have ever met. In the mass of voluntary tasks that he so willingly undertook, it was ever the needs of the work, never the person of the worker. Whenever the telephone rang and I heard his quiet, slow voice 'Rector: Andrews speaking' I knew that it was always the question of stating a need, never of getting on the right side of him. Most typical was the loving care that he devoted to the Frere Almshouses, not only to their management but also to the comfort and happiness of their inmates.

At one time, Mrs. Andrews was far from well and he was a great

sufferer. He never complained, only walked a little more slowly and got on with his work. He and Mrs. Andrews retire to Exmouth with the respect and affection of countless friends. Would that, as I write, the telephone could ring and the familiar voice suggest some fresh want of the almshouses, some new person to whom a little help would be a boon.

A.M.H.

Letter to the Editor

The following extract from a letter addressed to the Editor by Mr. A. E. Foot, Chairman of the Bookham Table Tennis Club, is commended to the attention of all readers. It is hoped to start a "Letters to the Editor" column in the June issue.

"From time to time readers of all publications feel urged to write to the Editor with a view either to voicing a bouquet, delivering a brickbat, or even to seeking advice from a more qualified reader in times of quandary. I therefore suggest the introduction of a feature "Letters to the Editor" or something similar, and that an appeal be launched by yourself for the views of the populace regarding any and all the events of the village and the Community Association. The context of this paragraph might be used as a 'kicking-off' letter for the feature."

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Tennis Club—Hon. Sec. Mrs. H. Street,
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The Bookhams, Effingham & Fetcham Garden Society

The Society needs no introduction, having served the community for the past 73 years. In the forthcoming Seventy-fourth Flower Show, to be held on Saturday, 28th July, the members of the Committee would like to see a greater number of exhibits staged.

It is hoped to have the schedule in the hands of all members by the second week in March and it will be noted that a new competition for the best laid-out and cultivated Council house garden has been introduced. The judges will visit the competitors' gardens and award points of merit for arrangement of flowers, vegetable cultivation and general lay-out. Any inquiries on this matter will be welcome from both members and non-members.

A Baby Show will as usual be run in conjunction with the chief features of the show.

J. H. Stephens, Hon. Sec.

Bookham Table Tennis Club

Chairman: Mr. Alan E. Foot,
"Highfield," Woodlands Road
Hon. General Sec.: Miss Anne Brion,
"Brambridge," Lower Road

The Club has played the following matches, with results as shown:

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Christchurch Y.C.	7 - 5
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SS.A.F.A.'s overseas service is now much reduced in size, but a representative is maintained in each overseas command to assist commanding officers in the handling of their men's family problems while they are overseas.

As an example of the circumstances in which the Association can be of assistance, the case may be quoted of a soldier in the Regular Army who has deserted for periods of 18 months, 9 months and 6 months during the past 5 years. His wife and three boys receive no allowance whilst he is a deserter. The wife's earnings of £2 per week are supplemented by

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Eight Children's Homes in various parts of the country are provided by SS.A.F.A. for the care of the children of Service and ex-Service men during short periods of domestic emergency when the mother, through illness or some similar cause, is temporarily unable to look after them.

Apart from a public funds grant to meet the administrative expenses of certain work in which the Association acts as the agent of the Service Departments, SS.A.F.A. is financed entirely by voluntary contributions.

The address of the Local Hon. Secretary is "Theldor," Keswick Road, Gt. Bookham.

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Directory of Bookham Organisations

Secretary or Officer in charge, address and telephone number. Usual place of meeting, day and time.

All addresses, meeting places and telephone numbers are Bookham unless otherwise stated.

All alterations and additions should be sent to the Business Manager, Bookhams Bulletin, Riddlesdale, Church Road.

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Organisations marked * are affiliated to the Bookham Community Association.

*Baptist Church Y.P.S. H. V. Mann, Leader, Normandene, The Drive, Fetcham Sats. 7.30 L'head 2539
Bowling Club W. T. Street, Askrigg, Lower Road

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*Camera Club Mrs. Stephens, A.R.P.S. Mansfield, Orestan Lane, Effingham Tel. 2758 The Croft, Church Road Fridays 7.45

Choral Society L.R. Neville, Lone Pine Lower Road Tel. 2075
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Civil Defence Social Club
C. T. Burberry, 1 Pretoria Cottages Church House Tuesdays 7

Commons Committee
T. E. Ware, Merrylands Farm Tel. 2
Communist Party, Bookham Group
F. T. Oels, New House, Lower Road Fridays 7.45

Community Association

E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Road Tel. 241

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Football Club

A. E. W. Cox, Sunnyside, High Street Tel. 3097
Garden Society, Great & Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham J. H. Stephens, Roselea, Sole Farm Road Tel. 3026

Gilmair Tennis Club, A. M. Lee, Leatherhead Road Tel. 271

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Girls' Life Brigade, 1st Bookham Coy. Miss J. I. Bartlett, Captain, Mount View, The Mount, Leatherhead Tel. Leatherhead 2002
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*Goat Society
Miss Rigg, Green Acres, The Park

*Labour Party, Bookham
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*Women's Section, Mrs. D. Stimpson
Sole Farm Avenue
Co-op. Hall, 3rd Wednesday 3.0

Leatherhead & Dist. Local History Soc. A. T. Ruby, M.B.E. 53 Nutcroft Grove Fetcham Tel. Leatherhead 3127

Leatherhead & District Young Farmers Club Ian Watson, Iskandrieh, Blackthorne Rd. Council Offices, Leatherhead, 3rd Friday 7.0, Canons Court Leatherhead other Fridays

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Mrs. F. Palmer, Leader, The Lodge,
Randalls Rd. Leatherhead Tel. 2776
Baptist Church Hall Mondays 60

Literary & Social Society Mrs. Bowen,
Sunnycot, Lower Road Tel. 542

*Little Bookham Village Hall R. Stevenson,
2 Hansard Cottages Tel. 3083

Model Engineering Club R. J. Collins,
Roslyn, Blackthorne Road
Toc H Hall, The Crescent, Leatherhead,
alternate Tuesdays 730

Mothers' Union Mrs. Jacob, Woodcote
Tel. 2699 Church House 2nd Thurs.

*National British Women's T.A. Union
Mrs. Bradshaw, 22 Merrylands Road
Congregational Hall, 2nd Tuesday 30

Nursing Association

Mrs. Emuss, The Hermitage, Lower
Road, Tel. 80

District Nurses Home Leatherhead
Road (near Beckley) Tel. 347

Old Tyme Dance Instruction Class
Mrs. Burberry, 1 Pretoria Cottages,
Lower Road 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
at Barn Hall, 80

Pig (Owners) Club A. Botten, F.I.A.C.
Ivydene, Downsway Tel. 2484

*Poultry & Rabbit Club E. C. Wyatt,
Cumnock, Eastwick Drive Tel. 585
Barn Hall or Scout Hall 3rd Monday

Residents Association F. Cooper, Frantina,
Keswick Road Tel. 360

*Rifle Club O. Rattenbury, Latchingdon,
Dorking Road Bookham Grove
(Dorking Road entrance) Weekends

St. Nicolas Parochial Church Council
P. Fogden, Bonnymuir, Childs Hall
Road Tel. 2897

St. Nicolas Club Miss M. Clack, Malveen,
Leatherhead Road Tel. 246
Church House, Mondays 70

St. Nicolas Folk Dancers R. Lambert,
Fowre Wynds, Hale Pit Rd. Tel. 2206
Church House, alternate Sats. 5-6 30

*Scouts (1st Bookham Group)
L. R. Hutchison, M.C. Group Scoutmaster,
Maddox Farm Tel. 47

Rover Scouts D. Cameron, Leader,
Noremac, Dowlans Road Tel. 2599
The Log Cabin, Thursdays 80

*Boy Scouts, Vikings Troop B. Charles
Scoutmaster, Allandale, Dawney Rd.
Scout Hall Wednesdays 7 15

Saxons Troop—P. F. Cooper, Scoutmaster,
Frantina, Keswick Rd. Tel. 360
Scout Hall Thursdays 7 15

Cubs "A" Pack—Miss Attawell, Cubmaster,
Rosemary, Lower Rd. Tel. 176
Scout Hall, Monday 4 45, Wed 6 15

"B" Pack—A. S. Mace, Cubmaster,
Montmartre, Dorking Road. Scout
Hall, Wednesdays 6 15

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W. T. Cooper, The Croft, Dowlans
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*Women's Co-operative Guild Mrs. Cox
Theldor, Keswick Road Tel. 2706
Co-op. Hall, Thursdays 30

*Women's Club, Little Bookham
Mrs. D. Brazier, Station House
Women's Fellowship Mrs. L. Edkins,
Small House Tel. 187

Church House Mondays 230

Women's Congregational Fellowship
Miss A. M. Cripps, Charmdene, Kennel
Lane, Fetcham Tel. 454

Congrel. Church Hall, Weds. 30

Women's Own Miss L. Hull, Ewhurst,
Grove Side Tel. 191

Baptist Church Hall Mondays 30

*Women's Institute Mrs. West,
Melrose, Dawnay Road Tel. 2251
Church House, last Thursdays 2 45

Young Conservatives (Leatherhead,
Bookham & Fetcham) Miss D. Clare,
Knaresboro', Sole Farm Rd. Tel. 3023
Y.W.C.A. Church St., Leatherhead

*Youth Club, Bookham & Effingham
Miss Micholls, Manor Farm, Little
Bookham Tel. 56 Village Hall, Little
Bookham Mondays & Thurs. 80

Youth Council, Bookham & Effingham
Miss J. Edwards, Hill Crest, Groveside
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