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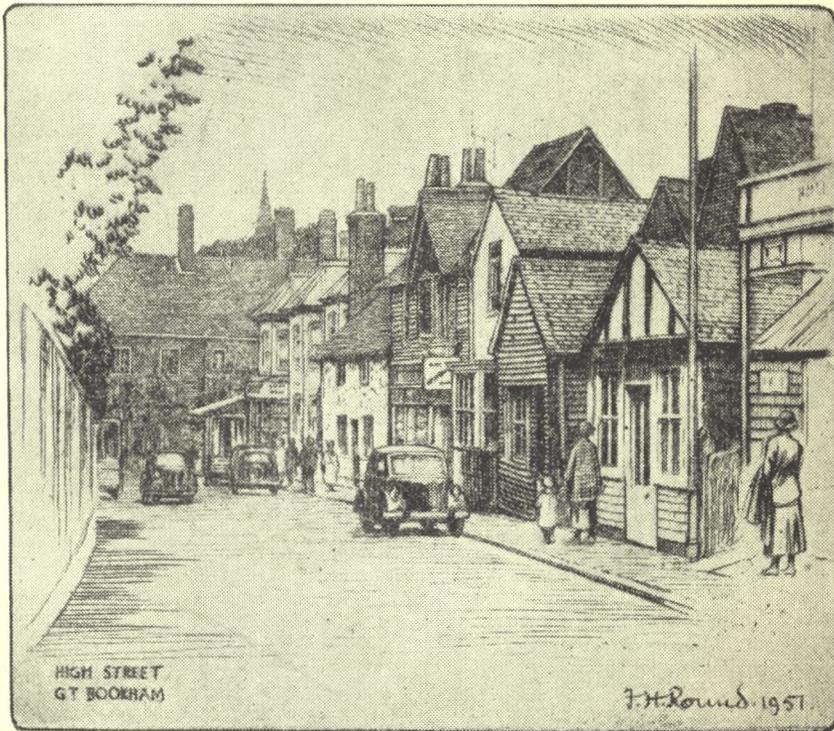
The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 83

JUNE 1954.

22nd year



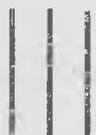
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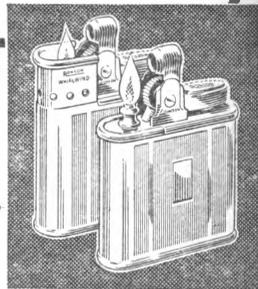
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The BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 83.

JUNE, 1954.

22nd year

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VILLAGE DAY

New residents and old will be welcomed to the Bookhams 4th Village Day on Saturday, June 12th, 1954. The Community Association has again planned an event which will give prior place to the various organisations and activities which go to make up village life, hoping that if these are known and supported, the village spirit can be maintained in spite of our increasing population.

The theme this year is "The Village at work and at play". Many local firms will contribute working models and exhibitions to show the scope of industrial development and research in our neighbourhood. Local craftsmen and craftswomen will be demonstrating crafts and hobbies which can enrich our leisure time. The schools will be represented both at work and at play. There will be displays, sideshows and competitions in which all can participate. The newly formed Book-

ham Silver Band will play at intervals throughout the day.

The proceedings will open with a Fancy Dress Parade (children and adults) at 2.45 p.m. at the Barn Hall, followed by the official Opening Ceremony at 3 p.m., and will conclude with an Old Time Dance at the Church Hall from 8 p.m. onwards.

It is hoped that everybody will come along to meet old friends and make new ones. It is a long step from the old village green and the maypole, but there is still a place, even in these troubled times, for the community spirit which can create out of variety a general goodwill. If we all participate to make it so, Village Day will be a success.

The profits will be divided equally between the proposed Old People's Home at Leatherhead and the Community Association Annexe Fund.

OBITUARY

Frank L. Channing

It is with sorrow that we have to record the death of Mr. Frank L. Channing, who before his illness was a valued member and executive of the Community Association. We give below an appreciation of Mr. Channing by

a member of the Association who worked closely with him.

"It is in sadness of heart that I write of the death of Frank Channing. Those of us who had the good fortune to cross his path will remember with thankfulness his alive personality, his intelligence matured beyond his years. As leader of the Naturalist Group of the Community Association he carried out an exacting and exciting programme of fortnightly talks on all sides of Natural History. Many of these he gave himself, and the few of us who listened drank in of his wide and detailed knowledge and thrilled with him at the wonders and glory of Nature.

"To many Bookham folk he will be remembered for the Exhibition held in the Barn Hall in 1952. Only those of us who worked with him knew the enormous amount of work that he and one or two others put into that delightful and wide collection of specimens of so many sides of Natural History.

"Now after eighteen months of suffering, so bravely born, he has passed on and we are left to feel the loss of a friend who, in his short time amongst us, had endeared himself to so many.

O.P."

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A TRIBUTE TO THE REV. W. M. TRISTRAM

It is not only the Baptist Church which will grieve at the loss of their Minister, the Rev. W. M. Tristram. His departure will affect with just as much sadness all the residents of the Bookhams.

Since he first came among us—more than seven years ago—he has endeared himself to all our hearts. His familiar figure on his bicycle is almost a part of our village life: his ready smile and cheerful greeting are an excellent specific for the grumbler and the sour-faced. Then, too, his time has always been at everyone's disposal. No needy case has ever sought his gracious help in vain. He has known nothing of creed or class: his only desire has been to be of service wherever he could and to whomsoever he could, and the village will be very much the poorer without him.

We have often heard of his loving ministry to those in our Cottage Hospital in Leatherhead. Not a few have had their last hours sweetened by his tender understanding. And how many there are who, after their return home, have soon seen his happy face at the door, enquiring after their welfare.

He is an excellent advertisement for Christianity, and I don't wonder that he calls his Baptist Church "The Church with a warm welcome". There are some of us who have felt not a little uncomfortable at our own slack-

ness when he has given us that hearty invitation to the services!

May God preserve for many years that great heart, happy smile and gracious manner, that the people in Lyndhurst may enjoy them as much as we have.
H.V.M.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

PART IV

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.
(Copyright reserved to the author.)

For about one hundred years after the compilation of Domesday Book hardly anything is heard of Bookham in documentary records, which are scanty indeed. Yet we know from the fabric of Great Bookham Church that it was considerably enlarged during the twelfth century, a narrow aisle being first thrown out upon the south side about 1140, while some fifty years later there was a more extensive reconstruction. At the end of the reign of Henry II, or early in that of Richard Cœur-de-Lion, the Norman north wall of the nave was pierced with the early Gothic arches that still remain, and the foundations laid for a massive western tower. The bowl of the font probably belongs to this period, and it may originally have stood against the eastern face of the central pier of the north arcade, whose unusual plan is otherwise difficult to explain. These successive enlargements suggest both a growing popula-

tion and increasing prosperity, while the method of building an arcade into an existing solid wall and then cutting away the old masonry from beneath the new arches after an aisle had been built proves a considerable degree of structural knowledge and ability on the part of the builders. Although the care of the nave was always the affair of the parishioners, they would doubtless have found it easy to engage a master mason of standing, through the good offices of the Abbot of Chertsey or his steward.

At Little Bookham the first church itself belongs to the years around 1100, and was perhaps endowed by the Halsard of Domesday. Hardly more than a manorial chapel at first, it was enlarged by the middle of the twelfth century with a south aisle like that added at Great Bookham, and belonging to the same extremely narrow type, as has been shown by the recent excavations of Mrs. Blair. The promise of development in Little Bookham was not ultimately fulfilled, and this aisle later disappeared, presumably owing to the very small number of inhabitants, who neither needed the additional space, nor could afford its maintenance.

In the absence of written records of the period, a little information may be gleaned by examination of the early names applied to places and fields in Bookham, and which even though they are not found written down until the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries, certainly derived from

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the twelfth century if not before it. A road system already existed, and as has been seen included the main north-south line of the High Street and the Lower Road crossing it at Great Bookham Church, as well as the highway from Leatherhead to Guildford running straight across the southern end of the High Street, for it was not until the eighteenth century that the awkward diversion was made to avoid the mansion of Bookham Grove. The roads and lanes leading southward across the Downs must have been of considerably greater importance than they are now, the Dorking Road being described as the King's Highway which leads to Dorking soon after 1200, while even earlier there is a mention of the way which leads to Dunley, undoubtedly referring to the ancient lane now represented by Townshot Close, which in the twelfth century ran parallel to the High Street, crossed the Guildford Road just west of Bookham Grove, and bore off in a south-westerly direction through the open field, then over the hill just west of the manor house of Polesden, entered Ranmore Common at Trespass Hatch and ultimately joined the Old Drove Road on the ridge of the Downs on its way to Dunley Hill. The section of this lane which crossed the open field was known as White Way, no doubt from the chalky soil. Further west was Preston (now Chalkpit) Lane, worn deep into the ground along the boundary

between Great and Little Bookham, and further east lay Elfare (now Crabtree) Lane, leading to the very early enclosed fields in Mickleham parish called Elfare, a corruption of Aylivehawe, the haw or close of Aethelgifu, a Saxon lady.

Next to Elfare on the Bookham side of the boundary lay the Vynye, later Vines and now Phoenix Farm, which got its name from growing grapevines. English wine, though sharp, was a normal product of the southern counties in Norman times. Other names certainly in use during the twelfth century, and recorded from soon afterwards, were Blakemanneshacche (Blackmanshatch) at the southern end of the High Street, and Bocwode (Beechwood), for the heavily wooded part of Ranmore Common, from whose beeches the township took its name. Blaecman or Blackman is a known Old English personal name, indicating someone swarthy or possibly the village smith. The central area of the open field surrounding the village was divided into sections, shotts or furrows, each bearing its own name, and of these a number are undoubtedly very ancient. West of Great Bookham village and along the north side of the Lower Road lay Madfoore (Mead Furrow), and south of the road Earborne Hill, the sloping part of the field above the periodic spring of the "Ear" or gravel bourne. Between this and the Town Shott was Marlpit Shott, surrounding the great marl

pit from which Bookham derived much of the chalk spread on its fields instead of fertilizers. South of the Guildford Road were Bookham Dean (valley), occupying the lowest dip of the Bookham Grove Estate, and on the higher ground next the Dorking Road, Goldstone, a mysterious name presumably deriving from a sacred or boundary stone long since lost. (Goldstone Farm has merely borrowed the name, and never included any part of the old field called Goldstone). South of these again were Whiteway Hill and Whiteway Bottom, along the old lane. East of Dorking Road, which near the village was Hole or Hollow Hedge Way (from running sunk between two hedges), lay Hollowhedge on the site of the Recreation Ground, with Hollowhedge Bottom in the dip beyond, bounded by Clerk's Hedge at the north end of Crabtree Lane. Much of the land north of the Lower Road belonged to the demesnes of the manor and was enclosed with permanent hedges. Perhaps the very earliest of these fields was that called The Bartons, just east of the churchyard, for its name actually means a demesne farm, and still earlier a threshing floor (*bere*, barley or corn; *tun*, a fenced or enclosed area).

Dr. Bennett

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Richard Bennett on his marriage to Miss Elisabeth Robertson on April 24th.

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"THE TEMPEST"

A Message from Michael Redgrave

As we go to press with this issue we are honoured to receive a "good luck" message from no less a person than Michael Redgrave. One of our leading stage and screen stars, Michael Redgrave is also one of our greatest Shakespearian actors, having played leading parts in Shakespearian productions in many parts of the world. His message reads—

"Good luck to the Bookham Community Association for their forthcoming production of "The Tempest". Wishing you all auspicious gales of applause, from a former Prospero."

With only a month before the performance on Saturday, July 3rd, producer Elsie Green reports that arrangements are completed for final rehearsals to be held at the Open-Air Theatre itself. Music has been composed specially for this production by the Musical Director, Sidney Parey, whose orchestra will supply the musical accompaniment.

Now a word about the play itself. If it is possible to single out for extra special mention one of Shakespeare's plays, it is perhaps "The Tempest".

The scene for "The Tempest" is set in a magic isle, the sole inhabitants of which are Prospero, a deposed nobleman, and his beautiful daughter Miranda, who have been kidnapped and thrown by chance upon this island.

Prospero is gifted with the power of magic, and has at his

bidding Ariel (a lively sprite) and Caliban (an ugly misshapen monster). Through his magical gifts Prospero raises a violent storm, in the midst of which a ship is seen floundering helplessly. Amongst the occupants of the ship are Prospero's brother Antonio, (who was responsible for his kidnapping), the King of Naples (sworn enemy of Prospero), and his son Ferdinand. All find refuge on the island, but through Prospero's magic powers each believes he is the only one saved.

The two young people, Ferdinand and Miranda, meet and fall deeply in love, but Ferdinand has to suffer imprisonment in order to test his love for Miranda. He nobly stands the test and in a stirring speech tells Miranda he is heir to the crown of Naples and that she shall be his Queen.

Ariel in the meantime has caused consternation and fear amongst other members of the shipwrecked party by appearing before them in strange guise and arranging strange happenings. Reminded by Ariel of their cruelty to Prospero and his infant daughter, the King of Naples and Antonio repent. Prospero forgives his brother Antonio, and the King of Naples is overjoyed to be reunited to his son, whom he thought had been drowned, blesses the young couple, and all ends well and happily.

Don't delay in booking your seat for "The Tempest"—a ticket order form is enclosed with this issue.

B.C.A. NEWS

Over Sixties Club

At the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Over Sixties Club in March, the Secretary (Mrs. Perry) presented an excellent and full report covering the year's work. Lack of space prevents the reproduction of the report in full, but among the outstanding events of the year the following must be mentioned:—Two coach loads of members went to Southsea in July, and on 2nd December a party of 60 went to the Leatherhead Repertory Theatre to see "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and were afterwards entertained to tea in the Barn Hall. On Coronation Day, in spite of the bad weather, some of the Over Sixties formed a tableau and took part in the procession through the village, winning First Prize. The very successful sale of work in October has already been reported in the *Bulletin*.

It was greatly regretted that, during the year, owing to limitations of space, the Club had had to close its membership list. Approval was given to the proposition to provide similar club facilities on another afternoon for old people in the village who could not join the present club.

Mr. Scoble presented the Treasurer's Report, and pointed out that although there was still a balance in hand, it was not so large as the previous year.

The Chairman (Mrs. Cox) thanked Mrs. Kleboe and Mr. R.

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Pickering for their work on the Committee, and regretted that, for health reasons, they were unable to continue in office. The following were elected to the Committee for the ensuing year: Mesdames Dawes and Vincent, Miss Freeman, and Messrs. Powers and Scoble.

NIGHT SITTERS-IN

The urgent need to provide some measure of relief to relatives nursing the aged sick and infirm is one of the problems which has been receiving the consideration of the Leatherhead Old People's Welfare Committee. It is realised that the demand for help in this direction is too great to rely entirely on voluntary help, and the Committee has therefore launched a scheme of paid "night sitters-in" which they hope will receive support from public-spirited men and women in the district.

The plan is to build up a panel of men and women willing, in emergency, to devote one or two nights a week to sitting up with the elderly sick, and thus give the responsible relatives occasional relief from this duty. During the summer the demand for such service is not usually very great, and it is hoped that before next winter sufficient volunteers will have come forward to meet the demand which is certain to arise. Details of the scheme are as follows:—

The night attendants are intended in the main to be merely "sitters-in" from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., and thus relieve friends and relatives of such duties. They will not be expected to provide more than simple home nursing if required, or to be responsible for other than light and simple domestic duties.

All sick and infirm people over the age of 60 years resident in the Urban District (which of course includes the Bookhams) and in need of the service, irrespective of financial circumstances, will be eligible for help, provided a doctor's recommendation is forthcoming.

The night attendant will receive a payment of 10/- per night, plus bus fares. The fee charged for the service will be 12/6d. per night, plus bus fares. A reduced charge will be made to those unable to pay the full fee, provided the financial circumstances are disclosed to the visiting organiser. *Inability to pay will not prevent help being provided.* Where the full fee of 12/6d. per night is paid, 2/6d. of this amount will be credited to a fund to be used to help pay for the administrative cost of the service, and to offset the loss on those cases where a reduced charge is made.

Any man or woman willing to help in this vitally necessary work should send in his or her name to the Secretary, Leatherhead Old People's Welfare Committee, "Theldor", Keswick Road, Great Bookham.

BOOKHAM JOTTINGS

The Rev. J. C. Hill

At the close of the service on Easter Sunday evening, Mr. Hill, for nearly two years Assistant Priest at St. Nicolas Church, was presented with a silver wrist watch on the occasion of his departure from the parish to take up a teaching appointment. Mr. L. R. Hutchison, the Churchwarden, in making the presentation, thanked Mr. Hill for his work in the parish, particularly his visits to the aged and sick, and his kindly interest in the young members of St. Nicolas Club, of which he had been Chairman. Altogether about £25 was subscribed towards Mr. Hill's parting gift.

School News

With the money given to the Great Bookham Primary School from the Coronation Celebrations' surplus funds, climbing apparatus for physical education has been purchased, and is proving an asset to lessons and a source of pleasure to the children.

The school football team has had a good season. The team has played 8 matches, of which they won 4, drew 1 and lost 3, completing the season by defeating the leavers of last year 2—0. The following boys have represented the school:—M. Lindsay, K. Peachey, I. Bennett, J. Gardiner, M. Lodge, C. Booth, J. Wharlam, P. Stevens, J. Brooker, P. LeNoble, D. Mills, S. Chapman, A. Coomber, B. Edwards, C. Lodge, J. Marshall, A. Croydon, N. Collier and D. Thresh (Capt.).

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On the academic side the following have already been awarded Grammar School places: C. Cameron, P. Bull, R. Klewe, J. Funnell, C. Booth, J. Dew and R. Rossner.

At the Howard of Effingham County Secondary School the following seven candidates who took the examination for the Junior Arts award were successful:—A. Fave, N. Uden, G. Hutchins, V. Knott, I. Smith, M. Smith and C. Holloway. These awards will be tenable at the Epsom School of Art. Two candidates—D. Goddard and M. Reynolds—have qualified for admission to Grammar School courses at the age of 13 plus.

Great Bookham Primary School was among the six local schools which took part in the Epsom Musical Festival, held in the Ebbisham Hall, Epsom, in March—the other five being Leatherhead County Secondary, Ashted, Effingham and Fetcham County Primary, and the Manor House, Little Bookham. Massed choirs, songs, dancing and percussion band selections all had a place in this non-competitive festival organised by the Epsom, Leatherhead and District Schools Music Association. Manor House School took part in the festival for the first time.

Bookham Postwoman Retires After 37 Years

Mrs. Ellen Knight, who for 37 years has been a part-time postwoman in the Bookhams, has recently retired. She joined the staff

of Bookham Post Office during the 1914-18 war, and since then has not had one day's sick leave. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Flag Days

Flag Days still seem to come and go with monotonous—and all too frequent—regularity. But there are *some* flag days which are still able to charm the money from our almost empty pockets. Rose Day, Poppy Day, and Red Cross Day still make a universal appeal, and at the Flag Day organised on behalf of the Red Cross on May 11th a total of £44. was collected in the Bookhams. The organisers take this opportunity of thanking all the residents who subscribed so generously, and the collectors who so kindly gave their services.

On Television

Mr. Patrick McGowan, of Middlemead Road, was one of those taking part in "What's My Line?" on television on Sunday, April 25th. His occupation, that of a "bubble watcher" at Ronson's Products Ltd., Leatherhead, was guessed by Barbara Kelly.

Another aspirant to broadcasting fame from the Bookhams is Miss Denise Walker, who lives in the Leatherhead Road. Miss Walker sang in the March edition of Henry Caldwell's "Shop Window", a television programme "for new faces and ideas".

New Shops for Bookham

Over 70 applications have been received by Leatherhead Council for tenancies of the nine shops which are to be erected at Book-

ham Grove. The special sub-committee appointed to consider and report on the method of letting the shops will not have an easy task, but it is hoped that the new shopkeepers selected will be able to meet some of the outstanding needs in the district.

Old People's Welfare Week

The Leatherhead Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee are arranging to hold an Old People's Welfare Week in the autumn, to raise funds to enable the Committee to carry out various schemes for helping the old people in the Urban District. Further details will be published in our September issue.

Meals on Wheels

A service of Meals on Wheels for elderly people is being provided by the Leatherhead Old People's Welfare Committee, through the kind offices of the Women's Voluntary Services. The service came into operation on 18th May, and meals are delivered in the Bookham area on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If any Bookham residents know of any old people who would like to avail themselves of this service, will they get in touch with the Centre Organiser, W.V.S., "Wayside", The Crescent, Leatherhead.

Bookham Bowling Club

Saturday, 1st May, was the 21st anniversary of the formation of the Bookham Bowling Club. To mark the event, Mr. T. Kille, Chairman of the Leatherhead Council's Allotments and Recreation Grounds Committee, opened the Green and bowled the first wood.

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