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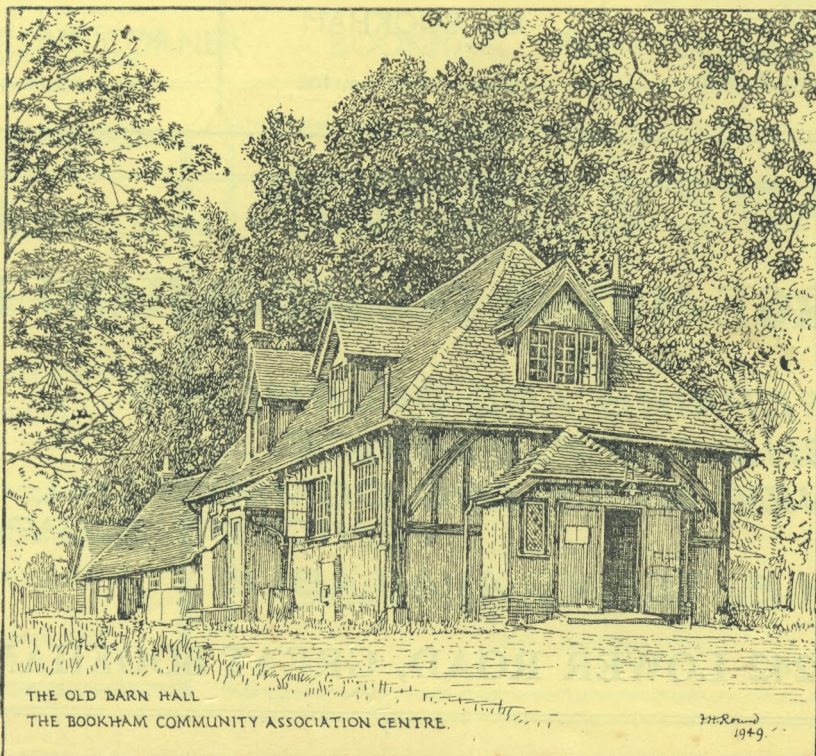
The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 93

MARCH 1957.

25th year



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 93.

MARCH, 1957.

25th year

The Editor "Brandreth", Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.

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EDITORIAL

A new *Bulletin* year begins with the March issue. Once more we record our appreciation of the generosity of the advertisers who make the production possible and ask you to support them whenever you can. We are also indebted to the Community Association, on which rests financial responsibility as well as the tasks of administration and distribution.

It is obvious that without the Association there would be no *Bulletin*, no Barn Hall, no Village Day and no permanent organisation to reflect the combined views of so many clubs in the district. The address of the President and the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer at the Annual

General Meeting of the Community Association in February emphasised the size of the financial commitment which the Association has assumed and underlined the need for increased membership. Membership is, of course, obligatory on all (with the exception of the Over Sixties) who belong to the Association's groups, of which there are now six. There are, however, other members who do not participate actively but whose purpose in joining is to encourage the social and educational work being done on a wide field.

Briefly summarized, the aims and objects of the Association, as set out in its constitution, are: to associate the Local Authorities, voluntary youth and adult organisations, and individual residents in a common effort to promote the well-being of the village; to provide a meeting place and facilities for physical training, recreation, the pursuit of hobbies, intellectual development, etc.; to foster a community spirit and to maintain a centre for activities promoted by the Association.

The attainment of all these objectives will take many years and the facilities at our disposal are meagre, but with a wide and enthusiastic membership it would be possible to provide many more amenities.

The subscription is a modest one of 2/6 minimum per annum, and there is an all-in family subscription of 5/- for those with children of school age.

May we again appeal to our readers to join. Fill in the form below *now* and return to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Road, Great Bookham.

I wish to join the Community Association and enclose subscription.

Name.....

Address

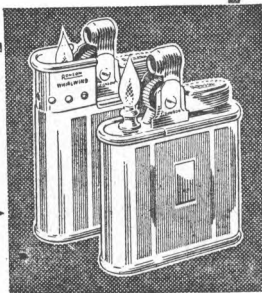
Village Day will take place in the Barn Hall and Grounds on Saturday, June 1st. Preparations are in hand. Volunteers are needed now to assist in the making of sideshows, stalls, etc. Equipment and labour for the tidying of the grounds is urgently required.

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GARDEN TOOLS

HISTORY OF GT. BOOKHAM BARN HALL (PART III)

Browsing through old records is an interesting and sometimes nostalgic occupation. The Minute Book (1906—1912) of the meetings of the original Trustees of the Barn Hall provides reading of this kind.

With all the optimism generated by a new venture the Committee decided to employ a caretaker at 5/- a week plus the perquisites on the sale of refreshments, and a cleaner, also at 5/- a week for the winter months and 2/6 for the summer. The caretaker, however, was never appointed and, presumably in the interests of economy, one appointment was made to cover all duties. The post was offered to Mrs. Amey and she continued to act in this capacity for 28 years. In recognition of her services to the Hall for so long a time the Community Association is proud to number her among its Vice-Presidents.

For a wage of 5/- a week in the winter and 2/6 in the summer, later compounded to a weekly payment of 4/6, she kept the Hall scrupulously clean and looked after the interests of the hirers. Included in the work was the lighting, cleaning and carrying of coal for three fires—two in the Hall and one in the annexe. In these days of full employment it is difficult to realise that so much could be obtained for so little.

Up to and including the period of the First World War the Old Barn Hall apparently served the needs of the local community. Meetings, social events and entertainments all took place there because for a time there was no other hall. A minute, dated February, 1910, draws back for a moment the curtain of history by recording that the Hall had been let to Miss M. Keswick, daughter of the M.P. for the Division, for an Anti-Women's Suffrage meeting. Older villagers remember the ceremony of the dances held for the wealthier people of the neighbourhood. And there was also the Working Men's Club, which must have been a flourishing concern because it was agreed in 1911 to convert an annexe for its use. The work was entrusted to Mr. Lee, the total cost was £39 12s., and it now serves as the canteen storeroom. A subscription list was opened to defray the expenses and amongst the subscribers was the Hon. Mrs. R. Greville, of Polesden Lacey, who is remembered for her bequest of her beautiful mansion and estates to the National Trust.

The first Chairman of the Committee was the Rev. G. S. Bird, and the first Secretary, Mr. Lindam, who held the post for three years. On June 17th, 1912, the minutes record a decision to plant ivy, or some other creeper, to cover the walls of the Hall. We shall never know if this was done, for these minutes are unsigned

and one can only presume that formal meetings of the Trustees ceased from this date. We know that some of the original Trustees died, some left the district, and that during the 1914-18 War the supervision of the Hall fell on the Rev. G. S. Bird until he left Bookham in 1926.

Mr. Arthur Bird continued to do what he could to keep the Hall going, but at some time between 1926 and 1931, when he died aged 87, he was obliged to transfer the management to the Parish Council (probably in error for the Parochial Church Council). Under the Surrey Review Order of 1933 the Parish Council ceased and its duties, including the management of the Barn Hall, passed to the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

About this time Mrs. Amey also resigned and a succession of caretakers followed. The Urban District Council probably found the responsibility burdensome. With the outbreak of the war, however, the Hall met a vital need. It became an evacuation centre and from 1938 it served meals for between 400 and 500 children under the control of Mrs. Bowen as local representative of the W.V.S. She tells how she and 70 volunteers worked in three shifts and how the meals were served without interruption despite the disruption of the main services by occasional bombs. The Canadian soldiers, stationed in Bookham, also had social even-

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ings in the Hall on several evenings in the week.

In 1945 the evacuee children returned home, the L.C.C. gave up its responsibility and the Surrey County Council took over the Hall for the schools meals service. Miss Amey, daughter of the former caretaker, was appointed cook-in-charge. The new canteen at the school will soon be ready for use and, once more, the Hall will be available for the general use of the village.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the Leatherhead U.D.C., Mrs. Bowen continued to supervise the management of the Hall until 1948, when, in conjunction with the Council and the Charity Commissioners, arrangements were made for the transfer of the Trusteeship of the Hall to the Executive Committee of the Bookham Community Association. This, however, is another story which will be concluded in the next issue.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Going to Cambridge. Congratulations to Mr. Peter J. Curtis, son of Mr. C. F. Curtis, of Long Hedges, Meadowside, and a pupil of the Glyn Grammar School, who has been awarded an open exhibition in the natural sciences at King's College, Cambridge.

He plans to make a special study of marine biology. He has always been interested in water life and has a fine collection of specimens. We wish him success in a branch of research which can add much to our medical and industrial potential.

Bookham Resident holds Ancient Office. The office of Serjeant at Arms to which Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, residing at Flushings Meadows, has been appointed is one of high honour and great age. Tradition has it that Richard the Lionheart appointed a bodyguard of serjeants at arms to serve in the Crusades, but it was in the reign of Edward I that the bodyguard was recognised as part of the Royal Household. Under later kings a serjeant at arms was ceded to the House of Commons for service to Parliament. This custom has continued through the years and Major-General Hughes is the latest one to be appointed by Her Majesty

He attends upon the Speaker, carrying a royal mace from the Jewel Tower, and takes his instructions from him. He is, in fact, the executive officer of the House. The police on duty in the precincts come under his jurisdiction, he is responsible for order in the galleries and waiting rooms, and the orderly and comfortable administration of the Members' rooms is his special prerogative.

Old Friend in Venezuela. Mr. Charles Beddous, who was a prominent member of the Community Association, has emigrated to Venezuela. We have just received a letter from him, from Caracas, where he is working in the film unit of Shell, the great oil company. He says: "Caracas is a most up-to-date city, buildings go up overnight . . . there is a fine beach of sand with coconut palms growing to the

water's edge. . . . Petrol is very cheap and costs about 1/- a gallon. . . . The sun shines every day and if it rains it only lasts for a few minutes. The days are short, darkness falls at about 6.15 each evening." His address is: Cinelaboratorios Caribe C.A., Calle Comercio, Edificio Ateca, Les Acacias, Caracas, Venezuela.
W.I. Play. Make a note of the W.I. Play, "The Only Prison", to be performed at Church House on 16th, 17th and 18th of May.

The Camera Club.

It is now some sixteen months since the Camera Club joined the Community Association and it is most satisfactory to report that membership is steadily increasing, despite the unfortunate loss for various reasons of very many of the Club's stalwarts in recent years. The new blood is bringing in fresh enthusiasm.

Attendances at meetings have been very good lately, a fact which is undoubtedly due to that enthusiasm, coupled with the greater comfort which the Club enjoys in its new surroundings.

In a very optimistic frame of mind the Committee is looking forward to another successful exhibition on 13th April in the Barn Hall and afterwards in Leatherhead. The support which has been forthcoming for the regular competitions suggests that there will be no shortage of entries for the exhibition. This is largely due to the energy and drive of the Competition Secretary, Mr. Jarvis. It is hoped to be able to embark

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on a more ambitious programme of lectures during the season commencing in September. Three important dates to remember for the present season are:—

- Mar. 28. Annual Gen. Meeting.
Apr. 13. Annual Exhibition at Bookham.
May 3. Annual Dinner.

Secretary, Mr. J. W. Selby,
23 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.
Neighbourly Enterprise. May we commend the public spirit of the band of volunteers who got together to repair the path across the Common.

NO RIDING

Our path, the link between Meadowside and Church Road across a neck of Bookham Common, is traversed daily by dozens of people, chiefly business men catching or returning from the London trains, but including also many others and a surprisingly large sprinkling of schoolchildren. In recent years it has fallen into a very poor condition and during this wet winter its puddles and thick clayey slush became intolerable — even the cyclists complained.

An informal group decided to repair it and exhibited a notice calling for funds and assistance. The money rolled in and help was promised. The work was scheduled to start at 8.30 a.m. one Saturday morning. At 8.30 there were two men there, complete with mattocks, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels and the like, anxiously looking out for those who

might turn up. There was no need to worry. By the time the tea break came there were 25 men, in various stages of perspiration, digging, wheeling, dumping and rolling, and the job was completed by 12.30 that morning.

The path has not yet fully settled and is rather like a beach to walk on, but it is dry. The Bookhams Commons Committee (by whose permission the work was done and who made a donation towards the expenses) has put up a notice at each end to preserve it as a footpath. **NO RIDING**, says the notice. Everyone is pleased except the cyclists, who still complain. A.H.

Over Sixties Club.

At the Annual General Meeting the resignation of Mrs. M. Longhurst as Caterer was received with great regret. In the Report of the Secretary (Mrs. A. Perry) it was noted that though some members have left the district, some have died and others are too ill to attend, the membership is maintained at 98 to 100, with an average weekly attendance of 70. The club is indebted, she said, to the Community Association for the use of the Barn Hall at a purely nominal rent and the services of the Women's Committee all the year round. Elected to the Committee were Mrs. Daws, Miss Freeman, Messrs. Wilson, Scoble, Power. Elected Chairman, Mrs. N. Cox; Secretary, Mrs. A. Perry; Treasurer, Mr. W. Scoble.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

(PART 13)

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Bookham in the early seventeenth century, as shown by Thomas Clay's survey and map,* was still a stronghold of independence, for 36 of the 62 separate tenements in Great Bookham manor were held by occupiers of a single holding, while 26 were held by 'landlords': only a slightly higher proportion than in 1548. The total of yearly rents from the manor had risen from about £21 to £35, without counting the value of the demesne lands (276½ acres), now let for £60 a year and 12 fat hens. A few rents from lesser holdings included one or two hens or capons, while Sole Farm (51 acres of copyhold) paid 26s.8d. and a pig. As against the rise in rental, there had been a serious drop in the value of money. Between 1548 and 1614 money wages had roughly doubled, while food prices had gone up by more than 150 per cent.† There was, therefore, a strong incentive to farming; labour was relatively cheap, while high prices were obtainable for the foodstuffs produced. This applied even to fairly small farmers lucky enough to live in unenclosed country, as at Bookham, and so able to run a number of beasts on the common lands. The profits to be made from large-scale agriculture account for

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the high money rents which farmers were prepared to pay: for instance, Robert Marshe's £60 for the demesnes, and Thomas Peter's £10 for a leasehold of 31 acres.

Against this background of rural prosperity for the landed classes (which still included among the non-landlords nearly 50 per cent. of individuals holding less than 5 acres) has to be set the growing problem of the landless labourer who worked for very low pay, and the increase of pauperism. Acts of 1609-10 had introduced the new principle of 'settlement', whereby it became virtually impossible for a poor man to better himself by removing to another district. The local officers had power to permit settlement but would not do so because of the risk of having to support the newcomer from parish funds; only those strangers were exempt who could rent tenements at £10 a year or more. Concealment of settlers and the taking in of lodgers became crimes, which appear in the Great Bookham Court Rolls. In 1626 Robert Wilkyns was fined 10s., later increased to £1, for allowing John Ellyott and Edward Powell to dwell in his home 'as two separate families in one house', and two years later Mary Hilder, widow, was prosecuted for receiving Richard Lock and his family to live with her as 'subtenants called Inmates'. Similarly in 1630 George Sheires of Slyfield, Esq., having a cottage at Northend in

Bookham, was fined £10 (say £100 in 1957) for letting it to Andrew Barnes, a stranger, without giving security to the Overseers of the Poor.

Not all such prosecutions were under the Poor Laws, for at the same Court Richard Sheppard, 'vitler', was accused of lodging Jane Prine, said to be 'of ill and incontinent life'. The Court Leet was still active in petty jurisdiction as well as in matters of purely administrative interest to the manor, though these manorial affairs made up the bulk of its business. Encroachments on land, the cutting of trees and bushes to which tenants or others were not entitled, and the closing or ploughing up of ways were frequent offences. In 1626 the Vicar, Samuel Cherrey, was presented for having shut 'Le Vickaridge Lane' with a gate, and was ordered to keep it open as it had anciently been during the open times of year (when the arable fields had been declared open to the commoners). This was the lane running along the north side of what is now The Old Rectory, thus preserved as a public right of way. It was Mr. Cherry who in 1632, according to the first surviving Parish Register, repaired 'the Vicaridge house . . . vizt. new rooffe built, glazed, ye study built, ye south-side from ye porch to ye west end caste wth bricke & new Timber put in, ye chamber over ye milkehouse, & Kitchin built, & ye west end handg wth Tiles.'

The earliest Vestry Book, bought at the same time as the Register, contains the first extant parish accounts, including the complete assessment for poor relief made 28th August, 1631, on the basis of weekly contributions from 48 named parishioners. The weekly amounts ranged from 6d. from Sir Francis Howard, lord of the manor, 4d. from George Shiers, Esq. (of Slyfield), and 4d. from the farmer of 'Poulesden', down to 2½d. from Thomas Wood of Bagden, 1d. from Thomas Wood of 'Ew trees', and ½d. or ¼d. from each of the smaller proprietors. The actual rate levied for the year was double the assessment, yielding just over £23, almost all of which was actually spent on relief. Four parish children were kept for the whole year and one for 36 weeks, being farmed out; four poor people: Robert Pynner, Widow Pynner, Widow Stone and John Elliot, had their rents paid as well as receiving relief, and twelve others were paid sums from 13s.9½d. down to 1s.3d. in out-relief.

Parochial affairs were not running smoothly. Between 1633 and 1635 several parishioners were excommunicated, and in 1634 a dispute arose as to the election of a Churchwarden. On 7th April the Vicar and chief parishioners had chosen Sir Francis Howard and George Sheires to be Churchwardens, 'provided that if these Gentlemen desire to be excused for this Turne, It is agreed upon

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that Richard Flint, and Thomas Wood of Bagden shalbe the Churchwardens for this yeare . . . Sir Francis Howard declined, and Dr. Mason, Chancellor of the Diocese (of Winchester), ordered the parish to hold another election. On 22nd June, 1634, 'this election was made in the after noone by the parisheners in the forenone sumoned for election in the afternoone, & by a generall consent of ye Cheife fre holders their present, . . . to be Thomas Marter, by . . . the whole number there present, none oposing it but Mr. Cherrie the vicar.' Four 'chief freeholders' sign: G. Shiers, Antho: Hilder (one of the excommunicate), John Hebbard, and Thomas Wood, while the Vicar added the note: 'The election of this second Churchwarden is referred unto the Ordinarie, by me Sa: Cherrie.'

* Belonging to the National Trust; the Survey and copies of the Map are deposited at the Surrey Record Office, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames.

† See D. Knoop and G. P. Jones: 'The Mediæval Mason' (1933), pp. 235-9; E. V. Morgan: 'The Study of Prices' (Historical Association, 1950).

THE FOOTBALL CLUB

As we go into the second half of the season the Premier and reserve teams are just in the top half of their respective league tables. Our juniors, in their first season of competitive football, did not do so well, only gaining 11 points from 10 matches. They are now engaged in a further competition for a Consolation Shield.

Our longest playing member, Jack Mackness, started playing this season, but after appearing in eight games, decided to retire. Don Durban, however, is still going strong and playing as well as ever. Norman Hodson, our goalkeeper, had to retire owing to the uncertain hours of his work, but fortunately for us Brian Hall returned to the club. Ron Smith, who has scored, to put it mildly, a lot of goals as our centre-forward, had so many injuries to his knee that he had to cry "quits" and is now enjoying himself in goal for the reserves! "Sammy" Moore, now out of the Navy, is our Premier centre-forward, and "Mick" Butler has returned, as the "schemer", in partnership with Roy Durban, to worry a lot of defences. "Tiny" Longhurst is doing his National Service, but Brian Winter has settled well in the left full-back position. We cannot mention all our players by name as we have more than 60.

The Supporters' Club, under Mrs. Mary Longhurst, is always hard at it, scheming to swell the Club funds. They have held dances, a Christmas Draw, a Christmas Whist Drive, and recently a very good Variety Concert, which, incidentally, was presented, and paid for, by one of our Vice-Presidents.

The Easter tour to Belgium is now firmly assured and a party of more than 20 will leave on April 18th for four days (the foot-

ball team playing a match on Easter Sunday afternoon), returning home on Easter Monday

Once again may I appeal to the sporting people of Bookham to come along to the ground on Saturday afternoons to cheer our teams. They will win many more matches with a little encouragement.

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FOLK DANCING

Our Bookham group is meeting on alternate Saturdays at Church House, from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., and very jolly times we have together, in an informal manner. This season, to encourage a love of folk dancing, we have thrown the class open to young people of teenage, with much success. We would, however, welcome some more adults also. Anyone who might like to drop in to enjoy a new experience should write or phone the Hon. Secretary, "Fowre Wynds", Halepit Road (Bookham 2206).

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

Camera Club. J. W. Selby, 23 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

Gramophone Club. Mr. D. G. Gay, Collin, Dowlans Rd. Tel.: Bk. 3576.

Old Time Dance Club. Miss E. Butcher, The Hermitage, Dowlans Rd.

Over Twenties. Mrs. L. Bambury, Arundel, Sole Farm Road. Tel.: Bk. 2921.

Over Sixties. Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Rd.

Table Tennis. Miss M. Austin, Pen-bryn, Dirtham Lane, Effingham.

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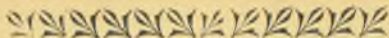


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