

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 67

JUNE, 1950

One Penny



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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

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Editorial

Our Distributors

A Somersetshire farmer of our acquaintance, a very hard man, not long ago had the misfortune to lose a mare. She fell and died quite suddenly, while drawing the plough one autumn morning after some weeks of rainy weather. The end came so quickly that the farmer could not at once grasp what had happened, and while vainly struggling to get the mare to her feet he was heard to mutter to himself 'Er never done that afore'

The moral clearly is "Don't overwork a willing horse." The voluntary workers who have so kindly undertaken the distribution of this journal to every house in the Bookhams are very willing horses, but many of them are already pulling heavy loads in the shape of voluntary work—on the Local or Church Councils, on Education Committees and as Managers or Governors of local schools, organizing sports clubs or youth activities and the like. Those of our readers who are not so heavily involved will, we feel sure, wish to share the work of distribution: offers of help will be

gladly received by Mr. R. H. J. Kepple, at Riddlesdale, Church Rd.

Mr. Kepple received, in connection with the distribution of the March issue, the following letter from our youngest distributor. We hope that his enthusiasm will be matched by that of the volunteers who come forward in response to this appeal:—

"Mummy has given me your letter, as I give out the *Bookham Bulletin*. I have done it since I was 4 and now I am 8½. There are 32 houses in Hale Pit Road so please send me 32 books..... My sister will do Blackthorne Road if you want her to."

The grateful thanks of the Bookham Community Association are due to the following, who are the present distributors:—

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Council Chamber Notes

by "Joe Bumble"

Bookham Recreation Ground

When Bookham was transferred from Epsom Rural District to Leatherhead Urban District under the Surrey Review Order (1933) certain financial adjustments were necessary. In 1948 these were completed and a sum of £5,197 was handed over by Banstead Urban District. The Leatherhead U.D.C. decided to use this money for the improvement of the recreation grounds in Ashted and Bookham.

In March, 1949, the Surveyor to Leatherhead U.D.C. drew up plans providing for the construction at The Paddocks, Great Bookham, of an improved children's play ground, two football pitches, a cricket square, pavilion, three tennis courts, putting green and car park. These were submitted to the Ministry of Health, who turned them down on grounds of expense but suggested that the Ministry of Education be approached for a grant under the Physical Training and Recreation Act.

A modified scheme was re-submitted in September, 1949, to cost £6,550, and this time the Ministry of Health referred the Council to the Ministry of Education for a grant, although it had been made clear that the Council had most of the money already in their possession. The M.O.E.

refused the application, and so back again went the Council to the Ministry of Health suggesting that the proposed scheme might be incorporated in work preparatory to the Festival of Britain 1951. This suggestion has been rejected, but on the recommendation of the Ministry of Education the Council will be allowed to build two tennis courts!

The Council have with great forbearance made a further application, pointing out that the construction of two tennis courts would aggravate the present lack of dressing accommodation and facilities generally; and that in view of the strong protests of local organizations the matter was likely to be referred to the Member of Parliament.

Our readers will see from the foregoing that Leatherhead Council have been untiring in their efforts to secure improvements to Bookham's "rec."

Youth Council Tennis Club

The court at Polesden Lacey is now open for play on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Membership is restricted to young people resident in the Bookhams and Effingham. Particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. A. E. Foot, "Highfields," Woodlands Road. Tel. 416.

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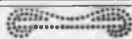
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Bookham Grove

The following notes are kindly contributed by the Leatherhead and District Local History Society.

According to Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey* (1809, vol. 2 p. 693) the house now called Bookham Grove was originally a small cottage adapted as a shooting box by General Thomas Howard (a descendant of that Howard of Effingham who was Lord High Admiral in Queen Elizabeth's time). The history of this cottage and of three adjacent ones can be traced almost continuously back to the thirteenth century. Before about 1721 the high road passed directly in front of the cottage, but Sir Thomas procured its diversion to its present route, leaving a lawn in front of the cottage surrounded by a plantation. When the General died the property passed to his son, who sold it to Admiral Brodrick, who built a mansion in place of the cottage. According to *Biographia Navalis* (Charnock, 1797, vol. 5) Thomas Brodrick is first mentioned in 1739 when, as third lieutenant of the *Burford*, he distinguished himself at Porto Bello. He remained for some years on the West Indies station with rises in rank until in 1758 he was appointed Rear Admiral and C. in C. Mediterranean. On his way out to Gibraltar his ship, the *Prince George*, caught fire at sea and was lost with heavy casualties.

He was one of the judges at the trial of Admiral Byng. Brodrick was made Vice-Admiral in 1762. When the gallant Admiral died in 1769 the property passed by sale to Sir Alexander Grant, and on his death in 1773 to a Mr. Dalbiac. The latter sold it in 1775 to John Dawnay, Viscount Downe in Ireland. When the Viscount died in 1780 his widow resided there until her death in 1812 (Brayley, *History of Surrey* 1850, vol. 4, p. 479).

It would appear that the next occupier was Anthony Horne, who died in 1816, since an Auction Sale Bill of that year in the possession of the Local History Society announces the sale of the deceased's effects on the premises. Among other items are included 24 full-grown orange trees!

The next reference is in Brayley's "History," which stated that the property "now (1850) belongs to the Hon. Wm. Hy. Dawnay, M.P. for Rutland."

The Victoria County History (1911, vol. 3) mentions only that it "is the seat of Mr. Sidney C. Bristowe."

A few years ago it was purchased by the Leatherhead Urban District Council as a housing site.

In the midst of the stables and outbuildings are two interesting features, a horsewheel and a hexagonal building which is a well-designed brick-and-tile dovecote. It is unfortunate that these re-

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mindes of the social and economic past have been allowed to fall into ruin. The doveote, in particular, is a feature of houses of the eighteenth century, as indeed it had been for hundreds of years under the manorial system. Mr. C. E. Hanscomb, F.R.I.B.A., in a talk in 1947 to the Society made the following apt comments on the doveote in question.

“The doveote had a social significance out of all proportion to its size. The sight of an old pigeon house may nowadays stir our imaginations, and the soft cooing of the doves, mingling with other pleasant country sounds, may recall old country scenes and conjure up pictures of the peasant happy and contented while enjoying long sunny days with time almost standing still. But the sight of the lord-of-the-manor’s pigeon house stirred the peasant in a very different way and must have roused feelings akin to hatred in his heart: for no one but the lord was privileged to keep pigeons. The peasants were under severe penalties not to touch the birds and, powerless to prevent it, had to watch them feed off the corn in the common fields. This was no light matter, as such pigeon houses frequently housed hundreds of birds, and there were few, if any, manors without at least one. So the lords of the manors supplied their tables at the expense of their serfs and tenants.”

A.T.R.

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W. Owen Groom

An Appreciation

Owen Groom has followed Robert Andrews and has left Great Bookham. He has not gone far, and our loss is East Horsley's gain. His work for the parish has made him almost a Community Association in himself, and an association will be needed to fill the posts that his departure leaves vacant. In all that he undertook, his note was thoroughness: once he agreed to do a job, there was no need for further anxiety, it would be carried through with meticulous accuracy.

Generally, he is perhaps most widely known for his work in building up the War Savings Movement in the Bookham Ward. It was his enthusiasm and driving hard work that was responsible for covering the parish with active Savings Groups and running highly successful Savings Week after Savings Week. When I was Chairman for the Ward, I found him the man who knew and did everything, ever ready at a moment's notice to answer the most involved question, slaking even my thirst for strange statistical information. It was his energy that made the machinery revolve.

His work for the Parish Church was many-sided. For 20 years he has been a member of the Parochial Church Council and of the Choir. He had served his term as Rector's Warden, and till his departure he organized the Bishop's Challenge, and the Bible

Reading Fellowship. He was Advertising Manager both of the *Bulletin* and of the *Parish Magazine*.

In all that he did he was nobly backed by Mrs. Groom. In spite of long-continued ill health she helped the Sunday School. She was for a time Infants' Superintendent, and played an active part in the Mothers' Union and Women's Fellowship. Like her husband she was always ready to do everything in her power to help wherever asked. Would that there were more of them.

It is good to know that they have not gone far, and that from time to time we shall be seeing them both again. May those times be frequent.—A.H.M.

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Road Safety

*Contributed by the
Leatherhead Accident Prevention Council*

March 18th to 25th was observed everywhere as "Child Safety Week." The Leatherhead Accident Prevention Council staged a window display in conjunction with the County Police. Half the display appealed to adults, and the other half to the very young. The items for the youngsters were kindly given by Mr. Wise, Mrs. Wise and Little Wilby Wise, ably hindered by their pets, Polonius and Spooky. (The Wise Family are monkeys 7 inches high.)

Film shows were put on, and every school had a Safety Quiz arranged by P.C. Edmunds and our Safety Organizer, Mr. Milner.

The Quiz results in Bookham demonstrated that the safety sense is strongest in the infant and junior children, weaker in the senior schools, and horribly weak indeed amongst adults!

Few dogs appear to have any road sense, and the Accident Prevention Council will shortly be calling attention to a special drive to train dogs. It is to be hoped that the dozen or so collarless dogs who play each day in Great Bookham Churchyard and adjoining street will be prevailed upon to attend a special training course!

Will every grown up who reads this make a special effort to observe the simple Safety Rules we wish children to learn, and observe them always, not only when traffic is thick.

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The Bookhams Women's Institute

Women's Institutes are gatherings of country women, who meet together once a month to discuss matters of interest to them all. All women of the village, rich and poor, gentle and simple, learned and unlearned, come together with the one idea of helping each other.

All pay the same subscription, have the same rights, the same privileges, and the same responsibilities. Each contributes what she has to the common store. "If you know a good thing, pass it on" is one of the principles of the Institute movement, and the result is a common bond of fellowship which unites first the women of the village and then—through the county and national federations—the women of the county, and of the country.

Members meet to discuss the problems of housekeeping. An expert tells them how to bottle fruit, and someone else lectures on food values. Lectures on local history, literature, or travel lead to a desire for something more systematic. Interest in our own homes leads naturally and inevitably to interest in questions of housing, sanitation and local government. Members learn to realize their responsibilities towards the community in which they live and form an interest in their own village and their own county. They come to see the connection between their affairs and those of the nation at large.

During the social half-hour, Mrs. "X" plays and Mrs. "V" sings, or a visiting drama group presents a play. Tea is provided, and members go home feeling friendly and cheered.

Produce exhibitions, handicraft exhibitions, drama festivals and singing festivals are held periodically; members learn cooking and dressmaking, upholstery and rugmaking, glovemaking and embroidery.

Our meetings are always opened with the singing of "Jerusalem," written by William Blake 134 years ago at a time when factories were springing up everywhere, and people who had worked with their hands saw their living being taken from them.

The Bookhams Drama Group is well known in the Village—presenting an Annual Concert.

We have a crèche for the children, so that mothers can enjoy the meeting, and our aim is to strengthen the spirit of co-operation so that we can all work together for the good of our cause.—L.B.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

It is hoped that the next few weeks of summer will be favourable to all our prospective exhibitors, to enable them to put on an exceptionally good show on Saturday, 29th July at the Annual Show of the Garden Society.

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The Committee feel that a greater number of exhibits could be staged with little effort, thereby fostering a show which has been the chief summer event for the four parishes for many years. As a stimulus to this end transport for exhibits will once more be provided. If members will take advantage of this service, particulars of which will be notified on receipt of the entry forms, there should be an increased number of exhibits.

In this year's Schedule we have introduced several new classes in an endeavour to create new fields of interest.

J. H. Stephens.

(Honorary Secretary)

The Surrey Goat Club Show

This event will be held at Bookham Grove on Friday and Saturday, 21st and 22nd July. Few Bookham residents are aware that the Surrey Show, which has been held at Bookham for the past three years, attracts the largest entry of any goat show in the British Isles. Goats from Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham have in past shows given a good account of themselves in competition with the best goats of Surrey and the surrounding Counties. A film star of first magnitude will be presenting the prizes this year. Conditions of entry are obtainable from Miss M. F. Rigg, Greenacres, The Park, Great Bookham.

Community Association Notes

A feature of Village Day, which will be celebrated this year on Saturday, 16th September, will be an exhibition of arts, crafts and hobbies. Residents who have collections of such things as foreign stamps, butterflies, and what have you, are invited to get into touch with the Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. E. Oldershaw.

Among the activities which it is hoped to put on at the Barn Hall in the autumn is a monthly Film Appreciation Group. This will be under the able guidance of Mr. C. Beddous, Chairman of the Council of the Association, to whom all who are interested are asked to send in their names c/o the Honorary Secretary.

Membership subscriptions, which fell due on the 1st January, will be gladly received by the Honorary Membership Secretary, Mr. F. V. S. Mackness, of 4 Beckley Cottages.

The Table Tennis Club held its Annual Dinner & Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 29th April, at the Barn Hall. Mr. C. A. Stonehill was elected President for the ensuing year, with Dr. N. E. Waterfield as Vice-President. Mr. A. J. Stimpson was elected as Chairman to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. A. E. Foot.

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Directory of Bookham Organisations

Secretary or Officer in charge, address and telephone number. Usual place of meeting, day and time.

All addresses, meeting places and telephone numbers are Bookham unless otherwise stated.

All alterations and additions should be sent to the Business Manager, Bookhams Bulletin, Riddlesdale, Church Road. Tel. 2647

Organisations marked * are affiliated to the Bookham Community Association.

*Baptist Church Y.P.S. H. V. Mann, Leader, Normandene, The Drive, Fetcham Sats. 7 30 L'head 2539
Bowling Club W. T. Street, Askrigg, Lower Road Dorking Road Recreation Ground

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*Camera Club Mrs. Stephens, A.R.P.S. Mansfield, Orestan Lane, Effingham Tel. 2758 The Croft, Church Road Fridays 7 45

Choral Society L.R. Neville, Lone Pine Lower Road Tel. 2075
Congrel. Church Hall Tuesdays 8 0

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Civil Defence Social Club C. T. Burberry, 1 Pretoria Cottages Church House Tuesdays 7

Commons Committee T. E. Ware, Merrylands Farm Tel. 2
Communist Party, Bookham Group F. T. Oels, New House, Lower Road Fridays 7 45

Community Association E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Road Tel. 241

*Congregational Church Guild H. H. Semken, Berberis, The Park Congl. Church Hall Thursdays 8 0
*Conservative Assocn., Great Bookham H. G. Carter,

The Spinney, The Park Tel. 2703
Conservative Assocn., Little Bookham J. R. Vaudrey, The Burrow, Woodlands Road Tel. 2890

*Co-operative Education Committee Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive Tel. 2702
Co-operative Junior Sports Club Mrs. Davies, Leader, Rose Marie, Howard Road. Co-operative Hall, Leatherhead Rd. Tues. & Wed. 7 30

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Goat Society Miss Rigg, Green Acres, The Park

*Labour Party, Bookham L. J. Penegar, 1 Water La. L. Bookham Co-operative Hall 1st Monday 8 0

*Women's Section, Mrs. D. Stimpson Sole Farm Avenue Co-op. Hall, 3rd Wednesday 3 0

Leatherhead & Dist. Local History Soc. A. T. Ruby, M.B.E. 53 Nutcroft Grove Fetcham Tel. Leatherhead 3127

Leatherhead & District Young Farmers Club Ian Watson, Iskandrieh, Blackthorne Rd. Council Offices, Leatherhead, 3rd Friday 7 0, Canons Court Leatherhead other Fridays

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