

THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 2.

DECEMBER, 1933.

Price 1d.

A Norbury Park Farm Dairy Customer writes :

"Sirs,

I enclose photo' of my son, Roy, age two years to-day, who for two successive years has been awarded "FIRST PRIZE" at the Great and Little Bookhams, Effingham and Fetcham BABY SHOW (1932 and 1933).

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The Editor's Notes.

Is it worth doing? Will it be appreciated? Will it, in the words of the talkies, "go over big?" These and similar questions passed and repassed through the Editor's mind during the few days before the issue of the first number of the "Bulletin." Eventually they were put aside with the consoling thought that in a very short time, at any rate, the answer would be known.

But even that poor consolation was to prove untrue, for although the "Bulletin" was published two months ago, four people only have expressed their opinion of it to the Editor (if one excepts the remarks of the facetious gentleman who asked whether "C.H."—the Editor—was Claude Hulbert, and then remarked that if this was the "Bully-tin" he hoped the next one would have more meat in it). True, these four opinions were all favourable—well, more or less—but four people can hardly be said to constitute public opinion. So the Editor is just as much in the dark as ever.

Why this conspiracy of silence, one wonders? Is it silent approval? Or the silence of disdain? Or merely silent apathy? Who can tell: probably it is a little of each. However, approval, disdain, or apathy, the "Bulletin" goes on. And in this issue (in pursuance of the policy of "telling Bookham about Bookham") will be found an informative article by Mr. G. W. Rungary on the history of Bookham Grove; a page of information about the doings of the Ratepayers' Association; and many an interesting paragraph besides. One contributor has even burst into verse!

It is hoped that these articles will interest and amuse readers; but if they should fail to do this, the Editor hopes that readers will send him their views on how such a journal should be run. He sincerely wishes to learn; after all, as someone once remarked, "we are none of us infallible—not even the youngest of us."

He would also welcome correspondence, for publication, on matters of general interest. Let us try to make the "Bulletin" an effective medium for expressing the public opinion of Bookham on all matters connected with the village.

C.H.

Why not form one yourself?

It was a splendid idea on the part of one or two of the Bureau's workers to form a discussion group. The four meetings of the group already held have been most enjoyable, and wordy warfare has been waged round the subjects of "The future of Socialism in Europe" (Mr. A. G. Walkden), "Christianity's Attitude towards Suffering" (Mr. Woodd), "The State and the Child" (Dr. Price), and "The International Position" (Mr. Emuss). During the coming quarter, discussions on diverse subjects will be opened by Miss Joce, Miss Thompson, Mr. Elton, Mr. Hanchard, Mr. Jenkins, and others, the choice of subject being left to the speaker. The discussion which follows the speaker's remarks is entirely "without fear or favour."

Unfortunately, as the meetings are held in the members' houses, membership must, owing to the natural law of the quart and the pint pot, be limited to fifteen, or twenty at the most. But there is no limit to the number of groups, so why not form one? It will help you to make new friends, and to get a better understanding of your old ones.

C.H.

The "Bulletin" Wishes
all its Readers the
Compliments of
the Season.

May the Coming Year be made
a Happy one for Bookham
by a Growth of the
Spirit of Service!

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Some Local History.

BOOKHAM GROVE AND THE GROVE CORNER.

This old Mansion was built by Admiral Brodrick in 1750, and was purchased from him by Lord Downe in 1775, the estate at that time comprising about eighty acres. Lord Downe died in 1780, and his wife in 1812, both being commemorated by a simple tablet in the Parish Church. Since their day it has passed through many hands, and is now in the possession of Madame Hayward. A feature of this country house in Lord Downe's time was its brewery, with its great copper vats, and polished measures, where beer was brewed from barley and hops grown on the estate, partly for home consumption, but mainly to supply the needs of the coaching inn opposite, then belonging to the Downe family. Guildford Road (or "The King's Road," as it was generally called at that time) ran directly across the front of the mansion, coming out on their own land some distance below the present end of the property. Years later the road was diverted to its present route by taking in a portion of the old farm opposite.

Another feature of this house was its well, deep down in the chalk, worked by a series of iron dogs, which carried down an empty bucket and returned the full one at the same time. For those that are interested, a point to note is the artistic hexagon dove-cote in the courtyard, a great feature of houses of that period.

At the opposite corner, where the Victoria Hotel now stands, was a farm which had been there for more than two centuries. The corn barn stood directly on the site of the Victoria Hotel. When it was pulled down old footings were found which dated from Saxon times. The black and white cottages, with other adjacent buildings in the street, were all part of the old farm (note the old Phoenix fire crest, half-way up to the eaves, a sign going back to the early days when Fire Insurance Guilds were responsible for extinguishing fires on their own insurance risks).

The indent in the Guildford Road, which has caused so much flooding in our time, was the site of the farm pond. There are still old people in the village who can remember, as lads—before the advent of threshing machines—watching the labourers threshing the corn on the barn floor with the flail, an implement handed down from Saxon days. At the eastern

corner stands a low red brick building, mellowed with age, now divided into tenements. This was the old coaching house with the sign of the "Saracen and Ring," which had plied its trade from the 16th century. This unusual name was connected with a legend in the Downe family. It is recorded by Sir Bernard Burke that a Sir William Dawnay was made a General in the fourth year of the reign of Richard the First, at Acon, where, having slain a Saracen Prince, and afterwards killed a lion, he cut off the paw and presented it to the King, who immediately, in token of approbation, took the ring off his finger and presented it to Dawnay, ordering that to perpetuate the event he should bear as crest a Demi-Saracen with a lion's paw in one hand and a ring in the other; and this ring still remains in the possession of the family. Here the coaches from London to Guildford used to stop to rest their horses after the hard pull over the ford at Leatherhead and up Hawk's Hill, for the roads were mere cart tracks in those days. One can imagine how the travellers on a bleak winter's day would welcome the old inn, with its hospitality and the warmth of the great log fire in the chimney corner, and how "mine host" would get the latest news from London Town, for the Great Fire of London was seen from these hills, and the Plague was still fresh in their memories.

Bookham was on the smugglers' track to London, and many a keg of French brandy was dropped by "the gentlemen" down the wells overnight, to be hauled up in the morning.

Now when you pass this way, my friends, give a kindly eye to the moss-covered roof and porch, and note the fine old chimney corner, with its broad fire base, at the north west end. Think of it as it was with its lattice diamond paned windows, and then you will have a fair picture of the old "Saracen and Ring," which gave good cheer to many a weary soul, and right well fulfilled its purpose in the days of that Merrie England, long past and gone.

G. W. RUMGARY.

The Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham Nursing Association.

The Nursing Association has just held its Annual Sale of Work, from which a sum of £118 was realised; and the Committee are most grateful to all who helped to make this such a success.

More subscribers are, however, urgently needed, to meet expenses. The subscription for

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The Bookhams Ratepayers' Association Notes.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret the Association has to record the passing of Arthur Wilson, B.A., B.Sc., Esq. Mr. Wilson was tireless in his efforts to secure for The Bookhams a Branch of the County Library, and when a Branch was opened he became Honorary Librarian, a post that he held to within a few months of his death. To his sorrowing widow the Association offers its heartfelt sympathy. R.I.P.

REVALUATION MATTERS.

As a result of the Quinquennial Revaluation of property, many members found themselves faced with increased assessments. The Executive Committee decided that combined action was called for, and arrangements were entered into with Messrs. Harold Williams, Holliday & Partners to contest cases before the Assessment Committee. Mr. Holliday attended the enquiry, and over thirty cases were favourably revised. Ratepayers are reminded that cases not yet dealt with can be appealed against after receipt by them of Demand Notes in April next, and all interested should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Murrells, of "Torbay," Eastwick Drive, for advice and guidance.

The Committee offer no apology for reprinting here the aims and objects of the Association: "The object of the Association shall be "to consider from time to time the expenditure "and work of the local authorities, to take any "action considered advisable to protect and "further the interests of the ratepayers, and to "discuss from time to time, **from a strictly non-party point of view**, matters of interest to the "general body of ratepayers."

The Committee note with gratification the rising membership, but they will not be satisfied until every ratepayer has been enrolled a member. They desire most earnestly to bring to the notice of all concerned how vital are the matters alluded to in the foregoing extract. The trend of events is for Local Government to play an increasing part in our affairs, and there can be few residents who are not in some way affected by the actions of the Local Authority.

The fee for membership of the Association is low, and increased membership would give greater weight to the representations, which the Association makes on behalf of residents. The Committee point out that The Bookhams are noteworthy throughout the district for the

interest displayed in local and parochial affairs, and they claim that this is in no small measure due to the activities of the Association. Polling results in the recent Council Election showed that The Bookhams are outstanding in the interest taken in local affairs. It is satisfactory to note that residents in the other Wards of the new Leatherhead Urban area are becoming increasingly alive to the importance and value of Ratepayers' Associations. The Committee of The Bookhams Association enjoins all to enrol as members, and make the Association an even more powerful and effective voice in local affairs than it has been in the past.

The following extracts from speeches at a recent meeting of representatives of Surrey Ratepayers' Associations are reprinted here, in the hope that their perusal may awaken waverers to a full consciousness of their duties of citizenship:—

"In his presidential address, Mr. Edwards said there were 14,545 local authorities in the country, and their work touched the daily lives of every citizen. The annual expenditure amounted to £400,000,000. Local authorities touched every citizen in some way, education, relief of the poor, highways and so on, but there remained the amazing fact that the number of persons voting in local government elections was lamentably small. In the Parliamentary elections from 1918 to 1931 there was an average of 70 per cent. voting, in the County Council and County Borough elections in the same period the figure was less than 50 per cent., and in the other local authority elections the average was only 30 per cent. Ratepayers' Associations could be aptly described as recruiting offices for the polling booths. Unless the great body of ratepayers were led by their own shepherds they would come under the sway of the bureaucrats."

* * *

"There was a great deal of civic apathy, and if Ratepayers' Associations could rouse people from that apathy they would be doing good work."

L.G.R.

**Come to our Whist Drives and
Social Gatherings, and get to
know your neighbours!**

WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD AT THE
RAILWAY STATION!

Young People's Club.

"How goes your Friday Night Club for Young People?" That is a question which I am often asked. I am glad to be able to reply, "Going strong."

For indeed we are moving towards our goal, which is to become a community of Good Companions, with a feeling of true fellowship to one another, whatever may be our outlook or our occupation. And who could deny that this is the spirit which is developing week by week, as we meet for our various activities—games, craft-work, music and dancing, etc.

One special branch of ours is the re-caning of chairs, so send yours along if you want them well done!

But we are not content yet: we are still looking ahead, and our next move will be to open our Club on Sunday nights after Church hours. Can any friend lend us a suitable room where we can spend a happy hour or so reading, discussing useful subjects, and getting to know one another more over a hot cup of tea?

We want to thank all those who have already given us so much loyal support, and to all the young people around we say, "Come and join us; we will give you a hearty welcome.

D. GILHAM.

It's Work they want!

We want to remind readers of the appeal for Work in the last issue of the "Bulletin." There is no doubt that that appeal has met with some response. Work has been found for many of our men, either by direct employment or by having work done by local employers of labour, and the winter has in consequence been relieved of anxiety and distress for some of our fellow-villagers.

There are still, however, several men registered with the Bureau for whom it has not been possible to find work, and we therefore again appeal to each one who is not himself in the unhappy position of looking for a job that cannot be found. Are you sure that there is no piece of work—gardening, labouring, house-repair, or what not—that you want done? And don't you want it done **now**? Your small job, added to other small jobs, might make up a week's work for someone.

All offers of work will be welcome; the registration office at the Barn Hall is open on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 to 7; or offers could be sent to Mr. Elton, Killiegrae, Park View, or any officer of the Bureau.

The Case Committee.

The Case Committee of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau was started in July, 1932, its object being to deal in a more intimate way with the cases of difficulty and distress presented to the Bureau, than would be possible were such cases brought up before the whole main Committee.

It might be thought that charitable agencies in the village were already sufficiently plentiful to deal with the many sad cases arising from time to time; but after more than a year's work it is felt that not only has the Case Committee justified its being, but has also established itself with and received a welcome from many already existing charitable sources. This Committee is particularly fortunate, as it is in a position to supply information relative to both County and National Movements of a Social Service nature.

Early in its career the Case Committee established a Milk Fund, for it was found that, though existence could be supported on the unemployment relief, milk, where there were many young children, was a very heavy item in household expenditure; in fact, it was often impossible for the children to get anything like sufficient.

Cod liver oil and malt (another expensive item) has also been supplied by the Committee in cases of necessity.

Boots and shoes, clothes of all sorts, coal, even cots, perambulators and beds—all have been found through the kindness of friends and sent to homes where real need existed for such things.

It must be stressed that as far as possible the Committee makes careful investigation of every claim for help, and as the personnel of the Committee covers many sides of village activity it is easier to make careful enquiries than would otherwise be the case. And in all its work it tries not to overlap or interfere with any other organisation.

The Committee is considering whether it would be possible to organise help in the way of re-making garments. Adult garments are often sent for distribution which, though worn in parts, could quite well be converted into children's clothes. However excellent a needle-woman a mother may be, it is a difficult task to try to make a coat for Tommy or Jane without a machine (and in poorer homes such things do not exist). Garments when converted could be sold for a few pence, and would indeed be a boon to busy, harassed mothers.

Through the Case Committee the fortunate may help their less fortunate neighbours, and offers of help of any kind will be thankfully received.

The Bookhams Bowling Club.

Having heard there was to be a meeting in October about a Bowling Club, I strolled along to see the fun. When I got there, I found a great many others had done the same.

Mr. Leavis, the Chairman, told us all about the new Bowling Green in the Recreation Ground, and then someone proposed that a Club should be formed. As no one had anything to say against it, the Chairman said it was carried. The name of the Club is to be The Bookhams Bowling Club, and it is something like the other B.B.C., too, because both have several loud speakers and will do a bit of broadcasting.

The next thing was to get a Committee together, and it was amusing to see everyone rushing to propose someone else. Eventually they got eight names for the seven seats, but, as in the poem, "one thought of an excuse, and then there were seven." The seven were: Messrs. A. Simmons, F. Simmons, J. Beattie, A. Longhurst, Jones, Lewis, and Stevens.

Then came the election of a Secretary, and as Mr. Andrews goes to London every day someone thought he must be able to write, so he was proposed; and when he rose to say something the Chairman thought it was going to be "No," so he put the question to the meeting quickly, and Andrews got the job. Mr. Frank Wigley (who is used to taking money) was elected Treasurer.

By the way, Mr. Andrews, who lives at "Five Beeches" Dorking Road, tells me that he wants to hear from any chaps (OF BOTH SEXES) who want to join. The subscription is 5/-, plus green fees.

"NATIVE TOUCHER."

Nursing Association

(continued from page 5).

householders who contribute to National Health Insurance is 5/- per annum. This subscription entitles them to Nurse's services without further payment, except for Maternity cases, operations, or night duty. Other householders pay 7/6 per annum, and 1/- to 3/6 per visit (according to length of visit). Copies of the Rules can be had on application to the Secretary.

The Committee are grateful to the Social Services Bureau for procuring much needed bed-rests; also to Miss Micholl for the gift of an air-bed; and to Mr. Kirkpatrick for the gift of a carrying chair and air ring. All these gifts are much appreciated, and will be loaned to members on application to the Secretary.

Safety for Pedestrians.

Discussion is rampant—varied, but keen—

On matters pertaining to lighting.

Some want to stay rural as long as they can,

While others for street lamps are fighting.

"It's really not safe with the cars on the roads,"

They say when it's under discussion.

'Tis hoped that, with lamps, poor pedestrians would

Get merely split skulls or concussion.

A favoured suggestion is high standard lamps

Down the middle of our speedway track:

As if that would prevent any cycle or car

From trying to climb up my back!

Another suggestion is "Light up the paths"—

Against this I strongly protest.

If paths are lit, drivers will then have the chance

To pick out whom they'd like to "send West."

Now I think the idea of lights to protect

Pedestrians a bit of a "sell."

It's true that the cars "bump us off" in the dark:

But they bump us in daylight as well!

But I've had a brainwave this morning, which should,

I think, just about "do the trick."

I suggest (without hope) that we ask for a kerb

Ten feet high and twenty feet thick!

GOOF.

Local Weaving.

Through the "Bulletin," the Bureau again asks for residents' support in helping to establish a new village industry in Bookham, namely, the weaving by hand labour of material suitable for dress lengths, coats, etc. The Bureau was glad to be able to assist in the starting of the industry, by obtaining donations of £5 from Mrs. Ronald Greville and £5 10s. 0d. from Dr. Mary Price towards the initial expenses and the first quarter's rent of the premises. It should be explained, however, that the scheme is not part of the Bureau's own activities, and no part of the Bureau's funds, contributed either for the relief of distress or of unemployment, has been utilised on its behalf. Nor, of course, does the Bureau receive any share of the proceeds of sale of the manufactured goods.

The Bureau regards the encouragement of

(continued on page 11)

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REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

Mondays—

- Women's Thrift Club.
- Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).
- Women's Fellowship, 2.45 p.m. (Church House).
- Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).
- Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- King's Messengers (Girls), 5.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- Boys' Brigade, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- Junior Boys' Club, 7 p.m. (Church House).
- Girls' Friendly Society and Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
- Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

Tuesdays—

- Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- Camp Fire Girls, 7 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
- Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Service, 8 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Wednesdays—

- King's Messengers (Boys), 5.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Children's Guild, 7 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).
- Choir Practice, 7.30 p.m. (Congregational Church).
- Orchestra Practice, 8.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Thursdays—

- Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).
- Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Service, 8 p.m. (Congregational Church).
- Scouts, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Fridays—

- Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).
- Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Barn Hall).
- Christian Endeavour, 7 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
- Mixed Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
- Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).

Will Secretaries please notify any additions for inclusion in the next issue.

OTHER EVENTS.

January.

- Monday, 1st. New Year Dance, Ratepayers' Association (Barn Hall).
- Saturday, 6th. Children's Party (Barn Hall).

- Thursday, 11th, at 3 p.m. Mothers' Union (Church House).
- Wednesday, 17th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
- Tuesday, 23rd. Ratepayers' Association Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
- Thursday, 25th. Women's Institute (Church House).
- Thursday, 25th, at 8 p.m. Lecture on "Samoa and South Seas" (Congregational Hall).
- Saturday, 27th, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.
- Wednesday, 31st. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).

February.

- Wednesday, 7th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
- Thursday, 8th, at 3 p.m. Mothers' Union (Church House).
- Tuesday, 20th. Ratepayers' Association Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
- Thursday, 22nd. Women's Institute (Church House).
- Thursday, 22nd, at 8 p.m. United Service (Congregational Hall).
- Saturday, 24th, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.
- Wednesday, 28th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
- Wednesday, 28th. Boys' Brigade Annual Display (Baptist Hall).

March.

- Saturday, 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. Choir Concert (Congregational Hall).
- Thursday, 8th, 3 p.m. Mothers' Union (Church House).
- Wednesday, 14th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
- Tuesday, 20th. Ratepayers' Association Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
- Thursday, 29th. Women's Institute (Church House).
- Saturday, 31st, at 3 p.m. White Ribbon Band of Hope.

Local Weaving

(continued from page 9).

hand labour as within its province in the interests both of social development and employment, and for this reason asks all who may be interested to communicate with Mrs. Fortlege, Nordelph, Sole Farm Road, Great Bookham, under whose direction the work is being done.

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LABOUR
MONEY

at

Jackson's Granaries

HIGH STREET, BOOKHAM,
and HIGH STREET, EWELL.

**Distributors of SPILLERS
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Science without Secrecy.

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