

The Yateley Society



Newsletter

No. 55

April 1994

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

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Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close, Yateley (0252) 875158

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member

The first Newsletter of 1994 and yes, I'm still at the helm!

Those of you who missed the AGM (shame on you!) may be surprised to learn that I have rejoined the Executive Committee. This was not due to withdrawal symptoms but to a realisation that I was too cut off from the Society news to do a decent job as editor. (Did I ever you may ask?)

One great piece of news (to me at any rate) is that Joy Savastano will be helping me by typing up the Newsletter on a more capable word processor than I have, and that Richard Field will print the Newsletter in a smarter fashion than before.

So, watch this space!

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1994

The Officers of the Society and the Executive Committee were elected at the AGM as follows:

OFFICERS:

President: Mr Edward Dawson
Vice President: Mr Sydney Loader
Chairman: Dr David Lister
Vice Chairman: Mr Roy Maryon
Secretary: Mrs Carolyn Seymour
Treasurer: Mr David Healey

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mrs Joy Savastano
Mr Richard Field
Mr Geoff Hoare
Mr Tony Hocking

Grateful thanks are offered to those who have stood down from the Committee after long service, particularly Richard Johnston whose contribution as Chairman was matched only by his dedication to Yateley Hall and planning matters, and Michael Holroyd whose devotion to footpaths and maps and many other topics has been of great benefit to the Society.

I would like to offer encouragement and best wishes to David Lister as he takes on the job of Chairman and to Joy Savastano and Richard Field who are venturing onto the Committee for the first time.

1. We have access to a wide variety of documents held in the County Record Office but often it is these more personal records such as diaries and oral evidence that really put flesh on the bones and give such an insight into the lives of the people of the past. Perhaps we should be considering another attempt at collecting evidence? It has to be done systematically and is best done in a structured manner to be of most use. If you know someone who would make a good subject, or if you would be interested in writing a collection of local history, please contact Elizabeth Wells on a course on the subject of local history and oral history which will be held in the autumn. I look forward to hearing from you. Your local history society is also interested in you who would like to help in the collection of local history.

3. We need people to run the sales counter on the day. One hour, from 10.30 to 11.30, every 10th helps.

4. VERY IMPORTANT - we need someone NEW to ORGANISE the sales, that is, receive the items for sale, price them and ensure that they get to the May Fayre!

Stephanie Partridge who has done this job very well for many years is standing down, but she can give advice on what to do.

Come on someone - it's your turn!

5. Volunteers to lead walks, please. (Nothing strenuous - and a printed data sheet will be provided)

Any volunteers for any help with the May Fayre please contact the Newsletter Editor (Tony Hocking, 31 Cornhill Close, Yateley, or phone 473128)

DID YOU MAKE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TO KEEP A DIARY IN 1994?

Another Yateley diarist has been found! Many of you will have enjoyed the extracts from John Mills' Diaries of 1876-1889 which were included in the "Yateley in 1878" exhibition. Now we have another diary, this time written a hundred years ago by Harry Tyler. He was about 30 years of age and involved in the family trade - bakery. Census records from 1891 tell us Harry Tyler was a journeyman baker, living in Blackwater Road with his wife Ellen and little son, George. A few doors away lived his father, also George, who had been a baker in Yateley from at least 1876, as we learn from the School Admission register.

Some years ago, I helped deliver Meals on Wheels to a Miss Tyler, a retired school mistress; she was Harry Tyler's daughter. We also delivered to Mr William Liddiard, who was 78 and had lived in his cottage on Cricket Hill since the age of 9 months. In 1981 Pat Tattersal and I took a tape recorder on one visit and chatted to Mr Liddiard about the Yateley he remembered from just after the turn of the century. Reading the transcript recently, I came across the suggestion of a return visit to him and also a visit to Cyril Oxlade. Sadly the visits were not made and are no longer possible. Similar tapes were made by others at about this time but more recent opportunities have been lost.

We have access to a wide variety of documents held in the County Record Offices but often it is these more personal records, such as diaries and oral evidence, that really put flesh on the bones and give such an interesting insight into life in the more recent past. Perhaps we should be considering another attempt at collecting evidence? It has to be done systematically and is best done in a structured manner to be of most use. If you know someone who would make a good subject, or if you would be interested in making a recording, please contact Elizabeth Tipton. Elizabeth went on a course on the subject a while back and has some helpful information and advice. Meanwhile, I look forward to hearing from Harry Tyler about Yateley in 1894 and 1895, and to any of you who started a diary in 1994, good luck and do keep it up!

Norma Dowling

THE MAY FAYRE - 1994

The May Fayre seems to come round very quickly!

This year we hope to organise a brand new activity!

At the AGM Elizabeth Tipton suggested that we dispense with the complication and expense of the marquee with its sales and exhibition, and run guided walks in Yateley instead. This was greeted with some enthusiasm and has been adopted by the Executive Committee.

These walks will not, however, be at the expense of the usual "presence" on the Green. The Committee decided that it was still worth having the marquee in order to provide a starting point for walks, to offer Yateley Society publications and to be an advertisement. Sales would again be attempted to defray expenses.

In view of the above, I would like to make the annual plea for help with setting up and running the Society contribution to the Fayre.

1. We need volunteers to set up and/or dismantle the marquee.
(At about 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. respectively)

2. We need volunteers to provide items for sale.
These can be:

- *preserves, cakes, biscuits etc.* (N.B. such edibles should bear the name and address of the maker, to meet EEC rules). A label stating "Produced by the Yateley Society" has been deemed adequate in the past).
- *plants*. These should be labelled with type and colour of flowers if relevant, and if known! Also, mark whether the plant is for indoors or outdoors.

3. We need people to run the sales counter on the day. One hour, two hours, all day - every little helps.

4. **VERY IMPORTANT - we need someone NEW to ORGANISE the sales, that is, receive the items for sale, price them and ensure that they get to the May Fayre!**

Stephanie Pattenden who has done this job very well for many years is standing down, but she can give advice on what to do.

Come on someone - it's your turn!

5. Volunteers to lead walks, please. (Nothing strenuous - and a printed data sheet will be provided).

Any volunteers for any help with the May Fayre please contact the Newsletter Editor (Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close, Yateley) or phone 875158.

PROGRAMME NOTES

THURSDAY 21st APRIL

"Decorative Fine Art in Hart" by Janet Martin, Chairman NADFAS Hart Society

The National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies (NADFAS) has a Volunteer Conservation Corps (VCC) and several hundred member societies who help restore historic objects in buildings of special interest. Janet works locally at the Vyne near Basingstoke and at the Royal Ordnance Museum at Deepcut.

THURSDAY 19th MAY

"Agriculture in the Thames Valley, 1870-1940" by Dr Sadie Ward

Dr Ward works at the Museum of Rural Life in Reading. She will talk on aspects of farming and Rural Life prior to the Second World War.

THURSDAY 2nd JUNE

There is the possibility of an evening visit at 8 p.m. to the Royal Ordnance Museum, Deepcut. This is normally closed and this will be the last opportunity to look round before the museum moves to a new location. If you are interested please ring the secretary, Carolyn Seymour on 871294, or see Janet Martin at the end of her talk on 21st April.

THURSDAY 16th JUNE

"Planning a Town Centre for Yateley" by Louise Birch

Louise Birch, Senior Planning Officer at the District Council will give a presentation of the new draft Yateley Town Plan prepared by Hart. Members of the Yateley Residents Association have been invited to join us, as have the Town Council Planning Committee and those of the Town Centre Management Group.

THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER (Provisional)

"Round about a Rural Estate" by Sir Euan Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe Bt

The Elvetham Estate occupies a major tract of land in the district of Hart, yet little is known of its origins and style of management. Sir Euan, the third Baronet, owns and farms the Estate and his special interest is conservation of the countryside.

Edward Dawson

113th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 22nd FEBRUARY 1994

The following matters were discussed at the meeting:

1. Matters Arising from the AGM

1.1 The Simmonds Graves.

It was agreed that the Society could contribute to the cost of renovating the headboards. (See article in this Newsletter).

1.2 Brief notes on Executive Committee meetings to appear in the Newsletter

1.3 May Fayre.

The Society to have its usual presence. The marquee was already booked. The programme Committee would discuss the activities to take place (See article in this Newsletter).

1.4 Resolution on local government reform.

The wording was still being finalised.

Every effort was to be made to avoid the political angle, while trying to ensure that the County's resources and stock of cultural material were kept intact.

2. Sub-committees.

2.1 Publications.

Members: Richard Field, Joy Savastano, Tony Hocking and David Lister

Means of producing more attractive Newsletters and booklets to be found.

The Committee recorded its thanks to Elizabeth Tipton for the work put into producing the Newsletters to date.

Reprinting old publications was suggested.

2.2 Planning.

Richard Johnston can no longer shoulder the burden. David Lister and Edward Dawson will request lists of planning proposals and discuss them with the Executive Committee.

2.3 Programme.

Members: Roy Maryon, Tony Hocking, Carolyn Seymour and Edward Dawson.

Anyone with useful ideas will be welcome.

3. Planning Matters.

Letters were sent to Hart District Council re

(a) Proposed development at Broome Close

(b) Modifications to Yateley Lodge due to fire regulations

(c) New fencing for the school fields in Old Monteagle Lane

Further building in Churchill Crescent was causing concern because of its proximity to the Royal Oak Valley.

The Hart Local Plan and the County Structure Plan are to be reviewed, these reviews will need to be watched.

4. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 29th March at Barclay House

5. Any other business.

5.1 Plans for Yateley Town Centre were reviewed briefly

5.2 Insurance cover for Society activities was agreed.

5.3 A vote of thanks was proposed to Mrs Diana Healey for the hospitality extended to the Society committees in the past year.

5.4 Hampshire County Council will be asked to consider conservation in some of Yateley's ponds.

PROGRESS REPORT - YATELEY NATIONAL SCHOOL LOG BOOK

After studying the year 1878 in Log Book 1 for the May Fayre exhibition, Irene Draper and I found our interest aroused. Peering through the viewer at the micro film of the whole of this Log Book, which covers the years 1865-1882, we realised that there was a wealth of information, not only about the school and the development of the education system in Victorian times, but about families, village life and general trends and changes.

However, this method of reading the information proved tedious, though tantalising, so the Society decided to purchase a photocopied version. Irene and I spent a day at the new purpose-built Hampshire Record Office (conveniently placed next to the Railway Station and a multi-story car park) in Winchester copying the 500 pages.

Work has now begun on sifting through seventeen and a quarter years of entries by eight different Masters in assorted handwritings. It is early days yet, but there appears to be much to discover about educational methods and legislation; illness and the beginnings of health care; weather etc. For instance, in January and February of 1871 there are notes of snow, rain, rough weather and very wet weather! The HRO holds two more of our Log Books and as there is now only a 30 year closure recommended on such documents, we may be able to take our research even further. Sadly, after Log Book 1 there appears to be a gap of 14 years. I suppose nobody has a large 500 page diary in their loft?

In January Irene and I attended a day course run by Reading University, held at the Berkshire Record Office, on Archive Sources for schools and schooling; this proved to be very informative. It was good to meet new contacts from over the border. I even met a cousin of a lad I had taught at Westfield Infant School and was shocked to hear that he is now 30 years old and has two children of his own! We were able to look at other Log Books, School Plans, a Punishment Book, Minutes of Managers' Meetings (in 1873 Faringdon British School was advertising for staff in the Reading Mercury), Parish Magazines and Photographs. Such documents will enable us to put Yateley School in context. It was interesting to read that in 1937 Sandhurst Methodist School (Log Book 1929-1943) supported Yateley Cottage Hospital with an egg collection, was enjoying BBC radio lessons in Biology and Geography and were taking children for swimming instruction to Blue Pool, Camberley in a Hodges coach.

This course has encouraged us to set to again after a Christmas lull. We plan to visit Reading University Library and to make a further visit to Winchester to search for more Managers' Minute Books and to take a further look at the school plans, dated 1865. It now seems that the school was not originally built with a large Infant room, as shown in the exhibition "Yateley in 1878" but that though this was part of the 1865 design, it was not added until 1871-72. By 1894, the infants had again outgrown their allotted space and the Managers wanted to extend the school before being compelled to do so by Her Majesty's Inspectors. Plans were drawn up by June for a new Infant classroom and cloakroom, an estimate of £172 was obtained from a local builder and subscriptions of £72 10s were promised.

Norma Dowling

WALKS - A GAP IN THE PROGRAMME

You will see from the Programme Page that there are no walks planned at the moment.

This is unusual and comes about because *we are in dire need of someone to organise this activity!*

One suggestion, for a whole series of walks, is to explore the boundaries of the Parish of Yateley in easy stages over several months.

If someone could work out which parts of the boundary are accessible, and how they could be covered as a series of walks, ideally circular and four miles maximum, the Programme Committee would be delighted to hear from you.

Any volunteers please contact the editor.

MORE OLD BONES FROM YATELEY

Thanks to the help from several of Yateley's "old bones" specialists, some more of the origins of our street names now have the opportunity of seeing the light of day.

Here is a summary list based on information given by Mrs Valerie Kerslake. I am also grateful to Mrs Norma Dowling for information about Brookfields House and the Blakes, and to Mr and Mrs George Butler of Manor Park Drive for information about Little Croft and Somerville Crescent and previous information about Yateley Manor.

Bannister Gardens

"In 1417 Richard Bannister gave 15 and a half acres of land at Sandhurst in trust for the poor of Yateley and Sandhurst parishes" (Whites Directory 1859) I should add that Yateley Parish at that time stretched south from Blackwater or Duddasbrook and included Hawley, Minley, Cove and Southwood, an area about 5 x 10 miles or about 10,000 acres but only a small part was cultivated.

Beaver Lane

When new owners moved into the house, the western end of the road, (1950's or 60's) they claimed to have worked like beavers to get it straight and so named the house "Beavers", the road name followed later.

Blakes Ride

is named after the owner, Henry Blake, of a pub called the Wheatsheaf, which is now Brookfield House in Firgrove Road. He was there according to the census of 1861, but had gone by the time of the census of 1871. Richard Kelsey's wife, Georgina, was a Blake and both she and Henry were born in Chertsey, Surrey (census 1861 and 1871) so maybe he was her brother. Blakes Pond is the marshy area at the corner of School Lane and Firgrove Road.

Broome Close

is on the site of two twentieth century cottages, Broome Cottage and Green Close.

Byways

is on the site of a house of that name.

Caswell Drive

is named after Edward Caswall. (The road name is misspelt) He was born in 1814 at the Glebe House, the first very modest part of which his father had built as the Vicar. Edward took Holy Orders, later became a Roman Catholic and wrote some well known hymns, e.g. "Bethlehem of Noble Cities", "Jesus, the very thought of Thee", "When morning gilds the skies".

Chandlers Lane

is named after Chandlers Farm, halfway down. This was a very old farm, doubtless named after a long dead owner. "Chaundlers" is mentioned in the Crondall Customary for 1567. I should mention that prior to Tudor times, Yateley people paid tithes to the Manor of Crondall either in the form of work or produce. In Tudor times, tithes in kind had given way to dues in money and the Customary was a survey for this

purpose. Crondall Manor belonged to the Prior of St Swithuns in Winchester, which I suppose is the reason for the Roman Catholic church in Yateley being named for him. Chandlers farmhouse was Tudor, it is said, with many additions at the back. It was demolished after Hall Aggregates bought the land for gravel digging (in the 1950's). The ancient thatched barn was burnt down in the 1970's. During the 19th century this was the largest farm in Yateley. Valerie Kerslake writes that she does not know when the road began to be called Chandlers Lane, perhaps less than 100 years ago. The address to all the houses on the roads edging the Green was "The Green" until at least 1891, as can be seen in the census of 1891. Valerie Kerslake adds "The Green" rather than "Chandlers Lane" appears in the deeds of her house bought in 1960.

Cobbett's Lane

led to Cobbett's Farm. James Cobbett was a member of the Vestry, the body which preceded the Parish Council, which had its first meeting on 4th December 1894 with the Rev Stooks in the Chair. James Cobbett was a well known figure in the latter part of Yateley's 19th century.

Coleridge Avenue

is named after the architect John Dukes Coleridge, a pupil of Lutyens, who built Darby Green House for himself.

Coronation Road

commemorates the coronation of George V in 1911.

Crondall End

is built on the site of a late Victorian 3-storey house, first named "The Poplars" (the trees have long since perished, but can be seen in old photographs) and later "Crondall End" because it was built on the edge of Crondall Hundred, one of the 48 "hundreds" into which the medieval Hampshire was divided.

Farm View, Farm Close and Hall Farm Crescent

refer to the farm belonging to Yateley Hall

Firglen Drive

was built on the fields and stables of Firglen Farm, where horses were kept and after the last war, Welsh ponies were bred. The owner lived in a house called "The Paddock", now replaced by a small estate called the Paddocks. Stable View and The Gallop are close by.

Firgrove Road

leads to Firgrove Manor, a mansion in Eversley, designed by John James, assistant to Sir Christopher Wren. One of the families of the extensive Wyndham "clan" lived there.

(To be continued next issue.....!)

David Lister

YATELEY SOCIETY INSURANCE

You may not realise that the Yateley Society is insured against mishaps during Society activities. This insurance covers:

- *Personal Accident*

Various benefits are paid according to the injury received and the age of the victim.

The age limits for full cover are 17 years to 75.

Reduced cover is given for ages 12 to 16.

THERE IS NO COVER FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

- *Public Liability*

The indemnity limit is £1 million. Cover is for such activities as "erection of Christmas Trees" and "risks relating to fetes"

The use of great heat "e.g. welding" is excluded, as is the use of power tools but "lawnmowers and strimmers are covered".

- *Products Liability*

The indemnity limit to third parties "arising out of the business"(!?) is £1 million. (Presumably this covers against poisoning someone by selling them some dangerous exotic plant!)

The treasurer has the details if you want them

Tony Hocking

AN APPEAL !

THE SIMMONDS GRAVES

One of the most unusual treasures of Yateley is the SIMMONDS GRAVES set of wooden head boards in St Peter's Churchyard.

This is a very rare, possibly unique, multiple wooden head board consisting of parallel white painted horizontal rails on which the names of six interred family members are (or were) recorded in black lettering. The rails are supported by short pillars with pyramidal finials.

Built in Victorian times, the marker was repaired several times up to and including 1954, and had deteriorated very badly again by the late 1970's. Jean McIlwaine was in the process of getting it restored when the church was destroyed in the infamous arson attack.

Once more the woodwork is in a sad state. Not only has the lettering never been renewed, but the weather has taken its toll. The whole marker needs yet another overhaul, and most of the wood must be replaced if it is not to be lost for ever.

The refurbishment will cost a lot of money, the church has a lot of expensive work in hand already, so someone else must step in to save this rare artefact. *WHO BETTER THAN THE YATELEY SOCIETY?*

This is just the sort of project Civic Amenity societies are made for!

David Lister has already asked a carpenter to look at the problem; and was told that about £1,000 would be needed for good English elm to replace the rotten woodwork for a start. (A formal estimate for the work has been requested).

We are talking about large sums of money (from the Society's point of view) and while this is an attractive project, there is no wish to empty the Society's coffers, so another source must be tapped.

CAN YOU HELP?

Just a few pounds per head from the Society membership would let this work go ahead

A formal appeal will be opened when the project has been discussed and ratified by the Executive Committee.

Further information:

The inscriptions were for : *Mrs Mary Simmonds*, died 14th November 1842, aged 87
Elizabeth Simmonds, died 20th February 1816, aged 72
Jacob Simmonds, died 7th July 1842, aged 69
Miss Angel Simmonds, died 4th November 1768, aged 26
Mrs Angel Simmonds, died 15th February 1772, aged 62
Mr Francis Simmonds, died 8th October 1778, aged 68

(The last person to letter the head boards wrote the female "Frances" for Mr Simmonds - but after 200 years he was unlikely to argue!)

The graves were once known as the "Angel Graves" because of the Miss and Mrs Angel Simmonds recorded on the head boards.

The 19th century Simmonds are noted as "late of the Parish of Paddington", while the earlier Simmonds have no such attribution - so who moved which way and when?

The head boards are to be found halfway up and to the left of the path from the church front door to Pipson's Lane.



THE SIMMONDS GRAVES
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH CIRCA 1974)
-JEAN McILWAINE'S COLLECTION

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1994 (FROM APRIL)

Y.C. = Yateley Centre, School Lane. The Green Room is next to the Library)

APRIL

Thursday 21st - Lecture

"Decorative Fine Art in Hampshire"

(Talk by Janet Martin, Chairman of the NADFAS Hart Society. NADFAS helps restore historic objects in buildings of special interest)

Sunday 24th - Conservation on the Common

(Our regular working party assisting the Rangers)

Wyndhams Pool, 10 a.m.

MAY

Thursday 19th - Lecture

"Agriculture in the Thames Valley 1870 - 1940"

(Talk by Dr Sadie Ward of the Museum of Rural Life, Reading on aspects of rural life and agriculture prior to the Second World War)

Y.C. Green Room 8 p.m.

Sunday 29th - Conservation on the Common

(Our regular working party assisting the Rangers)

Wyndhams Pool, 10 a.m.

JUNE

Thursday 16th - Presentation

"Planning a Town Centre for Yateley"

(Presentation by Louise Birch, Senior Planning Officer at Hart District Council. The possible Yateley Town Plan has been much talked about in the past, this is your chance to hear what is proposed!)

Y.C. Green Room 8 p.m.

Sunday 26th - Conservation on the Common

(Our regular working party assisting the Rangers)

Wyndhams Pool 10 a.m.

ADVANCED WARNING FOR SEPTEMBER (Provisional)

Thursday 15th - Lecture

"Round About a Rural Estate" by Sir Euan Calthorpe Bt

Y.C. Room C.I.4. 8 p.m.

(Note room change)

(This will describe the running of the Elvetham Estate and Sir Euan will also give us his views concerning countryside management and conservation)

(Copy dates : Newsletter - 30th April, Stop Press - On request if urgent)