

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 122

AUTUMN 1964

32nd year



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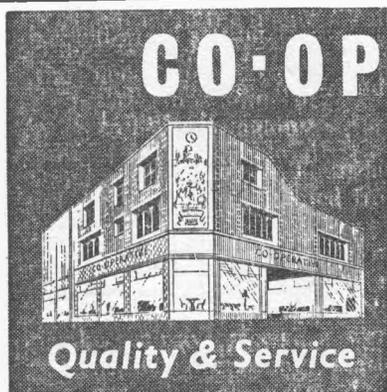
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 122

AUTUMN, 1964

32nd year

EDITORIAL

Bookham has its festival no less gripping than other much publicised national events. Each year the familiar yellow posters go up in the village, on railway platforms, and on hoardings throughout Surrey, advertising the current Shakespeare production at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre. For three nights in July we see the long line of cars crawling up the narrow Dorking Road taking their passengers to pack the auditorium which seats 2,000 people. Our records show that visitors come not only from many parts of Britain but also from countries throughout the world.

This year's performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* had special significance and interest because 14 years ago the Community Association constructed the open air stage (called appropriately then the Festival Stage) and presented it to the National Trust. To mark the occasion they presented *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with local actors and dancers, Phyllis Newman as producer, and the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra playing the music. Few of us realised that we were making history. Two years later Elsie Green came as producer for the Community Associa-

tion production of *As You Like It*. The following year saw *The Tempest*, played in torrential rain, with heavy financial losses. The Association realised that it could no longer carry this responsibility and the National Trust willingly took over the whole project. Since then the administration has grown in complexity but the Association continues to assist considerably.

The 1951 *Dream* was a memorable performance. The 1964 *Dream* was in a quite different tempo, but has been generally acclaimed as a triumph.

We were caught up in the magic of the closing scenes as by slow degrees the floodlighting came into play. The Grecian columns of the set, poised so perfectly against the background of trees, glowed in a rosy radiance, and the mortals and fairies moved in a nimbus of soft light. The quietness of night seemed to be distilled in the air and, in the enfolding hush, the vast audience watched and listened with rapt attention. Nature was not to be outdone for, to the left, a yellow moon shone brilliantly.

A standard of production of this quality, described by the critic of the "*Leatherhead Advertiser*" as "one of the finest productions of

'*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' I have ever seen," and a smoothness of administration which brought actors and audience successfully together in such a remote spot is, by any criterion, a considerable achievement. When we reflect that all this is done by volunteers then we can be truly proud of Bookham's part in the Festival Stage and the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre.

OBITUARY

Mr. Roger M. B. Micholls

The late Mr. Roger M. B. Micholls came to Bookham in 1920, and from 1933 lived with his sister at Manor Farm. His imposing physical presence was matched with a zest and enthusiasm for life which found its outlet in work for the Leatherhead Theatre and the National Savings Movement. Until his death he was honorary secretary of Leatherhead Theatre Club Advisory Committee, and there can be no doubt that his championship of the theatre was a prime factor in its firm establishment in Leatherhead.

As honorary secretary of the Leatherhead and District National Savings Committee he devoted much of his time to building up a sound and active organisation which held premier position in the County of Surrey.

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He had wide interests outside the immediate neighbourhood, some of which had to be curtailed in his later years because of ill health, but he always retained his connection with the Cheam School Association, of which H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh is president. Mr. Micholls was a pupil there and a vice-president of the Association.

His work for the Leatherhead district was outstanding and continuous, and he will be missed; but his loss will be most deeply felt by his sister, Miss Elsie Micholls, who is President of the Bookham Community Association. We have offered her our sincere sympathy, and we hope that she will find some consolation through her untiring service for youth and the community.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NOTICE BOARD

October 31st. Official Reopening Barn Hall.

November 7th. Reopening Supper-Dance Celebration.

Tickets, 10s. 6d., available to members of the Association from Mr. R. S. Woodrow-Clark, 21 Barn Meadow Lane, Bookham 4070. Early application is advisable as numbers are limited.

November 3rd. Community Association Annual General Meeting, 8.15 p.m., Barn Hall. All members are invited to come and see the new Hall.

Because of the late completion of the Extension the Clubs of the

Association will not commence their meetings until late October. **Olde Tyme Dance Club** will welcome new members to its friendly club dances on Wednesdays. Experienced dancers are always willing to help the novices and special instruction is available to them from the Demonstrators before the club commences at 8 p.m.

The **Scottish Dancing Group** is a lively and sociable club, and Scottish Dancing can become an addiction when one is introduced to it under such enthusiastic guidance. The C.A. Scottish Dancers have a high reputation and are often invited to give outside displays.

The **Gramophone Club** meets alternate Thursdays. Here is an opportunity to listen to good music, well produced in an attractive, old-world setting.

Barn Hall Club meets on Tuesdays, from 7.30 p.m., for friendly Table Tennis, etc.

Camera Club meets at the Bookham Junior School on Thursdays and details can be obtained from the Secretary.

Over Sixties Club has closed down for the summer because of rebuilding at the Barn Hall. New members always receive a warm welcome. Theatre outings, seaside trips, and parties are arranged outside the club afternoons.

Flower Arrangement Group meets the first Monday in the month at 2.30 p.m. Its numbers are growing and, although it is only a year

old, the standard of competitions and demonstrations is rising rapidly. It is still hoping to arrange a creche for the children of young mothers, and anyone wishing to use this facility is invited to get in touch with the secretary (Bookham 4809) so that suitable arrangements can be made if the demand is sufficient.

Please note that addresses of all secretaries can be found in The Directory.

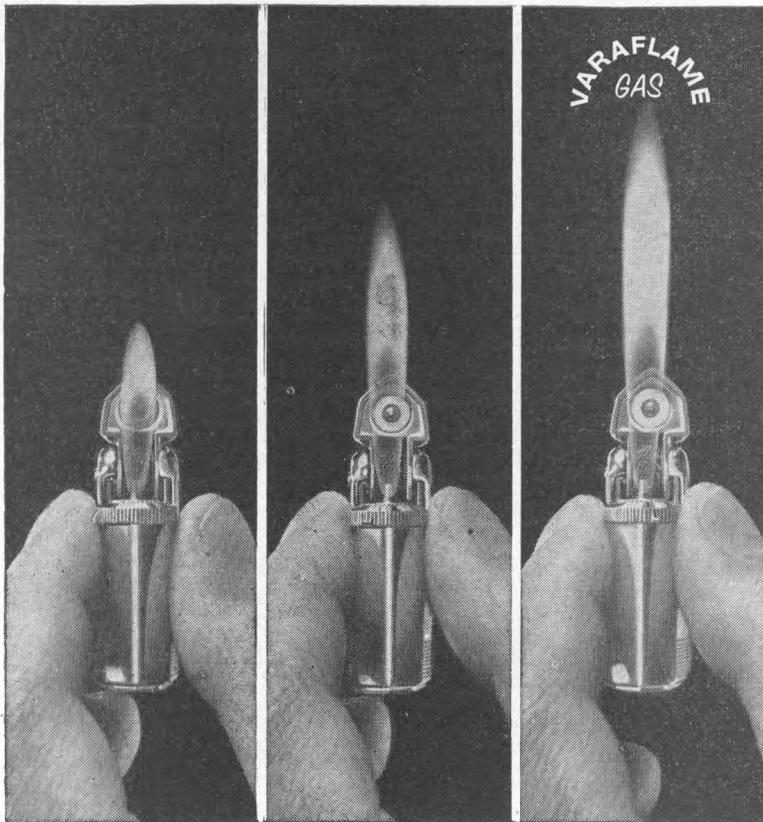
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No bookings will be accepted for dates before November because of uncertainty about the completion of the Barn Hall Extension.

ROUND THE VILLAGE

Garden Society. Owing to rebuilding at the Barn Hall the Garden Society's Summer Show was held at Fetcham this year. Entries were of high quality, Mr. Turville Kille's being, as usual, in the top bracket. It is obvious that his many duties as chairman of the L.U.D.C. have not kept him out of his garden. All the first places in the open section of the vegetables were awarded to him,



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Council Chiroprody Clinic in co-operation with the Old People's Welfare Committee. Many months of tedious negotiation and form-filling have preceded this project and we are glad these have reached a successful conclusion because there is great need for this service amongst the elderly. It will be based on the Day Centre at the Barn Hall and the organiser, for the Association, is Mrs. Thelma Weston (Bookham 2706) to whom inquiries should be addressed.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Exhibition at Home. Pamela Pulling, of the Park, had the bright idea of inviting friends and neighbours to an informal exhibition of her work at her home, Graysmere. It provided a good opportunity to see the range and quality of work done during her course at the Battersea Domestic

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at the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre, ran the Barbecue on Village Day and gave ready help in many other ways.

Bookham Football Club proposes to form a second team this season. The secretary, Mr. D. Oliver, hopes to get inquiries from young men who would like to join the club.

Bookham Commons Committee—National Trust. Bookham is fortunate in its ring of National Trust properties which give it character and provide lovely views within easy walking distance. The National Trust Bookham Commons Committee is, however, working under grave disabilities. Most of the Trust lands and houses are endowed. Not so the Commons. Consequently their maintenance depends entirely on voluntary contributions and lab-

our. From time to time appeals are put out and, for a limited time, increased support is given. Much more is needed if deterioration is to be prevented. Fortunately a keeper has now been engaged and a cottage is at his disposal. With more financial assistance, more labour could be employed and the commons could be kept in good order. It is up to Bookham. Contributions and offers of help should be made to the Hon. Dr. A. M. Easton, or the Hon. Secretary, Dr. J. G. Sowerbutts, Tel. Bookham 2384.

almost immediately a County Chitropody Service. The Community Association hopes to open

giving him the Walker-Smith challenge cup and the Fullwood Village Day and gave ready help in many other ways.

Flower Arrangement Group are proud that the Greville Challenge Cup for Floral Arrangements went to Mrs. Savage, with other members of its committee close runners-up. Another prominent Bookham figure to win high award was Mr. R. C. Wing, hard-working secretary of the Garden Society, whose sweet peas entry won for him the Royal Sweet Pea Society bronze medal and certificate of merit, together with the blue ribbon of "The Smallholder" for the best entry in the show.

The Autumn Show will also be held at the Fetcham Village Hall on Saturday, September 12th.

Girl Guides, Mrs. Peryer, District Commissioner, attended a recent company meeting to present First Class and All-Round Cords to five members of the company. This means that they are well on their way to achieving the coveted honour of Queen's Guide. They have 12 more months to obtain various proficiency certificates, and six months to give to community service. The big drive is to complete all this before they are 16, otherwise they are too late.

If premises can be found it is hoped that a third company will shortly be formed. There is a long waiting list. We trust this will quickly come about, for the Guides perform yeoman service in the village. They gave great assistance

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Science College. Not many people are aware of the standing of this establishment, which is affiliated to London University, nor of the fine groundwork it gives in such subjects as Home Management, Art, Needlework, Cookery, and the practice and principles of Teaching.

Pam, who was educated at Bookham School and Roseberry, and who gave much time to the local Guides (she is herself a Queen's Guide), is pleased to have obtained a post in the neighbourhood. She has been appointed to the staff of St. Andrew's Convent and we wish her well. We are glad that her skills in the feminine crafts will still be available to Bookham.

Bookham boy going to Atlantic College. Colin Bristow, of The Park, has been awarded one of the

two Surrey scholarships to Atlantic College. This is an enviable opportunity for him. The College is in South Wales, and the eyes of the world are on it as an experiment in international education. It takes boys from many European countries and North America, some of them sponsored by governments, some by educational establishments. They all take a two-year course together with the object of entering University, and great emphasis is placed on outdoor activities, including training for rescue services. Colin decided to apply for the scholarship when he read about its objectives, being especially attracted by its practical projects, such as working in a coal mine, and in other industries, such as steel. Colin will start his course in September, having just left Therfield School, where he has

taken eight G.C.E. O Level subjects, with Chemistry as his main subject. Bookham Junior School is proud to hear of the fine achievement of another of its former pupils.

"Our Turville," Chairman L.U.D.C. The present Chairman of the Leatherhead Council was born and bred in Bookham, and is so well known to most of us that we think of him affectionately as "our Turville." This is what he would wish because he is a man entirely without pretensions, a good mixer and impatient of red tape. We are all glad that his semi-retirement has made it possible for him to take this civic honour after 28 years on the Council, during which he has never missed a meeting, apart from the brief period when he visited his son in Rhodesia.

Both he and his wife will enjoy their period of office, and their friendliness will add to the pleasure of public occasions. Amongst the engagements they have already fulfilled are Village Day, the Opening of Eastwick School Fete, Midsummer Night's Dream at Polesden Lacey; we are looking forward to having them at the official opening of the Barn Hall Extension.

July was a specially exciting month for them. First came the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, and then the wedding of their son, at Lennoxton, to Jean Haddow, a farmer's daughter. Our women readers will

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sympathise with Mrs. Kille's commonsense remark that the very charming dress and hat she had selected for the first occasion had a successful showing also at her son's Scottish wedding.

Postscript from Canon Hughes. Referring to our paragraph in The Bulletin Summer Issue on his retirement, Canon Hughes writes, with typical wit. "Thank you for the kind mention therein. But—Oxford has much to be laid to her account: but not me. Try the other place!" To Cambridge then must go the honour of producing a Canon Hughes. We hope that he will pardon the mistake because, carrying the stamp of one, he personifies the graces of the other.

Therfield Head Girl at Bristol University. Gwen Merritt, of Gaston Cottages, who was head girl at Therfield School, has been accepted for the Honours Course in Languages at Bristol University. A pupil of Bookham School, she entered Therfield in the grammar intake. Here she gained 10 O levels and four A levels, a fine achievement. Her brother, who is now at Guildford Grammar School, intends to follow her lead.

Laboratory Technician. Dorothy Forster, who was at the Howard of Effingham School, and has five O levels, took a post for a year with the L.C.C. as Laboratory Technician at the Wandsworth Comprehensive School, at the same time taking supplementary

courses at Paddington Technical College. She has now obtained a similar post at Beecham's Research Station, at Dorking, and will take a part-time technician's course at Ewell Technical College. We wish her well.

Popular Bookham Couple Married. On May 30th, Michael Carter, of The Park, married Jacqueline Dinsdale, formerly of Sole Farm Road. As children and young people, they both had many friends in Bookham who will be pleased to hear that they have settled not far away in an attractive little house in Horsham. Quite a number of local people were at the marriage ceremony at Ockley and attended the reception in the spacious grounds of Jacqueline's parental home. Muriel Scanlon junior was one of the three bridesmaids. The bridal dress, with its seven yards long train, was designed by the bride as well as the bridesmaids' frocks.

Scientist and Musician Wed. One of the most talked-of weddings of the summer was that of John Dew, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Dew, of Crabtree Lane, to Miss Mary Scott, formerly of Dunedin, New Zealand. John has lived in Bookham since the age of three years and was at Bookham Primary School, going from there to Guildford Royal Grammar School. On the eve of his wedding he received the joyful news that he had been awarded a Degree in Electrical Engineering, with First-Class Honours. He was

at University College, London, but plans to do his two years' research at Christchurch University, New Zealand. He has applied for a Commonwealth Scholarship for this purpose.

His wife is an accomplished musician. She obtained her Mus.B. in New Zealand, and came over to England to duplicate her qualifications at the Royal Academy of Music, a four years' course which, like her husband, she has just successfully completed. Her instruments are violin, viola and piano.

Mr. R. Bishop. Mr. R. Bishop, who was not elected to the Leatherhead Council after 15 years as a councillor and one as chairman of the council, deserves the thanks of the neighbourhood for so many years of service. Democracy can be fickle in its favours and the ballot box, at times, has the qualities of a roulette wheel. Nevertheless appreciation by the community of work done on its behalf should always be paid.

We understand that Mr. Bishop is still active in various spheres of public life.

Generous Donor. We thank Mr. W. J. Powell, of Oveton Way, for his gift of sideshows to the Community Association. He has built up this really excellent collection of sideshows over the years, with assistance from Mr. Flegg, and we are pleased to have them. They will be a welcome addition to the attractions of Village Day.

(Continued on page 18)

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Academic Successes. University results are all in. We are always pleased to report the successes of Bookham young people. We have many bright and industrious children in our schools and it should encourage them to follow in the pattern that their predecessors have set.

Carole Dilcock, whose parents are old members of our Old Tyme Dance Club, has just completed her course at Exeter University with an Honours Degree in Geography, and has taken a post with the British Council, which has links throughout the world. In such an organisation Miss Dilcock's Degree should be of great value.

Basil Bye, whose progress we have followed with great interest, as he was a pupil at the Howard of Effingham School and had no grammar school background, has passed out from Hull University with an Honours Degree in Economics. His results were so good that his tutors have advised him to go further with a two-year course of study to the M.Sc. Grants for such research, in Economics are not so easy to obtain as in Science, but we hope that he will be successful in getting the necessary financial support.

Christine Cameron, who is well-known in the village, has graduated with Honours in Zoology at London University. She played a responsible part in college activities at Westfield and, not surprisingly, has decided to take up teaching as a career. She is going

to Southampton University for her Diploma in Education, but meanwhile she has been helping at Bookham Junior School, where she was formerly a pupil.

Child Welfare Officer. Miss Alen Harrison, who was formerly leader of the Bookham Youth Club, has successfully completed a post-graduate course in child welfare at Leicester University and will return to the L.C.C. as a Child Care Officer.

Obituary. Friends in Bookham will be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. E. Smith, aged 93, affectionately known as "Gran Smith." She will be remembered especially by the Over Sixties where she had been a member for a long time until she left with her daughter, Mrs. Una Hall, to live in Edinburgh.

VILLAGE DAY

The Community Association is encouraged by the fine response to Village Day. Despite the indifferent weather and the consequent last-minute cuts in the programme, many people came along to it and seemed to enjoy themselves. The takings exceeded expectations and the profits will go towards the improvements at the Barn Hall.

Village Day, like the Community Association itself, is a coming together of local organisations in a combined effort to give pleasure to the neighbourhood. We are grateful for all the help so generously given and, through the columns of The

Bulletin, we express our sincere thanks. As so much of our work is team work, individual praise would seem out of place.

Dr. Barnes Wallis opened the Day. Rona Stockwell, daughter of our chief organiser for the occasion, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Wallis. The two prizes for the best-presented stall were awarded by popular ballot to the Evening W.I. for their Country Market and Sweetmeats. The contest, however, was close and congratulations should be extended to all stallholders on their attractive displays: the Afternoon W.I. with Sweets and Toys, the Congregational Church Group with Cakes, the Olde Tyme Dancers' Bottle Stall, the Over Sixties with Cakes and Soap, the Flower Arrangement Group with, of course, Flowers, the Scottish Dancers' Raffle Stand. Special mention should also be given to the White Elephant Stall of the Scottish Dancers. So vast was their collection of "finds" that it could not be beautiful, but it was a village market in itself and did a roaring trade.

The folk dances, known as The Kingdom, presented by the Bookham Junior School (more than 60 performers) in the forecourt of Church House, were watched by an appreciative crowd, numbered in their hundreds. The tree with birds, a combined exhibit from the Bookham Infants' School, delighted all who saw it. We are much indebted to the Evening Institute for the two displays of

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Judo and Fencing, and for their ambitious exhibit of arts and crafts. These indicated to all comers the wide range of interests catered for in Evening Institute classes and the high standards which can be attained even by beginners. The milling crowds surrounding the pottery demonstration must have convinced the students from the Epsom School of Art, who put it on, that there is a big public keen to know more about them and their skills.

Those who found their way—and many did—to the crumbling annexe at the back of the Barn Hall, found it transformed by our local artists into an exhibition studio. Paintings and drawings, 42 of them, by nine Bookham artists, with their warmth and colour, made us forget the over-cast sky and chilly winds outside.

As always, local tradesmen and firms were generous to us and we acknowledge and thank them for their gifts, apologising to any who may have been inadvertently omitted from the list:

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JOINT COMMITTEE OF LOCAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

Leatherhead Urban District

The above organisation was formed some years ago with the commendable object of co-ordinating the welfare work of voluntary organisations in the Leatherhead Urban District. Naturally its main efforts were in Leatherhead, but it has links with the other wards. We are publishing below a paragraph from the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Local Welfare Organisations on the need and scope for voluntary help.

"We must remember those who believe that they are failures in life and need someone to give them back their confidence. Others live alone and need someone, kindly disposed, to spend a little time with them. Others are too sick to do their own shopping and would appreciate a neighbourly call. Some have problems so tangled that they cannot see their way ahead; others have to face a rising sea of debt and do not know how to meet it. The physically handicapped and the mentally handicapped are always with us.

The Joint Committee of Welfare Organisations is prepared to give help and advice to those who may be suffering in these ways and to those who may know of such cases. Contact should be made with the Chairman, Mr. J. S.

Learmond, 11 St. John's Avenue,
 Leatherhead 2716.

We are particularly anxious to get offers of secondhand furniture and domestic articles in useable condition. They will be collected, free of charge, and eventually given to families who are very much in need of them. We also need offers of help from people who have time to spare." J. S. L.

Competition Litter Poems Bookham Junior School

Little mouse, little mouse,
 Dropping litter about the house,
 Little gnome, little gnome,
 Picks litter up and takes it home.
 Tidy Jim, Tidy Jim,
 Puts it in the litter-bin.

BEVERLEY RICHARDS, Age 11.
 Litter left in trains and buses,
 Clogging drains and causing
 cusses,
 Spoiling all the country too,
 Why not take it home with you?

CHRISTINE GRAY, Age 11.
 Every time you go to play
 Don't drop litter on the way.
 It makes me feel so very sad,
 It makes the public feel so mad,
 So please take heed to what I say
 And don't drop litter every day.

JANE SKINNER, Age 9.
 Why scatter litter everywhere?
 Remember why the bins are there.
 It is so silly to go around
 Throwing litter on the ground.
 So try to keep the country clean
 And proud you'll be when it is
 seen.

MARSHA ANDERSON, Age 8.

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