

# The Bookhams Bulletin

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 52

SEPTEMBER, 1946

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

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SEPTEMBER, 1946

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## Editorial

For 13 years the "Bulletin" has been published. The first number was issued in October, 1933 when unemployment was rife and funds were urgently required for relief work, etc.

By 1935 the position had somewhat improved and the small profits realised by the publication of the journal were used for charitable purposes—the Bureau working in co-operation with the Bookham United Charities.

It is well to remember that we could not run this journal without the help given to us by the advertisers, to whom we tender our most hearty thanks and express the hope that our readers in turn have supported *them*.

We regret to have to announce that the editorial chair has become vacant (the second time since 1933) but it is hoped that this situation will remain for only a short period.

## Wake Up! Bookhams

In the pre-war days our Ward was well in front of the neighbours with its Ratepayers' Association, but although attempts have been made during the early part of this year to get going again, the result has not been all that could be desired. While it can be well understood that after the end of the war people generally were disinclined to continue voluntary work, yet in view of the changing times it is better to be up and doing now, in order to help in the new world coming into being.

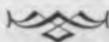
Beyond ordinary civic matters to which the Association gave its attention, it also helped on the social side by having an Entertainment Committee which ran Whist Drives during the winter.

Years ago in London a Ratepayers' Association was politically party-minded, but its members included people of all political hues, consequently it did not believe that party politics should play any part in the local government of the district.

Those desirous of joining the new body whose title now is The Bookhams Residents' Association, should communicate with Mr. W. J. Shotter, Creagh, Keswick Road, Bookham.

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## LOCAL RATES

In the June issue of the 'Bulletin' there appeared an article on public lighting under the above heading, and it is to be regretted that the subject had not been discussed by the author and his friends previous to publication. It is another proof of the old English proverb, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Before dealing with the items named it would be advisable to mention that all local Councillors have to pay the same rates as their neighbours and in consequence, as human beings, are naturally always keen upon keeping the rates down as low as is reasonably possible. This the public should understand, especially when it is known that some of their representatives belong to the pensioners section.

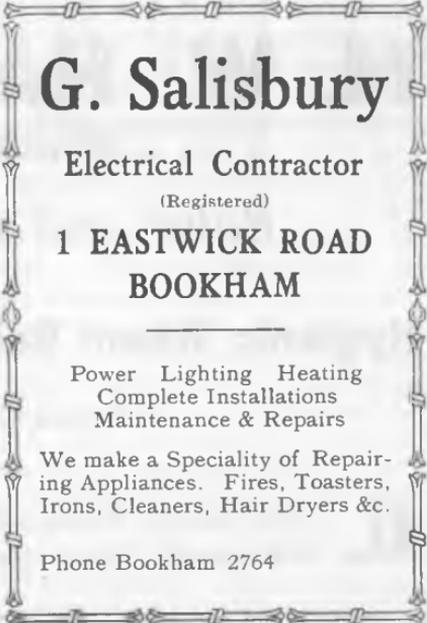
In the second paragraph of the article referred to, the "cost" of public lighting for two periods is given, but such a statement is quite incorrect, inasmuch as the actual cost never appears on the demand notes, as the amounts given there are only *estimates*. These estimates are usually made early in the year as a basis on which to make a rate for the ensuing 12 months.

Besides the above errors there are others, for instance in the working out of the 3.47d. and

4.89d. to the exact totals.

A further point is that the actual increase of the "lighting" estimate is small compared with the cost of the extended service in contemplation. It may be remembered by some that in the address of one of the candidates at the recent election mention was made of an increase in the lighting service being on the Council's programme for 1946, but the June article referred to above apparently overlooked this and possibly it slipped the author's memory.

It is a great pity that the article was based on errors about facts and figures, as it could only tend to mislead the public.



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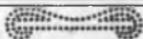
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## Post-War Voluntary Work

For six years we volunteered for this or that voluntary service and now that the strain is over we have decided to have a rest. But what do we find? So many necessary things will fall ill or die unless some of us buckle to. Three instances in Bookham are evidence of this position:—

No. 1—*The Garden Society*, a hale and hearty veteran of 70 years, owing to the resignation of an efficient officer will, it is feared become enfeebled if another Hon. Secretary cannot be found promptly. At the recent Show a notice was exhibited stating that the Society would have to close down unless the vacancy could be filled. Offers of service should be sent to Mr. H. Bostock, Fife Lodge, Church Road, Gt. Bookham.

No. 2 *The Bookhams Residents' Association* has done so much valuable work in the past, could do even more on the same lines if an Hon. Secretary could be found. Applications to

Mr. W. Shotter,  
"Creagh," Keswick Road,  
Gt. Bookham.

No. 3—*The Bookhams Bulletin* a journal which continues to do good and charitable work in both Great and Little Bookham, is in need of an Hon. Editor. It only

appears quarterly and is well supported by local traders. If the restrictions on paper were withdrawn, much more advertising matter could be obtained.

Applications to

Mr. R. Andrews,  
Five Beeches, Dorking Rd.  
Gt. Bookham.

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## Local Comments by "Observer"

What could be more annoying as well as startling, than to be walking home in the dark in a drizzling rain and suddenly to be wiped across the face with a "cold clammy hand" from the overhanging branch of a tree in somebody's garden, or your hat disappear from your head by the same means?

Surely it is up to every householder to see that the trees and shrubs in his garden should not be a cause of annoyance to the folks who have to pass his hedge in the dark. There are many roads in our pleasant village that are not lit at night, as well as containing very many overhanging menaces above-mentioned, and a little time spent in removing them would be well spent and certainly add to the comfort of pedestrians.

The writer has more than once been a victim, so long ago took the very small trouble to act on his own advice. Have YOU any such nuisances? Have a look.

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## LITTLE CHATS

### No. 5. Brass and other Tacks

Good afternoon. Can I sell you any stamps?

Oh! Are you the new collector?

Well, group secretaries we are called and I've taken the group over from Mrs.....

So I heard . . . one result of that big road group drive in Challenge Week.

Yes, there were 30 others, 5 in Bookham including 2 new groups formed.

I suppose this Savings must still go on?

Go on! The National Savings Committee promised the Chancellor of the Exchequer that savings will be 10 millions a week till next Budget day. The Government depend on it.

That's a lot of money.

Bookham's part in it is £500 a week. Since April 1st we've got in over £10,000. A job well begun is half done.

But what's it all for? How does it make sense, telling us to save when all the papers show advertisements of things coming

*(continued on next page)*

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**Little Chats**—*continued*

on the market?

That's a thoughtful question and wants an intelligent answer. Savings now is really Wise Waiting. There aren't yet enough materials, or machines, or man hours to supply civilian needs.

Such as what?

Take saucepans. Suppose a thousand a week are made and a million families want 'em. At that rate of production some people would have to wait 20 years.

Don't think they'd wait as long as that.

No, and they won't have to if only we can get the means to make lots more, but unfortunately there are demands for other things not so important.

Now I always say "first things come first."

Yes. Getting down to brass tacks—or rather saucepans—we must first make machinery to make them. If only a thousand a week are turned out, people will compete fiercely till the price rises to fantastic heights, such as has happened with many things elsewhere.

So I've heard!

Imagine that happening with all goods and you've got that dreaded thing Inflation. I'm not telling you a bogey story, but hard facts. Tell all your friends too. Try to do without things that are scarce and only of poor quality, and when you do decide not to buy them, put your money into savings where

you won't be tempted to touch it.

I agree. "Essentials before luxuries" is my rule. We mustn't get inflated, must we?

That's a good one. If everybody keeps your rule, this country will escape inflation just as it escaped invasion six years ago.

How many more years will see us out of danger?

There's no saying, but Savings is on a "Two Year Plan" in this district. I leave it to you, goodbye.

Wait a bit. I haven't had my stamps, with all this talk, and I want two extra ones because I'm away on holiday for a fortnight.

Good. Holidays are essential anyhow. Have a good time.

Thank you. So long, and good luck to you. G.

## Fire ! Fire !!

May we remind our readers that a real threat to the community exists in every garden where a bonfire is lit to destroy garden and other rubbish at this time of the year, when the countryside is so dry and so much uncut grass and standing crops are about. Every such garden fire should not be allowed to burn unattended, and special precautions should be taken to see that fires are made as safe as possible for the night.

When out walking near crops or dry heath-land, be careful with your cigarette ends.

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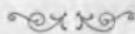
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## Horticulture

Another Garden Show Day has come and gone, and what a day! While the temperature kept well down and there was a threat of rain in the air, the clerk of the weather proved kind and everything passed off serenely. In the morning the competitors brought their exhibits by various conveyances ranging from lorries to prams. The quiet manner with which the vegetables and flowers were arranged on the tables indicated that the Show, as usual, had been well organised and the competitors took it all seriously.

Punctually at 2.30 p.m. the gate was opened to the public and half-an-hour later nurses arrived to weigh the bouncing babies of Bookham, as well as those of neighbouring villages. Bookham won by 4 to 2. During this period on the adjacent recreation ground the children of the four parishes were competing in the sports and thoroughly enjoying it.

In the afternoon those who possessed a catholic taste for music were entertained by a radio-van, and whilst the children patronised the various side-shows on the fair ground, one marvelled at the manner with which they made ice-cream disappear so quickly without any exertion on their part.

The prize distribution took place at 6 p.m. and the steady afternoon stream of visitors to the show tent continued with the examination of

the exhibits well up to 8 p.m., which was the closing hour.

It is doubtful whether the casual visitor to an exhibition of this nature ever stops to consider the amount of time and work that is taken up by the majority of competitors in preparing and showing the produce of their allotments and/or gardens, whilst those who have in the past done such work, generally agree that the winners well deserve the prizes.

Another point too is that the English weather, about which nearly all of us grumble, is very capricious and every year either retards or advances the growth of the vegetables, etc., so that judges at these shows invariably touch upon the difficulties the exhibitors have encountered during that particular season.

R.A.

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## Whist - le Souffleur

The writer has noticed from time to time when travelling by bus or train that male passengers, especially the younger generation, endeavour to enliven the journey by whistling. Usually the tone is somewhat shrill and only parts of tunes are rendered, giving a very unsatisfactory result, especially to those who are involuntarily listening. It would be preferable therefore if the entertainer would always endeavour to finish the special piece he has in mind and adopt a somewhat softer tone. Just try to imagine how old tunes would come back if say on the short trip from Bookham to Leatherhead the following were heard :

On leaving the Victoria, a start could be made with "The girl I left behind me" or "The soldiers of the Queen," and a little further along the road a shop would be passed which might encourage the musician to give "Beer, beer, glorious beer." When that was finished the neat and pretty gardens would possibly mean "My little grey home in the west" or "There'll always be an England," and "All alone" could be given when the new building near the top of Hawks Hill came in sight.

In descending the slope, satisfaction could surely be found in "When you go down the vale," and the ears of the conductress on arrival at the garage might be cheered with "Goodbye Dolly

Gray" or "Say au revoir, but not goodbye." Upon looking around, the whistler might find cause to drop on "Where have I seen that face before"? forgetting the school-boy's answer in the song "Why in a blooming looking-glass." During the wait "The changing of the guard" would be applicable, and upon observing the clippies seated with their confreres upon the low wall outside the bus station, the variety of songs (paraphrased) is fairly extensive, i.e. "Her golden hair was hanging in the net," "Red nails in the sunshine," etc., etc. Becoming impatient at the delay in re-starting, such songs as "Oh, Harriet, I'm a-waiting," "I'se waiting, waiting, waiting for you, Jose dear," or "You've got a long way to go" would be recalled. Upon the reappearance of the missing guardians, "Then up I came with my little lot" might entertain them and the driver upon getting his bus to start would doubtless hear "Keep right on to the end of the road." On crossing the bridge, "Ole Mole river" would apply, with "Over the hills and far away," to finish the journey as the vehicle mounted the slope to the town.

The foregoing is a suggestion. The list of songs applicable to circumstances is very large, in fact anyone with a good repertoire could keep going for hours without using the same song twice—Perhaps some do! R.A.

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## George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

Well, George, the garden season is quickly drawing to a close, and in the main things haven't been up to the average, due no doubt to the weather which has been very unkind to us this year.

That is so, Bob, but I am going to forget what has been and am now planning for the Spring. I've bought and planted out my spring cabbages, and also increased the flower beds by putting out some Brompton stocks, wallflowers and sweet william plants, which as you know should be bought and planted by now if you want the best results next year.

Yes, George, but I have raised my biennials from seed, so don't have to buy plants, so I'm lucky. I'm putting in some Dutch bulbs this season, and although I understand these are scarce, there are plenty of English bulbs, but some people seem to think they are not up to the Dutch standard. Bulbs should always be the largest size you can buy. Some people buy what they think is a top size bulb when in fact they are only medium. The best will be at least 6/- a doz. for tulips and 7/6 for daffodils, while I expect to pay up to 1/- each for hyacinths if bought by the dozen.

I agree with you, Bob. The best bulbs are not what some folks think they should look like. I would never send away for bulbs

advertised as top size, as many of my friends have done to their satisfaction, but they wouldn't give me satisfaction because I know for the extra 1/- or so per dozen I have a much better deal, and it takes no more time to plant a good bulb than the other kind, whilst the results are well worth the extra. And don't forget you should now plant corms of anemones which make a splendid show, as well as snowdrops, crocus, scillas, etc. all of which should have a place in every garden.

Which reminds me that my place is in the garden with my spade, so off to work, and more chat next time.

BOB.

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