

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 95

SEPTEMBER 1957.

25th year



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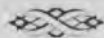
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 95.

SEPTEMBER, 1957.

25th year

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

EDITORIAL

Readers must be tired of appeals in the *Bulletin* on behalf of the Community Association, but they are not more tired than the officers of the Association who have to make those appeals. We hear so much nowadays about the diminution of voluntary work of all kinds because of the lack of willing helpers. It may be, however, that there are people in this neighbourhood who would gladly lend a hand if they knew what was to be done and were assured that they would not be involved in heavy commitments.

One simple method of assistance presents itself immediately to mind. To join the Association requires only a minimum yearly subscription of 2/6d. A high membership would relieve the financial burden carried by the Association in maintaining the Barn Hall and would help in the development of the other village activities promoted by the Association. We can no longer rely on wealthy benefactors and it is only by mutual co-operation that we can maintain the amenities essential to a full local life.

New members would have the satisfaction of supporting a

worthy cause, but they could also, if they so wished, join our various clubs which are listed on other pages.

A membership campaign is now under way for the new year beginning in September. We hope to have representatives in every street to give information and receive subscriptions. It is not, however, an easy task to cover so wide an area and offers of assistance from members and others willing to collect subscriptions would be most gratefully received.

YOUTH LEADERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The Community Association is constantly getting appeals to do something for the young people of Bookham. It is anxious to meet this need but cannot find leaders. Amongst the suggested activities are drama, youth hostelting, jazz, square dancing and social get-togethers. Will any public-spirited person willing to assist in any capacity please get in touch with Mrs. Harrison,

Hon. Sec., Bookham Community Association: Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Telephone: Bookham 2702.

OBITUARY

As most of our readers will already know, Frank Street died suddenly on the 6th August whilst on holiday in Devon; although not displaying quite his usual energy in the past year or so, he had appeared to be in good health and his death at the age of 56 came as a great shock to his wife and to his many friends in the village.

A member of the Bookham Community Association from the start, he gave a lot of time and enthusiasm to the maintenance and improvement of the Barn Hall itself and to the activities in and around it, in particular the Old Time Dance Club, of which he was the Treasurer.

He had lived in Bookham for nearly 30 years and had always taken an active part in village affairs; his absence will be sorely felt in many an organisation, for he was a tireless worker for the things in which he believed—the Community Association, which meant so much to him, will particularly miss his cheerful and practical spirit.

A.H.



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GARDEN TOOLS

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY
(PART 15)

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The Great Rebellion against Charles I, or the Civil War, as it has since been called, is commonly presented as a revolutionary rising of the People against monarchical tyranny, and the Parliamentarians regarded as though they upheld the interests of the ordinary man in town street or country lane. Far otherwise: study of local documents shows that the real revolution in progress led directly to the exploitation of the "little man" by a relatively small number of his wealthier neighbours.

All through the Middle Ages and in many places, including Bookham, for a long time thereafter, England had been a country where a large proportion of the population had a stake in the land or in urban production. Ever since the substitution of money rents for labour services in the thirteenth century, it had been a land of independent small farmers and cottagers, and of "little masters" of the various crafts. The average countryman's son had a good chance of one day owning (even if only as a copyholder) his own house and a few acres of land, the normal apprentice of himself running his own business. It has been seen that at the time of the Survey of 1614 Bookham was still largely

inhabited by independent farmers, though there had been some growth of landlordism since the Dissolution of Chertsey Abbey.

Yet at the very time that the Survey was being made a revolution was beginning that in two centuries was almost to extinguish the hold of the little man and transform him into a landless wage-slave; it was also to transform the face of the countryside from a landscape of open fields and commons to one of fenced parks and hedged enclosures, where every village was dominated by one or more overgrown mansions, the "country houses" whose passing is now so widely lamented. These mansions, and their parks and pleasure-grounds, far more than the mediæval manor-houses whose places they took, became a parasitic growth upon the national economy.

It was in 1613, the year before the Survey, that there occurred in Bookham the first recorded mortgage of a copyhold. On 4th November John Durden mortgaged his tenement at Eastwick and 14 acres of land for £100 to John Browne, "yoman of his Maties. Woodyarde," the lord of the manor of Eastwick. Within two years Browne had foreclosed and was in possession. The surviving Court Rolls for Great and Little Bookham during the rest of the century show a total of at least 17 mortgages, of which a few only were paid off; in most cases the mortgagor lost his inheritance,

sometimes for lack of less than £10 in ready money. The average transaction involved a house and some 12-15 acres of land, and a debt of about £80 which, with interest, soon mounted to £100.

Often the mortgagees were more prosperous neighbours or local landowners like John Browne, but as time went on townsmen and lawyers appear, complete strangers to the district. In at least one case the newcomer lost his pledge through ignorance of local custom. At the Court of the Manor of Little Bookham held on 18th October, 1655, it was presented that John Atlee, copyholder of Hogden and other lands, had mortgaged them to William Thornebury of London, gent., for £206 to be repaid by 3rd September, 1655. Atlee was unable to pay and Thornebury entered upon the property; but nine years later, at the Court of 7th October, 1664, he was found guilty of committing waste by cutting and selling oaks growing on the land, the custom of the manor being that a tenant might cut oaks only for the repair of his own house. The property was declared forfeit and seized for the Lord of the Manor.

In addition to mortgages, many other transfers of property must have been essentially forced sales, and the land of Bookham fell into fewer and fewer hands. The reasons for this profound change may well be asked. Without attempting to trace the ultimate

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causes, it seems that at Bookham the main reason was the inflationary spiral due to a steady drop in the value of money, combined with the demand for added comforts which had transformed the old communal dwelling into a modern house with provision for individual privacy. Almost everyone was tempted to live beyond his means, but the mercantile classes who already had substantial capital were able to profit from their neighbour's difficulties.

Not only the merchants benefited. The older nobility and gentry were for a time, until they too ran through their patrimony, able to increase their estates and their relative wealth. At Bookham the subordinate manor of Eastwick was bought in 1627 from Browne's widow by Sir Francis Howard. After succeeding to the barony of Howard of Effingham in 1681 the family also acquired more than half the houses in the hamlet of Eastwick and turned their sites into a park. Other estates: Little Bookham Manor, Polesden, the now vanished Hill Place near the Mole, and Bookham Grove, followed suit in turning large areas of productive land into pleasure grounds, and for two hundred years Bookham became typical of rural England under a squirearchy.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Old Time Dance Club.

The Club meets every Wednesday from the beginning of September to the end of June from 7.45 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. in the Old Barn Hall. In addition dances are held on the second Saturday of each month at which visitors from neighbouring clubs are welcomed. Return visits are made by parties from Bookham.

Old Time dancing affords pleasant exercise and relaxation for both old and young. The Bookham Club is affiliated to the Surrey Federation of Old Time Dance Clubs, and by sending its representatives to the Federation's monthly meetings it keeps up to date with the latest dances and abreast of developments. Last year, for instance, eight new dances were added to the Club's repertoire.

A warm welcome awaits all new members. Full details can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., J. W. Hilder, 247 Lower Road. Tel.: Bookham 3525.

Over 20's Club.

We would like you to think of this Club as a meeting place—where you can always be sure of a friendly chat, a cup of tea, a game of cards or table tennis. We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Barn Hall from September to April and would be pleased to welcome any of you when our meetings start again on September 30th.

The Camera Club.

After another successful season members of the Camera Club are looking forward to the next session which opens on 12th September. The Club is still anxious to increase its membership and would welcome all who have an interest in the pursuit of photography, and particularly beginners. Everything must after all have a beginning, and a camera club is decidedly the best place to begin learning the hobby of photography.

It is felt that many beginners are put off by the thought that they require a darkroom and a lot of expensive equipment before they can start. To some extent this is true, although it is surprising how much of this can be improvised and how little in the way of basic equipment is really necessary. In order to help beginners over these difficulties it is proposed putting them in touch with more advanced members who are willing to give instruction and advice, and if desired, to share their equipment with them until they can acquire their own facilities.

The highlight of the year, the Annual Exhibition, will take place in the Barn Hall on Saturday, 8th March, 1958, when there will be a competition for non-members, with prizes which will include a year's free membership of the Club.

Secretary: J. W. Selby, 23 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Leatherhead 3622.

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The Bookham Gramophone Club meets at the Old Barn Hall from 8 to 10 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. At each meeting a concert of music, recorded by first class performers, is presented either by a member of the Club or by an invited guest. The contents of the programmes are chosen with a view to suiting the tastes of all, and opportunities are afforded for members to hear works of their own choice. The Autumn Session commences on Thursday, 5th September, and new members and visitors will be welcome at this and any subsequent meeting. If you have never listened to long playing records reproduced by high grade modern equipment, why not come along and give it a trial? We think you will be agreeably surprised!

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Congratulations to Mr. John Harrison, of Common End, and Mr. John Lambert, of Fowre Wyndes, who have graduated with Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. Mr. Harrison was at New College and Mr. Lambert at Corpus Christi. Miss Jane Lovegrove, Bushbury, Howard Road, Honours in History at Nottingham.

Interesting Vacation. Mr. Alan Smith, of Recreation Bungalow, who is studying civil engineering at Bristol University, should have an interesting vacation. He was chosen from many applicants for a vacation job in Canada on power station at Thetford Mines.

He hopes to go on to work on a dam. He will conclude his stay with a fortnight in U.S.A.

Good Wishes.

To Mr. and Mrs. R. J. H. Norman (nee Mary A. Chapman) who were married at Leatherhead Parish Church in May. Miss Chapman represented the Camera Club for some years on the Council of the Community Association and it was at this club that she met her husband. They are both research chemists.

To Major Douglas Stuart, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Stuart (nee Miss Jennifer Land) who were married at St. Nicolas Church in July. Major and Mrs. Land have lived in Bookham many years and their family is well known. Jennifer was educated at the Manor House School and Non-such and is a graduate of Exeter University.

To Miss Priscilla Waters, of Vine Cottage, and Mr. Peter Taylor, of Fetcham, whose engagement is announced. Miss Waters is doing her S.R.N. training at St. Mary's, Paddington, and Mr. Taylor is in the Merchant Navy.

Polesden Lacey Theatre. To have attracted an audience of more than 4,300 to three performances of "Henry V" in the open theatre at Polesden is a signal achievement for the National Trust. The beauty of the costumes, the grouping of the players and the ingenious set were pictorially very satisfying. The attendance, de-

spite the bad weather, indicates without doubt that these annual productions have caught the public imagination. Thanks to the co-operation of many local people the arrangements went extremely smoothly.

St. Pancras Party. The Bookham Community Association held their annual party for old people from St. Pancras in July. Two coachloads of pensioners, accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress, came down for the day and, after visiting Polesden, were entertained by the Women's Committee in the Barn Hall. It is a heart-warming experience to see the appreciation of these old folks from city homes of the beautiful countryside and the gifts of flowers and produce.

W.I. Autumn Fair at Church House, Saturday, October 5th, will be opened by Mrs. Leslie Dixon and will include a competition for floral arrangements.

Footballers Needed. The Bookham Football Club require players for all positions. Those wishing to have a trial should contact the Hon. Sec., R. S. Young, Santa Cruz, Sole Farm Road. Tel.: Bookham 3407.

<p style="text-align: center;">JUMBLE SALE FRIDAY, October 11th OLD BARN HALL</p>
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A HISTORY STUDENT LOOKS AT LONDON UNIVERSITY

This is the second in a series of articles, the first being by a medical student in the last issue, in which young people training for a career describe their work and give their ideas of its purpose.

The fresher, newly arrived at a university, and still more his parents and friends, might think that he had entered on a glorified extension of his schooldays. This was certainly my first impression, but looking back on my three years at University, with another one still ahead, I think that I can appreciate much more clearly this peculiar way of life. Authority and obedience reigned at school, but at University freedom is sovereign. This freedom, however, needs some explanation: it is freedom to be, within wide limits, one's own master, unbound by the daily necessity of earning a living.

This happy situation is provided for a purpose by parents or State: it is the freedom to be responsible, for his education is, in the ultimate, the undergraduate's own responsibility, but blatant misuse of such freedom would bring disaster. Attending lectures is very much a matter of personal decision. Producing the required number of essays or exercises to a minimum standard does not absorb eight hours a day and sessional examinations can be negotiated with judiciously

timed effort. They are, like a library, instruments for education provided by the university to be used as the student decides. He may be advised by tutors and lecturers on the method to achieve a good degree, but just as he is actually at the university by his own choice, so he determines for himself aspects of the syllabus to be studied, the standard of his degree and the quality of his education.

As an Arts student, I have an average of not more than half a dozen lectures a week and an essay a fortnight on my timetable—the rest of the time is mine to spend as I like in reading or in less academic pursuits. That essay could be done in a day, but it takes a week to do well. I speak as a History student, but the Science student might not agree with me, being bound more closely to the lecture room and the laboratory by the nature of his study.

Further there are the "blanks" of the Vacation—five weeks at Christmas and Easter and three months in the summer. This is freedom indeed! They can be periods of undisturbed study or feverish temporary jobs and Continental holidays. The equilibrium between these things builds up to education.

Looking at a university in this light, I find its worth in three ways. The detailed knowledge of a particular subject is of value for its own sake and for its

interest to the student. From this close study he acquires a discipline of thought which leads to the third value—width of mind and outlook. This last is a quality which cannot be taught but only acquired. The university graduate may lack experience, but he has the power to quickly assimilate experience and make use of it.

I have spent much time, and others have spent much money for me, in the study of an academic subject which is of no direct "use", but I am certain that I have gained much and I hope that when I leave University, society will not find its money wasted on me.

E.R.H.

BOYS' BRIGADE

A new Company of the Boys' Brigade is to be formed in Bookham in an endeavour to provide further facilities in the district for worth while spare-time occupation for boys. It will be connected with the Bookham Congregational Church and it is hoped that it will carry on the traditions of the Company formed in 1924 under the captaincy of Donald G. Cook, Esq., J.P.

The object of the Boys' Brigade is: The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends to a true Christian Manliness.

Boys of 12 or over, their parents, friends and former members of the B.B. are invited to a

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BOOKHAM MUSIC CLUB

The new season begins in October. Membership is one guinea for the year ending on August 31st, 1958, payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. F. Waters, Vine Cottage, High Street, Great Bookham. Present members whose subscription runs to December 31st, 1957, need only pay 14/- in January, 1958, for the remainder of the season.

All the concerts will take place at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, at 8 p.m. The dates are as follows:—

Friday, Oct. 4th. Anne Ross, soprano and harp.

Saturday, Nov. 23rd. The Fixman String Orchestra.

Friday, Feb. 28th. Adna Ryerson, violin, and Victor Yates, pianoforte.

Friday, Mar. 28th. Joan Davies, pianoforte.

Friday, April 25th. Maxwell Ward, viola and viola d'amore; Ruth Dyson, harpsichord.

Friday, May 30th. Antonia Butler, violoncello; Cila Domini, coloratura soprano; Victor Yates, pianoforte.

Coffee and biscuits at a moderate price will be served after each concert whenever possible.

DIRECTORY OF BOOKHAM ORGANISATIONS

(Affiliated to the Community Association.)

Choral Society. Mrs. L. Gordon Davies, Briary House, Eastwick Drive.

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

Conservative Association, Gt. Bookham Branch. Miss A. Mattison, Clovelly, Downsway.

Football Club. R. S. Young, Santa Cruz, Sole Farm Road.

Grove Association. F. A. Edwards, 22 Dorking Rd.

Girl Guides. Mrs. Rossner, Benedict, Woodlands Rd.

Brownies: 1st Pack, Mrs. E. Cameron, No. 3 Rayleigh House.
3rd Pack, Miss P. Dye, School of Stitchery and Lace.

Rangers: Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cot., Leatherhead Rd.

Labour Party, Bookham Ward. J. Stemp, 58 Whiteway.

Leatherhead Tenants' Association, Oakenwood Branch. W. B. White, 46 Sole Farm Ave.

Music Club. Miss A. Ryerson, Basil-don, Halepit Rd.

Rifle Club. O. J. Rattenbury, Latchingdon, Dorking Rd.

Scouts. Group Scoutmaster, L. R. Hutchison, M.C., Maddox Farm. Scoutmaster, E. Shepherd, Rose-dale, Downsway.

Cubs, Miss Attawell, Rosemary, Lower Rd.

Women's Institute. Mrs. M. J. Browning, School House.

Youth Tennis Club. Miss B. Kay, 13 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham.

BODIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Leatherhead & District Old Peoples Welfare Assn. Mrs. N. Cox, Theldor Keswick Rd. Bookham 2706.

Leatherhead Urban District Council, Red House, Leatherhead.

Surrey County Council, Kingston-upon-Thames.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GROUPS

Camera Club J. W. Selby, 23 Nutcroft Grove Fetcham.

Gramophone Club. Mr. D. G. Gay, Collin, Dowlans Rd., Bookham 3576.

Old Time Dance Club. J. W. Hilder, 247 Lower Rd.

Over Twenties. Mrs. L. Bambury, Arundel, Sole Farm Road. Bookham 2921.

Over Sixties. Mrs. A. Perry, Abinger, Dorking Rd.

Table Tennis Miss M. Austin, Pen-y-Bryn, Dirtham Lane, Effingham.

Hon. Sec., Bookham Community Association: Mrs. E. Harrison, Common End, Eastwick Drive. Telephone: Bookham 2702.

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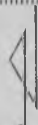
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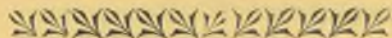


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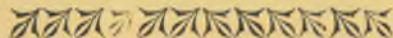
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