

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 120

SPRING 1964

32nd year



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# THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

*Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association*

No. 120

SPRING, 1964

32nd year

## EDITORIAL

Will the Old Barn Hall have a new look by Village Day? We sincerely hope so! As we go to press we have received from the Ministry of Education the provisional offer of a grant of £3,950 (subject to certain conditions we are confident we can meet) towards an estimated expenditure of £7,911 on the new extensions. This is generous help, and it is the maximum we could have hoped for. We are proud to have it. It indicates that we have been judged by the experts who have demonstrated beyond doubt, their recognition of the value of the work we are doing in our community, and the community's need for extension of the work.

We, ourselves, with the support of the village and its organisations, have built up our own building fund to within a quarter of the estimated total, and we now await, hopefully, supplementary financial assistance from the county council and the urban district council. When this is assured we can go ahead. Our expectation is that building could begin early in March.

At this stage we would again like to thank all those who have made personal donations and those who have assisted in the organisation of fund-raising events. Once more, too, we appeal to the whole village to assist us to carry on the good work. We shall have one of the most attractive small halls in Surrey, but it will only remain so if it is adequately maintained. Voluntary labour, which is generously given by a few stalwarts, only goes part of the way. Funds are needed continuously. Will you help? For example, will you join the Community Association? It will only cost you 2s. 6d. a year—a small sum—but a big multiplication of half crowns gives a sure basis for the future. If you are able to give more generously please think about a covenant for a yearly donation of 10s. upwards, which will allow us to collect a worthwhile balance from inland revenue.

Finally, those of you who pass by the Barn Hall may well wonder if we have plans to make the outside as attractive as the inside. We have—if we can assemble a sizeable working party. Any help in

kind, cash, or labour will be welcomed if you apply to the secretary of the Community Association.

## ROUND THE VILLAGE

**Evening W.I.** Another successful pantomime has been produced by this talented young institute. Entitled "The Beast's Bargain," it was really a hilarious collection of scenes from "Babes in the Wood" and "Beauty and the Beast." Eleven members of the institute took the various parts. There was also a choreographer, an accompanist and a stage manager. The producer, Mrs. M. Jeal, started writing pantomimes over six years ago and has been going strong ever since. She has also written sketches, one of which dealing with the changing status of women, was performed by this institute last year.

A Valentine Coffee Morning was also much appreciated. All the refreshments were heart-shaped, the hall was decorated with gold and silver hearts, and the organisers wore little, heart-shaped aprons.

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Coming events include an Easter Bonnet shopping expedition to London, and a conducted trip round London Airport.

**Afternoon W.I.** As soon as the Bechworth Festival was over this drama-minded institute started rehearsals for the three-act play to be performed at Church House on April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd. This annual play always attracts large audiences and its reputation has spread outside the village.

During the summer a party of old people from Newington Lodge will be entertained by the members. This is a worthwhile charity because Newington Lodge is one of the largest homes under the care of the L.C.C. and it is so good for the old people to get away for a short time from their enforcedly cramped conditions.

Members are looking forward to their London theatre outing to "The Sound of Music." They are also working for their jumble sale on April 25th. Jumble sale "fans" will note the date because this is always a good one, with plenty of unusual bargains.

**Bookham Dramatic Society.** There should be packed houses at Church House on April 17th and 18th for the second production of this young society. All those who saw the first production in December were impressed by the talent, virtuosity and spirit of this new group. The Bookham Dramatic

Society is the first mixed group on a village basis to be successfully launched in Bookham and, as such, it deserves support. But there is more to it than this. If the standard of production of the first show is maintained—and there is every indication that it will be higher—prospective ticket buyers can be assured of a first-class entertainment.

The play chosen is "Who's your Father?" a comedy in three acts by Dennis Cannan. Some of the new members who have joined since the beginning of the year will appear in the current production. Application for tickets should be made to Mrs. J. Preston, Bookham 2695, who will also welcome inquiries concerning membership from both actors and supporters. There is a special need for younger members. Here is an opportunity for some of our young people who complain that nothing happens in Bookham!

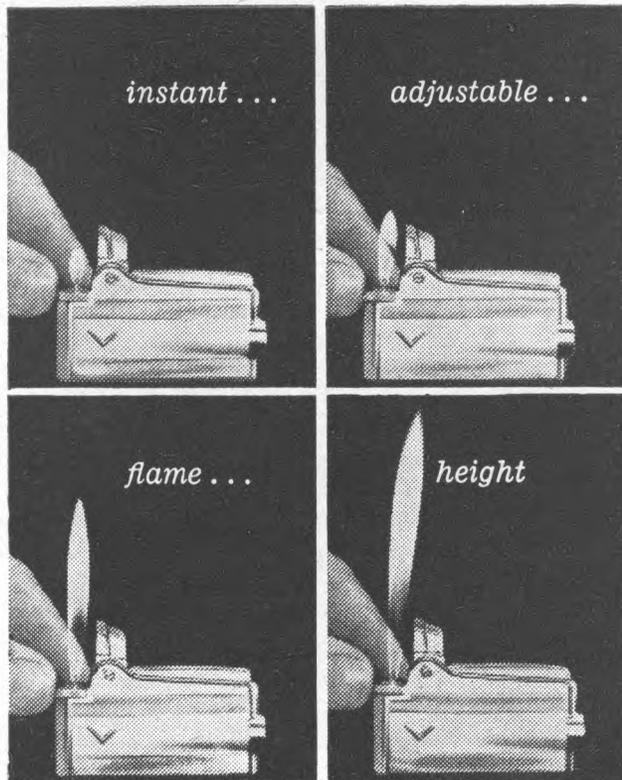
**The Camera Club** continues its interesting Thursday evenings at 8 p.m., at the Bookham Junior School, until the end of July. Competitions, as well as demonstrations, are a feature of its programme, and these give a fine opportunity to the learner to improve his performance by doing and comparing his work with the more expert. The highlight of the year is, of course, the annual exhibition at the Barn Hall on

Saturday, April 18th. This has come to be quite a social occasion. Newcomers to Bookham, as well as the familiar "regulars," are invited to come along during the afternoon and evening.

**Youth Tennis Club.** Young people, interested in tennis, may like to hear of the existence of the Bookham and Effingham Youth Tennis Club, which was established quite a number of years ago by courtesy of the National Trust. It is open to all between the ages of 13 and 30. It meets at Polesden Lacey on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. till dusk, and on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. till dusk. Subscriptions are 15s. per annum for seniors, and 10s. for juniors. All inquiries should be addressed to Mrs. A. Ray, 18 Crabtree Lane.

**The Choral Society** has arranged its annual concert for May 9th, at the Congregational Hall. They will sing a selection of songs from Festival Music over the years, together with some pieces specially prepared for the occasion.

**The Ten Thirty Club.** New residents may not be aware of the existence of this club which caters for those women who may be looking for friendly contacts on an informal basis. It meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Congregational Hall, Eastwick Road, and concludes at 12 p.m. Children are



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welcomed and are cared for in an adjoining room. Coffee and biscuits, with a drink for the children, are provided for an inclusive charge of 1s. Members are encouraged to participate in the talks and discussions and to assist in the general planning of activities which are geared to the wishes of the members.

The club is linked to the Congregational Church but is open to all comers. Its organisers feel that there are many ladies in Bookham, especially those with young families, who might be too shy to join a formal group but would like to have an occasional morning out with their little ones and make new friends. The secretary would be very pleased to answer inquiries, or to arrange for prospective members to be introduced. Please get in touch with Mrs. Wraight, Royston, East Street.

**Polesden Lacey Theatre.** Rehearsals have started for the Midsummer Night's Dream Production at the National Trust's Open Air Theatre on July 16th, 17th and 18th, and, as soon as the weather is favourable, will be transferred to the Polesden Stage. We understand that a new and exciting set has been devised specially for this play. There is always a heavy demand for tickets in the early days and local people are advised that the box office opens on May 1st, at 99 Little Bookham Street. Tel. Bookham 241.

**The Bookham Cricket Club** plans to open its season with a practice match at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground on Saturday, April 24th. Saturday and Sunday matches are played, and the composition of the teams on each day is varied to suit the commitments of the players. Old members and prospective new members are invited to the practice match. Inquiries can be made to the secretary, Mr. L. W. Denning, 48 Middlemead.

**Flower Arrangement Group.** New members will be welcomed to this friendly little club which meets at the Barr Hall on the third Mondays in the month at 2.15 p.m. On Monday, March 16th, Mrs. Burton, from Banstead, will be giving practical help to beginners, something which, at this early stage, members feel they very much need. Subsequent meetings will cover more specialised arrangements and techniques. On Monday, April 20th, the demonstrator, Mrs. Dunn, has chosen for her theme "The Charm of Spring Flowers."

A number of mothers, with small children, have expressed a wish to join the club. This is something which we would like to encourage. It might be possible to arrange for a creche on an informal basis in the adjoining Waterfield room. Young mothers who are interested in this proposition are invited to get in touch with the Secretary, Mrs. McLeod. Telephone Bookham 4809.

**Bookham Scouts.** Five years ago there was such a mounting list of boys wishing to join the Scout movement that the local committee initiated an all-out drive to recruit more Scouters and it was the success of this drive that made it possible to organise the group in duplicate—two troops and two packs—under one group Scoutmaster. As a result the number of boys in the group doubled overnight.

This arrangement, however, was never intended to be permanent. The headquarters' rule on the composition of a group lays down that a complete group shall consist of a Cub Pack, Scout Troop, Senior Scout Troop, and a Rover Scout Crew, but may consist of one or more sections only.

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Changes and retirements delayed the re-organisation into separate groups, but this has now been achieved and there are now three separate groups in Bookham. There is the 2nd group linked with the Baptist Church. The old village-based group is now 1st Bookham Group under Group Scoutmaster G. V. Child covering the former Greville Troop and Acorn Pack, with a Senior Scout Section, and the 3rd Bookham Group under Group Scoutmaster B. E. Charles covering the former Yelverton Troop, Chestnut Pack, and a Senior Scout Section.

It has been reported to us that Mr. R. S. Smith, secretary of the Scouts Supporters' Association has resigned and that Mr. L. S. Hughes, 2 Blackthorne Road, is acting secretary and will for the

time being deal with all inquiries.

The calendar of events for the year include the Scouts and Guides Sports Meeting on the Bookham school field on June 27th. Also the annual Jamborette at the Barn Hall and grounds on September 19th.

**The Eastwick Park Cricket Club.** will run four teams this season, using the U.D.C. cricket square in the Lower Road, and the improved facilities at the King George V Playing Fields, Effingham. They are also organising a number of big socials functions, including a car rally in March and a June barbecue at the Barn Hall. Members and friends will have an exciting evening at the Barn Hall on April 2nd when Ken Barrington has promised to show films of

the tours in which he has played.

The most ambitious of their projects, however, is a Benefit Match for Barrington at Effingham when leading international players in cricket and football, as well as stage and television stars, will appear. This is a colossal undertaking for a village club, but we understand that arrangements are well under way and the organisers expect that thousands of people will be attracted to the event.

### TAKING UP A NEW INTEREST

#### Flower Arrangement

For years I have been deceiving myself. I thought I was good at floral arrangement. Flowers, I took as they grew. I could not steel myself to snip little pieces off them, and so the long and the short, the thick and the thin, had to be assembled with infinite patience in what satisfied me as an attractive pattern.

Then came Constance Spry, and the spate of books, articles, classes which she inspired. I still resisted the implication that there was a technique in the disposition of flowers. My comment to friends who succumbed to the current fashion was that nature could not be improved upon.

I have fallen. I have joined a flower arrangement group and I know that I was quite wrong in putting myself, and not the flowers, on a pedestal. A whole

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new approach and, what is more important, an easier one is unfolding before my astonished eyes. There seems to be no limit to the ingenious devices for anchoring the obstinate spray. The pinholders I was about to throw away because they always toppled just as I had completed my masterpiece have now come into their own. After only three sessions I can work marvels with clay and wire, Bostik and Polyfilla, together with a few blooms and leaves. Modesty compels me to say that I am a teacher's nightmare and that most of my classmates can do much better.

The difference between floristry and other reputedly feminine crafts, like cookery and dress-making, is that the latter are dominated by the chef or the couturier and the dreary textbook mentality, while the former is gloriously practical and admits all the "do it yourself" aids. It is, undoubtedly, my line. True, I am only at the beginning and already mysterious terms like the Hogarth Curve, the Composition, the Asymmetrical Triangle, are beginning to creep in. These do not terrify me. Indeed, I find them exciting because they conjure up an art form in which painting, music and even mathematics can be assimilated.

Competitions are a vital part of the system. They start with the Group, move on to the District, go

up to County, and ultimately National. My target at the moment is a highly commended in the local group. In my dreams, however, I am at Chelsea with a breath-taking arrangement of flowers and, perhaps, vegetable leaves, home-grown, from my own garden.

E. H.

### BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Old Pupils visit Howard of Effingham School. Headmasters are always pleased to have news of their former pupils. Mr. Burns was glad to be visited by Richard Harvey (son of John Harvey, the well-known Archivist, who has just moved to York) and to hear that he has successfully graduated from Trinity College, Dublin; also to hear that Paul Coulter has enjoyed his first term at Leicester University.

Eastwick School will be sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. J. M. Teague, who is leaving at Easter. She has been with the school almost from its beginning and her special knowledge of opera has enabled her to build up a fine musical tradition. Last year's outstanding production of Ruddigore was a testimonial to her skilled teaching. She has, however, launched the children on "The Pirates of Penzance," and it is hoped that it will have a successful performance later in the year.

The Summer Fete has been provisionally fixed for July 11th.

Bookham Music Club has arranged a concert in the Effingham Church Hall on Saturday, March 21st, at 8 p.m., to which non-members are invited. The Miriam Morley String Quartette will include in their programme works of Brahms and Mozart.

"Bulletin" Prophecy comes True. Five years ago "The Bulletin" reported that Ralph Wallace, of Little Bookham, a pupil of the Howard of Effingham School, was sitting for a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. We ventured to say that some day he would be a top-ranking violinist. We are pleased to report that time is justifying us. Ralph, whose father is a gardener, has always been absorbed by music, probably inherited from the maternal side. At the age of 12 he received a present of his first violin from his uncle, and his initial training started at the Leatherhead School of Music. He won his scholarship and, on the completion of his course at the academy, he won another scholarship for further study in Italy. At the early age of 24 he has secured a teaching appointment at Lancing College, which is renowned for its music and choral work. The Bookham Music Club recently had the privilege of hearing him play works of Handel, Bach and Beethoven, and

(Continued on Page 18)

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the members, some of whom are musicians of eminence in their own right, were impressed by his execution and interpretation.

**An informal Presentation of Certificates** to G.C.E. candidates was made at the Howard of Effingham School during February. The chairman and vice-chairman of the governors welcomed the staff and the old pupils and, while refreshments were served, contacts were renewed and experiences exchanged. Over 30 of the pupils who left in July are now studying, or have been guaranteed a place in establishments of further education.

**New University Entrants.** Howard Medland, of Allen Road, has completed his first term at the University of Wales, Bangor, where he is studying English; Diana Norkett is at London, entering on a medical career; David Hughes, of Blackthorne Road, has started his studies for a geography degree at Liverpool university.

Howard and David are former pupils of the Glyn Grammar School and well known locally for their interest in youth activities. Howard was instrumental in setting up the Bookham Youth Club and was an officer of the local Youth Hostels' Association. David was received at Buckingham Palace by the Duke of Gloucester as a representative on the Boys' Club Movement. Diana Norkett

has also been active in the group of talented young people at the Baptist Church who do so much for good causes.

**A C.A.T. Student,** Patrick Lynch, of Middlemead, is well advanced in his studies of electrical engineering at the Manchester College of Science and Technology. Patrick, a former pupil of Wimbledon College, has chosen well as there is a great need for men with high qualifications in electrical engineering, of which there is a national shortage.

**Edenside House.** An ambitious programme of extension to build some 23 flats for old people will be started very soon. The cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £50,000, and the housing association, with £6,000 in its funds has decided to go ahead. They are confident that for such a good cause money-raising events will be generously supported by local people.

**Who are the Tramps?** We are told that they are a group of lively young men in the village who, disguised as down-and-outs, went round the local pubs with a barrow load of roasting chestnuts and collected a handsome sum for the Bookham Boys' Club. We hear that they are dreaming up other ways of helping the club to raise the money it needs to get on with the building of its new premises.

The Round Tablers of the Leatherhead district have also given splendid assistance to the club and are planning more money-raising events for the spring and summer.

**Back from Canada** on five weeks' leave are Mr. and Mrs. Colin Bartlett. It is sad that Mrs. Nellie Cox, mother of Valerie, is not here to welcome her and the two children, Carol, who was a baby when they left, and Tracey, now 17 months. Although there is sadness in the homecoming it is a great comfort for Mr. Harold Cox and the family to see them again. They are looking very well, and they have found great opportunities for advancement in Canada. They would like members of their family to visit them when they return to Vancouver.

**Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. W. Finch.** Many people in Bookham will be sorry to say goodbye to the Finch family. They are moving to Charlwood where they have bought an old farmhouse, parts of which date back to the year 1472, set in nine acres of open land. Two of the children, who are studying farming, will thus have an opportunity for practical experience. We are glad that Mr. W. Finch is retaining his contacts with the village through his firm.

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School Parent-Teacher Association, a coffee morning was arranged at the Barn Hall on Sunday, March 1st, when friends of the family and representatives of local organisations came along to say thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Finch for the help and support they have given to so many village activities during their long association with Bookham.



**Obituary.** Mr. David Longhurst was one of the rapidly dwindling band of fine, old village personalities. His great interest was football and cricket and, when his playing days were over, he continued to give active support to the village teams. He was chairman of the Football Club for 14 years and, on retirement, was made a life member.

He served in the Home Guard as sergeant, and so gained the affection and respect of many new people coming into Bookham at that time. For a number of years he was employed as Common Keeper by the National Trust. He knew every inch of the Common and was a mine of information on country topics.

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- Gramophone Club. A. E. Baker, 81 Eastwick Drive.
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- Scottish Dancing. G. R. Marshall, 63 Eastwick Drive. Bookham 96.
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- Hon. Sec., Community Association. Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 2702.
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- Barn Hall Manager. A. M. Marson, 94 Kingston Road. Leatherhead 3053.

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- Bookham Bowling Club. C. Flowers, Sheldon, Guildford Road.
- Boys' Brigade. L. S. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Leath 4302.
- Bookham Boys' Club. K. A. Vincent, 1 Sole Farm Avenue.
- British Legion, Effingham and Bookhams Branch. M. S. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effingham.
- Choral Society. L. S. Hughes, 2 Blackthorne Road. Bookham 2785.
- Bookham Cricket Club. L. W. Denning, 48 Middlemead Road. Bookham 3091.
- Eastwick Park Cricket Club. B. Downing, 33 Hazel Way, Fetcham. Bookham 3876.
- Conservative Association, Little Bookham Branch. J. M. Rose-Cormack Lyons, 25 Childs Hall Road. Bookham 2880.
- Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch. D. J. Woolsey, 17 The Lorne. Bookham 3777.
- Young Conservatives. D. Wheeler, The White House, Burnhams Road, Lt. Bookham.
- Football Club. R. Scott, 14 Middlemead Road.
- Bookham Football Supporters Club. Mrs. M. Longhurst, 276 Lower Road. Bookham 3946.
- Garden Society. R. C. Wing, 4 Long Meadow. Bookham 3687.
- Girl Guides. (Friday) Mrs. Mills, 38 Strathcona Avenue. Bookham 3602. (Tuesday) Mrs. E. Graneek, 19 Melvinshaw Avenue. Leatherhead 3632.
- Grove Association. F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Road. Bookham 3113.
- Labour Party, Bookham Ward. D. Farrow, 48 Merrylands Road. Bookham 3951.
- Liberal Association, Great Bookham Branch. C. E. Breed, The Willows, Fiona Close, Bookham 4182.
- Bookham Girls' Life Brigade. Mrs. F. Palmer, The Lodge, Randalls Road, Leatherhead.
- Music Club. Mrs. Muriel, Jangada, Lower Farm Road, Effingham.
- Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Road.
- 1st Bookham Scouts. G.S.M. B. Charles, Chapri, Dowlans Road.
- 2nd Bookham (Baptist) Scouts. G.S.M. E. Tarrington, 4 Dowlans Close. Bookham 2960.
- 1st Bookham Scout Supporters Association. R. S. Smith, Nyetimber, Sole Farm Road. Bookham 2361.
- Bookham Stoolball Club. Mrs. B. King, 12 Groveside. Bookham 2330.
- Women's Institute (Afternoon). Miss M. G. Corner, Westcott, St. Nicholas Avenue. Bookham 2250.
- Women's Institute (Evening). Mrs. M. Cooper, 282 Lower Road.
- Bookham and Effingham Youth Tennis Club. Mrs. A. Ray, St. Jean, Crabtree Lane.
- Bookham Youth Club. Mr. K. Strudwick, 1 Police House, Leatherhead Road.
- British Legion, Women's Section. Mrs. L. A. Pickering, Standardhill, Guildford Road, Effingham.
- Leatherhead and District National Savings Group, Bookham Ward. Mrs. D. Leonard, 25 Allen Road, Bookham 3432.
- Bulletin Editors. Mrs. E. Harrison, Bookham 2702; Mrs. M. Everett, Bookham 2404.
- Bulletin Advertisement Manager: H. B. Atkinson, 3 Park View.

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