

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 124

SPRING 1965

32nd year



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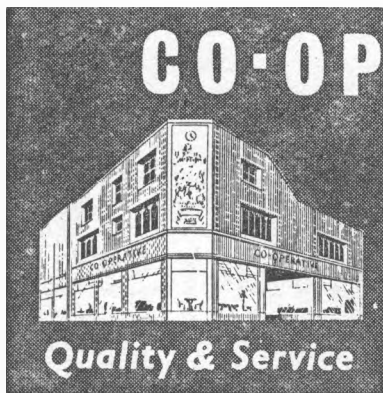
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No. 124

SPRING, 1965

32nd year

EDITORIAL

1965 is the Golden Jubilee Year of the Women's Institute Movement. We salute the Movement and we offer our good wishes to our local Institutes in their celebrations. Like so many villages throughout the country Bookham owes a debt of gratitude to its own Institutes, two of them, the Afternoon W.I., now 47 years old, and the Evening W.I., which has grown vigorously over its seven years of existence. As organisations they participate fully in all village events, while many of their members work and, very often, take a lead in the varied activities which make Bookham a lively community.

Where Institutes exist there is no need for any woman to feel lonely. They provide an opportunity at their monthly meetings to meet people in a sociable atmosphere and make friends. Incidentally there is a creche at the afternoon meeting. The Institutes' classes and groups cater for every variety of interest from craftwork of all kinds, through to painting, drama and public affairs, and reach a very high level of attainment. From the village, on to County, and finally to National, there is a ladder whereby anyone with a skill can develop it and achieve

countrywide recognition.

Locally our W.I. membership numbers over 240; nationally 8,685 W.I.s have a total membership of 430,000. This constitutes powerful backing for the resolutions—few in number but very practical in their application to social needs—which are brought forward at the annual A.G.M. in London.

The movement is fortunate in having its own college, Denman, which is a fine old house set in spacious grounds in an Oxfordshire village. It is tastefully appointed, a place in which, paradox though it may be, serenity and zest for living, together with intellectual adventure, create an atmosphere to which one is always eager to return. Much of the equipment, all of first-rate design, has been provided by County Federations. Curtaining, covers, bedspreads, and suchlike furnishings are superb, having been handworked by skilled members of the W.I. and donated to the College. Here, all the year round, short courses are held, two and sometimes more being organised for the same period, so that women with different interests can meet and get to know each other. Latterly, husbands have been admitted to some of the courses. To give

example from February's programme: the Interior Decoration of our Homes and Holidays Abroad. There are even occasions when arrangements are made to include the children.

The original motto of the W.I.s was "For Home and Country." This should now perhaps be widened to indicate the international aspects of the Movement. There are women's institutes throughout the world. The Associated Countrywomen of the World (A.C.W.W.), of which this country is a part, has pioneered educational and welfare work, especially in the new and growing nations. Certain enterprises started during Freedom from Hunger Year are being directly financed by the vast sums of money raised by W.I.s in this country.

But, coming back to Bookham, we once more offer congratulations to our own Institutes on their past and present work in the village, thank them for their offer to provide an amenity in the village to mark Golden Jubilee Year, and wish them even more success in the future.

Garden Society. Sale of Plants, May 15th, Barn Hall, 9 a.m.—12.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mr. G. R. Marshall, M.B.E., formerly Chairman of the Association, has been made a Vice-President.

Working Parties have been set up for the Grounds and the Hall.

A Social Committee will be arranging Dances and other functions. We need funds for further improvements and extensions to the Barn Hall. The New Year's Eve Dance raised £65, and another Dance is planned for April 17th. Watch for the announcements.

Village Day, June 26th, is to be even bigger and better. Note the date in your diary now. We even hope to run a Village Week. So keep the 26th of June to 3rd July free.

All our Clubs are flourishing but would still welcome new members (see Directory).

The Over Sixties still need help with transport. They wish to thank the Drama Group of the Afternoon W.I. for the entertainment they provided at their January Party. The old people also say thank you to the members of the Evening W.I. who give a hand in catering and transport.

The Flower Arrangement Group, the baby of the Association, is a healthy stripling. Requests are still coming in from mothers of young children who would like to join, and every effort is being

made to provide a creche so that they can be accommodated. Forthcoming meetings are: April 5th, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. M. Ashburnham, N.A.F.A.S. "Ideas and Improvisations." May 3rd, Miss P. Lovell, "Spring Loveliness."

Old Time Dance Club. The Secretary, Mr. R. H. Pimm, writes: At the conclusion of an enjoyable evening of modern dancing I congratulated the band leader and said "Oh, by the way, do you play for Olde Tyme Dancing?" He looked somewhat taken aback and confided—"No, I'm afraid we don't. Those people are fanatics. They're worse than teenagers!" And so we are, I suppose, fanatics. However, judging from the steady and splendid support we get from our members, we are a very happy and successful band of fanatics.

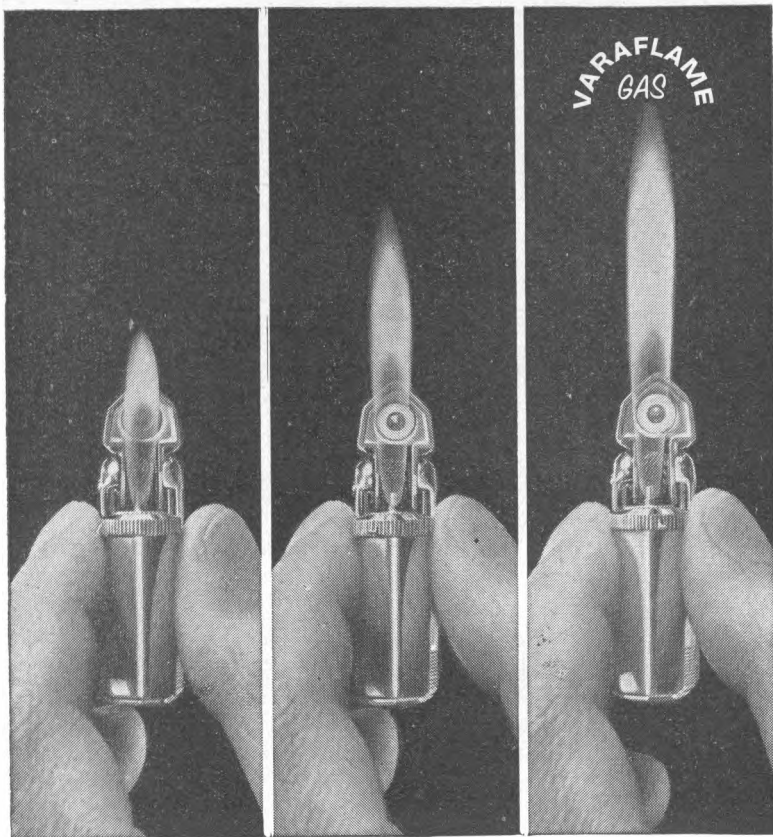
"Old time" dancing is something of a misnomer. Each month a new dance is added to our repertoire. Our demonstrators, Mr. John Hilder and Miss Edith Butcher, show members of the Club the new dance they themselves have had demonstrated to them, which is tried out at Club dances throughout the country. If it is popular, it becomes a regular item in the programme. If not, it fades into oblivion. There has been an attempt to change the term "Old Time" to "sequence," but it would seem that a suitable name still eludes us. However, do not imagine that our programme

is limited to such things as Barn Dance (which we rarely do), Veleta and Two-Steps. We have also such dances as Tangos, Quicksteps and Foxtrots.

Now that the Barn Hall has been enlarged it has enabled the Club to hold its monthly dances there. Club nights are held every Wednesday and new members are always welcome. If you are interested, why not come to the Barn Hall any Wednesday at 8 p.m. to see if you would like to join us.

Barn Hall Grounds. At the meeting of the Council of the Community Association on December 10th, an appeal was made to B.C.A. Groups and to Affiliated Organisations to donate a shrub for the border then being prepared on the north side of the forecourt. There has been gratifying response and a variety of flowering shrubs have been given by the following and will be planted by the time this note is in print: Women's Institute (Afternoon), 1st Bookham Scouts, Bookham Gramophone Club, Bookham Dramatic Group, Olde Tyme Dance Club, Eastwick Parent-Teacher Association, Mr. P. Ashton, Mr. H. W. Freeman.

Other organisations are known to have the matter in mind but as the border is 60ft. long there will still be room for more donors to show their goodwill.



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The Autumn issue of this Journal reminded readers of the long-standing link between the Community Association and the Open-Air Theatre and quite a number of them will be assisting in one way or another with the annual production; an account of the audition may be of interest to them.

It is often stated that no sooner is one play over and done than preparations start for the next and certainly this occasion in mid-January was not the first move towards a presentation of "Macbeth" next July; it was, nevertheless, one of the most important and, to the onlooker, quite fascinating.

One expected to have to use a great effort of imagination to lift the scene on a wet Sunday afternoon from the drab interior of the hired hall with its rather strangling acoustics to the wooded hills of Polesden, but in no time the hiss and splutter of the witches outrivalled that of the old-fashioned heating apparatus and the tragedy was off again on its grim course.

The producer (Elsie Green) ran a "one-man" selection committee with a firm hand; the aspirants (some 50 in all) were told the arduous schedule of rehearsal, presentation at Polesden, re-presentation later in the year at Chichester and a possible performance also in the Epsom

area; thereafter, gathered in a large circle, the potential players lifted their voices before this critical and competitive audience, Macbeth challenging Macbeth and Duncan rivalling Duncan—only the potential boy, Fleance, had a clear run and he would have the additional satisfaction of maintaining a tradition of acting at Polesden set by his father and mother.

Listening the whole while intently and making notes from time to time, the producer was seeking out of this clash of voice and timbre and personality a cast which she could build up to a presentation which would be memorable. The afternoon came to a close; successful actors would hear in three weeks' time and the others, we all felt sure, would loyally accept the decision and try again next year.

ROUND THE VILLAGE

Bookham Boys' Club. The fine new premises on the Chrystie recreation ground are now nearing completion. Earlier in the year a commemorative stone was placed into position by two members of the Club, John Lyons and Brian Butcher, and formally laid by the President, Lord Tucker. The Club will be known as "Keystone Centre" and will include a gymnasium, changing room, showers, canteen and utility room. There will also be a floodlit outside play area and car park. The total cost of the headquarters, with fittings,

will be in the region of £10,500. An amount of £2,500 was raised locally by the efforts of the club members, the Round Table, the Bookham Tramps and interested individuals. The remainder was met by grants from the Ministry of Education and the Surrey County Council. The Leatherhead U.D.C. has leased to the Club the site on which the Headquarters stands.

There can be no doubt that the club, on its record over the last four years, merits this fine building. Its membership has grown from 12 in 1961 to over 50, and this despite the fact that it has no permanent home and that many of its gatherings are held in the open. On Mondays and Thursdays it is now meeting in the Little Bookham Hall, on Friday at the Howard of Effingham Gymnasium, and at the weekends outdoors during the winter for

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football and during the summer open-air athletics activities including swimming.

The Senior Football team are favourites to win the League—at present they are the holders of the Sportsmanship Trophy for soccer. As we go to press they have never suffered defeat in league games at home. They field two teams in the Leatherhead and District Youth Table Tennis League and for the knock-out tournament they have entered 26 boys, almost a third of the total entries. There is organised road running for the cross-country athletes and the footballers. In the course of a week the mileage is over 90 miles.

The Ten-Thirty Club continues chiefly to attract mothers of young children but it is open to women of all ages and meets on

the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Congregational Hall, concluding its meetings about noon. The atmosphere is quite informal, the only requirement being that one should enjoy the company of others. There is no membership fee but an attendance charge of 1s. is made to cover tea and biscuits and squash and biscuits for the children. Discussions and demonstrations are arranged according to the wishes of members. Dressmaking, cookery and needlework are favourite topics, but travel talks with slides are also popular. In the forthcoming programme are talks on gardening, beauty care, dressing on a budget and the history of Bookham.

During the school holidays programmes are specially planned

to cater for the interests of the children. For example, during one of the holidays a film on Road Safety, "Mind as you go," was attended also by the St. Nicolas Young Wives' Group and over 100 children were in the audience.

Outings have been welcomed, especially those which include a picnic lunch. Such a one is being arranged for the summer holidays and will incorporate a boat trip on the Thames.

Bookham Cricket Club starts the season with a practice match at the Dorking Road Recreation Ground, on Sunday, April 18th. A warm invitation is extended to anyone interested in cricket to come along on that occasion and make themselves known. Alternatively, Mr. John Hubbard will be glad to hear from prospective new members at 45 Sole Farm Road.

Since the last issue of the Bulletin appeared the Club has had its annual general meeting and the following officers were elected: President, Mr. M. Wilkinson; Secretary, Mr. J. Hubbard; Treasurer, Mr. L. Denning; Captain, Mr. L. Bowdler; Vice-Captains, Messrs. K. Gunn and G. Penny. The Dinner Dance at the Bull was a most enjoyable function. Presentations were made to various members in recognition of their feats on the field of play. Amongst these was one to Mr. J. Penny for 733 runs during 17 innings, an average of

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56.4, including a fine innings of 120 not out against Holmbury St. Mary; also Mr. D. Tribe, who took 46 wickets at a cost of eight runs per wicket.

Bookham Dramatic Society. The Society has again been encouraged by the reception given to its last play in December and would like to thank in these columns the very responsive audiences who came along to support it.

Members were able to relax at a subsequent Wine and Cheese Party held in the Little Bookham Village Hall, when nearly 80 members and friends enjoyed an evening of dancing and games, the highlight of which was a hilarious version of "The Sleeping Beauty," presented by some of the group. At the end of January an evening's entertainment (which took the form of a one-act play and a sketch) was presented at the monthly meeting of the Club for the Disabled in the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead.

The growth of the Society since it started 18 months ago shows that there is a demand for drama in this area—over 30 members attended the auditions for the spring play. Prospective new members will still be welcomed, especially young people in their twenties.

The next production will be "Brush With a Body," by Maurice McLaughlin. The plot? . . . have you ever had your chimney swept and found a body

stuck up it? This is the predicament which affords many amusing situations in a witty play which has a nice twist at the end. If you want to see what it's all about make sure of getting tickets for Friday, April 30th, or Saturday, May 1st, at Church House, at 8 p.m. A good evening's entertainment can be assured and, to avoid disappointment, tickets can be obtained in advance from the Secretary, Bookham 2695, or from any member of the Dramatic Society. **A Sheltered Workshop.** It is good to know that some of our Bookham young people are now able to go to the newly-opened County Council Centre, Bentley, at Banstead. It is designed to enable educationally backward young people, from the age of 16, to undertake and be trained in routine industrial jobs. Contracts are obtained from factories for simple bench work and the pupils are able to earn a little pocket money. This is a great stimulus to them to put out more effort and it gives them experience of factory requirements. It is hoped that some of them may ultimately be able to take up employment outside. The staff at the moment comprise the Head, three men and two women instructors.

People standing at the Church Bus Stop may well have wondered, watching the coaches come in to pick up pupils, what it is all about. Here is the answer. The County Council is at long

last moving quickly in its provision for the handicapped. There is the very fine School at Leatherhead for the E.S.N. child, the Occupational Centre at Ewell for children up to 16, and now this new Workshop at Banstead.

Bookham Guides. Mrs. Peryer, Bookham Guides Commissioner, is appealing for a volunteer to take over the captaincy of a Rangers Company. There are 16 young people, over 15, anxious to proceed with their activities but there is nobody to lead them. This is a real S.O.S.

Another urgent need is for a new Headquarters. The site has been found; money is now required. Parents are rallying round. At the beginning of the year a Dance raised £33, other functions are in hand and more are being planned. The target is £2,000 and the campaign to raise funds is definitely on. Their case is a strong one. There are five Brownies Packs and four Guide Companies—100 Brownies, 100 Guides. And there is still a long waiting list. No matter how small, Mrs. Peryer will welcome assistance.

Bookham Youth Club is again in full swing. They were unable to meet during building operations at the Barn Hall, but on January 4th the club reopened and, although there was no advance publicity, some 60 young people turned up and were delighted

(Continued on page 18)

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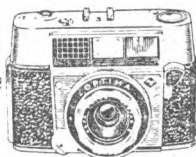
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with the warmth and cheerfulness of the extended hall. By the second meeting the membership had advanced to 90, and it looks as if the ceiling figure of 150 will soon be reached. Despite the existence of the Cygnet Club in Leatherhead it would seem that there is a real need in Bookham for facilities for young people of both sexes to meet in pleasant surroundings. The Community Association is sorry that it can only spare one night a week.

PERSONAL COLUMN

A New Zealand Wedding. When Dave Holland emigrated to New Zealand Bookham lost an all-round sportsman and a good scouter. He, however, has found a bride there—actually he met her on the voyage out. His many friends in the village will congratulate him and wish them well. The bride, Sabina, is the only daughter of Mrs. J. Paprotny, of Gelden, Germany. The wedding was solemnised in the Catholic Church, Piopio, and the reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's uncle, James McFarlane. It is interesting to hear that James McFarlane, who runs a sheep station in North Island, N.Z., is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Wallace McFarlane, of Phoenix Farm, and that Mr. Wallace McFarlane was chairman of the parish council which disappeared when Bookham became part of the Leatherhead Urban District.

Jubilee of R.C. Parish Priest. The first public event in the newly extended Barn Hall was a presentation to the Rev. H. W. Loader by his parishioners of a cheque to mark his 25 years at the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham. Tributes were paid to his work over the years in a rapidly expanding parish and the cheque was handed to him by Mrs. Nicholl, the oldest parishioner. A pleasant social evening followed organised by the Catholic Women's League.

New Red Cross President from Bookham. The new President of the Leatherhead Division of the Red Cross, following Dr. Phyllis Richardson, is Mrs. M. Fortescue, wife of the Vice-Chairman of the Leatherhead U.D.C., and well known in Bookham. One sometimes forgets that the work of the Red Cross is much wider than attendance at public functions to give first aid and nursing attention where required, necessary though this may be. It covers welfare, especially for the elderly, and in Leatherhead itself the Red Cross has its own home for the elderly and also its club for the Over Sixties which has been meeting for many years in the Red Cross Hall. It has responsibility for training its junior members as well as its adult recruits, and the duty of bringing home to the general public the urgency for basic nursing knowledge in every home.

To be president of such an important organisation is an honour, and we congratulate Mrs. Fortescue on her appointment. As a former member of the Bookham Detachment she has passed through the various grades of the training. Her active work was interrupted for some years while bringing up her family, but she has always retained her interest in and support for the movement. She is going back to it with many active years before her which she can devote to a great service.

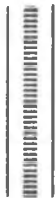
Tailpiece. A series of weekly lectures on Home Nursing is being organised by the Red Cross at the Bookham Congregational Hall on Tuesdays at 7.45, beginning on March 2nd. Each session is complete in itself and eminently practical. It is possible to attend the classes at any stage even if the earlier ones have been missed. **Goodwill is "catching."** Many organisations, groups and schools participated in the distribution of Christmas parcels and other necessities to the aged. The work of the Red Cross in this direction was only part of a massive goodwill effort, but a little story attached to it is worth re-telling. Of the 24 chickens they distributed to old people (provided from the proceeds of a Jumble Sale run by the Bookham Detachment) two were taken to old gentlemen of over 90 living close to each other. With true masculine diffidence they admitted their

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inability to cook such delicacies and their regret at having to refuse the gift. Kindly neighbours, hearing of the dilemma, solved the problem. They cooked the chickens and took them in, piping hot, to the Christmas dinner tables of the old gentlemen.

Welcome to new Bookham Rector. The village has already given a warm welcome to the Rev. Maurice Furlonger, new rector of St. Nicolas Church, and his wife and family of four daughters. Ruth, the eldest, who is 11, is staying behind at Penzance to finish the year at her old school, but Clare, nine years old, and Hillary, six, are settling in happily at Bookham School.

Born at Woolwich, Mr. Furlonger was educated at King's College, London, and St. Boniface's College. He served as a chaplain in the R.A.F. and had five years in Coventry before becoming rector of St. Levan, in the diocese of Truro. His first outside engagement in Bookham was to go, with his wife, to the January Party of the Over Sixties Club, whose members hope that he will drop in on them frequently. Since then he has met many Bookham people outside the members of his own congregation.

We hope that he and his family will be happy here. The Rectory, a large and rather rambling house, has been partially modernised, and will be a home suited to a young family. Although they may miss the beauti-

ful scenery of St. Levan Mr. Furlonger says that the Surrey countryside with its wealth of trees and woodland will provide ample compensation.

Music-loving Couple Leave Bookham. The Choral Society and the Music Club have suffered a great loss with the removal to Guildford of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Davies, of Eastwick Drive. They were both devoted to music and the making of music. Many meetings of the Bookham Music Club were held in their home, and Mrs. Davies was for many years secretary of the Choral Society. They will undoubtedly be coming back for certain functions but their enthusiasm and drive will be missed.

Mrs. Davies had been a teacher at the Manor House School and, on giving this up, ran small classes in pottery and engraving at her own studio which were most popular. Mr. Davies was an active member of the Leatherhead and District Housing Society and took special interest in the extensions planned for Edenside House, where his practical approach was valuable. He is an inventor, with 25 patents to his name. One day he hopes to launch a world-wide permanent inventors' exhibition in London, which he feels would stimulate British trade.

LEATHERHEAD ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL
Parents and Children. About

two years ago I called attention to the thoughtless practice of many parents allowing their offspring to occupy the space beside the driver in the front compartment of a car; many even allow the child to stand with his or her face close to the windscreen. It does not seem to have occurred to them that even on a short journey to or from school there may be the necessity for sharp braking. The result of this might well be a broken nose or jaw for the child, or other serious injury by being thrown in violent contact with one of the many "knobs and excrescences" which decorate the dash of a car.

Children may not be able to think this out for themselves, so parents **MUST**. The seat beside the driver has been called "The suicide seat," and investigations by road research laboratories and the road injuries research group at Birmingham Hospital fully confirm this. It has been noted that driver and front seat passengers are twice as likely to be killed as those in the rear; half of all fatal and serious injuries occur at **SPEEDS UP TO 40 M.P.H.** So put the kids in the back, and make sure that your vehicle is fitted with door-handles which a child cannot open. These are obtainable at quite reasonable prices from garages and accessory dealers, and are usually styled "Child-proof Door Handles."

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