

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 94

JUNE 1957.

25th year



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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 94.

JUNE, 1957.

25th year

The Editor: "Brandreth," Sole Farm Road, Gt. Bookham.

EDITORIAL

As we go to press the school canteen is moving to its new premises on the school site. This is a long overdue improvement. The Barn Hall has served its purpose. It has saved our children from hot container meals, and meals eaten from school desks, as in the case in some County schools, but at the best it was a makeshift.

Teachers and parents will be glad that the walk in all weathers to and from meals is no longer necessary. They will be pleased to know that the new kitchen and dining hall incorporate the latest ideas in hygiene. The canteen staff, which has done good work under formidable difficulties, will appreciate the scope now given to them.

It is, however, unfortunate that at the very outset, owing to the pressure on accommodation, the dining hall will have to be used also as a classroom, with all the problems of planning consequent upon this. The child population catered for is about 500, covering the Infants' School and the Junior Primary School, and it is likely to rise. Many of the classes are over 40, which is much too large, especially in the infants' classes.

We can only hope that there will be no delay in the building of the new primary school at Southey Hall so that the overcrowding can be relieved.

The welfare of the school has always been a high priority for Bookham people. The good wishes of the village will go out to the pupils and staff for the success of the new venture. At long last there will be an opportunity to achieve the real purpose of the school meals service. Contrary to current conceptions this was never visualized as a way of relieving mothers of their responsibilities. Opinions may vary as to its desirability, but there can be no doubt of its intention. It was designed to give further opportunity to our children to learn the art of living together in community. Those who support boarding schools argue that this is one of the most important objectives of education. Without removing children from their homes it is hoped that the give and take of sportsmanship absorbed in the playground, the discipline and restraint learned in the classroom can be reinforced by the good manners and healthy feeding habits acquired in the dining hall.



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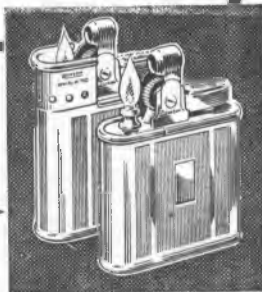
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GARDEN TOOLS

HISTORY OF GREAT BOOKHAM BARN HALL (PART IV)

Old Barn Hall becomes Community Centre

The story of the Barn Hall now joins up with that of the Community Association. The Bookham Community Association is officially nine years old, but its origins go back to the war years when, at a meeting of the Bookham and Effingham Youth Council, a proposition was put forward for a Youth Centre in Bookham. A counter-suggestion was made that a better plan would be for a Community Centre to include separate facilities for youth. At that time the National Council of Social Service was studying experiments in different parts of Britain on community centre schemes and few people were aware of the possibilities of this new conception of local democracy.

Mr. C. V. Brayne, Miss E. Micholls and Mrs. E. Harrison were appointed to prepare a memorandum on the subject. This small sub-committee was later enlarged to include Councillor A. E. Murrells, Dr. N. E. Waterfield, Mr. G. Brion and Mr. Trevor Newman. A comprehensive plan was drawn up for a model community centre, but practical steps could not be taken until the war was over.

Like many similar villages during the war Bookham showed how local life was enriched when good

neighbourliness brought people together. At national level the Ministry of Education, following the Act of 1944, had offered encouragement to local authorities to explore the possibilities of community centres as part of their adult educational provisions. The time now seemed ripe for our village enthusiasts to take action. A public meeting was called in the Barn Hall on 28th October, 1946, when Councillor Murrells, on behalf of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, offered Bookham Grove to the village for the development of a community centre. Naturally not everybody was in agreement, but there was enough enthusiasm for the formation of yet one more committee. By the end of the year, with Mr. R. Bishop as Secretary, plans had been made for a centre comprising indoor and outdoor facilities, admirably sited in what would ultimately be the centre of a growing population. Twenty-two local organisations had been represented on the planning body. On March 1st the Grove was open to public inspection. It was a lovely, spring-like day, all the village seemed to have turned out, and to some of those present the dream of a civic centre in this quiet rural spot seemed already to have taken shape.

Alas for human hopes! On 30th April, 1947, the fateful public meeting was held, the critics were in a majority and the scheme had to be abandoned. On behalf of

the U.D.C. Councillor Murrells then offered the Barn Hall as an alternative site. This was accepted as a working proposition and from this moment the Bookham Community Association became an official body.

The first Council meeting of the Community Association was held in March, 1948. Dr. Waterfield was appointed chairman, Mrs. E. Harrison vice-chairman, Mr. C. West secretary and Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue treasurer. Members of the committee were Miss E. Micholls, Rev. A. Eastman, Messrs. Brion, Beddous, Goodwin and Oldershaw. Negotiations for the acquisition of the Barn Hall were started immediately. With the co-operation of the U.D.C. the Charity Commissioners were approached and agreed to vest the trusteeship of the Hall in the Executive Committee of the Community Association. On the first Village Day, 1948, Councillor Mrs. Levett, Chairman of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, formally opened the Old Barn Hall as a community centre.

No human organisation is perfect, but from the beginning the Community Association can claim to have worked within its capacities for those objects which help to make a fuller village life. It has pioneered the demand for more recreational spaces, it has improved the amenities of the Hall and developed club activities there, its Village Days have be-

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come a popular annual event, it has constructed an open air theatre at Polesden Lacey which has grown into the traditions of the National Trust and, finally, rescuing the *Bookhams Bulletin* when it was at the point of extinction, it has made of it a lively village journal.

There is much more which could be done in this expanding neighbourhood, and the Association is full of optimism. The only limits to its usefulness are those set by apathy. With full support from local people and local organisations it could do a good deal to improve social, recreational and educational facilities for both young and old in Bookham.

VILLAGE DAY

Each year Village Day grows in popularity and, even if the weather is bad, people find plenty to do and see. The prime object of the day is to provide an at-home for all Bookham residents. Local organisations respond well to the request of the Community Association to put themselves and their activities on show. Thus a unique occasion is presented to find out something of the varied facilities for leisure occupations available in the village. Here can be met those who play their part in the life of the neighbourhood—from the Schoolmaster to the youngest Girl Guide.

The Community Association naturally hopes that a little money will be made on the side. It cannot, however, be too often emphasized that this money is ploughed back again into the village and is not used for sectional purposes.

OBITUARY

Mr. Cyril Burbery, who died in Leatherhead Hospital on March 8th at the age of 53, was a well-known figure in the village. During the 30 years he resided in Bookham he participated fully in local activities and his work brought him in close contact with many people. In the war years he joined the A.R.P. services and was a warden. He was a keen member of the Leatherhead and District Civil Defence Club and took an active part in its organisation.

He joined the Community Association in its early days and, together with his wife, took great interest in the development of the Old Time Dance Club. He missed few functions of this club and was one of its most accomplished dancers. He also assisted in the establishment of the Over 20's Club.

His cheerful and helpful personality will be much missed, and our sympathies go out to his widow and son.

MEDICO IN EMBRYO

The life of the medical student, and his subsequent hatching into the qualified state, having been so successfully glamorised by Richard Gordon (who has had first-hand experience), this article must come as does the weather forecast at the end of the nine o'clock news of Colonel Nasser and the "Mayflower". Yet in endeavouring to avoid producing a cinema guide write-up by discussing and analysing the complex process of medical training and how the enthusiastic school-boy is moulded into a benign, omniscient "Presence - with - a - Stethoscope", nothing of note will be said, for I am neither educationalist or psychiatrist. In fact, I represent but one generation, one hospital, and perhaps cannot even claim to be a typical specimen of studenthood (I don't play Rugby).

What is it that fashions a *doctor* out of a medical student? Needless to say it is not mere factual knowledge that makes a man whose opinions on anything from rheumatism to the value of rising before seven are revered, if not respected. Nor is the change accomplished in the twinkling of an eye on the day the student receives an aura of letters to attend his name. Is it nothing more than a platitude to say that a good doctor is one whose sole aim is to be just that?

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In the acute mental vacuum created by passing (or failing) 2nd M.B., I doubt that many students are given to musing upon the fair prospect of clinical life. Nevertheless the first clinical year may prove to be the first and, perhaps, last opportunity to meditate upon the profession of medicine before the final onslaught of "papers", "clinicals" and "vivas". The third field, culminating in qualification, is three years long. The two preceding pastures are small, narrow tracts of "book-larnin"; they are the foundation of a doctor's art and science. In clinical training books and lectures give place to the cultivation of observation by the five senses and learning to assess not only disease but, of far greater importance, the folk who are reacting to their disease.

A doctor treats people not diseases. Although the curriculum fails to indicate this fundamental difference of approach and students are often unaware of it, there are powerful forces seeking to act on those who realise that the triad, example, responsibility and experience, is the key to success.

Students are organised into small groups attached to expert medical men for certain periods, watching their techniques, listening to their wisdom and attending their clinics. Responsibility lies not only in looking after patients, under supervision, but also in carrying out minor procedures.

Experience comes in meeting "all sorts and conditions of men", in seeing life at both ends, and in its pathos — the injured drunk at 2 a.m.—and in its joy—the lady, minus gall-bladder, relieved of five years' dietary misery. But the essence of this training is in this: that it is a life demanding an attuned mind, not just a five-day week study, and that qualification is only just the beginning of a studentship, ever deepening, of Bacon's "active and natural philosophy as a foundation for medicine" which only ends at death. Who am I to analyse the motives of my colleagues for joining the profession, even if I knew them! However, I feel sure that there are very few who are "in the game" solely for financial, social or intellectual returns, and few who have not, now,* thought beyond the "It's what I want to be and I seem to be cut out for it" stage. A sense of vocation is the trusty ship, but what are the winds and whence come they to carry her toward the wisdom of the true physician?

It is said that the medical course involves two of the most Herculean examinations known to man! Imagine that the medical training course (of 5 or 6 years) is a series of three pastures where-in the student gathers experience and information and that these examinations are the hurdles between them. "Ordinary level" opens the way to the first. In this green meadow is spent two leis-

urely years at school† studying natural science, in a state, very often, of complete oblivion as to *why* it is necessary to know how a fern reproduces or a cathode ray tube works. "Doctorhood" is a rosy black-bagged dream! "Not for long in green pastures": Soon a torrent of facts and figures, anatomical and physiological, is cascading over those in the second field. In eighteen months there is very little time to sit and think, for besides cramming in disarray enough information to pass the notorious "2nd M.B.", there is so much else to see and do (a last fling?) before entering clinical life. Then dawns the day, a sweet empty morning after a night of elemental rock 'n' roll, when the dissecting manuals and biochemical formulæ remain only as harmless epitaphs of labour soon forgotten, their former austere eminence as guardians of the second gate quite gone.

* Two years before qualifying.

† One, at university.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

(PART 14)

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As has been seen, the Court of the Manor of Great Bookham remained active in fields of jurisdiction which elsewhere were already coming under the Justices of the Peace. It was also responsible for the assise of bread and ale. Originally designed to maintain quality and good measure for a regulated

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price (in 1643 ale was 1d. a quart), the assise became by the early sixteenth century, if not sooner, a device for obtaining a regular licensing fee from bakers and brewers. This is proved by the lists of bakers, victuallers and "tipplers" who appear in Court Rolls year after year, paying a standard fine for a nominal offence, specific details of which are never given. At Bookham the Court Leet of 26th October, 1637,* presented John Hardinge, Richard Shepperd, John Chittie, Stephen Briggs and William Showte, all described as "vitlers", for being "comon Alehouse keepers" who had broken the assise of ale, while Roger Cockerell and William Babb, bakers, had similarly broken that of bread: all were fined 2s.6d. each. John Hardinge was also fined 5s. for having refused on 31st October, 1636, to allow the Taster (Richard Slider) to examine the white bread he was selling, and 2s. for having sold "very mustie bere" on 31st July, 1637.

The maintenance of these standards was of fundamental importance when ale (brewed without hops and keeping only a few days) was the universal beverage, and relatively few houses had their own ovens. Ale was drunk by all because in most places there was no supply of clean drinking water, and for its high nutritive value derived from barley malt. While larger farms and gentlemen's homes brewed

their own, this was impossible for the majority who could not afford the necessary space or plant, vats and barrels. Similarly, the small mediæval hall-house with an open hearth was able only to roast or boil, but not to bake.

The greatest change in English domestic life, the transformation of this archaic house with its communal arrangements into a residence with individual privacy and self-sufficient fittings (chimneys, oven, private well), was in fact in full swing during the two generations preceding the Civil War. That the older type of house survived into the seventeenth century is shown by such a provision as that made by John Roger in his will of 1621,† where his wife Elizabeth was left for life "a chamber in my house" (probably Rolts, now Half Moon Cottage), with "free liberty to the fyre and other placis for her necessarye uses". Evidently the house then contained only one fireplace.

On the other hand, as early as 1576 the house in Eastwick now known as Woodcote had two fireplaces, in hall and kitchen, their fittings being separately mentioned in the inventory taken after the death of Henry Wilkyns, the owner.‡ Furthermore, the hall fireplace had a chimney in which was a "potte hanger" worth 4d. But the accommodation consisted only of hall, kitchen, chamber, the roof space containing bacon worth 2s., and a barn. In 1629 the house of Lawrence Hide of

Little Bookham (probably Potters, now the Old Windsor Castle public house) had a hall, chamber and loft as well as a barn, and the loft contained "one feather Bed, one flocke Bed, fouer pare of sheets, two chestes", the lot valued at 40s.¶

In such houses, normally comprising not more than two living rooms and one upper room for sleeping, dwelt families of substantial size. John Rogers mentions two daughters and three sons, Henry Wilkyns a son John and three other children, Lawrence Hide a son and a daughter; and it may be assumed that one or more servants or labourers in addition "lived in", besides other lodgers in some cases. The need to enlarge is shown not only by structural additions and inserted floors of this period found in surviving buildings, but by documents. On 6th October, 1614, the Court granted licence for 6s. to Thomas Wood to take down the west end of his tenement called Tanners (now Tanners Hatch) and to rebuild it at his tenement called Bagden before 24th June, 1615.

Of the daily life of the inhabitants the Court Rolls are our chief source of information, though limited mainly to the common-field system of agriculture and to petty offences. Oliver Thomas of Dorking was fined 3s.4d. for having drawn blood from George Chittie, miller, on 2nd October, 1625, Margaret

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wife of Ralph Rogers 4s.4d. for assaulting Richard More the constable in 1639, and Richard Slyder and John Palmer 3s.4d. each for fighting one another. Fines of £5 each were in 1645 laid on two couples (Peter Coppinge and John Palmer and their wives) for breaking the pound; an instance of the greater severity accorded to crimes against property. In 1626 and again in 1628 John Rogers was presented for stopping up the way to "Le Yaresborne Well" (somewhere close to Lower Road by the end of Childs Hall Road), and apparently this encroachment never was reformed. Various inhabitants were to repair their hedges and fences, to provide herds to drive their pigs or sheep on the Commons, to remove a dungheap in the highway, and in 1651 "to sett rayles and posts or make a sufficiente fense about the Chalk pitt in Estwick feilde". In the next year the chalkpit in Preston Lane (i.e. Rectory Lane) was also dangerous, and John Rogers was told he should keep a shepherd on the Common, "wch Sheppard oughte to drive and hunte other mens Sheepe that have no right to comon there". In 1654 George Chitty had 'let some parte of his howse fall to the ground', and from 1639 onwards regulations were enforced against any who "shall beate downe any acrons cum pol Bacculis vel aliter' (with poles, sticks, or otherwise) from the oaks growing in the manor.

So country life pursued its even course through the convulsions of Church and State which were snaking England to its foundations.

* Court Book of 1621-42. f. 68v.; Surrey Record Office.

† Archdeaconry Court of Surrey. Reg. YEAST, f. 20.

‡ Winchester Consistory Court, 1576; Hampshire Record Office, Winchester.

¶ Winchester Consistory Court, 1629. For the history of Potters see "The Red Barrel" (Watney Combe Reid & Co. Ltd.), vol. XX, No. 2, February, 1953, pp. 60-62.

"HENRY V" AT POLESDEN LACEY

Shakespeare's "King Henry V" will be presented at the Polesden Lacey open air theatre on July 19th and 20th in two evening performances and a matinée on the Saturday. The National Trust, with the help of a local advisory committee, is now responsible for these annual productions.

Miss Elsie Green, who is well known to Bookham people, will again be producer. The part of King Henry will be taken by Ronald Kirkwood, who will be remembered for his Feste last year and his excellent portrayal of Hamlet in the previous year.

Mr. E. E. Oldershaw is in charge of the box office at Upalong, Guildford Road, where he is expecting to make special arrangements for organised parties from schools and clubs.

In 1956 there was a record attendance of more than 4,000 people and it is anticipated that a play like Henry V, with its ex-

citing action and vigorous crowd scenes, will attract an even greater audience. Apart from the excellence of these productions Bookham people will undoubtedly be drawn to Polesden on this occasion by pride in the theatre which they themselves created.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Bookham F.C. Abroad. Congratulations to the Bookham Football Club on their initiative and enthusiasm in organising an Easter week-end tour in Belgium. They used to the full every minute of their stay, sightseeing in Brussels, Bruges and Ghent (where tea was 2/- a cup). They even ventured over the frontier into Holland. On Sunday in a match against F.C. Oostakker (Belgium) Bookham were defeated 4-0, but it would seem that there were some unfortunate incidents during the game.

We wish them better luck next time.

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(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

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Congregational Church Guild. C. H. Arnold, Brookside, The Glade, Fetcham.

Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch. Miss A. Mattison, Clovelly, Downs way.

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