

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 138

JANUARY 1969

35th Year

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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 138

JANUARY 1969

35th Year

B.C.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President. Mrs. E. Harrison M.A.

Election

Vice-Presidents. Messrs. C. Beddous, S. E. D. Fortescue, W. Bell, G. Everett, R. Marshall M.B.E., A. Marson, B. Stockwell, Mrs. B. Oldershaw.

Past Presidents. Miss E. Micholls, Mr. V. L. Austin, O.B.E.

Hon Life Member. Mr. R. Saunders.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. P. Meehan.

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. A. G. Medway.

Representatives of Individual Members. Mesdames Stratford, Medway, Catt, Cuddeford. Messrs. Larkin, Harrison, Rombach, Cuddeford, Woodrow-Clark, Flowers, Russell-Bates, Catt, Freeman.

Secretary's Report

"Although the year 1967-68 may seem an uneventful one, much spadework has been done by our architect and committees in finalising the plans for the next phase of our building to include a further extension and members' room, a stage and smaller meeting room . . .

The cost of maintaining the Barn Hall is kept at a minimum

with the help of members of the Executive and others who have put in many hours of work, all of it hard and much of it skilled . . .

Village Day, despite the appalling weather, attracted a much larger attendance than was expected which indicates that this annual event has the full support of the neighbourhood . . . We would like to put on record the massive support given by local traders and some firms. Organisations and individuals who gave outstanding help were invited to our Village Day Party. To this also came Road Stewards and Bulletin Distributors, so giving us an opportunity to thank those volunteers on whom we depend for the continuance of our wide range of activities . . .

All our Clubs report progress. Our Youth Club is expanding its membership and scope and achieving some success in district competitions, especially in sporting events. The Over Sixties Club still meets a local need. The facilities and help given to the Barn Hall Day Centre are appreciated.

The National Trust has thanked us for our contribution to the success of the Measure for Meas-

ure Production at the Open Air Theatre and we, in turn, thank our members and others who turned up so willingly to steward and service the five performances.

The Association works as a team. My own small contribution to the Association's endeavours would have been of no value without the continuous encouragement and support of the Officers, the Executive, the sub-Committees, the Assistant Secretary, the Hall Booking Officer, the Membership Secretary and the Caretaker. I offer them my warmest thanks.

As this is my valedictory address I ask you to bear with me in indulging in a little sentiment. And why not? In the final analysis it is our feelings and not our mind which spurs us to action. It is 20 years since the Community Association came into existence after a long preparation. 14 years ago I took over the secretaryship, as a stop-gap, from the late Mr. Oldershaw who had given such sterling service. The Association started with a dilapidated hall but much enthusiasm. We should not forget the pioneers, some of whom are no longer with us, who, from the beginning dreamed of a bigger and better Centre to

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which we are now moving. But, perhaps even more important, they all recognised that our purpose and motive force was the development of a community spirit in a changing neighbourhood—a task that would grow and could have no end. We have not deviated from this and I am sure that, if we hold fast to it, those who follow us will carry it on.”

Treasurer's Report

A very comprehensive Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts was presented.

The Building Reserve Fund towards our hoped-for Extensions now stands at £2,400, an increase on last year of £393 13s., the result mainly of the efforts of the Social Committee.

The profit on Village Day and Week—this year totalling just over £361—is usually put to the Building Reserve Fund. Unfortunately, despite the considerable amount of voluntary labour on the Hall, certain works have had to be done professionally and this has taken all the Village Day Profits.

These works include a treatment by Rentokil of the roof timbers where infestation by the 'Common Furniture Beetle' was discovered. A new trap door has been made into the loft which will make for easier inspection of the beams and will also enable the installation of a new cold water storage tank ready for the renewal of the main water service pipe. Users of the Hall will have observed that the water pressure is

at present very low and it is thought that the reason for this is extensive scaling.

During the prolonged rainfall water has seeped through the kitchen ceiling causing some flooding. This revealed defects in the flat roof over the Extension, but a roofing contractor has now carried out the necessary repairs.

A good deal of making good of walls and ceiling followed these operations and some decoration was necessary. This was kept to a minimum as volunteers carried out the washing down of much of the woodwork and they are to carry on with the cleaning and revarnishing of the beams.

Generous donations were acknowledged of £26 5s. from the Scottish Dancers, £40 from the Old Tyme Dancers, £25 from the Youth Club and £10 from the Dramatic Society. These are all clubs of the Association.

Village Day, 1969 has been fixed for June 22nd. Although no definite plans have yet been prepared many members at the A.G.M. offered to serve on sub-committees which will be called together at an early date to work towards another Day of the standard Bookham has come to expect and a Week in which the Village will be more fully engaged. The Secretary would be glad to hear from any individual or group who would be ready to give help of any kind. Provisional sections are envisaged for the Grounds, the Hall and the Week but these could be varied and split up into smaller committees.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Bookham Youth Centre. Many people took advantage of the opportunity to view this fine new building on the Open Days in November and must have been impressed with its attractive layout and pleasant atmosphere. Although basic equipment has been provided by the County Council much more is necessary and this is the responsibility of the locality. The young people and their supporters will be involved in money-raising efforts and the Adult Management Committee will also be committed to this. The Management Committee was nominated earlier in the year at a public meeting and consists of Messrs. R. Bishop (Chairman), A. Browning (Vice-Chairman), S. Godfrey, I. Oxford, B. J. Rowley, J. Stemp, B. Stockwell, F. Waghorn, Mesdames M. Suffolk, P. Perry, B. Fell, the Rev. J. Edwards and Mr. A. Carson ex officio as District Youth Officer. Mr. G. P. B. Ede, Manager of the local Westminster Bank, has consented to act as Treasurer.

We hear from Mr. John A. Hyde, the Leader/Warden, who is now living in Bookham, that interested adults would be welcomed to help in running the Centre and can get in touch with him there. Assistance is needed in running the Coffee Bar, manning the Reception Desk, etc. He is looking for individuals with a specific interest such as dress-making, woodwork, photography, flower arranging, sport, indoor

games who would be prepared to run small groups for interested teenagers; no special qualifications are required but only liking for young people and a desire to help them.

Mr. Hyde adds that "the success of the Centre, and the amount and scope of the work we can undertake will depend almost entirely on the number of adults who volunteer to help."

The Camera Club has provided an interesting programme during December at the Bookham County Junior School on Thursday evenings. The Judge for the Print and Slide Competition against Weybridge C.C. is J. P. Wolfenden M.Sc., F.I.E.E. For the Club's own Monochrome

Competition on the 12th an old Bookhamite comes back to the village—Mr. Percy A. Ball, an Hon Life Member of the Club and a founder member. Mr. Ball lived for a long time in the Park and was also a pioneer of another B.C.A. club, the Gramophone Club. With Christmas approaching December 19th is, appropriately, a Social Evening. Guests interested in photography are invited to the Open Evening on January 16th, at 8 p.m. when Mr. G. Crosby, F.R.P.S. will talk on 'Impact Pictures and Why they Win'.

The Flower Arrangement Group can look back with pride on the three-day Festival of Flowers in St. Nicolas Church

which was an overwhelming success, with an attendance in the neighbourhood of 2,000 people. A great deal of planning was necessary to work out and co-ordinate the colour scheme and the decision to achieve this by bulk buying of the 2,000 or so flowers used, rather than allowing each arranger to provide her own, which involved the Show Committee in very complicated calculations, to avoid the twin horrors of 'too much' or 'too little'.

The hard work of months ahead appeared to be in jeopardy on the Monday when it seemed impossible that the flowers, particularly the dahlias, could have survived the torrents of rain. But somehow they had and, apart from a quick

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chase over to Chertsey for chrysanthemums to substitute for those from the Horsham nursery, most of those ordered arrived safely.

87 designs were created by 22 arrangers and, to judge from the comments of visitors, gave a great deal of pleasure to many people, whose generous offerings enabled a sum of £45 to be sent to "Shelter"—a particularly appropriate cause in that distressing week of ruined homes.

The Festival behind it, the Show Committee is now doing preliminary planning for the Spring Show to be held in the Barn Hall at the beginning of May. The schedule has to be carefully balanced to give arrangers at all stages of experience a chance to show their paces. This requires a great deal of thought and imagination.

Monthly meetings are held in the Barn Hall on the first Monday of the month at 2.30 p.m., and new members and visitors are always welcome. The Annual General Meeting of the Group is on February 3rd, but the programme for 1969 is well on its way to completion and promises to be an interesting one. It will, of course, include the many social events which help to make the Group such a friendly crowd.

P.A.M.T.

The Gramophone Club has had an enjoyable autumn session and reports increasing membership and attendances. One evening of special local interest was entitled "Family Selection". It was presented by Mr. L. S. Hughes who, among his many village activities,

has been for some time the energetic secretary of the Choral Society. The choice of the 14 items had been made by the whole family, including the son and daughter, and showed the wide range of their musical interests, from an item by Purcell down to one by a contemporary composer.

Members appreciated the opportunity to hear a private recording of three carols composed by Elizabeth Norman (herself a recent pupil of Roseberry) and sung by Roseberry Senior Madrigal Society in which Miss Hughes was a keen participant.

Anyone interested in listening to good music in the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere of the Barn Hall will be welcomed to the sessions of the Club on the first and third Thursdays in the Month.

Old Time Dance Club. The Old Time Dancers are now well into their season's activities, having already made several visits to other clubs, including B.E.A. (Silver Wings) at London Airport. There are also many visits arranged for the rest of the season to other Surrey village clubs. These visits are always well attended by members of the club and are very much a feature of the Old Time Dancing community.

We have our own monthly dance at the Barn Hall on the second Saturday in each month and this is attended by other Surrey clubs. On October 12th we were pleased to welcome the Chairman of the Surrey Federation of Old Time Dance Clubs,

together with his wife.

One of the main attractions of the season is the annual dinner dance for members and friends which is held in January.

Our club demonstrators attend the monthly meetings of the Surrey Federation and the Wey Valley Federations of O.T.D.C.s. and are taught by Miss Cecil Rault a selection of prizewinning new dances, and these in turn are added to our repertoire.

New members can be assured of a warm welcome and will enjoy many friendly, sociable evenings at the Club.

E.D.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM

Part V

By John Harvey F.S.A.

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For about 100 years after the compilation of Domesday Book hardly anything is heard of Bookham in documentary records, which are scanty indeed. Yet we know from the fabric of Great Bookham Church that it was considerably enlarged during the twelfth century, a narrow aisle being first thrown out upon the south side about 1140, while some fifty years later there was a more extensive reconstruction. At the end of the reign of Henry II, or early in that of Richard Coeur-de-Lion, the Norman north wall of the nave was pierced with the early Gothic arches that still remain, and the foundations laid for a massive western tower. The bowl of the font probably belongs to this period, and it may

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originally have stood against the eastern face of the central pier of the north arcade, whose unusual plan is otherwise difficult to explain. These successive enlargements suggest both a growing population and increasing prosperity, while the method of building an arcade into an existing solid wall and then cutting away the old masonry from beneath the new arches after an aisle had been built proves a considerable degree of ability on the part of the builders. Although the care of the nave was always the affair of the parishioners, they would doubtless have found it easy to engage a master mason of standing, through the good offices of the Abbot of Chertsey or his steward.

At Little Bookham itself the first church itself belongs to the years around 1100, and was perhaps endowed by the Halsard of Domesday. Hardly more than a

manorial chapel at first it was enlarged by the middle of the twelfth century with a south aisle like that added at Great Bookham, and belonging to the same extremely narrow type, as has been shown by the excavations some years ago of Mrs. Blair. The promise of development in Little Bookham was not ultimately fulfilled, and this aisle later disappeared, presumably owing to the very small number of inhabitants, who neither needed the additional space, nor could afford its maintenance.

In the absence of written records of the period, a little information may be gleaned by examination of the early names applied to places and fields in Bookham, and which, even though they are not found written down until the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries, certainly derived from the twelfth century, if not before

it. A road system already existed, and, as has been seen, included the main north-south line of the High Street and the Lower Road crossing it at Great Bookham Church, as well as the highway from Leatherhead to Guildford running straight across the southern end of the High Street, for it was not until the eighteenth century that the awkward diversion was made to avoid the mansion of Bookham Grove. The roads and lanes leading southwards across the Downs must have been of considerably greater importance than they are now, the Dorking Road being described as the King's Highway which leads to Dorking soon after 1200, while even earlier there is a mention of the way which leads to Dunley, undoubtedly referring to the ancient lane now represented by Townshott Close, which in the twelfth century ran parallel to the High Street, crossed the Guildford Road just west of Bookham Grove and bore off in a south westerly direction through the open field, then over the hill just west of the manor house of Polesden, entered Ranmore Common at Trespass Hatch and ultimately joined the Old Drove Road on the ridge of the Downs on its way to Dunley Hill. The section of this lane which crossed the open field was known as White Way, no doubt from the chalky soil. Further west was Preston (now Chalkpit) Lane, worn deep into the ground along the boundary between Great and Little Bookham, and further east lay Elfare, a corruption of Aylvehawe, the haw or close of Aethelgifu, a Saxon lady.

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New Secretary for the B.C.A. Mrs. P. Meehan, who was elected Hon. Secretary of the Community Association at the Annual General Meeting in October, is well known in Bookham where she has lived for 10 years. She is Departmental Secretary of Business Administration and General Studies at Ewell County Technical College. We are fortunate in finding a Secretary of such professional competence. Prior to her appointment at Ewell three and a half years ago she was active in the women's organisations in the village, her main interest being the Afternoon W.I., and especially its Drama Group.

Our President, V. L. Austin, O.B.E., retired at the A.G.M. of the B.C.A. because his recent serious illness necessitates a prolonged convalescence. We are sorry to lose him but glad to know that he will be still with us as our second Past President. He has

been a dignified and diligent officer and we thank him for the leadership he has given, the good advice he has proffered in moments of crisis and his consistent support for all our neighbourhood projects.

He has been succeeded by Mrs. E. Harrison M.A., who is a founder member of the Association, was at one time Chairman of the Council of the B.C.A. and has been Hon. Sec. for fourteen years.

Theatre Parties. Two enjoyable theatre outings by coach to London have been enjoyed by B.C.A. members. On October 29th a party went to see Charlie Girl, and on 11th November Fiddler on the Roof. It is hoped to fix a Pantomime party for January. Mrs. D. Cuddeford has been responsible for all the arrangements and will be happy to hear from other members interested. Enquiries can also be made to the Secretary of the B.C.A.

If the Bulletin reaches you in time, you may like to know that a Jumble Sale has been arranged for November 30th and any member of the Committee can be asked to collect goods.

B.C.A. Variety Show. Advance notice is given of a Variety Show at the Barn Hall on Saturday, March 22nd, at 8 p.m. Tickets will be numbered and limited so that it will be advisable to book early. We are grateful to the Ronson Concert Group who will be providing the major part of the programme. A Folk Group has also promised to entertain and it is anticipated that there

will be items from individual local artistes.

An Important Appointment A well-known Bookham resident, Mr. R. A. Strand, of Burrows Close, has been congratulated by the Surrey Education Committee on his appointment to the National Council for Diplomas in Art and Design. Mr. Strand is the Principal of the Epsom School of Art and his staff and students will welcome the honour which has been conferred on him and his college.

We in the Community Association, to which he and his wife have given so much help, offer him our congratulations.

Eastwick Parent Teacher Association held its A.G.M. in October. Its Secretary is Mr. K. C. Lynn and its Treasurer is Mr. L. Shelton. They, the Committee and members are to be congratulated on a balance in hand of £643 which will be used to provide a storage shed for sports equipment, a much-needed facility in a school which has a wide range of outdoor activities and has won an impressive number of district awards. The Association has also made donations to a number of charities, among them the Camphill Village Trust and enterprises for the disabled sponsored by Mr. Pastry, as well as participating in some local deserving causes.

It is noteworthy that virtually a hundred percent. attendance of parents is made at school meetings at which experts speak on educational needs and prospects

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for primary school children. The A.G.M. was no exception to this position.

The Friends of Howard of Effingham School, a recently-formed Association for the involvement of parents in the welfare of the school, is making progress. Its membership is growing and its Secretary, Mrs. Alma Fuller, speaks enthusiastically of the increasing involvement of both parents and pupils in its money-raising activities. The success of its Autumn Fair illustrates this. More than 2,000 programmes were sold. The young people, both boys and girls, assisted on all the stalls and were most helpful in the Children's Corner where their gift for establishing rapport with the little ones made this one of the busiest sections.

David Cockle, a former Head Boy, and his father put on an interesting exhibition of model aircraft with over a hundred types. Another father presented an unusual display of Stick Insects and had a ready sale for his specimens.

The social side of the function was of value because it provided an opportunity for parents whose children had been in the junior schools to renew old acquaintances and forge closer links, and plans were discussed for further get-togethers.

A Profession with few Women. Miss Lynda Lake, of Meadowside, has passed the Intermediate

Examination of the Institute of Chartered Surveyors and hopes to complete her Finals next year. This is a fine achievement as less than half the 3,288 candidates passed. Lynda and one other were the only two successful women examinees.

Miss Lake is engaged and plans to marry next year. Her fiance, Mr. Roger Duckworth, of Middlesex, is also a brilliant student. He is a graduate (First Class Honours) in Applied Physics of Brunel University. The young couple met on a Youth Fellowship Holiday in the Wye Valley.

Her mother is a keen member of our Flower Arrangement Group and works actively for the R.S.P.C.A. She tells us that she considers that credit should be given to the G.L.C. for the opportunities for study and experience provided for their Trainees, of whom her daughter was one. Now that she has successfully gained her Intermediate qualification she assumes professional status but will be given all the facilities for her final year of study.

A Bookham Centenian. Good wishes and congratulations to Miss Kleboe on celebrating her hundredth birthday on November 23rd. Her vigour, her business ability, her good taste and feeling for design made her boutique (Frances) in Church Rd. a great success. She established this many years ago after a lengthy experience in a West End fashion

house, and it is still carried on by her niece. But her interests were not confined to her shop. She had an inquiring mind, wide cultural interests which made conversation with her a stimulating experience.

She now resides in Goss Park Nursing Home, Crawley, which was started a few years ago by Mrs. Kumph of Vicarage Close, who was a friend of her's. Although her sight and hearing are not too good she still likes to get village news. She also carries on with her patchwork although she cannot complete it in the quantities she once sent off to the Missions in West Africa.

The Surrey Animal Rescue League. Mrs. Evans, who arranged the Pet Show for us on Village Day has asked us to bring to the notice of readers the existence of the Surrey Animal Rescue League which has been formed for the homing and caring for unwanted animals. Foster homes are needed which could, at short notice, take in an animal for a day, or maybe longer, until a permanent home can be found. Funds are needed for kennelling, vet bills and animal transportation, and donations or money-raising ventures would be much appreciated for this cause.

Collection of jumble can be arranged, goods for sale would be welcomed, even used stamps still intact with the corner of the envelope, silver foil and paper (washed please), trading stamps,

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odd balls of wool. Knitters, too, are needed.

Consideration is being given to the formation of a Junior League.

Anyone who can help in any way is invited to ring Mrs. Evans, Book. 4593, or Miss Jones, Book. 4542.

Howard of Effingham Exam Results. 25 pupils entered the G.C.E. Examination. Of these two achieved 5 passes and seven 4 passes; this entitles them to transfer to a Sixth Form Grammar School, if they so wish. The results in English Language which is a basic subject for entry to quite a number of professions were exceptionally good. For the first time in the history of the school five pupils entered for Music and four were successful.

Good results were also obtained in the C.S.E. Examination—23 girls entered and 19 boys.

The Garden Society has arranged an interesting series of lectures at Bookham Junior School—Jan 31st., Belgian Begonias and Cloche Cultivation, 7.30 p.m. February 28th., Plantgrowing in Pots, 8 p.m. On March 28th a colour film on Roses at 8 p.m. should attract a good audience from a village in which this flower is so widely cultivated and so successful.

The Society asks us to thank all those who helped in the Autumn Show. This was held for the first time on a Sunday and was

at the Barn Hall. It was declared "a wonderful success" even though it took place on September 15th when we were stricken with the floods. There were 400 exhibits from 65 exhibitors.

Accommodation for Under-graduates. Increasing numbers of students are arriving at the University of Surrey, Guildford, and they urgently need accommodation. There may be people in Bookham who would like to provide this. A basic need would be a study bedroom. Some students would need bed/breakfast seven days a week, others would add to this full board at weekends, and finally there would be those who would also need an evening meal as well. Anybody interested

should contact Mrs. B. P. Turner, Accommodation Officer, 17 North St., Guildford. Tel: Guildford 60668.

An Exchange Teacher. Miss Keane, of Eastwick County Junior School, is going to Dunedin, New Zealand, for a year. She will be missed at the school where she has given outstanding service, but she merits this opportunity for wider experience and we hope that she will enjoy it. The school will reap the benefit of the new knowledge she will bring back when she returns.

Her place will be taken by Mr. Ballantyne, Headmaster of the school to which Miss Keane has been transferred. We welcome him and his family.

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Guildford Road, Effingham, Book.
5581.

Bookham Cricket Club: J. Hubbard,
45 Sole Farm Road, Book. 3874.

Eastwick Park Cricket Club: K.
Hicks, 75 Eastwick Park Avenue,
Bookham 4283.

Catholic Women's League: Mrs.
Lacey-Smith, Dean House, Ken-
yons, W. Horsley. E. Horsley 3256.

Choral Society: L. S. Hughes, 2
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**Conservative Association, Gt. Book-
ham Branch:** J. E. Farrier, 22 Rich-
mond Way, Bookham 3986.

**Conservative Association, Little Book-
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Close, Bookham 4162.

Bookham Young Conservatives: Miss
K. Meehan, 48 Downway, Book.
5376.

Labour Party, Bookham Ward: E. H.
Churcher, 6 Twelve Acre Close,
Bookham 3949.

Liberal Association, Bookham Branch:
J. P. Mattheu, 96 Middlemead
Road, Book. 5692.

Garden Society: R. C. Wing, 20
Gilmals, Bookham 3687.

**Eastwick Allotments and Gardens
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Bowls Section—Gillett Sports: C. A.
Upton, Bybrook, Sole Farm Road,
Bookham 3279.

Bookham Football Club: L. W. Earle,
28 Middlemead Road, Book. 5659.

Bookham Music Club: Mrs. Muriel,
Jangada, Lower Farm Road, Effing-
ham.

Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association:
K. C. Lynn, 32 Hazel Way,
Fetcham. Bookham 3875.

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