

The Yateley Society



Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

AGM Agenda

Sumners, Stooks & Benson

Common Problems • Gadd's Store

No 68

Free to Members

February 1998

£1 to Non-Members

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 68 February 1998

Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close, Yateley GU46 6QQ (01252) 875158

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

A HAPPY NEW Year to everybody!

As soon as a new year comes around we (well, some of us) start thinking about the Annual General Meeting. This was announced in *Stop Press* 36, but as it is so central to keeping our policies in line with members' thoughts, I will repeat the formal notice:

THE YATELEY SOCIETY AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday February 26th at 8pm – in Yateley Centre Room D.1.6.

You are strongly urged to attend. The AGM is the forum where Society policy is decided and endorsed by the membership; the larger the attendance the more democratic is the outcome and the stronger the case when policies are quoted at Inquiries and other formal occasions.

This year several Executive Committee members and one Officer are standing down; you are invited to volunteer or nominate people to take their places – please contact the Vice-Chairman or Secretary as soon as possible, and in any case before the meeting.

Did you know that a new section of the Blackwater Valley Footpath opened

recently? It goes West from Moor Green Lakes (across the river from Moulsham Lane) to Longwater Road which runs from Eversley to Finchampstead. Some of us have been to see it, and Irene Draper will lead a walk along the new section in March.

I have asked several times for some 'Letters to the Editor' as these enliven any newsletter and could be your easiest way to air your thoughts, serious or humorous. So far there has been a very thin trickle of letters, so I would like you to do better! If you prefer to disguise letters as more formal articles – no problem – there is no hard dividing line, any input makes my job easier.

You will find an article on Gadd's Stores inside, this started out as a simple note in 'Letter to the Editor' style, about a stamp; but a couple of innocent queries brought a flash flood of information about Mr Gadd that merited a proper article!

In the absence of adverse comments 1998 will see the *Newsletter* and *Stop Press* continue in the style to which we are accustomed.

NOTE: If YOU believe that something should be publicised or published urgently – let ME know, a *Stop Press* is easy to produce.

AGENDA

for

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE YATELEY SOCIETY

26 FEBRUARY 1998

Room D.1.6 of The Yateley Centre at 8pm

The AGM Agenda will be:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Apologies for Absence. | c) Hon Secretary |
| 2 Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on 20 February 1997. | d) Hon Treasurer. |
| 3 Matters Arising. | 7 Election of Executive Committee. |
| 4 Chairman's Address and adoption of Annual Report for 1997. | 8 Resolutions. |
| 5 Treasurer's Report and approval of Accounts for year ended 30 September 1997. | |
| 6 Election of Officers: | |
| a) Chairman | |
| b) Vice-Chairman | |

Members are reminded that nominations for officers must be received at least fourteen days before the meeting. To be valid, nominations must bear the signatures of proposer and seconder, and of the nominee expressing his/her willingness to stand.

Anyone willing to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee is invited to contact the Vice-Chairman or the Secretary before the meeting.

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
Mainly Sumners, with Stookses and a Benson	4
Mandrake & White Bryony	7
Welsh Drive	7
Commoners' Corner	8
Problems on the Common	9
History Database	10
Gadd's Stores	10
Recycling Corner	13
Notes & Queries	14
Programme	15

MAINLY SUMNERS, WITH STOOKSES AND A BENSON

by Valerie Kerslake

FOLLOWING THE QUERIES on the Revd Henry Sumner in the last *Newsletter*, I offer a few notes that may whet someone else's appetite to take on the genealogy of this extensive, wealthy and influential clerical family.

(Thought might not one of them have already done it?) In the 19th century the Sumners moved in the very highest social and ecclesiastical circles. Henry's father was vicar of Buriton, near Petersfield, his grandfather was Bishop of Winchester and lived in some splendour in Farnham Castle, his great-uncle was Archbishop of Canterbury. The father of his wife was John Utterton, Bishop Suffragan of Guildford, which appointment was taken subsequently by Henry's uncle, George Sumner, and there were many other relatives who were curates, vicars and above. It seems that most of the sons of the Sumners went into the church and most of the daughters married clergymen.

Apart from the Sumner/Biddle marriage in 1638 (and incidentally a Dr Biddle lived three houses from The Vicarage while Mr Sumner was there), we know of other Sumner connections with Yateley. Two sons of the Bishop were among the half dozen pupils of a Mr Barnett who had a school in the vicinity of Old School Lane. The writer Frederick Locker Lampson recalls them in *My Confidences* as fellow pupils for whom he did not care too much in 1830 when he was nine years old. Other young Sumners may have followed but we have no evidence of them. We do know that Mrs Louisanna Gibson, the eldest daughter of the Bishop, and widow of the Revd William Gibson, moved from a large house in Farnham to a large house in Blackwater about 1870, so Henry had a aunt and family of cousins close by when he came to Yateley.



Glebe House, once The Vicarage
(Valerie Kerslake 1987)

Also an Edwin Sumner was gardener at Yateley Hall in 1881.

The Revd Henry Sumner was born in Buriton just after his father became vicar there in 1845. He went to Eton and then to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and held two curacies before the Bishop of Winchester (no longer Bishop Sumner) appointed him Vicar of Yateley in 1874. He must have seemed like a gust of fresh air after his 93-year-old predecessor who had been incumbent for 53 years. Henry was just 30, energetic, conscientious and full of ideas. He immediately enlarged The Vicarage (Glebe House) which was soon buzzing with activity – not only his own young family (five by the 1881 census) but church meetings, school treats and many visits from many relations. Visitors were sometimes roped in to sing, play or otherwise perform at Penny Readings or concerts at the school (now the Village Hall), and when the then craze for lawn tennis was sweeping the country in the late 1870s they would have made good use of The Vicarage's three new tennis courts of various shapes and sizes.

His achievements with the restoration of the church and other improvements in church affairs are recorded elsewhere and would doubtless have been more numerous if he had not died in 1885 at the age of 40.

Heywood Sumner, the artist, was the one who got away. As a grandson of Bishop Sumner he and Henry were first cousins. He was brought up in the vast Old Alresford Rectory where his father, the Revd George Sumner, was rector for many years before becoming Bishop of Guildford. His friend W A S Benson – whose sister Haywood married – had probably been a childhood companion, for like Heywood he had been born in Alresford, the son of William Benson, JP. These Bensons may have been related to A C Benson and his brothers E F the novelist and R H, also a writer but not so very closely; their father was Edward White Benson, the first Master of Wellington College and later Archbishop of Canterbury (twenty years after Archbishop Sumner).

Moving on to C C Benson's *A House of Quiet* in which there is a fairly convincing description of a small boy's walk from his home at Wellington College to Yateley, I can only suggest that he was trying not to make his account, particularly of Yateley Hall, too easily identifiable when he calls the village 'Grateley'. Twenty years later in another book of reminiscences, *The Trefoil*, in which he again dwells upon Yateley Mill, he has lost those reservations and Yateley is Yateley. It would be interesting to know if the people of Grateley near Andover feel any possessiveness about the earlier book. Since on the map there appears to be no river for a mill to be set upon, their grounds would be shaky.

Now for Stooks, where there will be as many queries as notes. Colonel Charles Sumner Stooks would be the C S Stooks who wrote *The Parish*

Church of Yateley in 1947, drawing on the material in the longer *A History of Crondall and Yateley* by his father, the Revd C D Stooks. Mr Stooks must surely have married a Sumner girl, they abounded in the Diocese of Winchester, and there may have been other connections. Bishop Sumner was reputed to have had 78 descendants when he died at Farnham Castle in 1874. All the Stooks' sons had Sumner as a middle name. Charles, named after his father as well, was the eldest of a large family (said to number fifteen), some of whom possibly died in infancy while Mr Stooks was vicar of Crondall before coming to Yateley in 1855; there is a gap of five years between daughters Lena and Patience. Four-year-old Bernard died in 1889 and was buried in Yateley by the Revd F H Sumner of Hurstbourne Tarrant. The second son, Fraser, a sixteen-year-old midshipman, was lost when HMS *Victoria*, the flagship of the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean, went down off Tripoli in 1893. On the other side of his memorial in St Peter's churchyard is the name of his brother Herbert who died of wounds in France in 1917. The Revd C D Stookes moved in 1905 to Christ Church, Southgate, whose vicar, the Revd John Beardall (it must be the same one!), came to Yateley in the same year. It looks rather like a town-and-country exchange but perhaps there were more serious reasons for Southgate is in a different diocese. The church there, incidentally, is full of Burne-Jones' windows, though none like the ones St Peter's used to have. In 1909 Mr Stooks died; he is buried in Yateley with his wife Alice, who lived on until 1934. Two unmarried Stooks sisters, Patience and Phoebe, are also buried here; Phoebe who died in 1971 had lived in a cottage where Saddlers Court now stands. She seems to be the only one of all that family who is still remembered locally.

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MANDRAKE AND WHITE BRYONY

by Michael Holroyd

In *Newsletter* No. 67 ('Strange Shrieks at Midnight') Elizabeth Tipton referred to memories of 'Mandrake roots' being dug up in Yateley many years ago and being sent to Newmarket and London 'to make the horses go'. She added that plants which have been pointed out to Fergus Russell as being these 'Mandrakes' seem to resemble White Bryony.

As Elizabeth said, Mandrake and White Bryony are completely different plants and quite unrelated. Mandrake is a plant of the Mediterranean region which has occasionally been cultivated with difficulty in Britain, while White Bryony is a common climber of our hedgerows. However, White Bryony was in fact known as Mandrake to country people in many parts of England. Like the true Mandrake, it has very large forked roots, and was credited with the same magical properties as its foreign namesake.

In *Discovering the Folklore of Plants*

Margaret Baker says that White Bryony was supposed to have 'aphrodisiac qualities for man and horses'. It was also believed to help women to conceive, apparently on the basis of an obscure story about Mandrake in Chapter 30 of Genesis. The powdered roots of White Bryony were given to horses to encourage them to mate, and also as a general tonic 'as much as would cover a threepenny piece, given twice a week'. It seems possible that the local belief that it was used 'to make the horses go' was a reference to mating rather than running. Definition 31b of 'go' in the *Oxford English Dictionary* reads: 'Of female animals (occasionally of male): to go to (the) bull, cow, horse, etc. - to copulate with'.

It would be useful to make a record of any first-hand memories of 'Mandrake' locally, including who dug them up, and how many; who paid for them, and how much.

WELSH DRIVE TO STAY PUT - an omission

[Ed - Michael Holroyd has pointed out that I inadvertently edited a few words out of the article, for which I apologise.] The fourth paragraph should have read as follows (previously omitted words highlighted in bold):

'The Yateley Society and Eversley Parish Council submitted objections to this order. **It was hard to deny the grounds for the order**, namely that it was necessary to allow the permitted

gravel extraction to take place. However at the planning inquiry the gravel company had said that it might well be possible to leave the Welsh Drive intact, and the Inspector had taken this into account in his decision. Moreover, the period of eight years for the diversion extended well beyond the period of the current planning permission, which ended in 1998. The Society argued that this made the order legally invalid.'

COMMONERS' CORNER

by Peter Tipton

MOST MEMBERS PROBABLY do not know how Yateley Common is now managed. There are currently four 'owners of the soil': Hampshire County Council, the MOD, BCA and the Calthorpe Estates. The ownerships are divided into sectors by the A30 and the prewar route of Vigo Lane. The part of the common owned by Hampshire County Council was long ago designated a Country Park, and is managed on a day-to-day basis by the excellent team of Rangers whom most of us know. However all County activities are ultimately regulated by elected County Councillors meeting in committees and sub-committees. The Yateley Common Management Sub-Committee is different from most County committees in that it is a joint committee between the County Council, who administer it, and Yateley Town Council. One Yateley Commoner is invited as an 'observer', as is one observer appointed by the Society. The Committee meets twice a year usually in March and September. The chairmanship alternates between the County and Town Councils.

Society members have always been well represented on this committee, but often representing other bodies. Edward Dawson is a past Chairman, in his capacity as Town Councillor. For many years Michael Holroyd, as the Society's Commons & Rights of Way Officer, was the Society's observer. Daphne Kirkpatrick, a founder member of the Society and a Vice President, was the Commoners' observer. Adrian Collet and Dennis Cleaton, both long-standing Society members, serve on the

committee as County Councillors, with Dennis as immediate past Chairman. The Chair rotated to Yateley Town Council at the September meeting with Cllr Mrs S Mexon being appointed. I am the Commoners' representative and Mike Mann, our Conservation Officer, 'observes' for the Society.

Other regular County Councillor committee members are Alex Varden (Odiham) and Keki Jessavala (Fleet). Our new County Councillor for Yateley West, John Glenn, attended his first meeting last month. The Town Council usually appoints three members very ably assisted by the Town Clerk, who makes many good points, from his experience of attending the committee for many years, and his knowledge of common law. The County provides the Committee Secretary, and the meeting is attended by a the Principal County Solicitor, (representing the Chief Executive). With many years (even decades) of experience dealing in the laws relating to common land, his is a key role. Last but not least, the meeting is open to the Press and to the general public.

The main business of the meeting is to hear the report of the Site Manager, Tony Davies. The meeting last March also had agenda items concerned with 'Heathlands Policy and Special Protection Areas', 'Policing of Yateley Common', attended by a senior police officer, and a report on the progress towards forming the trust to administer the northern 138 areas of Blackbushe Airport as public open space.

The last meeting had an agenda item concerned with use by Blackbushe

Metals of the tracks at the rear of their premises.

As the Commoners' representative I was able to raise the concerns of two fellow Commoners; firstly the use of tracks over the common in Darby Green by Mr Goss of Forty Winks for a commercial undertaking currently the subject of a 'Lawful Development Certificate' – essentially a device for obtaining planning permission in retrospect by presenting evidence of having run a business for the last ten years. Secondly I was able to raise the concerns of the current owner of one of the Cobbett properties, on Cricket Hill, that the method of apportionment of the common rights on the register held by the County was effectively depriving them of their rights. Thirdly I was able to ask the Site Manager what effect he considered might result from the rebuilding of *The Ely* as a 39-room hotel – considering that the Committee had, in previous meetings, heard in his report the problems caused by spillage of raw sewage onto the common from the present 'sanitary' arrangements. As well as the health hazards, the sewage enriches the poor acid heathland. As a result the County Planning Officer has already secured 'main drainage' as a planning condition should permission be granted for the hotel. Alan Manley, a member of the public, was able to ask a question concerning the apparent encroachment by the *Casa del Cesari*

onto the common. This elicited a reply from the County Solicitor that the Site Manager would be perfectly within the law to remove newly erected fences that he was sure had encroached onto the common land.

Much of the practical business of running the common last century was left to the Parish Council, which represented the ordinary people of Yateley, the majority of whom were then Commoners. The Parish Council had to liaise with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who were then Lords of the Manor, as 'owners of the soil'. Commoners sometimes had to attend manorial courts. Now the County Council are 'owners of the soil', the Town Council still represents the ordinary people of Yateley, and the Commoners' representative attends the Yateley Commons Management Sub-Committee instead of the Manorial Court. However it's not quite business as usual. The County Council is now just one of four 'owners of the soil'. So the Commoners, and the general public through the Town Council, only have a say in the management of 573 acres of the total 1 218 acres of registered common land over which the Commoners have registered rights – a little under a half of the total land area. When we add the 138 acres of the north part of Blackbushe Airport, the Yateley Commons Management Committee will manage almost 60% of the common.

PROBLEMS ON THE COMMON

by Mike Mann

RESTORATION OF THE heathland to its previous, more open aspect is not understood or appreciated by many

locals, even those to whom lengthy explanations have been given. This remains a serious perceptual problem

for the public, which probably stems from the perhaps naive belief that trees are always beneficial and beautiful, and should be planted, but never cut down. When this is combined with a lack of appreciation for the rarity of lowland heath (*Common* land!?) and all its dependant species, the attitude is hard to combat. We take comfort from observing the effects that accrue if work is *not* done. Compare the area alongside the A30 opposite Blackbushe, this would be the fate of Yateley Common if the well-meaning complainers had their way.

The amount of work required to complete the Rangers' conservation programme is enormous. The optimum solution for maintaining the heathland, after clearance of invading scrub, must be to re-instate grazing on a scale that would eliminate the need for future felling. The sooner the better.

Fly tipping reached ridiculous levels this year, costing the Rangers nearly half their available time in clearance work some weeks. The author would like to see the formation of an unofficial network of 'Neighbourhood Common Watchers' who could become a real deterrent and thereby make a really useful contribution to Conserving the Common. No appointments would be necessary, just carry a mobile phone whenever walking or visiting the Common, and report truck and car registrations immediately fly tipping (or arson) is sighted.

The regular work parties always welcome new volunteers, if you would like to try a little light exercise and enjoy



Clearing scrub near the airport terminal building

fresh air with friends, come along and try it for an hour or so on the last Sunday of the month. We meet at Wyndham's Pool at 10am and normally finish at 1pm. No experience necessary, tools and free refreshments provided.

Many thanks to all the 51 volunteers who turned out, over the months to make 1997 a record year for the Conservation Group.

THE YATELEY SOCIETY HISTORY DATABASE

The database is now available on CD-ROM. Those of you who can accommodate CD-ROMs can have a new, expanded version of the database, with other improvements, such as much easier access to the many pictures.

Please apply to Richard Johnston, 4 Dungells Lane, Yateley GU46 6EY. Tel: 01252 872 832.

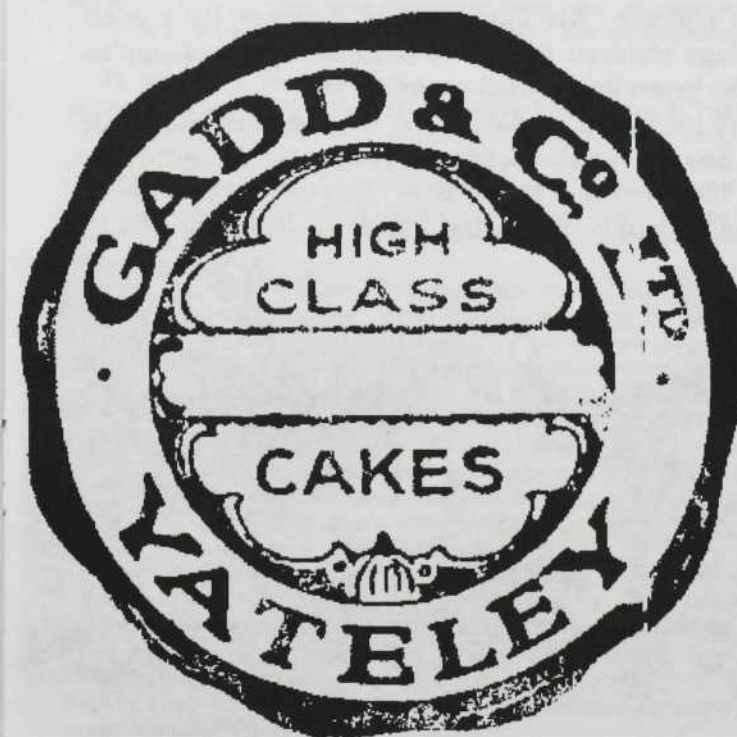
GADD'S STORES

by Tony Hocking

ONE OF THE sepia postcards published by the Yateley Society in 1996 features Gadd's Stores. The general store occupied the building near St Peter's Church now used by 'Discoveries' and before that by the long-lamented 'Raymon's DIY'. The postcard depicts it in the early part of this century. Judging by the three well-loaded delivery carts in the postcard picture Mr Gadd provided a popular and much-used service.

You may recall that some time ago I appealed for information on any Yateley Society artefacts that people may have squirrelled away. It is one of these artefacts, now in my possession, that sparked off this article.

The item in question is a stamp for putting an advertisement on paper bags used in Mr Gadd's shop. The stamp itself is a cast metal disc 100 mm in diameter and 1.5 mm thick, made of a non-ferrous metal which looks like zinc. (Yes – it is exactly 100 mm and not 4 inches diameter as one might expect in England in 1900! – could it have been manufactured abroad? – it seems surprising for a rural business, but could have been acquired from Germany via an agent by mail order.) The disc is mounted on a 100mm square, 21mm thick block of mahogany.



The illustration shows the impression left by the stamp. The white line down the right hand side is the result of a saw cut which goes through the metal and just into the underlying wood – I assume this to be accidental damage.

The impression is the best I could manage using black powder paint, I did not want to stain the stamp with anything more permanent. It was only when I washed the excess

paint off that I discovered that the face of the stamp was metal, before then everything had appeared a uniform dirty black!

Gadd's Stores beside the church was the most important shop in the village, it was already well established when W T Gadd bought it about 1870 when he would have been 30. He was described in White's Directory of 1878 as grocer, baker, draper and agent for the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., and he provided a wide range of household equipment, delivering it if the customer so desired.

Mr Gadd, first name William but usually known as 'Tommy', was a well-known figure in Yateley; a member of the Vestry, a property owner and employer of quite a number of men and women since he required shop assistants (two lived in), storemen, delivery men, a baker (the bakehouse was to the right of the shop) as well as tailors and dressmakers for the services advertised on the shop front. He was also involved in many village activities; he contributed to the 'Women's & Childrens' Clothing Fund, the 'Coal Fund' and other such charitable enterprises. When St Peter's was renovated in 1878 Gadd's drawing room was used as a high clergy dressing room and his hall was used by the choir.

W T Gadd and his wife (a Burberry of the raincoat family) lived next door to the shop at Chaddisbrook House, a viewpoint commanding the centre of the village. They had no children. Mr Gadd would however have been remembered by many village children for the spotted oranges and apples which he threw out onto the green for them to scramble for.

Shop working hours were long in those days, most staying open until 7 or 8pm, and later still on Saturdays. Packaging scarcely existed, although Huntley & Palmers sold biscuits for Christmas in decorative tins. There were sacks of flour and oats, barrels of vinegar and dried fruit, big tins of

treacle with a tap for dispensing it and chests of tea which was often blended by the grocer. Soap came in long slabs, salt in blocks and sugar in loaves. All these bulk items needed to be cut up, weighed and measured for



each customer into paper bags or the jars or tins which they may have brought to be refilled.

Apart from oranges and lemons, village shops probably sold little fresh fruit and vegetables. Most people grew their own, and the big houses had large and wonderfully stocked fruit and vegetable gardens, with hot beds and greenhouses for exotic and out-of-season produce.

Ready-made clothes and shoes were just beginning to appear in the shops and it seems likely that the go-ahead young shopkeeper would have stocked them pretty early. Certainly he would have had a wide range of haberdashery and everyday materials, including the essential black crepe for mourning. Today we particularly appreciate one of the Gadd enterprises - a series of postcards showing views of the village which he seems to have brought out very soon after restrictions on the size of the picture on a card were lifted in 1902.

The shop was eventually taken over by W T Gadd's manager, Mr Webley, in the early 1920s.

I am indebted to Norma Dowling and Valerie Kerslake for their copious notes on which the historical details and descriptions are based.

Printer's Note: the 'stamp' is a letterpress line block or 'zinco' used for printing the bags - or more likely cake boxes, probably at a nearby printers. I can quite understand Tony's difficulty in getting an impression from the block using water-based poster paint, they were designed for use with thick oil-based ink - evenly applied by rubber or gelatine roller - and the impression transferred from block to paper with a pressure of up to 40 tons/square inch!

The zinc blocks were not cast, but the image areas were coated with a resist and the unwanted areas etched by nitric acid, by a process invented by Firmin Gillot in 1859. This was a highly-skilled trade, etchers would halt the etching process in stages, applying a finely-powdered acid resist (known as Dragon's Blood) by brush to the vulnerable edges of the image areas, to prevent the acid undercutting the image, then heating it until the acid resist bonded to the metal before returning the block to the acid bath, the result being that the edges around the image look as though tiny bites have been nibbled away. Once sufficient depth of metal had been etched away, more metal would be routed out, to prevent the background printing.

Zinc is the cheapest material used (other than wood or lino) and is adequate to the task of printing on paper bags or cardboard boxes. At the turn of the century, the nearest blockmaker would have been in Reading or Aldershot, as they were usually based close to a local newspaper, the only printer who would need a regular supply of new blocks - local Kelly's directories of the period may furnish a likely source.

The sizes? 100mm is 24 pica ems as near as dammit. The thickness? Type-high was established in 1905 as 0.918" by agreement between Anglo/American Typefounders, prior to then it could have been anything! The Continental printers of France, Belgium and Germany decided they'd rather persevere with their own measurement, which was slightly higher at 0.928". Blocks were always mounted on mahogany until the last war when resin-bonded plywood was used to good effect. more recently very dense chipboard is used. Blocks mounted on wood are notorious for shrinking, and type-high was restored by sticking sheets of paper on the back.

Why was the block in Mr Gadd's possession? Well, he had paid for it, and, although most printers held on to them, he was entitled to it. The saw cut? I am suspicious-minded enough to think Mr Gadd may not have paid his printer's bill in full and the printer may have rendered Mr Gadd's rightful property unusable, but if that was the case, why would Gadd keep it?

Nowadays, very few letterpress blocks are made for printing, where they are still made they use steel-backed nylon. Blocks used for hot foil blocking are more common, and have generally been made of magnesium alloy since 1946.

NOTES & QUERIES

by Peter Tipton

SOME READERS WILL have seen the production on television of *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. Members might have been intrigued by the reference to 'Blackwater' as the name of the estate of Sir Percival Glyde. Sydney Loader used to tell us that Wilkie Collins was supposed to have based his novel on Frogmore House. He might even have written it whilst staying there. There used to be much conjecture about local topography found in *The Woman in White*. Even the name of *The Woman in White*, Ann Catherick, is close to that of the local family of 'Catrick'; for example Edward, William and John Catrick all appear in the tithe apportionment.

The Woman in White was first published in 1860. When the new railway was built in 1849 linking Reading with Reigate, Jonathan Miles, an attorney, was the owner of Frogmore House. He may have been attracted to Frogmore since his wife Ann *nee* Bassnett had a relative with property here. On the other hand the surname Miles occurs in Yateley over several centuries. Jonathan Miles sold the property in 1857 to (hopefully not the aptly named) Henry Gouger, Esq of Langham Place, St Mary le Bone. The Frogmore estates were then enfranchised, so we cannot follow them in the Manorial Court Books after this date. Whether Henry Gouger was an attorney acting for Horatio FitzRoy to secure a good title or whether Gouger sold on quickly is not

known. It might even be that Henry Gouger bought the property to rent, and Horatio FitzRoy was his long-standing tenant.

So around the time when Wilkie Collins would have been writing *The Woman in White* we have at least three possibilities as the host with whom he might have stayed at Frogmore House. However it has always been stated (or assumed) that it was the grandly-named Horatio FitzRoy.

The FitzRoy family are all supposed to have derived from the illegitimate sons of Charles II by Barbara Villiers. Charles FitzRoy (1662-1730) was created Baron Newbury, and Duke of Southampton when he was 13 years old, and Duke of Cleveland on the death of his mother in 1709. The second son, Henry FitzRoy (1663-1690) was created first Duke of Grafton, and the youngest son George FitzRoy (1665-1716), was created Duke of Northumberland. The family was still producing distinguished statesmen contemporary with Horatio FitzRoy.

So, did Wilkie Collins use Frogmore as his model for the home of Sir Percival Glyde? Did Collins write *The Woman in White* at Frogmore? If so, who was his host at Frogmore? Who was Horatio FitzRoy, and does he fit into the tree of the 'natural sons' of Charles II? What was FitzRoy's occupation, if any, and what made him buy property in Yateley? How did Wilkie Collins come to know his guest at Frogmore?

RECYCLING CORNER

by Norma Dowling

'FROM GREETINGS TO SAPLINGS'

DID YOU SEE the article in the *Yateley News* on Friday 9 January? If you take your old Christmas cards to the Post Office in The Parade, Yateley, they will be recycled to raise money for planting 'Community Forests'. This is a joint venture between the Post Office and the Countryside Commission, which last year was responsible for planting 11 000 trees!

Yateley Society Programme 1998

FEBRUARY

Sunday 22, Wyndhams Pool 10am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers
Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common - more volunteers are always needed!
(Tools and free refreshments are provided)



The Conservation Group digging ponds for dragonflies, south of School Hospital Pond, near Wyndhams Pool (Yateley Society 1994)

Thursday 26, Yateley Centre, Room D.1.6, 8pm

Yateley Society AGM

See page 3 for details

MARCH

Sunday 1, Meet at Moulsham House (bottom of Moulsham Lane), 2.15pm. NOTE: Parking, in the drive of Moulsham House, is limited, please try to share cars where possible

Walk - The Blackwater Valley Footpath, Eversley Extension

(One of the 'Exploring the Blackwater River' walks)

Irene Draper will lead a walk along the recently opened Yateley/Moor Green Lakes to Eversley section of the Blackwater Valley Footpath, returning via Eversley Cricket Ground and Crosby Gardens. It is likely to be very muddy in places!

Thursday 26, Yateley Centre, Room D.1.6, 8pm
Talk – The History and Restoration of The Basingstoke Canal

David Millett

David Millett, a leading figure in the restoration story and past chairman of the Surrey & Hants Canal Society, will give us an illustrated talk on the Basingstoke Canal throughout its chequered history.

Sunday 29, Wyndhams Pool 10am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers.
Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers are always needed!
(Tools and free refreshments are provided)

APRIL

Thursday 23, Yateley Centre, Room D.1.6, 8pm

Talk – An Overview of the History of Yateley (From the Ice Age to Today)

Richard Johnston will give us the 'History of Yateley' talk which he has prepared and used as one of the instantly available Society talks for outside organisations. It is only right that the Society members should also get the full benefit of Richard's work!

Sunday 26, Wyndhams Pool 10am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers.
Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers are always needed!
(Tools and free refreshments are provided)

Copy dates

Newsletter: 15 March 1998

Stop Press: When necessary



The Yateley Society

Registered with the Civic Trust

Registered Charity No 282397

Membership Secretary:

Graham Brown

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