

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 113

SUMMER 1962

30th year



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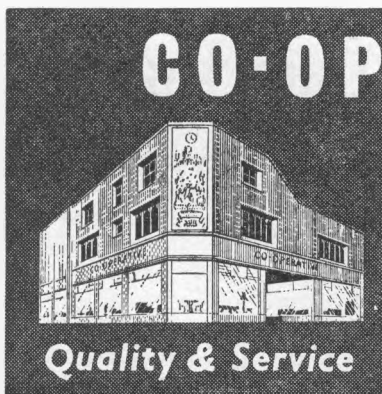
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# THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

*Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association*

No. 113

SUMMER 1962

30th year

## EDITORIAL

There is not much space in Bookham High Street for people to stand and talk, but talk they will, and the jostle and hazard adds spice to the conversation. The topic of the moment is, of course, the Development Plan for the Shopping Centre. It is probably true to say that, up to date, Bookham has mostly just happened, but this will not be so in the future! Leatherhead Council has a Plan which burst like a bombshell upon the village, and, true to form, the village began to argue about it. There seem to be as many points of view as there are interested parties. The fact remains that we are all, whether we are directly involved or not, concerned in it. In the first place we are all shoppers and, in the second place, we have an affection for Bookham and we want it to retain character and individuality, even if it has to grow.

The Council has said that its Plan is, at the moment, only provisional. It is willing to listen to the views of local people. It is obvious, however, that there must be some sort of common agreement on such an important matter

and not warring pressure groups cancelling each other out.

The Village Day Exhibition, on June 16th, will give everybody a chance to study the proposition. The Council's Plan will be available for examination. At the same time a group of young local architects, becoming known as the Design Group, who have their own ideas on how Bookham should face the future, has been given a place in the Exhibition. By means of plans, pictures and three-dimensional drawings they will suggest a complete scheme for central Bookham. It is bound to be provocative. It may well prove to be brilliant! It is up to all of us to take advantage of this opportunity to look at all the possibilities and then make up our own minds.

The decision this year to put on an Exhibition for Village Day of "Bookham Past and Future" was taken long before anybody had heard of a Council Plan. It is a fortunate coincidence that the theme should prove to be topical as well as interesting. In accordance with the original idea, the exhibits will also include plans for the extension of the Barn Hall. We are sure that residents will

welcome the suggested layout of the Hall which the Community Association hold in trust for them. We are confident that it will, in the years to come, provide a centre worthy of the village. There has been much delay in putting forward a concrete proposition, for which we apologise, but this was due to justifiable fears about adequate funds. The first bold step has now been taken. How quickly the plan will take shape in bricks and mortar depends on the generosity of Bookham people.

Finally, to round off the Exhibition, we shall present a record of Bookham's growth in the past, in the hope that the planners for tomorrow will preserve for us what is good of the old.

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

**Hotelier in the Making.** Mr. John Crabtree, son of our High Street Chemist, has inherited his father's skill in the mixing of ingredients, but he is applying it in a different direction. By winning the Challenge Cup in the Junior Section of the Hotel Olympia Exhibition, he has gained a high distinction. His entry in this very competitive exhibition, which is only held every two years, was a "dressed salmon," listed as a "typical English cold dish."

John is in the third year of a 4-year sandwich course in Hotel Management at the Ealing Technical College. This is an interesting course of combined academic and practical studies, and includes periods of training in leading hotels.

We hear that he is not the only Bookhamite taking up this course. One or two other young people residing in his own road have enrolled at the Ealing Technical College.

**Career in the Merchant Navy.** Another well-known High Street couple, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, have reason to be proud of their son, Malcolm, who has just passed his final exam. for Chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy. His experience has been in the McAndrews Line, and for the last few months he has been studying at the Poplar College. His ship sails between Spain and the Home Ports.

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to bear in mind that even at this stage reservations can still be made for holidays both at home and abroad.

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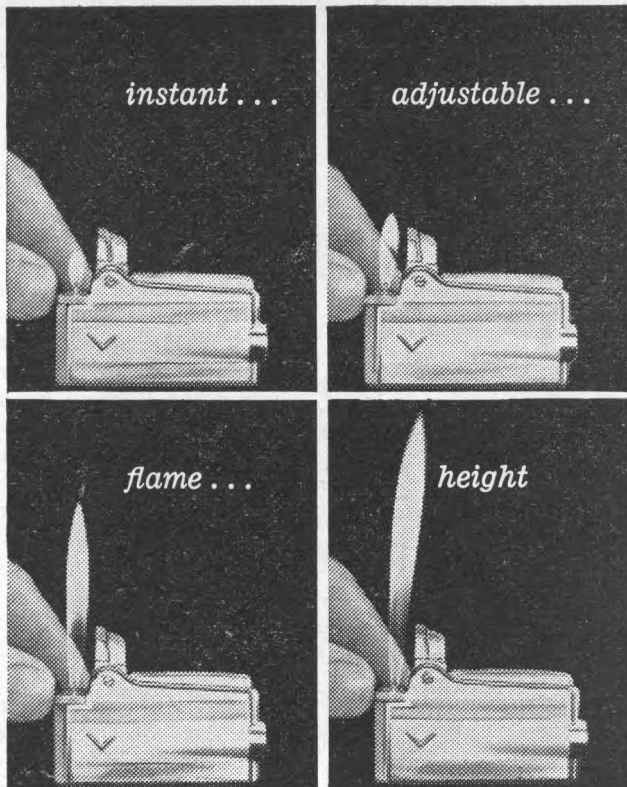
**Queen's Scout and Queen's Guide in one Family.** We congratulate Clive Pulling, of The Park, on the award of the Badge of Queen's Scout, presented to him in March. He is also well on the way to obtaining his silver medal of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, having only one more task to complete before he qualifies.

His sister, Pamela, also has the distinction of being a Queen's Guide. She still finds time, although she is studying at the Battersea Training College of Domestic Science, to take charge of one of the Bookham Guide Companies.

**Bookham has Top Dogs.** Allister, of Surrey Down, was a First Prize-winner in his class at Crufts this year. He is a dynamic miniature black poodle and has been taking prizes in his stride since his top win in the Puppy Class at Paignton. His owner, Mrs. Hogg, started breeding poodles as a hobby, and still regards it as a labour of love. From her Kennels in Eastwick Drive dogs have gone out to Sweden, Switzerland, France and Canada.

Another prizewinner at Crufts was Mrs. Simmond's long-haired dachshund, Minty Fortune Hunter. It is apparent that pedigree dogs of the smaller breeds are becoming increasingly popular in other countries. One of Mrs. Simmond's dogs, appropriately named Miss Quicksilver, will be flown over to America in August, ready to start a family there.

**A Photographer with the R.A.F.** Senior Aircraftsman Photographer Derek Wisbey, of Eastwick Drive, has been in Episkopi, Cyprus, since February. Derek was educated at Bookham School and then went on to Pewley School, Guildford, where he won an award to the R.A.F. School of



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**On Holiday from Canada.** Mr. and Mrs. Freelove are enjoying having with them for a couple of months their daughter, Mrs. Helles D'Orsay, who is over from Ottawa, Canada, on a long vacation. She is accompanied by the eldest of her four sons.

### HAMSTERS GALORE

Most Bookham people must have been extremely surprised to learn from the local paper of the existence of a hamster farm on Bookham Common.

Yesterday I visited the farm. It is unique. It is the first and only hamster farm in Britain, possibly even in the world.

I had a long talk with the owner, the dynamic Mr. Percy Parslow. For him Meadow View, Commonsides, is the fulfilment of a boyhood dream; he has 3 acres all his own, space for his all-absorbing hobby of breeding hamsters, space to keep Bantam chickens and pigs later on, space for the miscellaneous pets, a lovely black sheepdog, Bob, a parrot called Dudley, and a Jackdaw who has starred in a television play, "The Silent Highwayman."

Mr. Parslow has only been in Bookham five months and had to face the most severe winter for many years, and to keep the hamsters warm and happy in makeshift surroundings, as their permanent outbuilding was uncom-

pleted. They all came through.

This was my first real acquaintance with hamsters, and I met 2,000. I found them delightful, friendly little rodent-like creatures. All tame ones, I learned, stem from a family of wild hamsters caught near Aleppo in Syria about 30 years ago. The original colour was golden, but with years of experimentation Mr. Parslow has produced 17 different colour strains. They are exquisite, cinnamon, sepia, blue, black-eyed cream, ruby-eyed cream, etc.

They are clean and easy to keep provided one makes the cage "hamster proof," as they will gnaw through anything but tough wire. It is easy to obtain a balanced diet for them nowadays, but in wartime, when food was scarce, Mr. Parslow found them most adaptable. They would eat anything a human ate, and some were reared on fish and chips.

The Parslow family are all keenly interested, and while Mr. Parslow is President of the National Hamster Council and the Southern Hamster Club, and a judge, Mrs. Parslow takes on the job of show secretary, Michael, now at Leeds University, is a judge, and so is Audrey. She is the youngest judge in the country. She is 16.

Miss Audrey also keeps a very attractive breed of rabbit — Netherland dwarf—small, compact little animals only weighing 1½lb. and with small, upstanding ears, very delightful creatures.

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

The appeal of the Membership Secretary for subscriptions to be sent to him met with a good response. He wishes to thank all those who replied to his letter in the last issue of "The Bulletin" and to say that it is not too late to pay up for the 1961-1962 session. The presentation of a current membership card will give free admission to Village Day on June 16th. His address is 21 Barn Meadow Lane.

Subscriptions may also be paid to any member of the Committee.

Many of the clubs will be closing down for the summer season, but the Association work goes on. Apart from Village Day and the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre production, for which much work remains to be done, there is also the visit of the St. Pancras Old People on Saturday, July 14th. Small gifts for the visitors of cakes, flowers, garden produce, sweets, groceries will be gratefully received by Mrs. Cuddeford. Telephone Bookham 3498. This is their tenth visit.

Members of the Association who would like to assist as usherettes at Polesden Lacey on July 19th, 20th and 21st, are invited to get in touch with the Secretary. Telephone Bookham 2706. Mr. R. Kepple (telephone Bookham 2647) is responsible for the stewards.

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## ROUND THE VILLAGE

**Bookham Cricket Club.** We are pleased to welcome the affiliation to the Community Association of this long-established Club. Although the season is in full swing we are told that new members would be welcomed either by the Secretary, or at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground, where the home weekend matches are played. We have been speculating how old the Club really is, and we think that it cannot be far short of its century. We know that children today had fathers, and even great-grandfathers, connected with it, and there are still old photographs about of the original players which have the authentic Victorian flavour. It would be

interesting to have a history of the Club, and this could be done if someone would collate the records handed down by word of mouth.

**Supporters' Association, 1st Bookham Scout Group.** The Annual General Meeting of this Association was held in April, when tribute was paid to the fine work of the retiring officers, Messrs. Cameron, Browning and Hughes. Under their guidance the Committee had raised a sum of £100. **Edenside House** now has its full complement of residents and is running smoothly under the care of its two matrons and domestic helpers. Assistance has also been obtained to upkeep the gardens. The drive has been drained and

re-surfaced and a new footpath has been constructed so that the old people can go in and out quite comfortably. The heating, too, has been improved and a Baxi fire in the sitting-room has made it much more cheerful.

**British Legion.** On May 27th the annual Parade and Service of the Duke of Connaught Branch (Surrey Branch of distinguished Legionnaires) took place at Bookham Parish Church and was well attended. Tea was served afterwards at the Barn Hall by the Women's Section.

The Summer Fete will be held at the Legion Hall, Effingham, on June 23rd. Everybody is welcome. There will be sideshows, competitions, rifle range, etc.

**Bookham Rifle Club.** A total number of seventeen teams have been entered for competitions this summer, some in the National Leagues at 50 and 100 yard ranges and others in the Surrey County 25 and 50 yard leagues. Pistol and standing and kneeling leagues have also been entered for and teams will be shooting in local competitions such as the Coronation Shield and Cup and the Goblin Cup.

At the time of going to press the results of the winter league shooting are not known, but individual achievements of two members, Messrs. K. S. Pankhurst and G. T. Ball, merit congratulation as they have shot most successfully for Surrey in the inter-county standing and kneeling league. This section of the Club is becoming

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strong and the increased interest has resulted in some very encouraging improvement, and who knows perhaps one day the Club may provide a representative for Great Britain in the Olympic Games!

The Club is very proud of its fine range at Thornecroft, Leatherhead, and in the few years that it has been there, members have built 25, 50 and 100 yards ranges, all with covered firing points. Work is now in progress on the construction of a clubhouse which is being built entirely out of the Club's own resources and when finished members will be justified in saying that theirs is one of the best ranges in the South of England.

**Eastwick County Primary School** has already demonstrated its talent in operetta, and this year the children aspire higher. On the 18th, 19th and 20th of July they are performing "The Mikado" in the School Hall. These performances are open to the public. The producer is Mrs. J. M. Teague, formerly a member of the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company.

**2nd Bookham Scouts (Baptist).** Following their successful sale in the Baptist Hall, in May, this enterprising company has been able to purchase tents and some equipment for their summer camp, starting on August 13th. They are going to the Guestling Scout Training Centre, near Has-

tings. This is their first real camp, although they did try out an experimental one at Ranmore last year.

**Eastwick Park Cricket Club.** Since the beginning of the year, something like eighty new members have indicated their desire to be associated with the club.

From the cricketing point of view the club will be fielding an additional team section, making three sides in all, and a full fixture list has been drawn up involving more games than last year. There is one particular department of the game that the club is anxious over, and this is the wicket-keeping side. The secretary will be delighted to hear from anyone with wicket-keeping experience who might like to join. He would also, of course, welcome any new members, either playing or non-playing.

**Choral Society.** Another season's singing has been brought to an enjoyable conclusion by participation in the annual Leith Hill Music Festival and the presentation of a concert at the Manor House School, which was well received by a good audience. Although not so successful in the Festival Competition as was hoped, the choir, under their conductor, Ralph Nicholson, sang with great spirit to take second place in the full chorus section of the advanced choirs division and to gain the award for the second year running for the best quartet.

**Edenside Extension Scheme.** The Leatherhead Housing Society, spurred by the success of Edenside as an old people's home and conscious of the need in this district for small, single, easily managed dwellings for old people, has decided to use part of its land as a site for a new extension of this type. It is proposed that the completed scheme should consist of 30 dwelling units, a warden's flat and a communal kitchen and dining room but, if the rents are to be kept low enough for old people to afford, it will only be possible to build the scheme by stages. The first stage will probably be the erection of eight dwellings.

At present it is estimated that each dwelling will cost about £1,500. So far the cost of four of these dwellings has been guaranteed by various organisations and firms and it is hoped that other associations and businesses in the district will see their way to guaranteeing the cost or part of the cost of a living unit so that it will be possible to start building within the next 18 months.

**British Sailors' Society.** Leatherhead Branch. This new Branch was successfully launched at an enjoyable "At Home," held on April 4th, at Flushings House, Bookham, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Earle.

The next activity of the new Branch will be a Cheese and Wine Party on July 6th, at Graham Lodge, East Street, and tickets may be obtained from Mrs. Earle.

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**Open Air Theatre, Polesden Lacey.** This year's production of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" is on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 19th, 20th and 21st, with a matinee on Saturday at 3 p.m. Seats at 10/6, 7/6, 5/- and 3/- are all bookable and early application is desirable, to avoid disappointment, at Upalong, Guildford Road, Tel. Bookham 241. Those who saw the television production will realise that this is a strong play and the setting will present a challenge to the producer, Miss Elsie Green. The charming rural scenes should fit perfectly into the background of the National Trust's Open Air Theatre, and we can be assured, from previous experience, that the Court and Prison scenes will be excitingly portrayed.

**"Nellie's Bus."** A nearly new 12-seater Mini-Bus for the transport of old people to their clubs and functions was presented by Mr. V. Crabb to the Old People's Welfare Committee at the Annual General Meeting in April. It is blue and has Old People's Welfare Committee painted on it. In handing over the bus at a brief ceremony outside the U.D.C. Offices, Mr. Crabb said that he hoped that it would be known as "Nellie's Bus." This would be an affectionate recognition of the great personal work which Mrs. N. Cox, Secretary of the Old People's Welfare Committee, has done for so many old people throughout the Leatherhead Urban District.

**Bookhams Evening W.I.** This lively Institute has a tennis morning every Tuesday morning at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground which is keenly supported. Varied outings to suit all tastes have been arranged for the summer months. The Drama Group is going from strength to strength and looks forward to a production of a Pantomime in December devised by one of its members, Mrs. M. Jeal, who has written a number of plays. Running along with this will be rehearsals of a play for the children of members, which will also be put on in December.

Planning well ahead is a feature of all Women's Institutes and the Evening W.I. is preparing for the Lawrence Cup Competition in October. It will take the form of a Historical Tableau, and the Institute hope to retain the Cup which they won last year.

**Link with Bookham Past.** With the recent death of Mrs. Louisa Cordingly at the age of 90, another link with old Bookham has been severed. Although she was not born here, she spent much time with her grandfather, William Clapshew, landlord of The Saracen and King (now Grove Cottages) and later landlord of The Old Crown. She married a Bookham man and for 21 years they kept an ironmonger's at the Corner House (Porter and Smart's). Her daughter, Mrs. Edith White, is producer for the Drama Group of The Bookham's W.I.

**Bookhams Afternoon W.I.** The two highlights of the season have been the visit of the old people from Newington Lodge and the annual Play by the Drama Group. The link between Newington Lodge and the Institute is a close one. On a number of occasions the old people have visited Bookham and, earlier this year, a party of Institute members visited the Home. It was, for them, an inspiring and, at the same time, a sad experience. As a result of this visit the Institute were even more determined to entertain right royally the two coachloads of old people who came to Bookham on May 24th. After partaking of a lovely tea, the visitors thoroughly enjoyed the Variety Concert presented by their hostesses and went away with gifts and their own chosen items from the Hat and Tie Bar.

The yearly Play has now become quite a feature of village life. On May 17th, 18th and 19th there were good attendances at Church House for the presentation of the mystery comedy, "The Seven Widows of Hampstead," by Stuart Ready. This was the Institute's twelfth annual 3-Act Play.

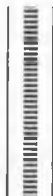
**Old People's Welfare Fete.** The Old People's Welfare Committee has been generous to our old people, and we are sure that Bookham people will support this annual fete on Saturday, June 23rd, at Ronson's Sports Ground, at 2.30.

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**Youth Club.** The Bookham Youth Club has recently celebrated its first birthday with a Beatnik Party. It is still meeting at the Barn Hall from 7.30 p.m. until 9.45 p.m. on Mondays. With the approach of summer and the lighter evenings it is hoped to have a more varied programme than is possible during the winter with, perhaps, swimming, tennis, walks, cycling, etc.

**Anyone for Tennis?** Young people between 13 and 30 interested in tennis, might like to join the Bookham and Effingham Youth Tennis Club. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Miss A. Buckland, at 18 Crabtree Lane.

**Thank-you to Mrs. Johnson,** of Halepit Road, for her gift to the Community Association of her piano for use in the Barn Hall.

### **ANOTHER OPEN SPACE FOR BOOKHAM?**

We have just heard that 5.5 acres at Long Copse, Eastwick Drive, subject of a recent Planning Appeal, is to be kept as open space. Commenting on the site the Inspector, appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, said: "Despite the character of the area and the proximity of Bookham Common the attractions of this site are such that he considers that it should be preserved for the benefit of the public." This is in accordance with the decision of the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

Apart from a few Eastwick Drive

residents, the Community Association was the only organisation represented at the inquiry. It made a strong plea for the retention of this beautiful site as a nature reserve. The wide lawns sloping down to two large tree-fringed ponds make a perfect habitat for ducks, swans and other waterfowl. Unusual birds can be found here and the banks are bright with wild flowers at all seasons. We are delighted that all this will be saved and we hope that the Council will make haste to take it over and preserve its natural features.

### **POINTS FROM THE PARTIES**

The three political parties have all held their annual general meetings. Officers elected were:

Conservatives: Chairman, Mr. V. L. Austin, Great Bookham Association. Chairman, Mr. J. A. Brown. Secretary, Mr. J. M. Rose-Cormack Lyons, Little Bookham Association.

Liberals: Chairman, Mr. F. C. Van Scolina. Secretary, Mr. W. B. White.

Labour: Chairman, Mr. A. Harrison. Secretary, Mr. J. Stemp.

They all plan to intensify their political propaganda in readiness for a General Election, and literature will be available for members who are prepared to undertake canvassing for new supporters.

The Conservative Association report "Women's Week" in June, the main feature of which will be a Coffee Morning at Church House on June 5th, when a talk

will be given on "Women's Work in Politics" by Mrs. Miranda Greenaway, B.A., B.Sc., a Conservative candidate at the last General Election. Other smaller coffee parties in private houses and whist drives are also planned.

The Young Liberals are maintaining their enthusiasm which has been boosted by canvassing for the Liberal candidates in the local elections. They report an increase in membership from the Bookham area.

### **CALENDAR**

**Saturday, June 16th**  
VILLAGE DAY.

**Saturday, June 23rd**  
Fete, Old People's Welfare,  
Ronson's Field.

**Saturday, June 23rd**  
British Legion Fete,  
Legion Hall, Effingham.

**Sunday, June 24th**  
Surrey County Stoolball Knock-  
out Tournament,  
Dorking Road Rec.

**Saturday, July 7th**  
Eastwick School Fete.

**Saturday, July 14th**  
N.S.P.C.C. Fete,  
Sole Farm House.

**July 18th, 19th, 20th**  
Eastwick School,  
"The Mikado."

**July 19th, 20th, 21st**  
"The Winter's Tale,"  
Open Air Theatre, Polesden  
Lacey.

**Saturday, July 21st**  
Garden Society Show,  
Barn Hall.

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## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

- Barn Hall Club.** Miss P. Barfield, Merrilees, Maddox Lane.
- Camera Club.** S. C. North, Spindles, Woodlands Road. Bookham 4209.
- Gramophone Club.** A. E. Baker, 81 Eastwick Drive.
- Old Time Dance Club.** R. H. Pimm, 27 The Garstons. Bookham 4196.
- Over Sixties.** Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Road.
- Scottish Dancing.** G. R. Marshall, 63 Eastwick Drive. Bookham 96.
- Hon. Sec., Community Association.** Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Bookham 2702.
- Membership Sec.,** R. S. Woodrow-Clark, 21 Barn Meadow Lane.
- Barn Hall Manager.** A. M. Marson, 94 Kingston Road. Leatherhead 3053.
- Bulletin Editors.** Mrs. E. Harrison, Bookham 2702; Mrs. M. Everett, Bookham 2404.

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## BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

- Bookham Bowling Club.** S. F. Pearce, 7 Swanns Meadow.
- Boys' Brigade.** L. S. Kay, 20 Cannon Grove, Fetcham.
- 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.** Mrs. L. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive.
- Bookham Cricket Club.** L. W. Denning, 48 Sole Farm Avenue. 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.** V. L. Austin, 43 Eastwick Drive. Bookham 3445.
- 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 Stratchona Avenue. Bookham 3602. (Tuesday) Miss P. Pulling, 43 The Park. Bookham 2858.
- Grove Association.** F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Road. Bookham 3113.
- Labour Party, Bookham Ward.** J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway.
- Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch.** W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Avenue.
- Liberal Association, Great Bookham Branch.** W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Avenue.
- Music Club.** Miss A. Ryerson, Basildon, Halepit Road.
- 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).** Mrs. E. Cooke, 182 Lower Road. Bookham 4207.
- Women's Institute (Evening).** Mrs. M. Cooper, 282 Lower Road.
- Bookham & Effingham Youth Tennis Club.** Miss A. Buckland, St. Jean, 18 Crabtree Lane.
- Bookham Youth Club.** Miss A. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive.

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