

February 1972  
No 147  
39th Year

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

February 1972

No 147

39th Year

*Editor:* Mrs E Harrison. Telephone Bookham 5702

*Distribution:* G Everett. Telephone Bookham 2404

*Advertisements:*

Mrs M Emery. Telephone Bookham 5730

## EDITORIAL

The new year has come and gone but, as this is our first Bulletin issue in 1972, we take the opportunity to wish all our readers the happiness which comes from good friends, good neighbours, pleasant surroundings and the availability of many interesting activities, classes and clubs.

We live in a district where parents with young families seem to be in the majority and we would wish for them the closest links with schools and teachers to ensure that, in a period of rapidly changing ideas and systems in education, they shall be confident that the maximum potential of their children is realized.

Our wish for our young people is more opportunities for outdoor as well as indoor enjoyment but we would venture to add, at the risk of appearing square, the suggestion that self indulgence may not always bring as much personal satisfaction as giving pleasure to others.

To the growing number of our retired menfolk we express the hope that the vigour and energy they have brought into local activities will keep them healthy and stimulated for many years to come.

Finally, to the old people resident among us we offer our congratulations on the interest they show in the affairs of the neighbourhood and hope that they will continue to feel an important part of a caring community.

1972 may well be a crucial year for all of us. Change is in the air. Local government reorganisation and the reorganisation of the National Health and Hospitals service could radically change the democratic structure to which we have become accustomed. The

argument put forward in high places for the new proposals is that management efficiency and cost-effectiveness should be our main goal. Not all of us, however, are convinced that to be bigger is to be better, or even cheaper. Along with this goes a growing disillusionment, especially among young people, with politics and a consequent proliferation of pressure groups. It would be a brave man who would assert that these last are the answer to the malaise of our times. Most people, however, would admit that a basic of a healthy society is that the individual must feel that he has some share in moulding his environment. Opinions differ as to how this can be achieved, or even whether the majority of people consciously want it.

It is our own personal belief that now, more than ever before, ordinary people must insist that they are the recipients of the public services and they only can judge their quality. It is important, therefore, that we continue to give active support to those organisations which can speak jointly for us—residents associations, community associations, womens institutes, townswomen's guilds and the like.

## OBITUARIES

### Violet Austin

Her many friends in Bookham will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Mrs Austin after a very short illness. It was only in the autumn of 1969, after the death of her much esteemed husband, that she moved to the Wirral to be near her son in Cheshire. We were all sorry to say goodbye to her; in a recent letter we received from her, enclosing a donation to the Barn Hall where, as she wrote, she had so many happy times, she spoke of her wish to come and see us all again when she found travelling easier.

She was a keen member of the Afternoon W.I. and interested in the doings



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of the Community Association, of which her husband was formerly President. She loved walking; for her the delivery of the Bulletins to half the houses in Eastwick Drive was not a task but a pleasure. She had a great affection for young people and children and found it easy to talk to them. With her trim figure and her alert and lively manner, it was impossible to realize that she was 81 years old.

### **Jeremiah Lynch**

Jeremiah Lynch, of Middlemead, who died recently in Leatherhead Hospital, at the age of 61, was a man of principle and integrity, respected by his workmates at Ronsons and by his neighbours in Bookham. He was a staunch Catholic and gave great service, together with his wife, to the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at Effingham.

We offer our sympathies to his wife, Norah, who had made for him and her family a home which was both comfortable and restful. She will now be on her own. Her elder son, Patrick, is married and in Dublin where he holds an executive position with the Electricity Board. Her younger son, Dennis, is teaching in a Junior School in Tower Hamlets. Fortunately he can be home at weekends.

### **BOOKHAM BREVITIES**

**In Memoriam.** Mr. Bowen has donated £25 to the Barn Hall Building Fund in memory of his late wife, Mrs L. Bowen, who gave 46 years of voluntary service to Bookham. She was closely identified with the Barn Hall before it became a community centre. During the War and after she administered it on behalf of the L.U.D.C. Without her care it might well have collapsed. As an officer of the W.V.S. she received there the refugees who came down from London, provided meals for many of the children, and helped to entertain the Canadian soldiers stationed in the village.

Mrs J. Ransom has also contributed in memory of her husband. Before his death they lived next door to Mr and Mrs Oldershaw who stimulated their interest in the Barn Hall. When blindness afflicted Mr Ransom he courageously carried on with his crafts, especially basketry and picture framing, and

exhibited at our early Village Days.

**Bookham Fifty Years ago** is vividly presented in the excellent pamphlet 'The Gigantic Fete, Bazaar and Country Fair, 1922' written by Mr S. E. D. Fortescue. This is a good buy at the modest sum of 25p. The illustrations alone are worth this price, and the proceeds are to be donated to the fund for the repair of the tower of St. Nicolas Church. It is difficult to believe that the target figure of £1,000 was exceeded by over £133 in a village that was tiny by modern standards. Perhaps the biggest attraction was a visit to the Fair by the Duke of York, then aged 26, who was one of a house party at the home of the Hon. Mrs Greville, at Polesden Lacey.

The account tells how Mr P. G. H. Fender, captain of the victorious Surrey Cricket Eleven, was in charge of the coconut shies and was a great draw. A Bookham resident who meets Mr Fender from time to time reports that he is alive and well and intends to present him with a copy of the pamphlet when he again sees him.

Congratulations to Mr Fortescue on a work well done and worth doing.

**Old Bookhamites** Leave their home in East St. and move to a caravan near Orpington. They are Mr and Mrs David Pullen, whose father and mother, also, were well known and respected in the village. They will be missed because they have both participated fully in village life. David will continue his work as a night telephone operator. Opportunities will be available to them to carry on their leisure interests. They are both keen naturalists; they are surrounded with open land where they can study not only the flora and fauna but will find new specimens of bird and insect life of which they have an encyclopedic knowledge.

**A Musician of Promise Remains in Bookham.** We are glad that their son, John Pullen, has decided to remain in Bookham. He and his wife live in Strathcona Avenue. Many of us remember the delightful evening he arranged in the Barn Hall with the Nonsuch Ensemble during our Festival Fortnight; the large audience which packed the Hall for Bookham Choral Society's 1970 Christmas Concert heard him play the Oboe Concerto by Pergolesi, arranged by Barbirolli.

The small ensemble is his natural medium

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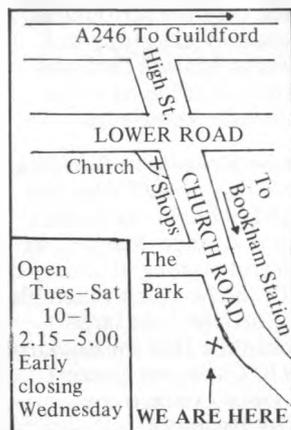
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and he has appeared frequently at performances in the Purcell Room and the Elizabeth Hall. He is, at the moment, planning a concert for the large Fairfield Hall at Croydon.

He supplements his professional work with a little teaching but his wife, who is a violinist and did the Graduate Course which includes teacher training, is primarily a music mistress in the schools. She, too, however, enjoys the opportunity to play on the concert platform. The two young people met while students at college and are fortunate in sharing such close mutual interests.

**Star of Dramatic Society Weds.** Mr Terry Mackness and Miss Judith Page, of Crabtree Lane, married shortly before Christmas and have moved to Hertford where Terry has been made Area Sales Manager for Wintermans Cigars. We congratulate him on his promotion and wish the young couple all happiness. We shall, however, miss Terry's appearances on the stage where he showed talent, especially in comic parts.

**Former Leading Lady** of the Dramatic Society Mrs Gwynneth Moon has also married. The bridegroom, Mr Spike Welton, directs his own firm of engineers at Cochrane House. The wedding was a quiet one on New Year's Day but the news quickly spread among their many friends in Bookham who wish them well.

**Crop Protection** is the career to which Barbara Bruce is working. A former keen guider, she is now at Bath University of Technology enjoying the start of her 4 year course for a Degree in Applied Biology. Her mother, who is District secretary, Bookham Girl Guides, and her father, who is secretary of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society, are looking forward to April when she will be coming for a term to the Pest Control Centre at Worplesdon for a period of practical experience.

**Old Soldiers Never Die**, is the slogan of Mrs E. Peart, of Graham House. On the Wednesday before Christmas the President of the Community Association was invited round to the Old Peoples' Day Centre to receive a presentation. To her surprise 32 matchboxes fell out of a decorated sweet tin, each matchbox containing coins. Mrs

Peart had persuaded 32 members of the Centre to take away a matchbox and fill it by fair means or foul.

We solemnly counted the coins while the old people watched from their whist and bingo tables. To the surprise and delight of all of us they totalled up to £13.15, and all for the Barn Hall Building Fund.

This is in addition to the £12 recently collected in an old Ovaltine tin by Mrs Peart from the old peoples clubs and homes where she is well known.

We commend the enthusiasm of our older residents to all Bookhamites.

**Coffee Mornings** can be profitable and enjoyable. We thank Mrs Mary Bruce for raising £3.75 at her home in Fox Lane.

**Cakes, Cushions, Peg Bags** were made by Mrs LeVey, of Sole Farm Rd., and the profit of £2.52 has gone into the Building Fund.

**The Christmas Bridge Drive** at the Barn Hall raised £15 which makes the total taken to date for the Building Fund by these Drives £162. This last was a Partnership Drive and the winners were Mr and Mrs Hurley, Mr and Mrs Patterson, Mr and Mrs E. Sard and Mr and Mrs D Fell.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

**The Production of Two Plays** at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre last year was so successful that the pattern will be followed again this year and auditions have been held for selection of the two casts. The traditional Shakespeare, this time 'Romeo and Juliet', will be on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th July. 'The Country Wife', a rollicking Restoration comedy by William Wycherley, will be on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th July.

Many local people who look forward to seeing the production and helping as stewards and usherettes may like to enter the dates in their diaries. Box office at Bookham 2241 opens on May 8th.

**The Bookham Choral Society** drew a packed house to the Barn Hall for their annual Christmas Concert. It will not, however, be their only performance in Bookham. On 21st March, by kind permission of the Rector, the Choral Society will give in St. Nicolas Church a local performance of the two main works

it is preparing for the Leith Hill Festival. These are Mozart's Vespers and Vaughan Williams' Benedicite. Admission is free but there will be a collection to defray expenses. Both works are tuneful and the performance should be very enjoyable.

In this, the centenary year of Vaughan Williams' birth, the society has been privileged to be invited to perform in a concert on 27th May in the place of his birth, Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. J.S.H.

**Christmas Parties** were enjoyed by all the clubs of the B.C.A. For the Over Sixties Club this is one of the highlights of the year. After the traditional fare of turkey and Christmas pudding, so deliciously prepared and served by Mary Longhurst and her helpers, the choir of the Bookham Afternoon and Great Bookham Evening W.I.s entertained. Mr A. Harrison arranged the fun and games. Guests of honour were the drivers who give such generous voluntary help all during the year, the President of the Community Association and the Chairman of the L.U.D.C., Mr S. J. Taylor, who was asked to convey the appreciation of the Club for the Council's donation of £85 towards the rent of the Hall.

**Members of the Bowls Club** followed their Christmas Dinner, when the Chairman of the L.U.D.C. and the Rev. J. G. Edwards were the guests of honour, by plunging into their preparations for the Great Sponsored Knit-In to take place in February in aid of the Barn Hall Extension Fund. It will take some time for the knitters to collect their monies from their sponsors but we are sure that the enterprising publicity put out by the Bowls Club will bring in a worthwhile and welcome sum.

**Folk Singing as well as Dancing** was the order of the day at the Party held by the Bookham Folk Dance Club in December at the Congregational Hall. Mr E. Wilmot, from Woking, led the folk songs and Mr R. Sharpe guided the fifty dancers to the traditional tunes. Visitors to the club come from Guildford University, and some from as far away as Farnham, Staines and Middlesex.

The Club is not an 'in-Group'. During December they provided a band and caller for a Barn Dance in aid of Action for Crippled Children. On December 15th in

the Barn Hall, beautifully decorated by Cub and Scout leaders, Bookham's resident caller was the leader in a varied programme of dances. There was no evidence here of a generation gap, though perhaps the scouts were quicker on the floor than their parents after an excellent turkey supper.

It is hoped that some of those who so obviously enjoyed these occasions will attend the club evenings at the Congregational Hall on the second and fourth Mondays at 8 p.m. New members would be welcomed to replace the annual loss of young married couples moving out of the area. D.H.

**Celebrations Ahead** were reported to members of the Gramophone Club at their January Christmas Party. The 17th of February is their 20th Anniversary and a programme reminiscent of the club's first meeting in February 1952 is devised.

Appropriately the presentation is by two of the original members—Mrs Mabel Everett and Mr Vic Brown.

**A Party to Come** is planned by the Dramatic Society when you are all invited to a Curry Luncheon on Sunday 12th March. So, give yourselves a change from Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pud and come and eat with us—we promise you a good meal and the satisfaction of supporting a good cause. The Cause? Money for the fixtures and fittings needed after the completion of the Extension to the Barn Hall.

Another date for your diary is Friday, 26th May, when all villagers and friends will be welcome to a Supper Dance with Band.

The expectation that the April production would be on the Barn Hall Stage was rather too optimistic. Although the Extension will be completed it is unlikely that the stage will be fully equipped by then. So followers of the Society are asked to bear with us once more in Church House when the next play will be 'Captain Carvallo', a comedy by Dennis Cannan, on 27th, 28th and 29th April. Our production of 'Semi-Detached' last November was a 'Box Office hit' and we hope for a similar success again.

We are, as ever, looking for new members, especially men. We see some lovely men shopping on a Saturday; where do they go for the rest of the week? We rehearse a play for about 12 weeks on Mondays and Thursdays. It really isn't too arduous and

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**Music to Remember.** The Bookham and Fetcham W.I. Choir, having won the class for women's organisations for the last 3 years at Sutton Music Festival, decided to explore new fields and entered 2 classes of the Woking Festival.

Conducted by Mrs C. Garrett, the Choir sang on Saturday, November 20th, in the class for ladies' organisations and the open class for Ladies' Choirs, winning a handsome cup for the latter. The adjudicator, Mr J. Russell, said of its rendering of 'The Sirens', by Ghimán, that this choir had a lovely, rich choral tone with plenty of activity in the sustained notes, really quite naughty in parts, and very seductive.

**The Friends of Howard of Effingham School** are growing in numbers and strength. It is interesting to note that nine out of the ten members of the new committee are from the Bookham and Fetcham area. They report that they have completed their project for school stage lighting, have presented additional sports trophies and have funds in hand to provide a showcase for them. All tickets have been sold for all social events, a Badminton club has been successfully launched and £250 was raised at their Autumn Fair.

We note that our old friend, Keith Sansom, is Treasurer.

**On the Crest of the Wave.** Bookham Football Club is enjoying one of the best seasons in its long existence. As we go to press it is entering the quarter finals of the Intermediate League Cup, for the first time for many long years. In reaching this point it has battled against good teams, including that of Surrey University. Some of the qualifying rounds were tight. In the fourth, for instance they won by one goal which came from a kick by Geoffrey West, of Dorking Rd. who, by a happy coincidence, was celebrating his 21st birthday.

The Reserves are in second place in their League and the third team are well up their League Table.

We understand that they are planning special events for their 50th anniversary.

**Warden for the Barn Hall.** A Warden is required for the Barn Hall. J.N.C. salary

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## **FEAT FROM FEET**

### **Recollections of The Walk, March 28th, 1971**

As this was the first, and will probably be the last of a combined Bookham Walk, we thought our readers would wish us to record it. For the sake of brevity many items must be omitted but not our thanks to all those who walked and those who sponsored.

It was inspired and directed by Councillor S. J. Taylor, Chairman of the L.U.D.C., Sponsor of the Barn Hall Appeal. It raised £1,200. There were 214 walkers. 168 completed the 20 mile course which took a circuitous course over Bookham Common to Effingham Junction, through fields and over some awkward stiles to Bookham Grange, uphill to Ranmore Common and over the Downs to Boxhill and Westhumble, back to Norbury Park Farm, thence to Leatherhead Football Ground, along Cock Lane and other residential roads including The Park, home to the Barn Hall where it all started at 7.30 a.m. and where Ken Barrington was waiting from midday until 6 p.m. to sign the coveted certificates.

The oldest walker was Mrs White, of Fairfield Cottages, who easily made her 6 mile target. The youngest to complete the full course were the Churcher twins, 8 years old Isabel and Sarah, as well as 8 year old Susie Taylor who beat them on timing and got back at 2.30 p.m.

First to arrive back at the Hall were the sprinters, Roger Goldsmith and Tony Hulme, who finished in 4 hours. Mary Austin, whose sprint was cut short by cramp, arrived a close third which cheered those of us who remembered that she was the youngest founder member many years ago of the Community Association.

A number of families started the Walk together, the largest contingent being the Sansoms with six children, mother and

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father, plus a dog for good measure. Reg Snow's party included their collie, Susie, who, later in the year, gave a distinguished performance at the Polesden Lacey Theatre as Crabb, the Dog, in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

The most determined young lady was probably Linda Tanner who completed the course for a sponsorship of 1½p.

The organisation was superb. Credit is due to a lot of people who gave willing service, no expenses were charged and the total proceeds went into the Building Fund.

Special mention should be made of Mr and Mrs Cannon who organised the checkpoints, forseeing all emergencies and guarding against them so that no untoward incident occurred. Mr Ian Taylor and Mr Harry Freeman planned the course, covering it on foot several times to ensure that it was viable. A warm thank-you should also be given to Mr and Mrs Arthur Blundell who supplied and served hot chocolate and hot soup at Bookham Grange and Leatherhead Football Field.

Bookham's Walk became quite a talking point at County Hall. President of the B.C.A., Mrs E. Harrison who believes that the contribution made to the neighbourhood by community associations is not sufficiently recognised in high places, was determined to drive home her point on this special occasion. Her list of sponsors included the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Surrey Education Committee, the Chief Education Officer and his Assistant Officers, the Vice Chancellor of Surrey University, together with Professor Salmon and Professor Tailby, the Dean of the Faculty of Education of King's College, London, the S.W. Divisional Education Officer, the County Inspector for Further Education and an impressive number of members of the County Education Committee. Nearer home she got the support of the Heads of all the local schools and the Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association. Finally the Principal, Governors, Heads of Department and representatives of the Students Union of Ewell Technical College completed a form for her. She intends to preserve in her archives this tribute to Bookham Community Association in which we all can share.

Mrs Vi Taylor worked on an equally

important but different line. She tackled the Leatherhead Urban District Council and was sponsored by all the Chief Officers and a number of individual councillors. Councillor Pedrick and Councillor Atkins completed the Walk and Clerk of the Council, Mr L. A. Stray and his wife joined in it.

The Bookham Afternoon W.I. sponsored their Ramblers Group. The Gt. Bookham Evening W.I. supported those of their members who volunteered to walk. The Students Union of the Effingham Adult Education Institute sponsored their Head, Mr G. Scoble, who ran most of the way, the staff of Eastwick Junior School their Head, Mr M. Taylor, the Catholic Womens League Mrs. Harrison. The Over Sixties Club their Secretary, Mrs. Mary Longhurst. Finally the Firm of Braithwaites contributed £100 to the Walk.

We conclude with apologies to all those whose names are not mentioned and for all the facts we have had to leave out. We must, however, express our thanks to Councillor Taylor for the enormous effort he expended, for choosing a fine day and for staying at the Barn Hall throughout the Sunday to welcome us all back footsore, maybe, but all proud of ourselves and one another. The builders have nearly finished. But, before we can open up to the public, we need a brigade of workers – voluntary, of course.

## **IT'S THE BARN HALL AGAIN!**

### **DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE!**

It is true that we have exceeded our budgetted figure by £2,000, mainly the result of additional requirements by officers of the L.U.D.C. and the County Council, which could not have been foreseen and came after our plans were passed and the contract signed. But it is also a fact that from the beginning, in order to keep down costs, we deliberately reserved for ourselves a long list of jobs to be done by willing, or even unwilling workers in their spare time.

From now on it is a safe bet that you will always find somebody at the Barn Hall – morning, afternoon, night, and especially at weekends, busy with paintbrushes, screw-

*Continued on page 22*

# *Eve*

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Please refer to Stop Press on page 26

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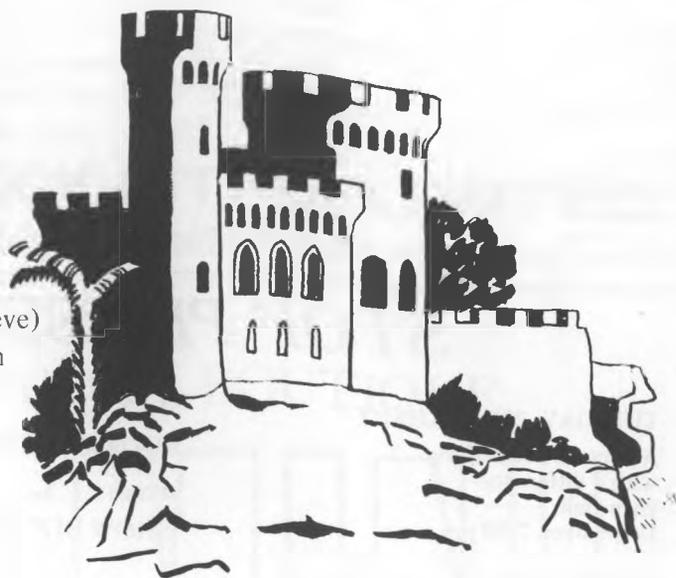
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If you are involved in buying print, especially technical or publicity brochures in single or multi colour, we will be pleased to show you our facilities and further samples of our varied work.

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