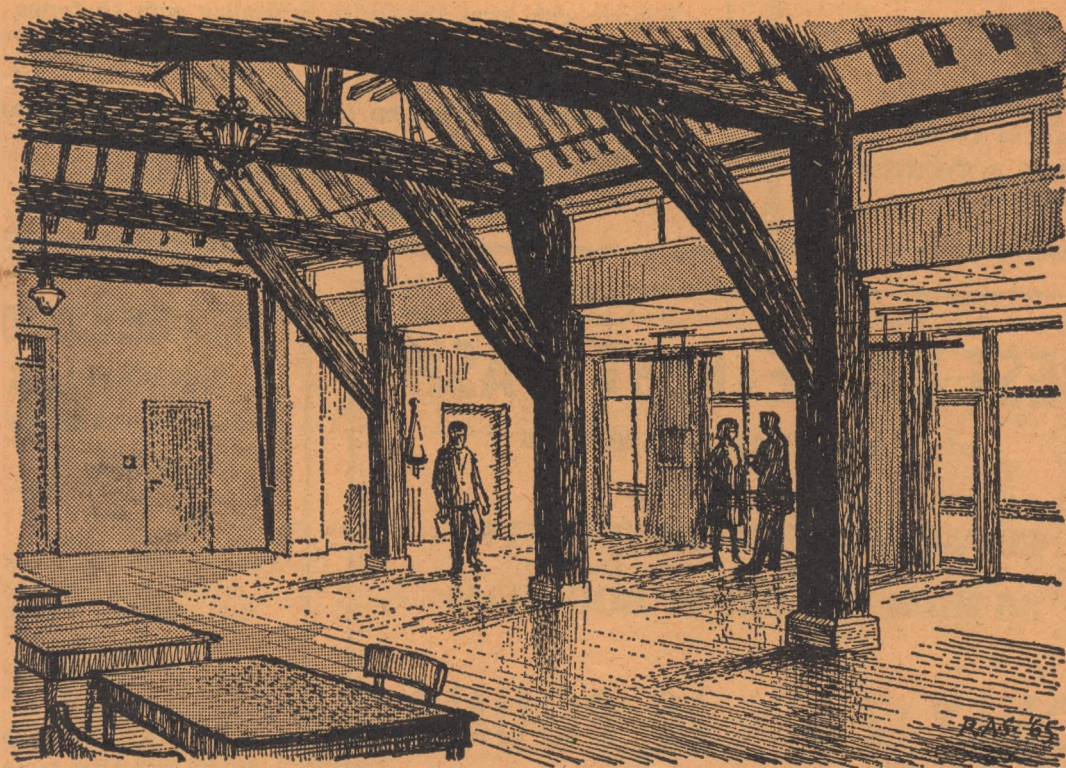


The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association



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No. 141

DECEMBER, 1969

36th Year

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Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 141

DECEMBER, 1969

36th Year

THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION A.G.M. was held in late October and well attended. In the election for Officers and Representatives of Individual Members there were some changes in the latter category and these will be reported in our next issue.

Tribute was paid to Mrs. P. Meehan for the hard work she had done in her year of office as new Secretary, especially in connection with Village Day and the Village Festival.

A comprehensive Balance Sheet was presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. G. Medway, which indicates that the Community Association is in a good financial situation and, for this, thanks are due to those individuals and groups who have worked so hard in money-raising events.

He pointed out that there was a deficit on the Barn Hall account of £219, due to ever-increasing costs and that this would have been much higher were it not for the vast amount of voluntary labour put in by a small band of devoted members. There was also a deficit on the General account resulting from the purchase of non-recurring items which were necessary for the efficient

administration of what had now become a large and complicated organisation. It therefore became clear that an increase in the rents of the Hall, which as a policy matter the Association has always kept as low as possible, was essential, and also that membership of the Association needed to be much higher than it now is. An increase in the number of active Road Stewards could achieve this; the funds of the Association would also benefit considerably if more members became covenanted subscribers.

The profit on Village Day and the Village Festival, when all expenses were met, was £530 9s. 5d. Last year it was £361. A portion of this had to be allocated to the deficit on the Hall, leaving a sum of £250 to be transferred to the Building Fund. In August 1968 the Building Fund stood at £2,400. It is now £3,145. It is vital that generous support must come from the whole village if the Extensions are to get off the ground, and it is imperative that delay should be reduced to a minimum. Requests for the use of the Hall far exceed its availability. The provision of a separate smaller Hall, which is included in the Plans, would go

a long way to meeting this problem.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Community Association Clubs report a good Autumn session. The Dance Clubs, both Scottish and Old Tyme have excellent attendances but could find room for newcomers.

The Mixed Bridge Club, which meets on Monday afternoons, except for the first Monday in the month, is growing rapidly; interested players are invited to attend and find out for themselves how enjoyable it is. The Club is also sponsoring Partner Evening Bridge Drives.

The Dramatic Society is deep in rehearsals but has found time for social gatherings, including an enjoyable Barbecue, the first ever, at Common End.

The Gramophone Club is building up its attendances slowly but steadily. A varied programme for the year has been arranged. Although some old friends are presenting concerts of recorded music it has been possible to introduce some new names to the club which comprise nearly half the list.

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B.C.A. Youth Club Winds Up.

As stated in our June issue, our own Youth Club closed down when the fine new Centre provided a full range of facilities for young people. The Management Committee of the Club recommended and the Community Association accepted a proposition that the financial assets should be distributed equally between the Barn Hall Building Fund and the District Youth Committee, and this has been done. It was suggested that a sum should be earmarked from the £60 given to the District Youth Committee for a Trophy (inscribed from the Bookham Community Association) to be awarded annually to the Youth Club in the Leatherhead District judged to have engaged in the best Social Service Project.

Club equipment, with the exception of a metal cupboard retained at the Barn Hall, was put at the disposal of the District Youth Officer, Mr. A. Carson.

The Theatre Club has got off to a good start. The party which attended the Elgar Concert at the Festival Hall enjoyed a performance which was highly praised by all the critics and was also able to see the collection of Elgar relics in the museum. The party for the Des O'Connor Show at the London Palladium was well supported. It is hoped to book for a play in the near future, and there will be a visit to the Palladium Pantomime in late January.

Anyone wishing to join this new club is asked to get in

touch with Mrs. M. Everett (Book. 2404) for concerts, theatres etc., and Mrs. D. Cuddeford (Book. 3498) for musicals, variety etc.

Contributions to B.C.A. Building Fund. A donation of £25 from the Flower Arrangement Group, over and above the £10 already reported, has been made as a result of the successful Flower Show held in May.

Resulting from the winding-up of the B.C.A. Youth Club a sum of £60 has been added to the Building Fund.

Competition for tickets for the B.C.A. New Year's Eve Dance at the Barn Hall is keen. You are advised to book your tickets early from Dr. J. Sowerbutts, or Mrs. D. Cuddeford.

Note. Many organisations, are now holding their A.G.M.'s and consequently we cannot guarantee that the contacts listed in the Directory are quite up to date.

Horsemanship for Howard Girls. Arrangements have been made between the Howard of Effingham School and the Kenilworth Equitation Centre for riding training for a group of the students. If the standards reached equal the prowess of the girls in Athletics we can expect some champions from among them.

We Welcome the new Headmaster of the Howard of Effingham County Secondary School. He is Mr. E. J. Ewington, Second Master at the

Hinchley Wood County Secondary School, where he has had considerable experience over a number of years in its development into a large school covering a very wide range of subjects. As Head of the Science Department he has been able to introduce A Level courses in this subject. He is a First Class Honours graduate in Zoology; he will take up his appointment in January.

The Howard of Effingham Exam Results this year are again satisfactory with a 76% pass rate. 20 pupils entered for G.C.E., taking in all 92 subjects with 70 passes. Three pupils passed in 6 subjects, two in 5 and seven in 4, which, if academic, qualifies them for entry into a Grammar School Sixth if they wish. A substantial proportion of the examinees have passed on to colleges and other institutions for further qualifications.

Some 200 subjects were entered in C.S.E. Grades in this examination are not published but it is accepted that a Grade I pass is equal to a G.C.E. O Level.

The Bookham Flower Arrangement Group continues to provide enjoyable social occasions and many opportunities to its members for the exercise of their skills. A coach party to Syon Garden Centre enabled them to widen the horticultural background which is so important for arrangers who aspire to introduce originality into their designs.

The November meeting on 'The Hows and Whys of Ikebana' attracted many visitors, as should the December 1st meeting on 'Christmas Decorations'.

The Club has always been an out-going one, ready to assist in the wider community. An outstanding example of this was at the Opening of the Thorndike Theatre. The Reception Room in which Princess Margaret and distinguished guests took supper was decorated by the Club in Autumn shades of Flame and Gold. The table centre was in roses and freesias. These flowers, too, were combined with chrysanthemums to adorn the surrounds—to form a floral tree, a swag to conceal an unsightly pipe, and so on.

Our readers may like to know that the general public will be welcomed to a Film of St. Paul's

Festival of Flowers, to be held in the Barn Hall on 18th November, commencing 8 p.m. Admission is 3/6, inclusive of refreshments. A number of local Flower Clubs have already indicated their wish to attend, so visitors are advised to arrive early.

Youth Leads at Bookham Centre. Activities multiply at the Bookham Youth Centre. As we go to press the list is 25, covering most interests. The Centre, however, is never static and wherever a need presents itself and a volunteer is available to deal with it provision will be made. The Arts are well covered—for example, Mrs. Teague is currently engaged in preparations for The Mikado, Miss Susan Drive is producing Hay Fever to be performed some

time in February and Mrs. Green hopes to be able to put on a Variety Show on pantomime lines.

Great credit must go to John Hyde, the 25-year-old Warden, for the dynamic nature of the Centre. Roger Curtis, who is 24, has all the vitality of youth plus a range of experience unusual in a man in his early twenties. He is a B.Ed. of Loughborough College which specialises in Physical Education. He taught for a period in America, chiefly in Philadelphia, where he injured his back and returned for a year to Cambridge where he took a year's Art Course. He is able to contribute as an expert to many sides of the Centre's work but for the time being he is concentrating on physical activities for which there is a great demand.

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We hear from the Warden that more volunteers could be used in the coffee bar. Ladies please note!

A Townswomen's Guild for Bookham is now a certainty. A hundred ladies attended a public meeting in the Barn Hall in September to discuss the formation and 98 enrolled on the same evening. Others, not present, have expressed a wish to join. The speaker was Mrs. Hazlewood, a member of the National Executive of the T.W.G., who lives in Barn Meadow Lane, and her theme was: 'What the Townswomen's Guild means to me'.

In the old days it was considered that Women's Institutes were for the villages and Townswomen's Guilds for the towns but, by mutual agreement, these boundaries have been removed and there is now no ban on location.

There are many similarities between the two organisations. Both have social activities, crafts, drama, and so on. Arising probably from the nature of their origin, it would appear that the W.I.'s place more emphasis on the crafts and on produce, its growing, its treatment and its uses. The T.W.G.'s give prominence to discussion on public affairs and a social studies group is an important section of their set-up.

The T.W.G. grew out of the women's suffrage movement. The seed from which it sprang was the Kensington Society formed in 1865 to expand what were then the very limited

opportunities for women to participate in the professions and public life. Following this came the National Union of Women's Suffrage Society in 1896. In 1928 the full suffrage was given to women and in the following year the first four Townswomen's Guilds were established. It is now a nationwide and powerful movement which is keen to debate public issues, without political or religious pressures, and to formulate policies.

Bookham Football Club is fortunate in having Mr. Bob Booth as its new secretary. He is the youngest of a sporting family, well known in the neighbourhood, and a keen player. For the first time for very many years it has been possible to arrange training for the two teams under the energetic leadership of Geoff Harrison as Manager of the First Team and Dave Earle as Manager of the Second Team. The Club is in the Surrey Intermediate League.

The Garden Society Autumn Fair, held at the Barn Hall was a resounding success and the much-publicised counter-attraction of the Oxfam Concert at the Polesden Lacey Open-Air Theatre brought no diminution in the attendance, which exceeded the 1,000 mark. There was the usual magnificent display of dahlias in flaming colours and vegetables of gargantuan proportions. The surprise of the Show was the premier award for the best collection of six

vegetables to Mr. John Stephens, a former hard-working and long-serving secretary of the Garden Society. Mr. Turville Kille, who has carried off this trophy for as long as most of us can remember, ran him close second and had the satisfaction of winning the Banksian Medal for the highest sum of prize monies.

The judges gave the certificate of 'Best in the Show' in the Flower Arrangement section to Mrs. Margot Camp, who is the President of the B.C.A. Flower Arrangement Group.

Much interest centres on the Children's Section which featured this year an amusing innovation of animals constructed from vegetables or fruit; these were all most pleasing to look at and showed ingenuity and a surprisingly mature cartoon wit. The miniature gardens indicated that little fingers can be quite delicate and precise in their work, and the Collections of Leaves, mounted and named, demonstrated the same close and careful observation and treatment.

In congratulating the Committee of the Garden Society on the quality and interest of the Show we would call the attention of our readers to the many advantages of belonging to this Society which is not only deserving of support but offers many worthwhile fringe benefits to its members.

Wedding with International Flavour. At the wedding at St. Nicholas' Church of Miss Shirley Renggli, of Sole Farm Ave., to Mr. F. J. Lidgely, of Ashtead,

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relatives of the bride's family came from Switzerland and the best man, David Willis, brother of Bob Willis, the Surrey cricketer, flew from Tunisia. The bridegroom and his best man had become friends in their student days—John Lidgley holds a degree in applied physics and is engaged in research with the R.A.F. at Farnborough, where the couple will later make their home. People in Bookham will remember that Mrs. Lidgley, mother of the bridegroom, worked hard for the elderly in the early days of the Old People's Welfare Association and his father, Mr. Harry Lidgley represented Ashted for a period on the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

Shirley will, for the time being, continue her work as secretary to the Director of the British Food Manufacturing Research Association at Leatherhead.

Also present at the wedding were the ex-Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth and his wife who had been guests at the marriage of the parents of the bride.

The Renggli family have lived in Bookham for quite a time and are well known locally. Mrs. Renggli is a member of the Gramophone Club and was an active member of its committee.

Local Sportsman Weds. Also married in the same week at St. Nicholas' Church were Derek Oliver and Patricia Mary Bell, of Woodlands Road. They have many friends in Bookham. Derek was for some years Secretary of Bookham Football Club and is still an active player. He is also a member of Bookham Cricket Club.

Elder Statesman at Wedding. Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell, who is widely regarded as one of our

most prominent parliamentarians, was among the guests at St. Nicolas Church for the marriage of his grandson, Mr. Alan Shinwell, of Ewell, to Miss Christine Savory, of Keswick Road. Christine is a talented young lady, a former pupil of Therfield, where she gained six O Levels, one of them in Dress—so it was not surprising that she made her going-away outfit for the honeymoon in Venice, and that it was of most elegant design. She has also attended classes at the Effingham Institute for Adult Education.

The young couple will be settling in Bedford where Mr. Shinwell, a graduate in Electronic Engineering and Computers, has been put in charge of a School established by Plessey covering these subjects for their employees. It is also possible that Christine will continue with her present work with the Legal and General Assurance Company who are moving a section of their business to Bedford.

National Costume in Marriage Ceremony. One of the most picturesque weddings at St. Nicolas' Parish Church was that of Howard Medland to 21-year-old Solfrid Dale. She and her five bridesmaids who accompanied her from Norway were in the colourful national Dress. She wore the golden crown which is traditional for brides in her country.

Readers of the Bulletin will remember that Howard, who is a graduate of the University of

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Wales, has been in Norway for two years teaching English under the auspices of the British Council. It was here that he met his wife, who is a student of Music. The young couple have returned to Norway but they hope to come back very soon so that Howard can continue his studies for an M.A. at a British University.

The Church was beautifully decorated for the ceremony by members of the Bookham Flower Arrangement Group of which Mrs. P. Medland has been a keen and helpful member from its inception.

A Year in Santa Monica, which is a beautiful suburb of Los Angeles bordering the coast, will be enjoyed by Sarah Fell, whose parents have recently moved to Bookham. Mrs. Fell, among her other interests, is secretary of the newly-formed B.C.A. Bridge Club, a member of the advisory committee of the local Institutes of Adult Education and participates in the management of the Youth Centre.

Sarah, who is just 19, was a pupil of Therfield in the grammar intake and moved on to the Home Economics Department of Ewell Technical College. She was considering Voluntary Service Overseas when the opportunity presented itself to assist in the home of this American family. By a happy coincidence the father is Professor of Home Economics in a local College of Education.

Her stay should prove both enjoyable and educational.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Nellie Knight who died in Cuddeford Hospital in September was one of the group, sadly diminishing, of fine old village characters. One of her notable achievements was her service as village post-woman for 37 years. She joined the staff in 1917 during the First World War when manpower was depleted and there was only one postman to cover the whole village. Phoenix Farm, Little Bookham, the Common were among the areas she covered. Whatever the weather conditions she never failed to deliver the mail, and the roads in those days were not of the standard of today. On one occasion, for example, she negotiated the Dorking Road in snowdrifts 9 feet deep. It was estimated that in the course of her service she walked or cycled some 80,000 miles, which is roughly equal to a distance of three times round the world. And in all that time she did not have one day's sick leave.

She joined the Stoolball Club, founded by Mrs. Willcock-Pollen in Little Bookham, in 1914, was its captain for many years, and played until 3 years ago.

Her mother and sisters were keen members of the Little Bookham Church Choir and she joined when she was 10 years old. It was fitting that her Memorial Service was held in the ages-old Little Bookham Church in which her family had worshipped for so long.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM

(cont.)

Part VI

By John Harvey, F.S.A.

Additional to the names (as already noted) in use during the twelfth century, and recorded from soon afterwards, were Blakemanneshacche (Blackmans-hatch) at the southern end of the High Street, and Bocwode (Beechwood) for the heavily wooded part of Ranmore Common, from whose beeches the township took its name. Blaeman, or Blackman, is a known Old English personal name, indicating someone swarthy or possibly the village smith. The central area of the open field surrounding the village was divided into sections, shotts or furrows, each bearing its own name, and of these a number are undoubtedly very ancient. West of Great Bookham village and along the north side of the Lower Road lay Madfoore (Mead Furrow), and south of the Earborne Hill, the sloping part of the field above the periodic spring of the "Ear" or gravel bourne. Between this and the Town Shott was Marlipit Shott, surrounding the great marl pit from which Bookham derived much of the chalk spread on its fields instead of fertilizers. South of the Guildford Road were Bookham Dean (valley) occupying the lowest dip of the Bookham

(continued p.18)

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Grove Estate, and on the higher ground next the Dorking Road, Goldstone, a mysterious name presumably deriving from a sacred boundary stone long since lost. (Goldstone Farm has merely borrowed the name, and never included any part of the old field called Goldstone).

South of these again were Whiteway Hill and Whiteway Bottom; along the old lane East of Dorking Road, which near the village was Hole or Hollow Hedge Way (from running sunk between two hedges), lay Hollowhedge on the site of the present Recreation Ground, with Hollowhedge Bottom in the dip beyond, bounded by Clerk's Hedge at the north end of Crabtree Lane. Much of the land north of the Lower Road belonged to the demesnes of the manor and was enclosed with permanent hedges. Perhaps the very earliest of these fields was that called the Bartons, just east of the churchyard, for its name actually means a demesne farm, and still earlier a threshing floor (bere, barley or corn; tun, a fence or enclosed area).

While Bookham had made great progress in the twelfth century, still evidenced by the structures of the two churches, the thirteenth saw the achievement of an urban status hardly warranted by the facts, and unequalled in later times. For on the 15th of June, 1243, Henry III granted to Abbot Alan of Chertsey and the convent there the right to hold a market at their manor of "Bocham" every week on Tuesday, and a fair

for two days every year on the eve and day of Michaelmas. The annual fair had dwindled to one of a single day on Michaelmas by 1792; the weekly market cannot be traced in later records, and it is likely that it soon fell out of use. But the fact that it was ever granted proves that Bookham under the rule of the abbots had made great advances in prosperity at the very time that Leatherhead was declining from its ancient status as the county town. This is confirmed by Bookham's network of roads, already described, and certainly in full use at the time.

See Proceedings, Leatherhead and District Local History Society. vol. I, No. I (1947), p. II.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS AND MAUD

A Memorandum on Evidence submitted by the National Federation of Community Associations to the Royal Commission on Local Government should be of interest to all our members and to Bookham residents studying the implications of the Report, as well as non-members who are still asking what "community association" is all about. Community Associations take different forms according to the

neighbourhood and the circumstances in which they operate, but there is a fundamental philosophy which links them all.

The Maud Report has now been published and is the subject of wide debate. In submitting a precis of the Memorandum of the National Federation of Community Associations we are not suggesting that it is a viable proposition—our intention is to underline the fact that while Community Associations are eminently practical bodies concentrating on work for their neighbourhood (and this is our main purpose in Bookham), they also provide a framework for democratic participation.

The N.F.C.A. points to the requirement whereby local opinion can be assessed and then transmitted to a remote Authority. It says that the Association of Municipal Corporations has suggested a "Community Trust," the Rural District Councils' Association a "Community Council," and the Association of Parish Councils a Community Association recognised as an official body.

The National Federation of C.A.'s concludes that Community Associations could be a vehicle through which local opinion could be expressed and could also be a consultative body. Amongst the reasons it gives is the fact that such Associations are established throughout the country on a neighbourhood basis ranging between populations of 5,000—15,000 and that

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their influence can be wider, so enabling the promotion of new associations in border areas. They are open not only to all individuals living in the area but also to all Voluntary Organisations working there, that their Councils, which are the governing body, consist of representatives of all affiliated organisations as well as their own individual members, and also to the Local Authorities functioning in their areas. The aims of a Community Association are phrased, with the approval of the Department of Education and Science, as 'to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants'.

The form of constitution is such that dominance of pressure groups can be avoided and a balanced consensus of opinion throughout the entire neighbourhood can be achieved on specific issues.

To return now to our own Bookham Community Association, we can truly say that our own policy reflects faithfully the views of members expressed at our Council meetings. Many local issues are, in our opinion wisely, left to the strong Book-

ham Residents' Association with which we should in no way be confused. We have put much voluntary effort into the Barn Hall, which is our Centre, and for whose maintenance we are responsible. Its extension to meet the needs of the neighbourhood has always been a priority. Through the Bookham Bulletin, which is produced, distributed and subsidised by us, through our traditional Village Day, and in other less spectacular ways we constantly endeavour to publicise activities existing in the locality and assist in promoting those which may be lacking. We have tried, wherever possible, to foster cultural activities—for example we constructed the stage at Polesden Lacey, promoted the Open-Air Theatre productions and still assist in their administration. We have close links with the local Institutes of Adult Education, neighbouring Colleges and Schools.

We do not aspire to the dizzy heights propounded in the Memorandum of the National Federation but we do claim that, on the rare occasions when we express a view on local issues, it is the considered verdict of a truly democratic and widely-based organisation.

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