

The Bookhams Bulletin

105-124
MAY 1960
—
SPRING 1965

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 105

M A Y 1 9 6 0

28th year



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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 105

May, 1960

28th year

EDITORIAL

We are pleased to announce that Bulletins will now be distributed to some of the new roads which were not previously covered. This has been made possible by the energy of our business manager who has raised the advertisement revenue to meet the increased cost of these further copies of the journal. We appreciate his enterprise and we are grateful to local traders whose ready response has enabled us to increase our circulation.

Advertising, in its many forms, has become a major part of modern selling. National newspapers, magazines, television and a vast and highly-paid professional organisation depend on it for their continuance. Whether we like it or not, standards of public taste and opinion are influenced by advertisement. We must also be aware that a proportion, and sometimes a high proportion, of the price we pay for goods goes on advertising. This being the case we are pleased to know that a minute sum from this colossal expenditure enables a village publication to keep going.

We believe it is not presumptuous, in a world of mass production and mass organisation, to try

**As we go to press we
have received the sad
news of the death of Dr.
N. E. Waterfield O.B.E.
and we mourn the loss
of a beloved and
respected President.**

in our own small corner to keep alive the community spirit which means good neighbourliness and individual enterprise. Within the limitations of space we would like to cover all aspects of village life and, to do this, welcome news and views from organisations and residents. This is the purpose of the Community Association through its organ The Bookhams Bulletin.

And so back to our advertisers. We ask you, if you appreciate the Bulletin, to please support the advertisers who help us to keep it going.

VILLAGE DAY

As we go to press it is too early to list the many attractions which are being prepared for Village Day. The exhibition will be of the usual high quality. There will be a most interesting display of building work by the students of Ewell Technical College who will also stage a nursing exhibit, an actual cookery session and combined dictaphone typing processes. Other careers will be shown and the Youth Employment Officer will be present to answer queries. Indoor and outdoor activities to appeal to young people will be demonstrated by young

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Sideshows and stalls of every kind will provide plenty of fun for both young and old. This Day is planned as a real outing for the village and the profits made go back to the village. As everybody knows we deliberately keep our charges low but we hope to make a lot of money, with your support, so that we can get on with the work on a bigger and better Barn Hall. Here is a fine opportunity to enjoy yourselves and help your village hall.

Helpers needed for Village Day.

Please get in touch with

Mrs. E. Harrison,

Common End, Eastwick Drive.

Bookham 2702.

NEW TENNIS CLUB

A new Tennis Group of the Association will be playing every Sunday afternoon until the end of September at the Red House. We shall be pleased to hear from anyone interested.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Congratulations

Our warmest good wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tarrington who were married at the Bookham Baptist Church in February. Mrs. Tarrington, who was Miss Jean Parris, has been active in Community Association activities since its formation. She was a familiar figure at our dances and is well known to all of us for her helpfulness on all occasions. The Parr's family is one of the oldest Bookham families and can trace its ancestry back to 1700.

A Super Summer Fete

It is hoped that many people will support the School Fete to be held in the School Grounds at Southey Hall on Saturday, June 25th. There will be many sideshows, teas and displays of physical education by the children. Profits will go to pay off the debt on the Swimming Pool which has been built by voluntary labour in the school grounds. This is a cause worthy of public support.

The Parent and Teacher Association are to be congratulated on their enterprise in constructing the Pool, to be officially opened this summer, which will permit swimming instruction to be consistently given to the children as part of the regular school curriculum. This onerous job has been completed in record time, thanks to the enthusiasm of the headmaster and the parents, and there has been no flagging in money-raising efforts to

meet the quite considerable costs involved.

Courage was required to start an enterprise of this magnitude and public spirit to carry it through because many of the parents are not building for their own children who are now moving on to secondary schools but for Bookham schoolchildren of the future.

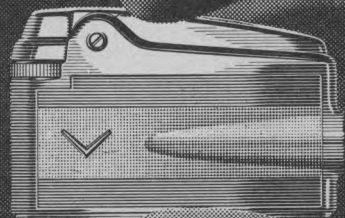
W. I. Exhibition

For three weeks the Victoria and Albert Museum was crowded with women. The W.I. had come to town. One gallery had been lent to the National Federation of Women's Institutes to hold a handicrafts exhibition. This area of space was not large enough to display all the work that had been chosen as of sufficiently high standard for inclusion.

In this age of rush and bustle it was indeed good to know that there are still women who sit and work to produce these exquisite results. There were wonderful rugs, quilting, patchwork, embroidery etc. which compared very favourably with work hanging framed on the walls nearby of the more leisured ladies of the Past.

The Bookhams Institute were especially proud to see the work of one of their members on view, a lovely chinchilla stole made by Mrs. Phillips.

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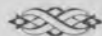
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VAST REFUGEE NEED

As one who has been privileged for nearly eight years to seek to arouse interest in and evoke help for destitute refugees, I rejoice in the present national (and indeed international) effort to make a significant impact on the refugee problem in this World Refugee Year. The United Kingdom W.R.Y. Committee has defined its objects: to help bring the European refugees out of China (some of them "White Russians" who fled to China in 1917); close some of the Camps in Europe under the mandate of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; contribute to the relief of the Arab refugees, and also help the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. These four objectives do not cover the whole field of refugee need by any means, but they do represent some of the major problems.

The target of £2,000,000—looked at in isolation—may seem a big one, but in face of the national expenditure on other things of a non-essential nature it is pitiable. Certainly we might expect the Government to quadruple its present promised contribution of £200,000, or raise it even to a million pounds, so that altogether Great Britain might provide £3,000,000 anyway. But it is useless saying what other people or Governments ought to do: what are we—what am I—doing about it?

It may help us visualise the demand made upon us, if we

simply state a few facts about the refugees. Some of them we seldom hear about. We have perhaps forgotten that, of the 4½ million Korean refugees from the Communist-controlled part of that country, there were 300,000 widows and a host of orphans needing every sort of care: that there are still some 40,000 parentless youngsters roaming the streets of Korean cities scavenging for food. We have hardly yet realised that, as a result of the turbulent conditions in Algeria where spasmodic fighting has been going on for several years, there are about 250,000 refugees in Morocco and Tunisia (to the west and east of Algeria), of whom half are children. Both these host countries are poor, and the refugees have entered with virtually nothing but what they wore and could carry. Many face death from cold and starvation, since they have the most meagre kinds of shelter—some, indeed, having none. Even in Algeria itself, where military requirements have caused many civilians to be herded in "regroupment centres," there are reckoned to be about some 1½ million people, 60% of them children, concentrated in tented encampments, etc. To quote one eye-witness: "I saw five children dying of hunger in one centre. I saw children with malaria who had no quinine, shivering with fever on the ground with no blankets . . ." The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, having these and similar reports,

allocated £5,000 to help with medical aid, feeding and welfare work among these people, and 25 tons of clothing was hurriedly sent early in December. In addition 1,000 blankets were purchased and shipped.

Most of us have heard something of the grim conditions in the British Colony of Hong Kong, where the normal population of about 750,000 has increased to between 3 and 4 million (estimates vary). Hong Kong is reckoned to be the most crowded spot on earth at the moment, and hordes of men, women and children are forced to live in the most primitive manner. In some of the tenement buildings, there are 40 to 50 people living in one room; families of five people occupy "bed spaces" in such rooms, and have to pay rent for them! One woman with three children seeks to feed them and herself by earning money at putting together plastic toys. To earn 1 H.K. dollar (1/3d. of our money) she has to make 144 of them—and cannot manage this, even working most of the day. Thousands are living on the rooftops, in crazily-built shacks of cartons, scraps of wood, sacking, etc. Women of 80 have no place but a paving stone as their "home," and for many the only protection and privacy is a bamboo mat. Hunger is a daily companion, and hopelessness a permanent feature of the lives of thousands.

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We should not forget, either, that the division of the sub-continent into the states of India and Pakistan involved the cross-transplantation of some 16,000,000 people; and the conditions of hosts of folk in these two countries defies description. At the Sealdah camp, in Calcutta, are some ten thousand refugees, whose condition (in the words of a sober Christian woman, giving her life to help many poor widows and orphans in Calcutta) is "the nearest approach to hell on earth that I have ever seen."

Early in December last I was privileged to accompany a party of journalists on a lightning trip to the Near East, to see something of the Arab refugee camps etc. It was a most instructive visit, though ludicrously brief; for one was able to see conditions in about five camps, to meet officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (charged with the responsibility of caring for the Arab refugees), and to be at receptions which afforded opportunities of questioning highly-placed officials. In Amman, the capital of Jordan, the Prime Minister allowed himself to be interrogated, and answered many questions; and in our twenty-four hours in Israel we were received by Mrs. Meir, the Foreign Minister. This is not the place to enlarge on the political questions involved in the Arab refugee problem: suffice it to say that there are now (as at 30th June, 1959) 1,087,628 Arab

refugees registered in the records of U.N.R.W.A., of whom some 844,000 receive full rations. But "full rations" may be misleading, until we realize that this term means that each refugee, for ONE MONTH, gets less than 1½ lbs. of sugar, same quantity of pulses (lentils, chicken-peas etc.), less of rice, less than that of oil, and about 22 lbs. of flour—no meat or fresh vegetables. In calories per day these "full rations" represent about 1,500—whereas our average intake is about 3,000, I understand. In any event, it will be seen that what is supplied is inadequate. But, there is more to be said. I stood in one woman's house — a cement-brick hut, with a leaky corrugated-iron roof, about 11 ft. square—and learned that nine people lived, ate, slept in this room—three generations. In winter the cooking has to be done inside, too, with an effect which can be imagined, when brushwood is used. And in the hearts of these Arab refugees is a deep bitterness, since not far away they know their houses are occupied by strangers, and their hereditary fields tilled by Israeli immigrants.

This surely is enough to make us think furiously. And to *do*. It is the privilege of the Oxford Committee to extend help to the refugees in all the areas mentioned—and in many others—as well as to the victims of floods, typhoons, earthquakes etc., so that in the last year we disbursed over £182,000 in cash and supplies, and sent

abroad 733 tons of clothing, thus bringing help to the needy in 35 countries. Many other agencies are also working hard to bring relief to refugees, and the present campaign in Leatherhead Urban District deserves the generous and loyal support of all.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A satisfactory balance in hand of over £600 was reported by the Treasurer, Mr. R. Saunders, at the annual general meeting of the Community Association. This, however, and much more would be needed when the repairs and extensions of the Barn Hall were commenced. The various clubs of the Association were flourishing, said the Secretary, Mrs. E. Harrison, and outside organisations were using the Hall to a greater extent so that very soon accommodation would be strained. More organisations were affiliating which meant that the Association was more truly representative of the village as a whole. Meanwhile individual membership was increasing and this brought a problem of more volunteer road stewards to collect subscriptions in their immediate neighbourhood.

Apart from many local events organised during the year for good causes the main work of the Association was still Village Day, the Bulletin and organisation in connection with the Polesden Lacey Open Air performances.

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Members elected to represent individual members on the Council of the Community Association were Messdames Cox, Everett, Gaymer. Messrs. Everett, Bell, Weller, Hall, Whiting, Stockwell, Chapman, Stimpson and Dr. Wentworth Harrison.

Extracts from the Speech of the President, Dr. N. E. Waterfield, O.B.E., D.L., to the A.G.M.

Dr. Waterfield, who has been President of the Community Association since its inception, has recently celebrated his 80th Birthday. As an old resident of Bookham his recollections of the village are interesting. As a public figure because of his work for the Red Cross, the British Medical Association and other notable bodies, and as Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey, his observations on current conditions are interesting. We therefore think our readers would like to read some extracts from his speech at the Annual General Meeting of the Community Association published below.

My introductory remarks are usually brief; but as I think that, as the result of physical and not, I am glad to say, mental disability, this is likely to be the last time I shall appear on the platform at an Annual General Meeting, I propose not to be as brief as usual.

It is well to hang one's remarks on either a text or a trite saying. The one I have chosen for tonight is "The old order changeth giving place to new." There are now few of the original "antiques" left who were here when I came to the

village 30 years ago. I have seen the village change almost beyond recognition, and many of my friends when visiting me have said that they have found some difficulty in finding their way through the village. Bookham 30 years ago was really a village, with a population of between 3,000 and 4,000. What roads there were were not made up but were muddy lanes. There was one small village school and perhaps eight or ten shops in the High Street. There was no street lighting and only an occasional bus served the district. There was no centre of village life, and no common meeting ground for the inhabitants, although each of the religious bodies had their own separate halls. At that time anyone passing down the High Street would know nearly everyone they met and would pass the time of the day with them.

When it was found that times were changing some of us met together and decided that new conditions needed a new approach. So the Community Association was born. In its early days some people thought that it had some connection with Communism, so the Association was not launched with a very good start. Gradually, however, that feeling died out, and the Association became recognised as an important feature in the life of the community. The Barn Hall which was becoming nearly derelict was allotted to the Association as a Centre from which to work and, as you know, the Hall has been put and kept in good order.

Bookham has reason to be grateful to many voluntary helpers who have given so much of their time to serving the community through the Community Association. Conditions are changing fast. Not only are many of the green meadows being converted into building sites but new roads are appearing everywhere. Many of what one might describe as stately homes are being demolished, their sites and the ground around them being utilized for the provision of small houses or bungalows.

Recognising that these changes are taking place, it behoves us as the inhabitants of Bookham to take steps to see that we are not subjected to bureaucratic control but that we have a real say in the future of our area, and to take care that we are provided with the amenities we have a right to expect.

The Albemarle Report, just published, requires careful study, and we must take care that we, the local inhabitants, have a proper say as to how its provisions are to be applied in our area. We, the antiques, are passing on to you a great heritage which we hope in turn the new generation will pass on to their successors.

We have obtained a piano for the Barn Hall and we thank all those who so generously offered us a replacement for our old one and say that we are now suited.

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POLEDSEN LACEY PERFORMANCE IN JULY

Bookham people are advised to book immediately for the "King Lear" performance at the Polesden Lacey open air theatre on the 14th, 15th and 16th July at 7.15 p.m. and the matinee on Saturday at 2.45 p.m. Mr. Oldershaw, who is in charge of the box office, tells us that tickets are going very well indeed. Last year the House Full notices had to go up when nearly 8,000 people came to Polesden for "Much Ado about Nothing."

Many of us remember the moving production of "Hamlet" some years ago at Polesden. "King Lear" should have the same gripping quality. These two plays probably contain Shakespeare's most penetrating exposition of the hidden depths of human nature. To see them played on the open air stage is an experience not to be missed.

The set has been designed by Ronald Kirkwood who is well known locally for his acting as well as his designing. He is now television art director of a London advertising agency. Miss Elsie Green, the producer, is using the music originally composed by Dedric Thorpe Davie for the 1950 Stratford - on - Avon production which starred Sir John Gielgud and Dame Peggy Ashcroft. The important part of Lear is being taken by Redmayne Fitzgerald who has appeared many times at Polesden and whose dignified playing of

Prospero will be pleurably recalled. Brian Redmayne, one of our most accomplished local amateurs, will take the part of Edgar.

GREAT AND LITTLE BOOKHAM, EFFINGHAM AND FETCHAM GARDEN SOCIETY

The Society will be holding its 84th Annual Summer Show this year on Saturday, 23rd July, and subject to confirmation it will be held at the County Infants' School, Great Bookham, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

The Autumn Show will be held on Saturday, September 24th, at the Village Hall, Fetcham, also open to the public at 2.30 p.m.

The Leavis Cup competition for the best complete garden of up to a quarter acre will be held during the first two weeks in July.

Membership includes free entrance to Shows and the right to show any number of exhibits at all shows held by the Society—entries are free. There is an entry fee of 6d. to the Best Garden competition—open to all members, subject to the rules of the competition.

Members are also entitled to use the R.H.S. Tickets for Wisley, and the various bulletins of the National Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, Sweet Pea, and the R.H.S. Also the Winemakers Magazine.

The membership fee is the sum of not less than 2/6d. each and members' children are allowed to exhibit free in the children's classes.

Hon. Treasurer: R. W. Saunders, Esq., "Rose Cottage," Lower Road, Great Bookham.

The Society looks forward to the continued support of all members and sincerely hopes that the new residents in the three Parishes will become active members.

BOOKHAM OLD TYME DANCE CLUB

The Old Tyme Dance Club is having a very successful season. Membership is now over 50 and there is regularly a good attendance of members at the weekly Club meetings at the Barn Hall on Wednesday evenings.

The normal activities of the Club have been carried on during the season with monthly dances at the Church House and frequent outings to visit other neighbouring Clubs, but this season has been specially memorable for a Dinner Dance held at the Barn Hall on 23rd January to celebrate the Club's 10th birthday. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Weller representing the Community Association and Mrs. Benham who was formerly connected with the Club in the early days and is now Life President of Surrey Federation of Old Time Dance Clubs with which the Club is affiliated.

The proceeds of the dance to be held on the 14th May, 1960, at the Church House are to be donated to the Association funds; it is hoped that members of the Association and their friends will give this effort their full support; they can be assured of an enjoyable evening.

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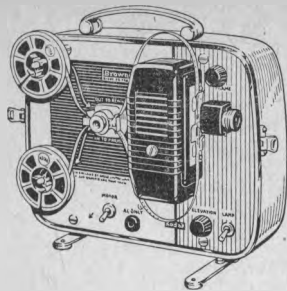
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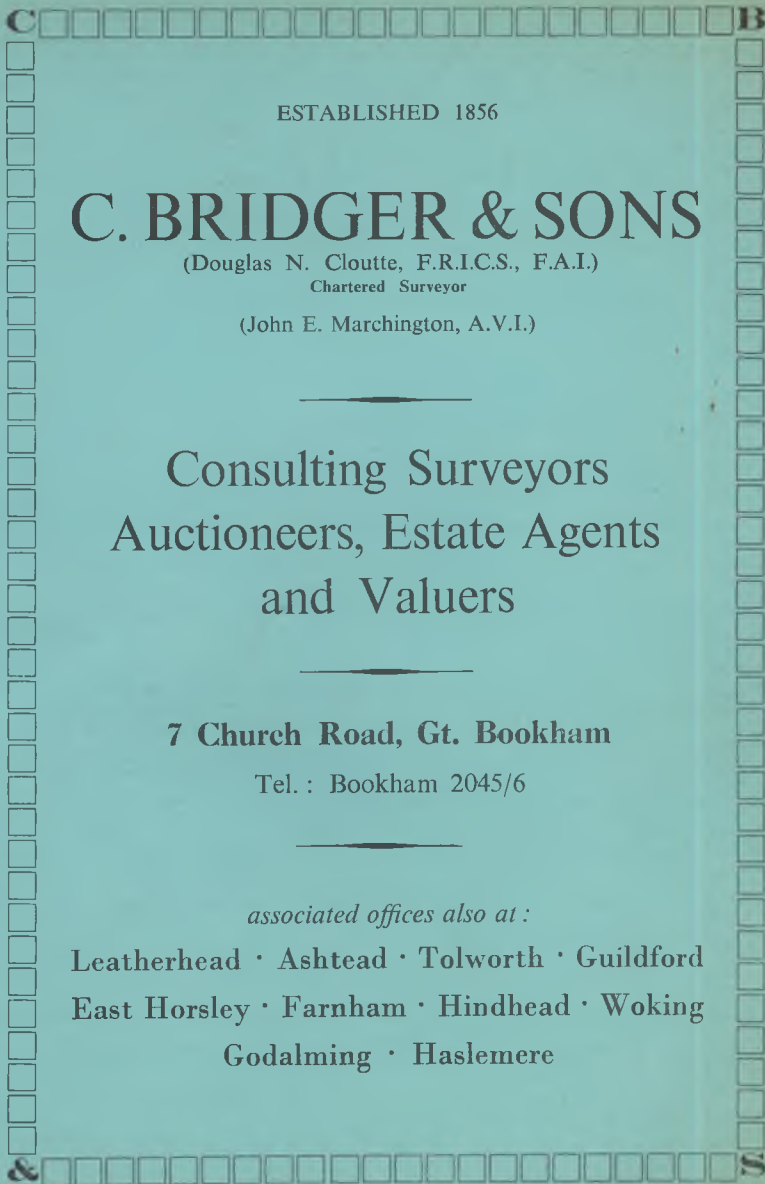
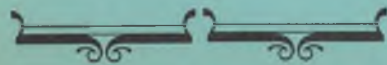
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