

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 106

AUGUST 1960

28th year



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# THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 106

August, 1960

28th year

## EDITORIAL

Now that September has arrived we can look back with tranquility on Village Day, an event of which the organising is anything but tranquil. When the day arrives after months of hectic work, and it is such a happy village affair which everybody is so obviously enjoying one feels that all the effort is worthwhile. So many helpers appear and cheerfully work away at all kinds of uninteresting backroom jobs; others slave on sideshaws—all united in one community spirit.

We thank all of you for all you did and also everyone who came to make the day such a success. There are so many grand people that we only see once a year. How we wish they would join the Community Association and participate in our other activities.

## SIT. VAC.

The Bulletin has lost a most able business manager who has had to resign because of family commitments. We thank Mr. Weller for the enthusiasm and acumen he has displayed.

Will a public spirited volunteer take on this job? It is interesting and should not be too arduous now that it has been established on a sound basis.

Thank-you to the tradesmen who donated prizes.

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## OBITUARY

With the death of Dr. N. E. Waterfield, the Bookham Community Association has lost a President it will be hard to replace. Not only was he President, but also the inspiration of many of the activities of the Association.

There was hardly a Council Meeting or a Committee Meeting that he failed to attend, and he took the Chair at every General Meeting from 1949 when he was appointed President.

When the idea of Producing Plays at Polesden Lacey was suggested, it was Dr. Waterfield who obtained most of the Guarantors without whose help this venture would not have been possible, and he personally worked on the construction of the Stage and encouraged other volunteers to complete this work.

At our annual Village Day he was there to introduce the Opener and thank the Organisers and helpers.

Many of the larger donations to help the funds were due to his energy and keenness.

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It was he who insisted that our Village Coronation Tree should be planted with due ceremony, in 1953, in front of the Barn Hall.

He never failed to attend any particular function, and was specially interested in the "Over 60s" Parties.

He also proposed the election to Vice-President one of our oldest residents and original Caretaker of the Barn Hall, Mrs. Amey.

When in 1958, the Surrey County Council School meals came to an end, and we lost a substantial part of our rent for the Barn Hall, it was The President who inspired the formation of the Covenant scheme in order to raise sufficient funds for the repairs and further development of the Barn Hall for wider uses.

In the last 12 months of his life, it was the Bookham Community Association that was one of the uppermost thoughts in his mind, and at the last General Meeting in February this year, although rapidly failing in health, he insisted on taking the meeting, which he did with all his usual energy and fire, mentioning particularly in his Chairman's address the changing conditions of life in the Village, and appealing for expansion, especially charging the Association to keep its mind on Youth Organisations.

It was his "Swan Song" speech, as he passed on on the 27th of April leaving a memory of an inspiration of a very high order, and an example for his Successor. and an example for his successor.

22.7.60.

E.E.O.

We mourn the loss of the Rev. G. Egerton Ryerson who died in a road accident in July. Mr. Ryerson took an active part in village affairs and will be much missed. We offer our deepest sympathies to his family, and most especially to his daughter, Miss Adna Ryerson.

## BRITISH LEGION

Many residents of Bookham witnessed the parade of 79 standards of the British Legion, when the old standard of the Duke of Connaught Memorial Branch was handed to the rector of Great Bookham Parish Church for safe keeping.

This branch is composed of members who have given distinguished service to the county or their local branch of the British Legion.

Local people may be wondering why Bookham was chosen for this honour, possibly because of its central position in Surrey but more likely as a tribute to a resident of Bookham who has played such a magnificent role not only in respect of this particular

branch, but for the British Legion and ex-service men and women throughout the county.

The Effingham and Bookham branch extend a cordial welcome to ex-service men and women to join their local branch, especially from those who have moved into this area in recent years.

There is a very active Women's Section who have done well regarding the sale of goods made by the disabled, and a club having had recent successes in the Billiards and Snooker field.

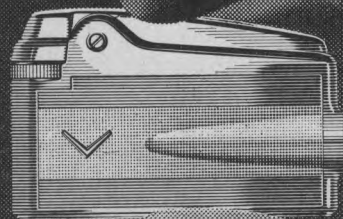
Further details can be obtained from the Secretary whose name and address appears amongst the list of local organisations.

## BUILDING THE SWIMMING POOL

It all began on a summer day two years ago when wandering through the tangled undergrowth to the north of the ruin of Southey Hall I came upon the disused swimming bath concealed in the woods almost hidden by neglected shrubs and weeds. This was a wonderful discovery—a swimming bath in the school grounds—but was it? Where was the boundary? I contacted Surrey County Council but alas the bath was thirty yards outside the school area.

I conveyed this sad news to the committee of the newly formed Parent and Teacher Association, and it was suggested that we might enquire the price of the

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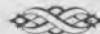
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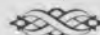
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plot of land surrounding the bath. After all, there was little harm in asking! At the next meeting the Secretary informed us the price was £1,500, and the Treasurer quietly added this was approximately £1,499 more than the credit balance stood at the moment so we dismissed the idea of using the old bath and decided to build our own.

On looking back I think we were very courageous (or foolhardy) to consider the building of a swimming pool at that stage when we were under ninety on roll and still in temporary classrooms. Nevertheless we went ahead and asked for volunteers to form a technical committee. How lucky we were to have as parents, surveyors, draughtsmen, civil engineers, and builders. These formed the Technical Committee, and they have proved a wonderful body of men, the number increasing as new parents with the necessary qualifications and enthusiasm have joined. Many the hours they have spent in committee and on the job directing unskilled labour. Tribute must be given to their patient and long-suffering wives; it was not for nothing they became known as the "Eastwick Pool Widows" recognised by their neglected gardens and unpainted houses.

We were fortunate in having advice and the use of plans from Heads of other schools who have successfully built their own swimming pools, and we have since reciprocated by passing on our plans and knowledge to others. Mr. Jackman from Gilmais Swimming Pool has been of great assistance.

Having drawn up plans of our teaching swimming pool which was to be 50ft. x 16ft. x 3ft. 3ins., we forwarded them to various official bodies and awaited approval. This took several months for the wheels of officialdom turn slowly, but in the meantime we had optimistically formed a Finance and Social Committee in order to raise funds.

Final approval came in Spring 1959, and in June the site was roughly excavated, and during the long summer evenings the laborious task of digging began. It was hard and slow work. Many of us discovered muscles that had lain dormant for years; discs strained if they didn't actually slip, but by July we rested our picks and spades ready to fit shuttering in preparation for concreting. It was then that one authority suggested we might consider an alternative site for the pool! Rather than face mutiny I tactfully suggested that we were very happy with our hole in its present position, and had no wish to move it.

During this time the Finance and Social Committee was busy organising bazaars and fetes. The children ran an "Earn a Swim" campaign doing odd jobs for people in the neighbourhood, and gave their earnings to the fund. They raised over £27. The English Schools Swimming Association kindly lent us £200, gifts came from parents, and slowly but surely the fund increased. We needed £400 for the first stage and we were well on the way.

By now the area took on the appearance of a building site as sand, cement, ballast, shuttering, and cement mixers arrived. We were fortunate in having two cement mixers loaned to us. Did I say fortunate, for whilst one did all that we asked the other proved a very mixed blessing. This one a vintage model, was nicknamed "Tempermental Annie." As soon as she arrived at the site all the goblins and gremlins and other various juvenile delinquents from the fairy world adopted her as a temporary home. More care and devotion was spent on her than she deserved. She usually agreed to start but that was just part of her devilment for she waited until she had received her intake of water, ballast, and cement when for reasons unknown she would cough, splutter, and with a final hiss—stop. This provided a welcome break for those mechani-

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cally minded fathers who love to tinker with engines. All work stopped as we fussed around "Annie." We altered this, replaced that, and cleaned every moving part for her to start again until she sulked from lack of attention and stopped once more. Another annoying habit was her reluctance to part with her starting handle, and this would fly off at a tangent luckily avoiding her tormentors who crouched behind nearby barricades. I spent some time thinking of a suitable place to put the starting handle (it was always being lost) and a longer time remembering where I had put it. Dear "Annie" but for you the pool would have been finished at least a month earlier.

Slowly but steadily the pool took shape. Concreting was confined to weekends, and the shuttering removed at night by the aid of floodlights. Naturally we made a few mistakes. Better men than us have tapped the wrong water pipe (the pool nearly came into existence inside the school) but by the time winter was upon us the concrete shell was completed and work stopped until the Spring.

We were lucky in having as parents, specialists in laying drains and pipes, and they had the long and difficult task of laying the complicated set of pipes not only for the first stage, but for the day when we shall have a filtration plant, vacuum pump, and heating system. This they did during the cold uninviting morn-

ings of early Spring. Another tedious task was smoothing and preparing the pool for painting, slow, boring and unrewarding, but at last we were ready for the final phase. A professional fixed our tiles—colour had come to the pool. The excitement spread through the children to the fathers; we were getting towards the end. Gangs of twelve or more were turning up nightly. Paving stones were laid and the footbath placed in position. Each day saw a big change. The grey sombre hue of the concrete became revitalised as it took on a shade of blue. The coloured coping added gaiety to the scene. Could the pool be finished in time for the Summer Fete on Saturday, 25th June? The fixing of the handrail was more difficult than anticipated, but by working late on Friday night through wind and rain the pool was finished a year since we started.

At the Fete the Fire Brigade filled the pool, and four strong committee members gently persuaded me to take the first dip.

Although the weather hasn't been kind, over 600 "dips" have been taken in the pool to date. Many children have discovered the joy of swimming.

This project has done much to bind the local community together. It gave many of us a common interest. It has built friendships and created fresh understanding between parents and teachers.

When anyone asks "Was it worth it?" I think of the benefit and pleasure the children now and those to come have and will have from our labours and I say "Definitely Yes."

Maurice Taylor.

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### Bookham Camera Club

The new session begins in September and an interesting programme for the year has been prepared including:— A photographic journey through China; A practical evening for Enlarging; Competitions in both Prints and Colour Slides; Beginners Evenings; Print Battles with neighbouring clubs; Best Colour Slides of 1959. In fact this season will be far more colour conscious than any before, reflecting the greater use of colour films.

It is hoped that in the next twelve months more will join in the warm and friendly atmosphere of the club meetings where old members are ready to welcome and help new ones. Anyone interested will find that for the price of just one roll of colour film they can become a member and expect to improve their transparencies or prints. Secretary:

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### Over Twenties

A friendly social club eager to welcome new members. Main interests table tennis, darts, cards. New Session September 20th. Secretary: Mrs. B. Templeman, 33 Merrylands Road.

### Old Tyme Dance Club

The Old Tyme Dance Club opens its new season on the 7th September, and will meet regularly each Wednesday through the season. New members will be most welcome, especially young people.

There is a feeling that young people are put off by the expression "Old Tyme." Although the repertoire of an Old Tyme Club contains a number of old favourites the vast bulk of the dances are of recent invention and many are quite strenuous; in fact the term "Old Tyme" refers to a style of Dancing and not to a period. The younger generation may rest assured that if they come along to the Club they will not be expected to participate in revels reminiscent of the Victorian drawing-room.

Membership of the Club is open to all members of the Community Association and costs 1/- a year. Admittance to the Barn Hall costs 1/6 but the Committee is considering a reduction for those under 21. Last season the Club was able to give its members a dinner-dance and a party quite free; why not come along this season and see what can be done this year. It's a very pleasant way of supporting the Association.

### Over Sixties Club

The above Club continues to be a very live wire in the activities of Bookham. I think everyone will agree that the Club members did their "bit" on Village Day in supplying the greater part of the Soap Stall with various cleansing commodities.

We have just taken part in the Hobbies Show held at Whiteley Village annually for all Old People's Clubs in Surrey, and to our amazement and joy we have won the Shield for the best Club Exhibit. This being our first entry, one can imagine the thrill it gave to all the members, especially those who had actually taken part. We hope to obtain permission to exhibit this Trophy, "The Magpie Crest," in the Barn Hall for the coming year.

We extend a very warm welcome to all villagers who qualify for membership.

### Gramophone Club

The new session begins on October 13th. The programme will be a varied and interesting one alternating between guest speakers and members' own programmes. Secretary: D. G. Gay, Esq., Dowlans Road.

### BREVITIES

#### Congratulations to

John Pullen, of East Street, former pupil of Bookham Primary School, now at the Glyn Grammar School, who has been awarded a Junior Exhibition to the Royal College of Music. Only five of these are awarded in Surrey. His instrument is the oboe.

Geoffrey Harrison on obtaining his B.Comm.(Hons.). He was at Birmingham University and has now entered the firm of Price Forbes, of Lloyds.

Alen Harrison on obtaining her B.Sc.Soc.(Hons.). She was at Bedford College, London University, and has taken a Research Assistantship at the London School of Economics.

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Petty-Officer Wren E. A. Wilson, of Great Bookham, and of H.M.S. Vernon, Portsmouth, is the new British woman champion for short range small bore rifle shooting, the National Small Bore Rifle Association announced.

She scored 300 points and won the Championship Silver Rose Bowl. She also fired for Great Britain at Bisley.

Good Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. David Peel who were married on August 6th. Mrs. Peel was well known in the village as Elizabeth Harrison, the younger. She was secretary of the Local History Society, did much work with the Guides, and organised Village Day last year.

### GARDEN SOCIETY

The Garden Society A.G.M. will be held at the Croft and not at Church House on 25th Nov. at 8 p.m.

Illustrated Lectures at the Croft, on 14th Oct. and 11th No. at 8 p.m.

### POLESDEN LACEY

7,000 people attended the open air production in July. The following letter which was sent to Lady Dalton indicates the wide range of our audience.

William Heinemann Ltd.,  
Publishers,  
The Windmill Press,  
Kingswood, Surrey.

20th July, 1960.

ET/PM

Lady Dalton,  
c/o The National Trust,  
Polesden Lacey,  
Bookham, Surrey.

Dear Lady Dalton,

After your appeal on Thursday evening and the performance of KING LEAR which followed it, I felt that I must write to you to express my appreciation of the work which you and your committee commenced a few years ago, and have so grandly continued. Save for the Old Vic and Stratford, your Open Air Theatre is, as far as I know the only place where one can go every year to see a great Shakespeare play performed with understanding, appreciation and real ability by people who obviously love these plays.

Frankly, I was astonished that an amateur company could present LEAR so gloriously and it reflected the inspiration of your producer, the efficiency of the stage management and the devotion of the cast for the play. It is superb that the National Trust provides such a beautiful theatre for such performances.

It may interest you to hear that on my way to the theatre I gave a lift to two young Norwegian girls who are students in this country. They had been told by other Norwegians that they had to see the play at Polesden if they could. As we reached the bend of the road I filled the vacant seat of the car with a French boy and he said that he had arranged his holiday so that he could be in England to see LEAR! I was surprised that I should have the good fortune to talk to three such ardent young foreigners, and at a time when the International field is so ugly, I took vicarious pride in this "National" production of the works of our greatest dramatist, presented in a setting and with the dignity and ability, they deserve.

I felt that I wanted to convey this to you, to your producer and the cast, and I hope you will be kind enough to accept and express my gratitude. I now look forward—with the thousands of others who come to these productions—to the 1961 Shakespeare play. I wish we didn't have to wait for a whole year.

Again many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Edward Thompson,  
(Drama Editor).

# HOWARD WEALE

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**Football Club.** R. S. Young, Santa Cruz, Sole Farm Road.

**Grove Association.** Mr. V. A. Ewer, 23, Overton Way.

**Girl Guides.** Mrs. Rossner, Benedict, Woodlands Rd.

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**Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Garden Society.** Mr. H. J. Palmer, 153, Lower Road. Great Bookham.

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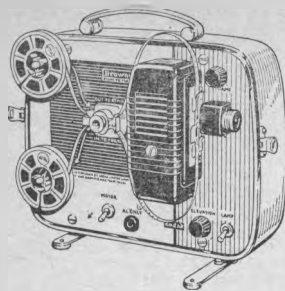
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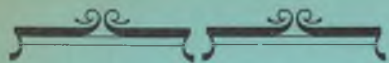


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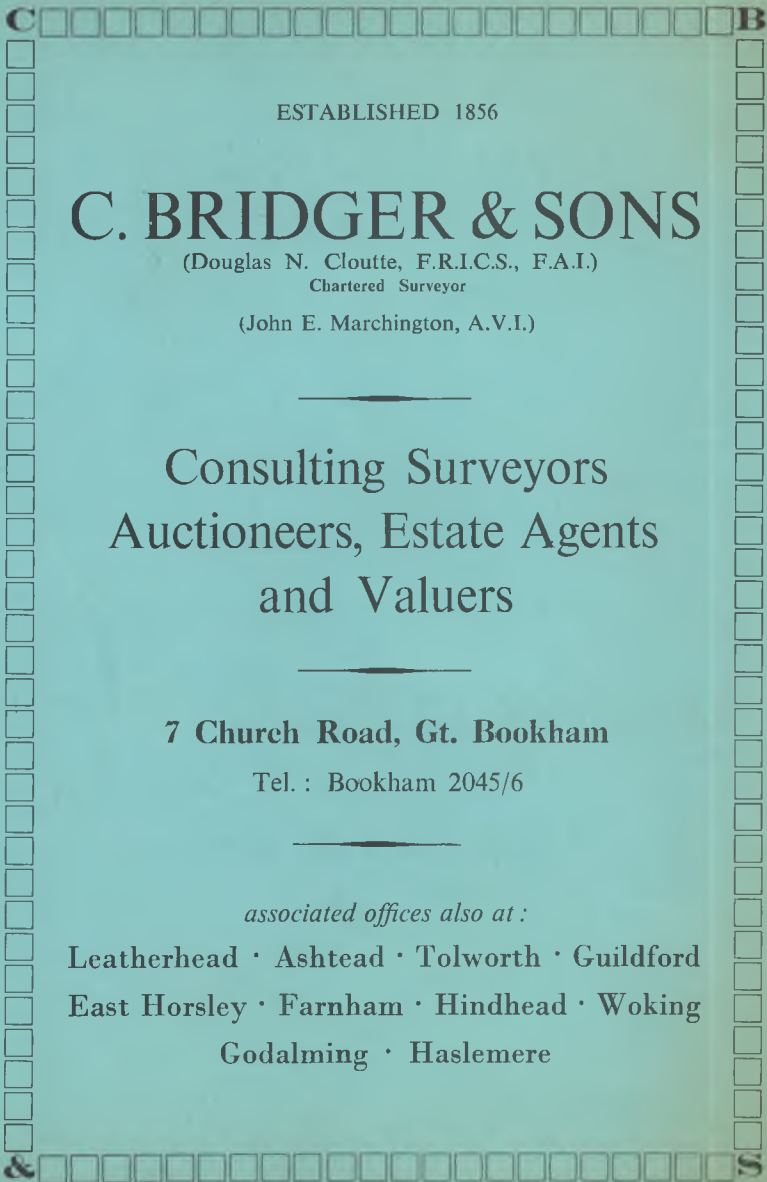
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