

The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 62

MARCH, 1949

One Penny

Editorial

The leading article in *The Times* a month or so ago was headed "Crisis in Local Government." We noticed that our dust-bin was still emptied every week; that council houses were still being built in Bookham, and the final demand for rates arrived as usual. So what is this crisis in local government?

We have only a third of the space available which The Times devoted to it, but we feel that in view of the forthcoming county and urban elections our readers should know something about what is happening to local government today. Since the provision for the first elected local council in 1835 and the first county councils in 1888, local government practice has varied between bodies set up for one purpose like Boards of Guardians, Boards of Health, School Boards, etc., and comprehensive authorities like the Municipal Corporations and County Districts. With the abolition of the ad hoc bodies and the increase in powers and duties of the comprehensive authorities, the public has increasingly demanded greater uniformity, specialisation and elaboration of local services. This has lead the State into assuming a greater share in cost and therefore exercising an increasing control.

The crisis has now been reached because no less than six departments of State are responsible for different branches of local government and there is no one person or authority which co-ordinates the finance in any effective way taking into account the ratepayer's ability to pay. These departments set definite standards for these major services, but apart from state subsidy, there still remains the one source of income - local rates. This is especially so now that nationalisation has taken away the supplement to rate income provided by public utilities like gas, electricity and bus services in certain areas.

In the old days, when the local council had a fair measure of control over their expenditure, the ratepayer could effectively express his opinions at the poll. A businesslike budget would be based on the ability of the ratepayers to bear the burden; but the actual control of expenditure by the local council is rapidly dwindling to nothing. With the Surrey County Council taking 130d. out of a rate of 180d., what interest can the local councillor take in the expenditure of the remainder? It is this atmos-

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Editorial-cont.

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phere of frustration and inability to forecast whether a project started in good faith and hope now might not next year be handed over to somebody else to complete, which unsettles local administration.

No doubt the government has set up a Boundary Commission which has made several excellent recommendations, but apart from certain alterations to boundaries, nothing has been decided upon.

In conclusion we might add that when the re-valuation of property by the Income Tax Commissioners has been brought into operation, there is a very real danger that total rates paid by householders will shew a decided increase.

We do not claim to have dealt with this subject exhaustively, but we do urge our readers to take a lively interest in this matter.

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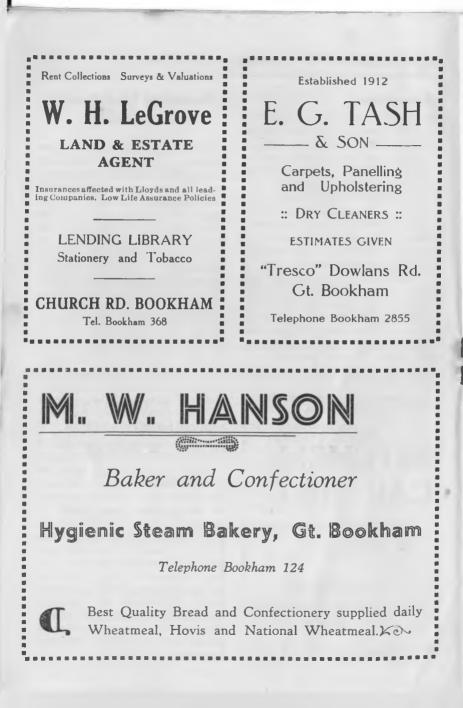
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Bookham Community Association

The community association has no more to do with Communists than a social club has with Socialists. We are prompted to make these remarks because so many people in Bookham consider the Community Association has a particular party bias and has been set up for the purposes of political propaganda. Admittedly amongst its many purposes is the development of democracy by providing the basis and training ground for it. No doubt, while Parliament as a democratic institution may be regarded more as delegated autocracy, the real essence of democracy is to be found in the management of local authorities, institutions and societies --- and democracy is no monopoly of any particular political party.

The community association movement first came into being as a result of a conference sponsored by the National Council of Social Service in 1929. It has developed on a voluntary basis until the Education Act, 1944 (which embodied and strengthened the help available through the Education Act, 1921, and the Physical Training Recreation Act, 1937, and certain Housing Acts) has enabled local authorities to undertake increasing responsibilities in connection with Community Centres as part of their further education programme.



No one will deny that social activity in Bookham is not as strong as any to be found in similar communities, but it is dissipated because of its diversification. The Bookham Community Association aims to strengthen its constituent associations by mutual support and co-operation rather than competition. Further, it hopes to fill the gaps which there may be in the life of the village.

The first annual general meeting held recently, was well attended and the suggestions for future activity augurs well for a successful year. Dr. N. E. Waterfield was elected President & Chairman, Mr. C. V. Brayne, Vice-President and Mrs. E. Harrison, Vice-Chairman. The appointment of Mr. E. Oldershaw as Hon. Secretary was confirmed & Mr.S.E.D.Fortescue was re-elected as Hon. Treasurer. Representatives of individual members on the Council were elected as follows: Major Penny, Messrs. R. Bishop, G. Brion & H.C. West. Mr. W. G. Stephens was appointed Hon, Auditor.

A balance in hand of $\pounds 59$ was reported, and annual subscriptions of 5/- for senior organisations, 2/6 for junior organisations; 2/6 for adult individuals and 1/- for juniors under 16 years, were fixed. These subscriptions are now due and may be handed to any member of the Council or the Hon. Secretary (see directory for address).

There are 87 individual members and 24 organisations are associate members. These numbers should show a considerable the Association's increase as programme developes in its second year. On March 19th all organisations are being asked to co-operate in staging a show at the Old Barn Hall. A table tennis tournament has been fixed for 11th March. It is proposed to form a Women's Committee, who might develope the suggestions for a weekly creche, "sitters-in" service, theatre parties, old people's club and talks on practical problems.

The Association has agreed to affiliate to the National Federation of Community Associations, and visits to other community associations are being arranged.

Election of County Councillors will take place on 9th April, 1949. Mr. A. E. Murrells is the present member for the Leatherhead district.

The charge of 15/- per cubic vard for broken paving slabs has been increased by the Leatherhead U.D.C. to 25 - per cubic yard delivered.

The Leatherhead Council are approaching the British Railway Executive on the possibility of providing a Railway Halt at Fetcham.

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Oakenwood Estate

By John L. Davies, F.R.I.S., etc. Engineer & Surveyor, L.U.D.C.

The Oakenwood Estate, Lower Road, Bookham, is the fourth housing estate to be completed by the Leatherhead Council since the end of the war. The three others are at Leatherhead and Ashtead, comprising altogether over 300 dwellings, the Oakenwood Estate adding another 118 to the total.

At the time of writing 22 Orlits and 40 traditional houses have been completed and it is now certain that all houses will be completed by March 1949, making a total of 118 in 11 months.

This estate is being developed on the same principle as previous estates in which provision has been made for several different designs incorporating variations of planning and accommodation for all family groups.

When the scheme was first under consideration, it was thought advisable to include a certain number of flats, but subsequent experience at Ashtead caused the idea to be abandoned on account of their high cost compared to traditional housing and the necessarily high rents which it was thought the tenants would not be able to afford. Moreover, in a district like this where building land is plentiful and reasonable in cost. it is not so necessary to make provision for flats which are essentially a housing expedient for built-up areas.

Similarly, 4-bedroomed houses have not been built at Bookham since the demand for them has already been fully met by the Ashtead estate where there are a considerable number of this type.

On the Oakenwood estate then, building has been confined to three types of accommodation :—

(a) Bungalows for the elderly. with a living room, one double-bed room, kitchenette, bathroom and a sun-porch. Special attention has been given to economy not only in capital cost but also in running expenses, and a specially designed open fire burning any solid fuel, with a back boiler, serves both for space heating and for hot water to bath, sink and lavatory basin. The fire can be regulated to burn freely or for continuous slow burning as required. The kitchens are fitted with built - in closed dressers and broom cupboard, ventilated larder with stone or tiled shelf, sink with two draining boards, gas or electric cooker, wash boiler, fuel store & meter cupboard.

(b) Two-bedroom cottages providing ample living space on the ground floor and containing two double bedrooms. These are both economical in cost and planning and provide for the small families. A greater proportion of these will be provided on future estates to meet the demand for this type of accommodation.

They provide a through living room 20ft. by 11ft. 6in., with a kitchen 10 x 12 to which access is obtainable from both living room R.W. SCOTT & SON

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and hall. The bathroom and w.c. is on the ground floor near the foot of the staircase. Upstairs are two good bedrooms 14×11 ft. 6in. and 13×9 and a linen cupboard.

Outside there is the usual brick built store with fuel bunker & w.c.

(c) Three-bedroom houses of several different types have also been built, some in pairs others in blocks of four or six. They all contain similar accommodation as follows :—

On the ground floor, sitting room 13 x 12 and a dining space 12 x 10ft. 6in. leading off through a 5ft. opening which could be fitted with double doors or bricked up if desired later. A kitchen 9 x 8 with the standard range of fitments and apparatus.

Upstairs there are two double bedrooms and a single bedroom or sometimes three double bedrooms, a bath and w.c., linen cupboards & other built-in cupboards. Outside there is the brick built store with fuel bunker and w.c.

GENERALLY

The site is laid out as informally as possible, with generous open spaces. The greatest number of trees have been retained and the houses sited so as not to interfere with them and to add to the amenities of the estate.

The Orlit houses have been grouped so as to mingle with the traditional types and thereby minimise as far as possible monotony of elevation which might otherwise ensue. The costs, of course, vary with the different types and will probably work out for the buildings complete with fencing, drainage, paths, outbuildings, etc. as follows

Old people's bungalows 750

2 bedroom cottages ... 900

3 bedroom houses ... 1150

3 bedroom Orlit houses 1500 The average cost per house for land, roads, sewers and services will be around £155. This includes cost of land, soil and surface drainage, turfing verges and open spaces, all planting of new front boundary hedges and trees, screen fencing, kerbing, carriageways, footpaths and street lighting.

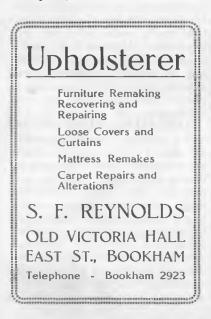
It should be noted that the specification for the houses calls for facing brickwork, felted and tiled roofs, metal windows and handmade tile-hanging to some elevations and porches. Insid: the buildings, decorations and painting are properly completed, picture rails, skirting, etc. are standard.

All houses have an efficient hot water system. Linen cupboards are always provided and there are meter cupboards as well as built-in clothes cupboards. Kitchens are provided with closed dresser fitment including worktop, cupboards and drawers, a broom cupboard and an adequate ventilated larder with cold shelf. There is also a deep glazed sink with two draining boards and hot and cold water supply, a gas clothes boiler and the choice of an electric or

gas cooker. Two w.c.'s to each house, and the glazed tiled bathroom is provided with porcelain enamelled bath and lavatory basin, with hot and cold water. The brick-built outbuildings comprise a store room, two fuel bunkers and a w.c.

Fencing is all chain link on concrete posts for the division and back fencing and the front boundaries only are to be planted with hedges.

Permission has been given to the Bookham Football Club to use land at Bookham Grove for the purpose of a Summer Fête on 25th June, 1949.



The following exclusive rents have been adopted by the Leatherhead U.D. C. for houses on the Oakenwood Estate and the provisional local rates payable in addition are also indicated :--

3	bedroom Traditional	*18/8	†7/8	\$26/4	
3	bedroom Orlit	18/8	7/0	25/8	
2	bedroom	17/2	6/4	23/6	
B	ungalow	9/2	3/10	13/0	
*Exclusive Rent †Provisional Rates Provisional inc. Rates					

Elections for the Leatherhead Urban District Council will take place on Saturday, 14th May, 1949. Mr. R. Andrews is the retiring member and will not be seeking re-election.



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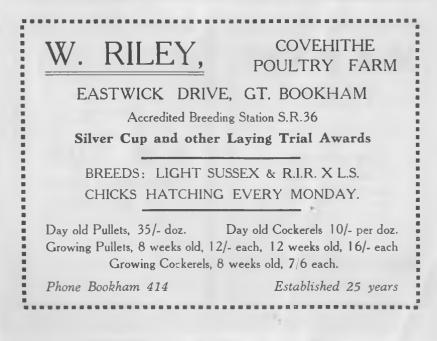
Route 418 Bus

A conference of officials and representatives of the Police, London Transport and Leatherhead U.D.C. was held recently to discuss a proposal of the L.T.E. to extend the 418 bus service from Preston Cross, via Rectory Lane and Guildford Road, to a new terminus at Woodlands Rd. The Police and Council representatives considered Rectory Lane to be unsuitable for bus traffic and the turn from Rectory Lane into Guildford Road to be too difficult to be safe.

At their January meeting, the Council resolved to adhere to their former decision that the terminus be moved to Bookham Station by Easter, 1949.

In the County Medical Officer's preliminary report the ultimate provision of a Health Centre in Bookham was recommended together with one each for Ashtead and Leatherhead. Leatherhead U. D. C. suggest that Fetcham should also have one.

The Council salvage figures for the period April to November, 1948 total £1,691 16 8, shewing an increase of f.358 + 1 over the corresponding period in 1947.



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Directory of Bookham Organisations, etc.

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

All alterations and additions should be sent to Hon. Editor, Bookhams Bulletin Jonod, Dowlans Road. Bookham 465

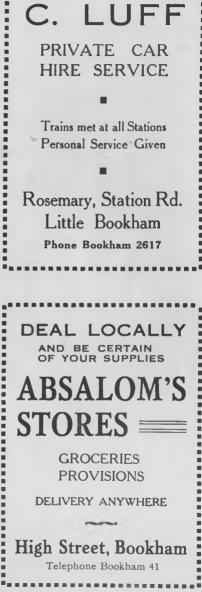
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- Wolf Cubs Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Road. Scout Hall Weds. & Thurs. 5 30
- British Legion (Effingham & Bookham) F. Shrubshall, Ricasoli, Orestan Lane Legion Hall, Lower Road
- Bowling Club W. T. Street, Askrigg, Lower Rd., Gt. Bookham Dorking Road Recreation Ground
- Brotherhood Mr. Brazier, Station House, Bookham Hotel Victoria Tuesdays at 8 0 Congregational Church 1st Sunday 3
- Camera Club C. J. Beddous. Church House Fridays 7 30
- Chess Club A. S. Keane, Stepping Stones, Woodlands Road
- Choral Society L. R. Neville, Lone Pine, Lower Rd Bookham 2075 Congrel. Church Hall Tuesdays 80

- Read the Advertisements
- Civil Defence Sports & Social Club C. T. Burberry, 1 Pretoria Cottages Church House Tuesdays 7
- Christian Endeavour A. McIntosh, 12 Randalls Crescent, Leatherhead Baptist Church Hall Wednesday 7 45
- Junior Christian Endeavour Miss N. Bull, Waverley, Dowlans Rd. Baptist Hall Fridays 6 30
- Children's Circle, Co-operative Mrs. Davies, Rosemarie, Howard Rd Co-operative Hall Tuesdays Juniors 60 Seniors 70
- Bookham Commons Committee T. E. Ware, Merrylands Farm Bookham 2
- Community Association E. E. Oldershaw, Upalong, Guildford Road Bookham 241
- Congregational Church Guild Congl. Church Hall Thursdays 7 30
- Gt. Bookham Conservative Association H. G. Carter, The Spinney, The Park Bookham 2703
- Little Bookham Conservative Assocn. J. R. Vaudrey, The Burrow, Woodlands Road Bookham 2890
- Bookham Cricket Club W. Dawes, Alsagar, Lilliots Lane, Leatherhead
- Folk Dancing R. Lambert, Foure Wynds, Hale Pit Rd Bookham 2206 Church House, alternate Sats. 5 p.m.
- Bookham Football Club A. E. W. Cox, Swazi, Blackthorne Road Bookham 2499
- Garden Society J. H. Stevens, Roselea, Sole Farm Rd Annual Show last Saturday in July
- Girls' Friendly Society & Girls' Club Miss Trickett, Tetbury, Dowlans Rd The Spinney Mondays 7 30
- Goat Society Miss Rigg, Green Acres, The Park

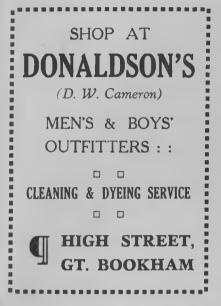




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- Girls' Life Brigade Mrs. E. Leat, Heatherdene, Groveside Baptist Church Hall Thursdays Cadets 5 Juniors 615 Seniors 715
- Hospital Linen Guild Mrs. Chaston, Dolwaenydd, Lower Road Bookham 396
 - Leatherhead Hospital Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 4 (Mending Party Tuesdays 10 30 to 12 30)
- Leatherhead & Dist. Local History Soc. A. T. Ruby, 53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham Leatherhead 3127
- Life Boys Mrs. Palmer, Groudley Glen, School Lane, Fetcham Baptist Church Hall Tuesdays 60
- Literary & Social Society Mrs. Bowen, Sunnycot, Lower Road Bookham 542 Church House, Alternate Weds, 815
- Model Engineering Club R. J. Collins, Roslyn, Blackthorne Road
- National British Women's T. A. Union Mrs. Bradshaw, 2 Merrylands Road Cong'l Church Hall 2nd Tues. at 3
- Nursing Association Mrs. Emuss, The Hermitage, Lower Road Bookham 80
 - District Nurses Home Leatherhead Road (near Beckley) Bookham 347
- Howard of Effingham Secondary School Parents' Association L. W. Earle, 4 Fairfield Cottages Meetings at School
- St. Nicholas Parochial Church Council P. Fogden, Bonnymuir, Childs Hall Road Bookham 2897
- Residents Association (Bookham) F. Cooper, Frantina, Keswick Road Bookham 360

- Bookham Rifle Club O. Rattenbury, Dorking Road Bookham Grove Weekends
- Social Service Bureau R. Andrews, Five Beeches, Dorking Road Bookham 201
- Bookham Spiritualist Church Mrs. Wootten, 1 New Parade, Leatherhead Road. Bookham 575 Co-op. Hall Sundays
- Women's Institute Mrs. West, Melrose Dawnay Road Bookham 2251
- Women's Fellowship Mrs. Williams, 2 The Park Church House Mondays 230
- Women's Own Mrs. G. H. Cook, Mount View, The Mount, Fetcham Baptist Church Hall Mondays 30
- Young Farmers Club John Parrett, Nanjizell, Eastwick Dv Bookham 2784
- Young Conservatives Miss P. Eve, 6 Church Road, Leatherhead
- Young People's Guild, St. Nicolas N. W. Alexander, Newlands, Crabtree Close Church House
- Young People's Society H. V. Mann, Normandene, The Drive, Fetcham Baptist Church Hall Saturdays 730
- Co-operative Youth Club
- Bookham & Effingham Youth Council Miss Joyce Edwards, Hillcrest, Groveside
- Bookham Labour Party Mrs. Harrison Commonend, Eastwick Dv. Tel.2702 Co-operative Hall 1st Mondays 80
- Women's Co-operative Guild Mrs. Cox, Theldor, Keswick Road
- Society of Friends (Quakers) W. T. Cooper, The Croft, Dowlans Rd Co-op Hall Alternate Sundays 6 30
- Bookham Poultry & Rabbit Club E. C. Wyatt, Cumnock, Eastwick Drive Tel. 585



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