



The  
Yateley  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

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## On the Trail of Flora Thompson A talk by John Owen Smith

Thursday 20 March 2008, 8pm at The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley

The BBC series *Lark Rise to Candleford* is a ten-part adaptation of Flora Thompson's magical memoir of her life, a love letter to a vanished corner of rural England and a heart-warming drama series teeming with wit, wisdom and romance. Set in the small hamlet of Lark Rise and the wealthier neighbouring market town, Candleford, at the end of the 19th Century, the series chronicles the daily lives of farm workers, craftsmen and gentry, observing characters in loving, boisterous and competing communities of families, rivals, friends and neighbours. This world is seen through the eyes of a teenage girl, as she leaves Lark Rise to start a new life under the wing of her cousin, the independent and effervescent Dorcas Lane who is Post Mistress at the local Post Office in Candleford.

John Owen-Smith has made a study of Flora Thompson's life, including the period when she was a Post Office clerk at Yateley, and has written a book called "On the Trail of Flora Thompson", which he is going to talk to us about.

Admission free – Members and non-members welcome

## Yateley May Fayre

Come along and find out what is planned for the whole town centre from the Tythings to Cricket Hill.

The Society will be at the May Fayre for the first time in 10 years as part of the grouping of community organisations being assembled by Yateley Town Council, including Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and the County Rangers. The idea is that we shall all be housed together in the same big marquee, hopefully supplied by the MOD. The Village Design Statement - Supplementary Planning Document (SDP) will be launched, and the statutory consultation period will commence.

The SDP, sponsored by Hampshire, Hart, Yateley Town Council and the Society, is a formal planning document part of the new Local Development Framework. It will be your

chance to see the exhibition and talk to the local government officials and consultants. The County's Rangers will be launching their summer campaign aimed at dog-walkers on the common, and the Wildlife Trust will be launching their campaign, Common Purpose, to find the best way of managing the various parts of Yateley Common. They are expecting to introduce grazing to the part of the common south of the A30, and the May Fayre will be part of the public consultation required. Last, but not least, Carol White, the archaeologist will be there to show us the results of last year's dig and prepare for this summer. Everything is happening at once this year – good things and bad – so cancel the idea of that weekend away and come to the May Fayre, which promises to be the biggest community event in years!

**Types of vessel during Border ware's creative period:**

a) Drinking vessels had already become the most decorative form of Border ware, but apparently changed in the mid C17 to barrel shaped mugs. At Minley Road, Cove on the M3 site, huge numbers of mug wasters were found. It had originally been thought from London evidence that

mugs had appeared about 1620, but they are found at Farnborough at the end of the C16. It seems that this type was developed in Farnborough, and continued at Cove.

One type of mug was given a wrapping of crushed flint. This doubled the weight, and made the outside unpleasantly abrasive. This type also originated in the Rhineland, and hence another German link. Presumably the use of such of such an unlikely coating must have served some purpose (Philip Todd suggested the coating might have retained water, making it useful for keeping the contents cool). This type of mug was unusual, but mugs were very decorative.

b) Candlesticks appeared in a variety of forms and sizes, and could be very fancy. (Farnborough started making candlesticks in the late C16 and continued into the C17). The ideas for new candlestick forms again came from Germany, and appear first in England in Border ware, as part of what is known as the "ceramic revolution".

c) The Chafing dish (a portable brazier) was fired by charcoal in the bowl, with lugs to balance another bowl above it, and holes to let



ash out into a retaining area below. They cook well, allowing a range of heating rates. These were made in large quantities at Farnborough.

d) A fuming pot (perfume burner). These elaborately constructed, perforated charcoal burning structures were used to burn perfume to kill unpleasant smells or to manufacture perfumes. Sherds of these were found at Farnborough Hill.

e) Chamber pots These do not appear before the mid 16C. Early examples are taller than later ones, which are squatter with flat-topped and more comfortable rims, and are fully green glazed.

f) Bedpan production began at Farnborough in the late C16 and continued in Border ware into the C19. At the start of the C18 Border ware whiteware production stopped, and now concentrated on red wares. Bedpans were made with hollow handles to empty them, and fitted with inturned rims to retain the bedpan contents - these were very good designs.

g) Double dish, with a perforated front part, which it has been suggested was for shaving. These are very rare Border ware items, not found at Farnborough Hill.

h) "Chicken feeding Dish" - a strange dish vessel with concentric rings creating a set of concentric partitions with unknown purpose. Name was suggested because could prevent drinking chicks from drowning. But the item is well made and fully glazed, suggesting a different use.

(Red Border ware in the C17 used the same shapes as the earlier whiteware. The red ware used a clear glaze, and is different from London-made red ware).

Breughel painted pictures of Germanic stoneware drinking jugs (1480-1550). These were common imports into England, and were copied in Border ware but the market for them did not take off, as people wanted the original stoneware versions. Tripod pipkins became popular Border ware, and were not made elsewhere in the same form with hollow

handle. London-area redware made cauldrons, and tripod pipkins of different form, with a solid handle.

i) Porringers (handled bowls) The Border ware ones compare with the Rhenish ones

j) Serving jugs. These were larger than drinking vessels. The Border ware ones have continental shapes and rims.

k) The "pie crust" rim form, used on late C16 - C17 flanged dishes or platters, is a characteristically German feature.

l) Dripping dish - this is also a new shape, thus the cumulative evidence of German involvement and influence is very strong.

m) Bucket handled jug. Introduced in the late C16, it did not succeed in London.

n) Bartmann jugs or bellarmines. These were originally imported in considerable quantities from the Rhineland c 1550-1700 in Frechen stoneware. Border ware copies are known with similar detailing, but less precise in quality

- they were made in Cove in the mid C17 but are very rare.

o) Stove-tiles were produced in the Cologne area - these were ornate and used on tiled stoves for interior heating, a continental fashion that spread to England in the 15th century. Similar tiles were produced at Farnborough and Cove under Rhenish influence.

A well deposit of 1610 at Jamestown Virginia shows the same range of pottery types as in contemporary London, and so includes Border ware items. The jug is the same as supplied to the Inns of Court, and there are also candlesticks. Thus Border ware became a truly international commodity. (The first English potter to work in Jamestown was Thomas Ward from the 1630s, who combined London and Border ware styles.)



The BTCV, the environmental conservation group, has asked us to let our members know about their website. The group publishes position papers and reports, runs training courses; organises inspirational holidays; runs green gyms and volunteer groups. It even has an online shop! You can read all about the organisation on

<http://www2.btcv.org.uk/>



### **YATELEY SOCIETY AGM MINUTES**

**Included with this newsletter should be a copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 21 February 2008 (which will be approved at the AGM next year).**

**We decided to circulate the Minutes now, when the issues are still fresh in your mind, rather than wait until next year – it makes more sense, doesn't it!**

### **The Conservation Working Party**

**We normally meet at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill at 10.00 am on the last Sunday of every month.**

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. The aim is to help the Yateley Rangers in all sorts of tasks in the upkeep of Yateley Common. To find out more, please call Mike Mann on 01252 877741

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2008

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley, 8.00 pm start unless otherwise stated.

*All events are open to non-members and there is no admission charge.*

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| Thursday<br>20 March 2008     | <b>On The Trail of Flora Thompson</b> by John Owen Smith.<br>Find out more about the author of Larkrise to Candleford and how the story was semi-autobiographical on her job as a post mistress at Yateley.  |
| Tuesday<br>8 April 2008       | <b>Visit to Heckfield Place and tour of the Gardens with Head Gardener - Robert Louth.</b><br>Meet 2pm at Heckfield Place, Heckfield off the B3011.  |
| Thursday<br>17 April 2008     | <b>Hampshire Bat Group - (the furry flying kind)</b><br>Paul Hope will give us an insight into the habits and habitats of Hampshires bats and how the group helps protect these little flying mammals.   |
| Thursday<br>15 May 2008       | <b>Yateley Village Design Framework SDP - Peter Tipton</b><br>This meeting will be devoted to formulating the Society's response to the Yateley Village Design Framework SPD (see article on May Fayre). There is a formal 6 week period for consultation, so come and make sure we know your views.   |
| Thursday<br>19 June 2008      | <b>Legends of Hampshire - David Ford.</b><br>A Talk on the fascinating legends which have grown up within the old county of Hampshire over the centuries with an emphasis on North Hampshire: heroes, villains, kings, saints, monsters, giants, ghosts and buried treasure. Hampshire has it all.   |
| Thursday<br>17 July 2008      | <b>Religion, Ambition and Family: Thomas Jervoise Esq of Herriard (1667-1743) - Zoe Downing.</b><br>This lecture investigates how the upbringing, principles and ambitions of Thomas Jervoise interacted with his family life. He built the early eighteenth century mansion at Herriard, Hampshire, designed by John James. The lecture follows the ups and downs of the fortunes of this well-intentioned but controversial Hampshire Member of Parliament, concluding with a sympathetic evaluation of his colourful character and complex motives. |
| Thursday<br>18 September 2008 | <b>History of the Gardens at Heckfield Place - Robert Louth.</b><br>Robert stood in at very short notice for our January meeting and gave a wonderful talk on the history of the gardens at Heckfield, but those who were there agreed that we should have him back so more people would be able to hear this delightful speaker talk some more about his passion.   |



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