

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 88

SEPTEMBER 1955.

23rd year



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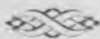
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# The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 88.

SEPTEMBER, 1955.

23rd year

The Editor 'Brandreth' Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.  
Business Manager "Aldbourne" Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham,

## EDITORIAL—VILLAGE DAY

Perfect weather brought most of the village to the Barn Hall for Village Day on Saturday, July 16th. In contrast to last year full use was made of the Barn Hall grounds, and even though "The Deluge" was produced, there was no need to huddle in tents and under trees. A grove of trees made a pleasant background for this simple medieval play based on the story of Noah and the Ark. Colourful costumes and effective grouping reminded one of some of the pictures one sees on stained glass windows in old cathedrals.

We were very pleased to have with us Mr. and Mrs. Sam Eckman, especially as it was their first official appearance at a village function. Mrs. Eckman declared Village Day open with great charm and dignity.

The Fancy Dress Parade was a little disappointing in numbers but made up for this by the quality of the costumes. The prize-winners received their awards from Mrs. Eckman.

Family parties quickly found their way to the ponies in the

first field. We are most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Carter and the Misses Dovey who year after year make possible the ever popular pony rides.

A number of our affiliated organisations manned the side-shows, which were well patronised during the afternoon. The Guides, as ever, were busy with help wherever needed. They erected tents, organised a scavenger hunt, fried sausages, sold programmes, and cleared the debris. The Women's Committee were busy with teapots and sandwiches, although the heat of the day caused the biggest queues at the soft drinks and ices stall.

The Community Association would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who helped to make the day such a success and without whom a Village Day would not be possible.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Friday, September 30th, at 8 p.m., in the Barn Hall. Dr. Hickin, F.R.E.S., will give a talk entitled "Exploring Uganda", which will be illustrated with coloured slides and a short colour

film.

Friday, October 28th, at 8 p.m., in the Barn Hall. Speaker, Dr. Barnes Wallis, inventor of the "earthquake bomb" which destroyed the Moehne Dam.

Friday, November 25th, at 8 p.m. in the Barn Hall, "Any Questions?"

The Community Association are arranging these evenings in response to many requests for talks from experts on subjects of general interest.

## Olde Tyme Dance Club

Classes are held at the Barn Hall every Wednesday, 7.45—10.30 p.m., commencing on 7th September, 1955. Dances are held at the Church House on the second Saturday in each month. The first dance of the season will be on Saturday, 10th September. Evening dress optional. Old and new members will be made very welcome. Demonstrator: Mrs. Olga Clarke.

## Gramophone Club.

The Gramophone Club commences on Thursday, September 8th. We shall be very pleased to welcome anyone interested in music and good reproduction. Our technical experts have been busy

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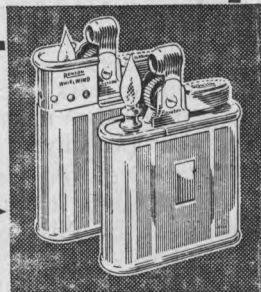
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and members will notice that we are yet another stage nearer to the goal of perfection. We meet on alternate Thursdays at the Barn Hall at 8 p.m.

September: 8th, Request Programme; 22nd, Water's Music (J. Waters). October: 6th, V. H. Yates, M.A., B.Mus., A.R.C.M.; 20th, My Family Favourites (Mrs. V. D. Horsey). November: 3rd, Demonstration by Goodman's Industries Ltd.; 17th, Annual General Meeting. December: 1st, The Miracle of Mozart (H. Rawlinson); 15th, Buffet Supper; 29th, Reminiscences (Mrs. M. L. Everett).

### **OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE**

Old People's Week for the Leatherhead Urban District, which begins on Saturday, September 24th, gives an opportunity to all of us to contribute to a cause for which voluntary help is still much needed. The problems of old age cannot be solved by the State alone. The assistance which can be provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee, to mitigate loneliness, give help in times of sickness and provide small comforts in cases of hardship, is all the more welcome because it is offered on a neighbourly basis.

Although the Committee has only been in existence for just over 12 months it has already sponsored a meals on wheels ser-

vice, a wireless service, chiropody service on a district basis; night sitters-in, and an old people's register. It co-ordinates and supplements work already being done by other organisations and endeavours to establish more clubs for the over sixties.

Bookham has always been most generous in the support it gives to the Old People's Welfare Committee. We are sure that the same support will be given on this occasion, and that the event of the week will be well attended, so that the target of £1,000 can be reached.

Events will be arranged in the various Wards of the district during the week and details of these will be found in the official programme which will shortly be on sale. The Civic Opening will be on Saturday, September 24th, and will be followed by a fête in the grounds of Red House, Leatherhead. A grand bazaar will conclude the week, to be held in the Congregational Church Hall, Leatherhead, on the afternoon of Saturday, October 1st. Gifts towards the bazaar will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary of the Old People's Welfare Committee, Mrs. N. Cox, Theldor, Keswick Road, Great Bookham.

### **ST. PANCRAS OLD PEOPLE VISIT BOOKHAM**

On Saturday, July 2nd, thirty old people from St. Pancras were

entertained by the Bookham Community Association. They were accompanied by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of St. Pancras and amongst the party which welcomed them to the Barn Hall were Councillor S. R. Sulston, Chairman of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, and Councillor Turville Kille.

After visiting Polesden and touring the gardens the old people came back to the Barn Hall for tea and entertainment which was provided by the Women's Committee of the Community Association. An iced cake with three candles was cut to celebrate the third annual visit to Bookham from the St. Pancras Over Sixties.

### **"HAMLET"**

The Open Air Theatre at Polesden Lacey was the scene of a great artistic success, although once again not a financial one, a fairly common result unfortunately. The Community Association would like to thank everybody who helped in any way at all to contribute to the success of this production. There were so many people involved in an event of this magnitude that it is quite impossible to thank individuals. Those who saw the play had their own reward in a quite outstanding presentation which they will remember for a long time.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

(PART 9)

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The turbulence of the fifteenth century gave place to renewed calm and prosperity under the early Tudors, and this is reflected in the wills of local inhabitants.\* Some twenty of these survive from the period before the Dissolution, showing the keen interest taken in church life. Richard Roger, who died in 1491, left to Great Bookham Church a torch worth 6s.8d., a banner of the same price, and 3s.4d. for painting an image of St. Thomas in the church; Richard Elys (d. 1517) gave 'a stok afore our Lady of a quarter barly' (i.e. the value of a quarter of barley for tapers to burn at the Lady Altar), and he refers to his debt of 13s.4d. 'for a stoke of 2 tapyrs for the old Rode' (the Rood or Crucifix on a beam at the chancel arch); while John Gardener (d. 1518) left 8d. to the 'ymage of Seynt Nicolas.' In 1533 the church received under the will of John Roggers 20s. for making 'the Celinge over the Roode loft' and 13s.4d. 'to the paintynge of the Roodlofte', while his son Bartholomew was to maintain for his life the stock of 2 lbs. of wax 'beffor our Lady'; two years later, Richard Goodmyn left 37s. 'to the reparacions of the church of Saynte Nicholas of Greate Buckham'; and in 1536 Thomas Nele left 6s.8d. to the roodloft, and

John Hylder a quarter of barley to the gilding of the roodloft. In 1537 John Harryson, of Little Bookham, left 12d. to the High Altar of Little Bookham Church and a stock of two quarters of barley to keep a taper of 2 lbs. of wax burning 'afore our Lady in the Church' there.

The mention of the old rood at Great Bookham in 1517 suggests that a new one was then being made, and a new roodloft was evidently being finished, painted and gilt in the 1530's. It was no doubt to accommodate this new loft, stretching across nave and aisles, that the two eastern arches of the nave were altered and raised. To this woodwork the screen on the south of the chancel perhaps belonged: the heavier and earlier screen-base in the Slyfield Chapel may survive from an earlier rood-screen.

The wills contain much material of value to the genealogist, and references to various properties and to household goods. Thomas Stile (d. 1517) left to his daughter Agnes half his sheep, 'a Flok bed, 2 blanketts, 2 shets, a bolster', while his son Richard was to have 'a grete pewter charger, half my pewter vessells, one of my best pannes, half the residue of my brasse', the other half going to Agnes. John Dudeley, who died in the winter of 1522-23, disposed of 'my pewter and candylstyks, my best androns (andirons or firedogs), my best trevet (trivet or three-legged iron stand), a pot of brasse, a bed of floks, 8 pare

of sheets, a towell and a tabull cloth'. Bequests for civil purposes had not yet become popular, but Walter Hudson in 1523 left 20d. 'to the Causey towarde the Comyn there as most new is', this no doubt implying that the old road across Bookham Common to Slyfield was shifted from time to time owing to the waterlogged clay soil.

No detailed information survives as to the effect of the Dissolution upon Great Bookham. It was probably slight, for the Abbots of Chertsey had long since ceased to exercise any close control over the life of the village, and the system of land-tenure survived them. Leases and copies granted by the abbey and its courts remained valid, and there is no indication that the sudden change of lordship produced any local results. There are, however, signs that the leasehold system was being extended, and this process might have continued had the Manor not passed into lay hands. It is recorded in the Survey taken in 1548† that Ralph Stephens, assign of Philip Stephens, held by indenture under Common Seal (i.e. a lease sealed with the Abbey Seal) of 20th April, 1519, a messuage with a virgate of land called 'Wodewards' at Slyfield (now the Millfield estate) which had lately belonged to John at Wod, formerly to John Barnesdale, and once to John Wodeward. The property had been held by John at Wod by copy of Court Roll, and was

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surrendered to the use of Philip Stephens in 1518-19. The terms of the lease, which was to run for 99 years, were suit of Court twice yearly and 8d. yearly for Common Fine, with 5s. a year rent, a fixed heriot of 13s.4d. on inheritance and 26s.8d. relief for the entry of the heir; in addition the tenant was to pay 17s.7½d. when the Crown raised a Fifteenth in taxation. The total area of land was about 38 acres.

This record has a double interest. It is an example of the deliberate conversion of copyhold into leasehold, apparently at the Abbot's will; and it provides a link with the brass, still in Great Bookham Church, asking prayers for the soul of John Barnesdale and Marion his wife, 'the which John desseed iii August in the yere of oure Lord M CCCC LXXXI'. We know then that the Barnesdales were neighbours of the Slyfields and, furthermore, we have evidence of the earlier history of their property, for John Wodeward must have been descended from Thomas le Wodeward, to whom in 1342 Abbot Rutherwyk had granted a croft of land at Slyfield, surrendered by Gilbert Leuwyne.

Leases were also being granted of the lay Manor of Little Bookham. A surviving account† for 1542-45, kept by Arthur Assheby, bailiff of Little Bookham for Lord William Howard, refers to the old rent of £8 13s. 4d. paid as far back as 1507 in the time of William Westbrok, then bailiff, which he contrasts with the new rent of £11 a year, paid for the

site of the Manor with all its houses, barns, stables and other buildings and lands. The rents from freeholders and copyholders amounted to £11 2s. 9½d. yearly. Out of this 9s.4d. had to be paid to the Manor of Great Bookham, 18d. to the Manor of Effingham, and 11½d. to the Manor of 'Nyze Cour.e' (East Court) in Effingham. Assheby himself drew a salary of 13s.4d., and paid out 13s.8d. for repairs, including 6s.6d. to a plumber for new making an old gutter by the Kitchen of the Manor, of which 6d. was for carriage of the gutter from Kingston. The plumber also received 8d. for re-setting it in position. Complications of manorial tenure are suggested by the despairing note with which Assheby concludes:— 'And in the hands of — Slyfeld gent. for a certain free rent for his lands in Bookham, 6d. yearly, lately paid to the Lord of this Manor, which is now denied; and it is not known where he may be distrained for the same.'

\*Mostly proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey, whose records are now at Somerset House. Abstracts of all the wills in the first surviving Register, *Spage*, have been printed by the Surrey Record Society, vol. V.

†Public Record Office, E.36/168.

‡Public Record Office, S.C.6/Hen. VIII/6235.

### RESULT OF BULLETIN COMPETITION

The competitor with the most words from the phrase "See You on Village Day" was Peter Jeffs, of Great Bookham Primary School, with 475 words. No award in the older age group. Congratulations, Peter!

### BOOKHAM CRICKET CLUB

Reports for previous years have usually complained about the weather, but at last conditions have been all in favour of the game being fully enjoyed. Up to the time of writing the Club has had a most successful season: 23 games have been played, 12 won, 8 lost, 1 tied, and 2 drawn, and only 2 have been cancelled due to rain. As the climatic conditions are the same for both sides, the all-round improvement of the standard of play, the more frequent appearances this year of Don Durban, Lester Hall and Sid Rollinson, and the acquisition of new members Ken Gunn, Seymour Plummer and Doug Tribe, have all assisted in the success of the Club. It is also very pleasing to see the younger members of the side showing great enthusiasm and promise, and in Geoff Harrison, Alan Smith, David Joliffe, David Earle, Colin Chitty and Brian Longhurst the future of the Club seems to be in capable hands. Notable victories have been recorded against Pyrford, Reigate Officers, Headley and Balham, and the strong Old Surbitonians were held to a draw. In the local "Derby" against Effingham at Effingham, the Club scored 164 for 8 declared. Durban and Tribe being engaged in a stand of 99, and then dismissed the "enemy" for 57. In the return game at Bookham the result was an exciting tie, each side scoring 93. Against Sutton High School Old Boys, Bob Stevenson scored a

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century, the first that can be remembered on the Bookham ground, and the same player, with Don Durban as his partner against Pyrford, passed the target of 99 without being defeated. This also is the first time that a first wicket stand has realised the 100 runs. Sid Rollinson's 71 against Pyrford, which included 6 6's and 6 4's, will be an innings to be remembered. Colin Murrell's 55 not out against Westborough, Don Durban 60 versus Effingham, Doug Tribe 71 not out against the same side, Ken Gunn's 47 v. Headley, Seymour Plummer's 39 v. Reigate Officers have all been notable performances. The writer only hopes that the weather will continue to be kind, and that the same sporting cricket for the remainder of the season will prevail.

L. W. DENNING.

### **BOOKHAM FOOTBALL CLUB**

Here we are at the beginning of the 1955-56 season and the lads are eager to start kicking the big ball about after their two months rest! Dr. A. M. Easton has kindly consented to be our President once again and, though his free time is very limited, he will do his utmost to attend matches and cheer his boys on. Mr. David Longhurst, one of the Club's hardest workers behind the scenes, is again our popular choice for Chairman. The new Treasurer, Mr. Arthur W. Hedges, of "Brendon", The Lorne Estate, who has recently come to reside in Book-

ham, has shown a great keenness and interest in Club matters. He is attached to the Surrey County F.A. Advisory Committee, a member of the Surrey Intermediate League (Central) Committee, and will obviously be a great asset to his new Club.

Both teams will again be playing in the Surrey Intermediate League (Central) Premier and First Divisions. We shall require players to take the places of Don Durban and A. Jones, who have decided to hang up their boots, Johnny Ainsworth, now doing his National Service in the Army, Stan Hawthorne, now in the R.A.F., and Ken Vincent, our unlucky goalkeeper who, because of a leg injury, has decided to give up playing to serve in the Club management. In fact players for all positions, who wish to play in Intermediate football, should get in touch with me as soon as possible.

The Club is very much in need of financial support in spite of a profit of £29 9s. 6d. over the previous season. We have just purchased new socks, shorts and shirts for the reserves, and new goalposts are necessary before we can begin the new season.

The Supporters' Club, under the direction of Mr. David Longhurst, are doing their utmost to raise funds by various competitions, but more money is necessary immediately. All donations should be sent to Mr. A. W. Hedges, "Brendon", The Lorne Estate, Lower Road, and they will

be thankfully acknowledged.

Last season our Premier eleven improved their position in the league table, finishing sixth out of thirteen teams, and they will do better with Bookham people on the touchline giving them encouragement. In such a large village as this has become we ought to have a good number of supporters attending our matches. To try to induce Bookham people to follow and support our own footballers the Committee have decided to reduce the coach fare to 1/6 to all away matches.

We shall endeavour to cover all strategic points with posters advising you of all our matches, and I intend to give a regular report on the progress of the teams in this *Bulletin*.

Please send in your donations quickly and don't forget to come along to the ground to cheer your own lads.

BILL WYNN, Hon. Secretary,

### **BOOKHAM ACTIVITIES**

#### **The Bookhams Women's Institute.**

On Saturday, October 8th, at 2.30 in the Church House, the Women's Institute will hold an Autumn Fête.

#### **The Folk Dance Club.**

Classes will re-open at the end of September at the Church House on alternate Saturdays. Will all members please make a real effort to come regularly this year. New-comers welcome. Full particulars from R. Lambert. Telephone: Bookham 2206.

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## BOOKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

As far back as 1885 Mary Wakefield experimented with musical festivals in Westmorland, and nineteen years later there were no fewer than 36 centres throughout England where her example had been followed.

In the spring of 1904 two friends, one from Leith Hill Place and one from Abinger Hall, met to discuss the possibility of founding a musical festival for their own and neighbouring villages in Surrey.

Thus the Leith Hill Musical Competition was formed, and the Committee asked Mr. Ralph Vaughan Williams to conduct the evening concert which always follows the day of competitions and also if he would coach the combined choirs in the selected music beforehand. He agreed to do this and the motto "Music Won the Cause" was chosen.

In 1926, so popular had this Festival become, that the question of larger premises and a more suitable hall was raised.

The splendid Dorking Halls owe their existence mainly to the Leith Hill Musical Festival, as it is now called. The Halls were opened in 1931 and the Festival at last had accommodation ample for all its needs and a setting worthy of its aims.

Many towns and villages in Surrey have their own choral societies which enter every year in friendly rivalry for these competitions. The music is selected

by a committee and rehearsals usually begin in the autumn, giving choirs about six months in which to practise for the Festival.

On the appointed day, after an exciting morning of competitions, when the words of the adjudicator can raise choirs to the heights of delighted pleasure or plunge their hopes downwards if they have failed to meet the required standard, there is a full rehearsal in the afternoon for the great event of the year, the concert in the evening. A great feature of the Festival Concert is that choirs have an orchestral accompaniment—so works that for six months have had only a piano arrangement suddenly come alive with orchestral colour and the music gains new meaning.

All who have sung in the concerts will long remember the thrill of joining other choirs, forgetting the competitive spirit, and giving wholeheartedly of their best under inspired conductors and with the most appreciative of audiences.

Last season Bookham Choral Society had several successes under their new conductor, Mr. Ralph Nicholson—new to Bookham as their conductor but by no means new to the Festival, for some years ago he conducted Fetcham Choral Society and he has played in the Festival Orchestra for many years. He also belongs to the London Symphony Orchestra and steered Bookham Choral Society smoothly through a most enjoyable season, to tie with Buckland for first place at the L.H.M.F. competitions.

The population of the Bookhams is increasing rapidly and we feel sure there must be many individuals who would like to come out one evening a week, through the winter, to make music with fellow music-lovers.

There is nothing that can compare with the intensely satisfying pleasure of singing together, overcoming initial difficulties and learning new music and fresh interpretations.

Bookham Choral Society, which at present numbers some 40 members, welcomes newcomers, and as there is no voice test and the annual subscription is from 5/-, we feel that should encourage young people fresh from school or college.

Tenors are always in demand, and the number of quartets which any choir is able to enter for the competitions usually depends entirely on the number of tenors in the choir. So more tenors, please!

Bookham Choral Society gives a concert each year sometime before the Festival and a Carol Service in the Parish Church of St. Nicholas at Christmas, in which we introduce new and lovely carols interspersed with many of the old favourites.

Applications for membership of Bookham Choral Society should be sent to the Hon. Secretary—or come along on Monday, 26th September, at 8 p.m., to the Congregational Church Hall, Eastwick Road, Bookham, when we Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive, Great Bookham, Surrey. Telephone: Bookham 307.

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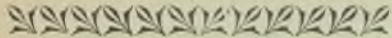


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