

# The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 11

MAY, 1936

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## Editorial.

It has been suggested that promiscuous begging is one of the curses of modern life. The Great War sanctioned this with its Flag Days, but out of the evil of those years of war, came a great goodness when a generous-hearted public realised the necessity to help some less fortunate member of the community.

The need for continued assistance unfortunately still remains, and although there is the Public Assistance Committee and the British Legion, there must ever be the Social Service Bureau as the "stop gap" to tide over that difficult hour.

A pair of boots for a man who has just been able to find a job, a perambulator for a mother whose circumstances would not allow her to buy one, a glass of milk for a school kiddy whose parents could not afford this daily need, these items and many more are the outcome of the activities of the Bureau.

Much more is required to ensure assistance for these needy cases, and gifts in money or kind would be gratefully accepted.

"In Faith and Hope the World will disagree,  
But all Mankind's concern is Charity."

It is with profound regret that we have to announce the departure of Miss Gillham from Bookham very shortly. An appreciation will be found elsewhere in the columns of this Journal.

The extraordinary favour with which the "Bookhams Bulletin" has been received, induces the Editor to make it still more interesting, and it is hoped that in the near future to enlarge its contents. By the addition of extra pages it would be possible to introduce new features, care being taken to select items of general interest.

In this direction it would be of great value to the Editor to receive suggestions, criticisms and contributions pertaining to the district.

The Editor,  
"Bookhams Bulletin,"  
"Iskandrieh,"  
Blackthorne Road,  
Great Bookham.

## Silver Jubilee Commemoration Fund.

The following is a further list of Subscribers in connection with the "Silver Jubilee Commemoration" and as previously mentioned in the columns of this Journal, the form would take that of the electrification and lighting the Parish Church Clock. Although the full amount has not yet been attained, the Committee has decided to proceed with the work, and it is hoped by the time this appears in print, this undertaking will be an accomplished fact.

To those who have not yet subscribed, the Fund is still open, and any amount large or small will be received, as there is still a further sum required, and one of the following will greatly appreciate any sum sent along:—

Mr. H. Bostock, "Fife Lodge," Gt. Bookham.  
Mr. R. Andrews, "Five Beeches," Dorking Rd.,  
Gt. Bookham.  
Mr. A. E. Murrells, "Torbay," Eastwick Drive,  
Gt. Bookham.

Mr. & Mrs. Allen, G.B., Mrs. L. A. Bird, Bookhams Brotherhood, Mr. H. Bostock, Capt. Briggs, Mr. D. Cook, Mr. & Mrs. J. Cook, F. Cooper, Mrs. Courtney, J. A. Cruickshank, T. Dibley, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Freeloove, G. French, A. French, R. French, A. F. Gibbs, E. W. Gibbs, A. H. Graham, M. Greenwall, Hon. Mrs. R. Greville, Mrs. Hall, R. Head, A. Hester (Collection), Rev. A. Hughes, D.J., Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. and the Misses Joce, Mrs. Kennison, Mrs. Kinsell, A. Kille, Hon. D'Arcy Lambton, W. Leavis, Mrs. Lindam F. Lynch, S. Madge, A. G. Martin, Mrs. Maxwell, W. H. Maxwell, W. Mayne, Mrs. Maunders, W. A. Muggeridge, Miss Panting, C. Pastorelli, Mrs. Reader, Mr. & Mrs. Rose, G. S. Strudwick, E.T., A. Van der Swan, T. Ware, Mr. & Mrs. Westendarp, Mrs. White (Leatherhead), E. Wright, Women's Co-operative Guild, Admiral & Mrs. Yelverton.

The Social Service Bureau has received a most welcome gift, for which a very cordial thank you is tendered.

The local Lodge of Freemasons recently held a banquet in London, at which the Charity Box was handed round and a magnificent sum of £2 16s. was obtained. It was decided to place this amount to the Bureau, to help to continue its objects of assisting those necessitous cases in the District. Thank you, Freemasons!

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**St. Nicolas Church, St. Bookham**

Monuments.—As one enters the Church by the West door, turn to the left, and on the floor of the Norman aisle under some matting, are two epitaphs on stones, the lettering clear and fresh looking. One, a black marble, is to John Reeve, Vicar of Bookham in 1583, and the other is to the little daughter of Sir Francis Howard, who died when she was 18 months old, in 1633. The verse is very quaint and bears quotation:—

“If peerless beautie could have swaide,  
This rosecheeke child had longer staide.  
But death repugn'd her friends' desire,  
And sent her to the Heavenly Quire  
Where she doth Hallelujah sing  
With glorious saints, unto her King.”

Sir Francis Howard, the grandson of the famous High Admiral of Spanish Armada fame, once lived in Eastwick Park, and has a memorial to the south of the altar. The Howard vault is just outside the porch, and is completely covered over with turf.

The Slyfield family, who once owned Slyfield Manor, has several interesting brasses. One of the earliest, dated 1433, is on the floor near the pulpit, and shows a lovely little figure with the name of Elizabeth Slyfield, and another Elizabeth has a brass effigy, dated 1597, on the floor between the chancel and the Slyfield Chapel, with a long description of her ancestors. Not far away are more brasses to Henry Slyfield and his Wife, four daughters and six sons.

About a hundred years ago there were many more brasses to this family, as described by the writers of the day, but these have all completely disappeared.

The Shiers then bought Slyfield Manor about 1650, and there is an effigy of Robert Shiers on the floor of the Slyfield aisle, who died in 1668; his wife Elizabeth, and his son Sir George, also have memorials, and the three together are depicted in a black and white marble monument in the north aisle. This used to be on the west wall just inside the porch entrance, but was doubtless moved to make more room. On the south wall of the Norman aisle is written a charitable bequest left by Sir George for apprenticing poor children of the parish and for helping any deserving parishioners who would otherwise be compelled to ask for relief. Another benefaction board is there relating to property left by Shortugde, the income to be divided equally between the Vicars of Great Bookham, Fetcham Effingham, Shalford and Leatherhead.

*(to be continued).*

*A Diamond Jubilee.*

How many people in the Bookhams are aware that there is an Association in the village that reaches its 60th year in 1936? The local Gardening Society was founded in 1876 and has during its lifetime met with the usual “ups and downs.”

Some of the older members may recall the time when there was a debit balance to the following year. This, however, has been changed during the last few years, and although in 1934 the credit balance was somewhat on the small side, the following year owing to the economies vigorously practised by the joint Hon. Secretaries for the purpose of putting the Society on a firm financial basis, there was a carry over of nearly £50.

The minimum subscription is 1/- per annum, but anything above this is always acceptable. This subscription entitles the member to a free pass and free entry of exhibits to the Annual Show, which takes place in the Southey Hall Grounds the last Wednesday in July. This Show is usually well attended and it is hoped that a record number of Patrons may be reached in 1936.

In order to celebrate its 60th Anniversary the Society is arranging for special Sports at the Show this year, and amongst these events there will be a Veterans' race.

Not only are the exhibits of flowers, fruit and vegetables a pleasure to the eye at this annual event, but the prizes given are well worth competing for.

The Society has two tickets available for its members for admission to the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley. Those who have not yet seen these Gardens would enjoy their beauty, particularly the Rock Gardens. It should be pointed out here that each ticket will admit three persons.

The membership of the local Garden Society now totals over 900, but there is still more room to increase this number, and new members may be assured of a welcome.

The joint Hon. Secs. who will furnish you with any information are:—

Mr. S. J. Pearsall, “Sherwood,” The Park,  
and  
Mr. G. B. Saunders, “Sycamore,”  
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R.A.

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### *Wild Flowers*

*found in the Bookhams.*

Well does our beautiful and fragrant flower deserve its names Meadow Sweet and Queen of the Meadows, for few are more graceful or have a more powerful odour.

The Meadow Sweet blossoms in June and July, and its stem is from two to four feet high. When growing in abundance, as it often does by the side of a stream, it renders the margins as white as if snow had fallen there. The whole plant is very astringent, but though formerly used as a medicine it is not now valued. It is eaten by sheep and swine, but it is disliked by most animals. The flowers infused in boiling water impart a fine flavour, which is increased by distillation.

The Common Dropwort is not so frequent as a flower as the Meadow Sweet, though not uncommon on dry chalky or gravel pastures. Its blossoms in July and the flowers are tipped with rose colour. The root of this plant consists of rather long tubers, which when dried and reduced to powder, are said to be an excellent substitute for bread flour, and which in times of scarcity would be of no small value.

The only other native species, the Willow-leaved Dropwort, is a small shrub. It grows in most woods in several parts of the County, bearing thick close clusters of rose-coloured flowers in July. Several of these pleasing shrubs are cultivated for ornamental gardens.—A.P.

### *For the Children.*

No doubt many boys and girls had a great deal of fun on April Fools day (or All Fools day) and perhaps have wondered where the idea came from. This day as you know falls on the first day of April, and is an old custom of playing practical jokes, usually until noon. The origin of the custom, perhaps unknown in Gt. Britain until about 1700, is obscure. It is possible that it is connected with the festivities of the Spring equinox. The custom may have arisen in Europe as a travesty of New Year gifts and visits, when the reformed calendar transferred the beginning of the year from April 1st to January 1st. This alteration would have been most confusing, and especially as the people of those days were not very well educated, and it is quite easy to understand how this custom may have come about.

### *BRITISH LEGION*

*Effingham & The Bookhams Branch.*

Although unemployment has greatly declined in the District, partly owing to seasonal conditions, there is still room for improvement in effective and permanent employment for the ex-service man.

The organisation of the British Legion extending to all parts of the country, lends itself admirably to all important objects for finding employment for the ex-service man wherever a Branch exists, the Legion is always on the lookout for openings in employment.

It cannot be too widely known that the Legion works on behalf of all ex-service men. Its invitation to register for employment is open to pre-war or post-war, as well as those who served in the Great War.

The chief object kept in view is to fill every vacancy which can be found satisfactorily, the employer being provided with a person fully qualified to meet his requirements. It may be observed here that usually the closest co-operation exists between the local Labour Exchange and the Branch Employment Committee, and in many cases the Manager is himself an ex-service man. This in no way reflects favouritism, but it must be emphasised that only men ably fitted for the particular type of employment required are sent to employers.

Through the efforts of the local Employment Committee eight permanent situations were placed during the year and numerous temporary and casual jobs were also filled.

As stated in the last issue of the "Bookhams Bulletin," Broadheath, Wimbledon, is now being utilised as a Training Home for girls between the ages of 14 and 16, primarily those already being maintained by the British Legion and United Services Fund. The present training comprises all branches of domestic work under specially qualified teachers. The conversion of this Home, formally used for the care of small children to this purpose, was to some extent experimental, but the result of the past year's experience has shown that a very useful and valuable purpose has been served.

This scheme, on its present lines, has only been in operation a little over twelve months, and twelve girls have already been sent out to private service. There is no difficulty in finding situations for them, where they will have an

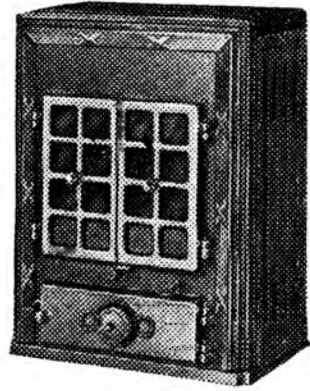
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## THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN.

portunity of acquiring further experience.

The Committee immediately responsible for the management of the Home and the welfare of the girls, take great care in selecting places where an interest will be taken in them.

Information regarding employment can be obtained from the Branch Employment Officer, Legion Hall, Lower Road, Effingham.

W.A.M.

### *An Appreciation.*

It is with profound regret we have to announce that Miss Gilham has tendered her resignation to the "Good Companions Club" and the "Social Service Bureau," as she will be leaving Bookham early in May, for Canada, to undertake Mission work.

Since Miss Gilham came to the village about two-and-a-half years ago, she associated herself with the work of the two organisations already mentioned, and through her untiring energy and devotion to the causes with which she was so intimately connected, she gave a new impetus to all, whether as leader of the Good Companions Club or as a visitor for the Social Service Bureau. In fulfilling her roll in the latter capacity, she understood the particular needs of those distressed cases with which she daily came into contact, and above all administered to their wants.

In appreciating Miss Gilham's work, the fact of her organising and administrative qualities must not be overlooked, for the control of such a Club with its varied character is an object worthy of commendation.

It is impossible here to put into words the great loss that will be sustained by the departure of Miss Gilham, but in extending our sincere thanks and gratitude, together with good wishes for her happiness, it is hoped that a very near future will again bring a ray of sunshine to those who benefitted by her presence.

### **British Legion, Effingham & The Bookhams Branch.**

31st May to 2nd June—National Conference at Buxton.

1st June, Whit-Monday Fete, Legion Hall and field adjoining.

14th June, County Rally, Brighton.

4th July, County Conference, Esher.

## Let's see what's on!

### REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

#### **Sundays—**

Brotherhood, 3 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

#### **Mondays—**

Women's Thrift Club.

Coal and Clothing Club, 12 p.m. (School).

Women's Fellowship, 2.30 p.m. (Church House)

Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. (Congregational Church Parlour).

Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Junior Club, 7 p.m. (Church House).

Boys' Brigade, 7.15 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Girls' Friendly Society & Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m. (Congregational Church).

Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scout Hut).

#### **Tuesdays—**

Life Boys, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Blue Birds, 6.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Camp Fire Girls, 7.30 p.m. (Congregational Hall).

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House)

#### **Wednesdays—**

The White Ribbon Band of Hope. Last Wednesday in each month at Congregational Church, from 6.30 till 8 p.m.

#### **Thursdays—**

Cubs, 5.30 p.m. (Scout Hut).

Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m. (Baptist Hall).

Scouts, 8 p.m. (Scout Hut).

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House)

Bookham Women's Constitutional Association

Monthly Meetings at the Barn Hall.

First Thursday in the month at 3 p.m.

#### **Fridays—**

Brownies, 4.30 p.m. (Scout Hut).

Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m. (Scout Hut).

Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Scout Hut).

Good Companions Club, 8 p.m. (Barn Hall)

Will Secretaries please forward any items for inclusion to the Editor, whose address you will find in the editorial.

*Owing to lack of space, we regret that several items of "Other Events" must be held over for next issue.*

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