

The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 100

DECEMBER 1958.

26th year



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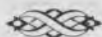
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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 100.

DECEMBER, 1958.

26th year

The Seasons Greetings to All Our Readers

EDITORIAL

We proudly present the hundredth edition of the *Bookhams Bulletin*. It has appeared regularly four times a year for 25 years. It has reflected village news, views and events over a period of great change in the neighbourhood and will, we hope, continue to do so for many years ahead. That it has survived so long is a reflection of the tenacity of Bookham people in carrying on a voluntary service. While there exist throughout the country periodicals devoted to particular groups or interests, a journal like ours, which covers the village and is financed and produced entirely by local people, must be unique.

Local tradesmen and firms, by their advertisements, cover the major cost of printing, and in acknowledgement of their assistance we ask all our readers to support them. However, with a full complement of advertisements we still run at a loss, and the deficit has been met by the Community Association. Many people,

especially newcomers, have told us how much they appreciate the *Bulletin* and have asked if they could make a contribution. Owing

SAVE THE OLD BARN HALL

Come to a
PUBLIC MEETING
at the Barn Hall, Friday,
January 16th, 8.15 p.m., to
decide on the future of the
Hall.

to difficulties of collection we do not wish to make a charge, but we shall always be happy to receive donations.

Our work could not continue without those volunteers who regularly distribute the journal. Many of them have been doing this cheerfully for years and we take this opportunity to thank them publicly. Their burden would be relieved if we had a few more distributors in some of the longer roads. Here is a fine opportunity to make more friends. Will you help?

IS YOUR VILLAGE HALL WORTH SAVING?

Without your help the Barn Hall is doomed

The Hall.

The Old Barn Hall, the only village hall in Gt. Bookham, has been maintained for over ten years by the Bookham Community Association who are now finding the strain too much for their limited resources. During this period the amenities of the Hall have been substantially improved. A fine new floor, ideal for dancing, has been laid. An automatic oil-fired heating system has been installed. The Hall has been decorated and new curtains hung. A portable stage is being constructed. A great part of this work has been done by voluntary labour and the officers and committee of the Association are proud of these achievements.

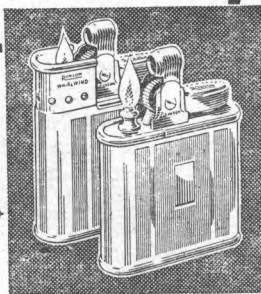
Finances.

Costs, however, are continually rising and the Association now finds that it cannot carry on the trusteeship for the village without



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much more help. The village should know that if the Hall is to be preserved for the future, and for present use, the village must rally round.

Membership of the Association is just over 300. It should be in the thousands. A number of local organisations are affiliated and assist in the administration of the Hall and in the other good works for the village which the Association sponsors. It is important that all village organisations should join in if it is thought desirable to keep the Barn Hall.

The Future.

If the Community Association has to give up, what is the alternative? A Village Hall Committee could be formed to carry on the work of maintenance. It is obvious, however, that such a body would be up against even greater difficulties in attracting voluntary service. There is no blinking the fact that a hall of the size and character of the Barn Hall cannot be made to pay its way on lettings alone.

The Charity Commissioners, who are finally responsible for carrying out the wishes of the original generous donor, are dependent on a local committee. If this cannot be found the Hall and the land will be permanently lost to the village. This would be a tragedy in a locality where sites for public development are rapidly disappearing.

Action.

What can individual residents do about this?

1. Join the Bookham Community Association. Your 2/6 per annum will help. Your support will encourage.

2. Make a donation to a fighting fund, or better still, make a covenant for an annual subscription.

3. Give some of your leisure. Volunteers are needed for decoration, maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. Perhaps you can help in fund raising events. Energetic youngsters and oldsters are needed to assist with activities and groups at the Hall.

4. Volunteer to be a street steward and collect subscriptions.

5. Book the Hall for your meetings and parties.

6. Come to the meeting in January and tell us what you think.

All enquiries and offers to: The Hon. Secretary, Bookham Community Association, Common End, Eastwick Drive (Bookham 2702).



DANCE THE NEW YEAR IN AT THE BARN HALL

Wednesday, December 31st,
from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.



BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Visiting the Elderly.

The problem of the many lonely and housebound elderly people in this district has for some time been prominently in the minds of the leaders of the various voluntary organisations. Sponsored jointly by the local W.V.S. and B.R.C.S., and the Leatherhead Old People's Welfare Committee, a meeting was held at the Red House, Leatherhead, on October 1st, at which an appeal was made for volunteers to give one hour a week to visiting the elderly. There was a good response, and an Hon. Secretary was appointed for each of the four wards, to be responsible for organising the visiting in that ward. The Hon. Secretary for Bookham is Miss M. R. Glover, who for the last five years has successfully run a small group called "The Friends of the Elderly", formed for the sole purpose of visiting and helping old people in the Bookhams. To enable her to extend this work, she would be very glad to receive the name and address of anyone who has an hour a week to spare for this worthwhile work. Her address is 26 Downs Way, Great Bookham (tel.: Bookham 2648).

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Hayter (nee Patricia Owen) who were married at Loughton, Essex, on September 27th. The young couple have made their home at Rayleigh, Essex.

The Boys' Brigade.

The 21st Mid-Surrey (Bookham) Company is connected with Bookham Congregational Church, Eastwick Road. The Captain is Mr. E. G. Marsh, Ennisfarne, Tudor Close, Great Bookham. Meetings: Sunday, 10—10.45 a.m. Bible Class (Church Parade third Sunday each month); Monday, 7.45—9.15 p.m., P.E. and Gym. Class; Friday, 7.30 p.m. Signalling Class, 8 p.m. Drill Parade, 8.50 p.m. First Aid Class. Other activities: Summer Camp, Swimming, Wayfaring.

New Library Service.

We all appreciate the very pleasant room provided at the Grove for the new library, the extended range of books and the helpful service. The times are as follows:—

Tuesday	2—5 p.m. 5.30—7 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Thursday	2—5 p.m. 5.30—7 p.m.
Friday	2—5 p.m.

Classes in Elocution and Dancing.

Parents interested in these classes at the Barn Hall should write to Miss Linda Joyce, A.L.A.M., A.L.C.M., 6 Downs-way, Gt. Bookham.

LOCAL SCHOOLBOYS START ON INTERESTING CAREERS

Young people leaving school to-day have a great future before them. In previous issues of the *Bulletin* articles have been written by former grammar school pupils to indicate the variety of opportunities available. On this occasion three ex-pupils of the Howard of Effingham Secondary School have been interviewed on the unusual and interesting careers they have selected.

IS YOUR VILLAGE HALL WORTH SAVING?

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Ralph Wallace, of Little Bookham, hopes to be a top ranking violinist. He studied for a time at the Leatherhead School of Music and is now a student at the Royal Academy of Music. Next year, when he is eighteen, he will have an audition for a Scholarship which will give him a three years' course at the Academy. It is hoped that Ralph will be successful and so enabled to start on the advanced studies which will lead him to the concert platform.

Jeremy Brooker, 15 years old, of the Glade, is at the Savoy Hotel training to be a chef. He was appointed after several interviews. His hours are long, his pay is small, but he is gaining invaluable experience. Normally he works from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., and from 5.30 to 9 p.m. He will stay at the Savoy for three years, moving from kitchen to kitchen. He started in the vegetable kitchen and will progress to the larder, going on from there through the many specialized departments which comprise this extensive and famous establishment. Finally he will spend a year abroad—in France, Italy or Switzerland — acquiring the final polish of a first class chef who can command a high salary anywhere.

Jeremy has always wanted to be a chef because he likes people and he likes good food. He is enjoying the good food and his preoccupation with the preparation of it is not spoiling his appetite. He is also making many new friends at the hostel near Victoria Station, known as the Atlee Hostel because it was established and equipped with the encouragement of the former Prime Minister. It is run by the Combined Hotels for their young workers.

Timothy Barnard, of the Lower Road, has taken up the craft of boat-building. He wishes to work with his hands creatively and he

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thinks that he has found the way with the firm of Jack Holt, at Putney. He recently talked about his work on the B.B.C. in the schools series of World of Work in the section "Working with Wood". He was also at the National Boat Show at Olympia.

His firm builds sailing dinghies up to 18 feet in length of nine different types. They are made by hand, mainly from plywood, with spruce masts and mahogany seats.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

(PART 20)

By JOHN HARVEY

(Copyright reserved to the author)

Little Bookham had become enclosed, as regards its open arable fields, much earlier than Great Bookham, though some tenants of the manor held open-field land in the parishes of Great Bookham and Effingham. Like Great Bookham, the smaller manor had common wastes to north and south, that at the upper end forming part of Ranmore Common. The Manor of Little Bookham even claimed a much larger area of this common, lying within the parish of Great Bookham, and in 1801 there was a dispute between the two manors, Thomas Wood, bailiff of Great Bookham, having removed a bound stone on Ranmore Common.* The importance of this dispute lay in the use of the common for grazing large flocks of sheep, a staple industry of the

North Downs, and long linked with the traditional home weaving of the villages.

At the opening of the nineteenth century, however, the emphasis was upon improved methods of agriculture, and in this direction the first step was normally the enclosure of the open arable fields. In Great Bookham these still comprised, as we have seen, nearly one-third of the total land under cultivation, and considerably more when allowance is made for extensive parklands.

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From Sheridan's letters we know that the movement for enclosure, initiated by the bigger landowners, was already in being by 1804, yet an Act was not passed until 1821, and the Award was not made until 19th March, 1822.† The long delay was probably due in large measure to the tactics of Sheridan himself, who hoped to secure generous allotments for the small commoners with everything to lose by enclosure, and in the normal course little to gain. After his death in 1816 the inevitable occurred.

Meanwhile, to add to the pre-enclosure survey of 1797-98, another most valuable record was completed. This was a survey and valuation, for tithe purposes, of the Rectory of Great Bookham, made in 1819 by Claridge & Iveson.‡ Its special interest derives from the fact that it gives not merely the name of every occupier, but also the specific use of every parcel in 1819, distinguishing between the various crops: wheat, oats, barley, rye, peas, beans, vetches, sainfoin, turnips, seeds; meadow, pasture, wooded ground, and fallow. To every parcel also is assigned a valuation per acre, ranging from 6/- and 10/- for woods, coppices and rough pasture up to 50/- for the best arable and meadows, with 55/- for hop-gardens and 60/- for the Fair Field, then under turnips. It is significant that some of the highest valuations for arable land are in the open fields, some of the lowest in the ancient enclosed farms such as Bagden and Phenice. The Saxon settlers had laid out their communal field on some of the most fertile land available, while later comers had been forced to colonize poorer soils, taken in from the waste and woods. No wonder the "improving" farmers of the early nineteenth century were anxious to enclose the common fields. The results they obtained after enclosure were, indeed, remarkable,

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and we learn, for instance, that Mr. David Barclay, who bought the Eastwick Park estate in 1833, found "the ground was water-logged; and the produce, of wheat, seldom more than three sacks per acre: at present (1850) the common average ranges from eight to ten sacks per acre. Mr. Barclay has a bone-crushing mill, a clod-breaker, &c., and also a machine for making draining-tiles."[¶]

It is a sad commentary on human nature that this result, attainable by private enterprise, should have led (during the period of high agricultural prices) to the enrichment of a very few, while the enclosure which had made it possible completed the ruin of the much larger class of substantial yeomen who had been the backbone of Bookham for so long. In 1801 the Census[§] shows that there were 587 persons living in Great Bookham, and 119 in Little Bookham; by 1811 the numbers were 606 and 137, and a good deal of additional information is given. There were 111 houses in Great Bookham occupied by 120 families, as well as two uninhabited houses, and one house being built. Of the 120 families, 74 were reckoned as being chiefly employed in agriculture, and 32 in trade; the remaining 14 families no doubt constituted the gentry.

It is striking how closely these figures bear out the average factor of 5 persons to a family, while it is interesting also to note that the excess of families over separate houses was as low as 8 per cent. It is impossible to relate the total of 111 occupied houses precisely to the plan of the parish, for the survey of 1819 indicates only 88 separate dwellings with a total of 103 tenants. Of these 88 buildings, 50 are described as cottages, three (the Saracen and Ring, The Crown, and The Fox on Ranmore Common) as public houses, two (Eastwick Park and Bookham Grove) as mansions, while Polesden was the "Scite of the Old Mansion House" after demolition of the old house, begun by Sheridan and completed by his successor Joseph Bonsor.||

* Court of 29 Oct., 1801, in Court Book of Little Bookham Manor, Surrey Record Office.

† W. E. Tate in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, vol. XLVIII, p. 143; Victoria County History, *Surrey*, vol. III, p. 327.

‡ Great Bookham Rectory.

¶ E. W. Brayley; *History of Surrey* (1850), vol. IV, p. 468 note.

§ Victoria County History, *Surrey*, vol. IV, p. 448.

|| For Bookham Grove and Polesden, see the articles by F. B. Benger in *Proceedings* of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society, vol. I, No. 9, 1955, pp. 21-29.

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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS' PARTY

Saturday, January 24th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, February 13th,
8.15 p.m.

S O S

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Surrey County Council, Kingston-upon-Thames.

Boys' Brigade. E. C. Marsh, Ennis farne, Tudor Close.

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Gramophone Club. D. G. Gay, 34 Dowlans Rd. Bookham 576.

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

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Grove Association. Miss V. Dean, 40 Dorking Rd.

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

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

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