

The Yateley Society

Newsletter

Issue 116 July 2014

www.yateleysociety.org.uk

Work continues on our World War One centenary exhibition. Over recent months our small band of researchers has grown a little as new people (some of them yet to become members of the Society!) have joined in, attracted by Peter Tipton's Twittering. Although for the most part we beaver away individually – on topics such as Yateley's military hospitals, hosting Belgian refugees and enlisting in the 4th Hampshire Regiment - we relate discoveries and problems to each other via email, Twitter and Drop Box (if you are puzzled by these don't worry – they are forms of internet communication) and we come together for

monthly meetings hosted by Muriel Brent, at which we assess progress and agree what remains to be done.

A while ago we decided to adopt the latest display technique in the form of 'roller banners'.

Curious? Find out more when the exhibition opens

in the Library towards the end of August. More details will follow.

Finding speakers and topics for monthly meetings continues to be difficult, leading to some meetings not happening, as in May. Apologies for this. If you can assist with arranging the talks and finding speakers, please volunteer. I am writing this just two days before the June meeting in St Peter's churchyard with Jean McIlwaine talking about the histories behind the family graves. Fingers crossed for some fine weather to draw people out. The Yateley News used most of my press release to make a substantial article so I am hoping it might attract some non-members.

We had a stall at St Barnabas Church Fayre on Saturday 14th June. Did you see us there?

Roger Coombes
Chairman
June 2014



Get to know your community!

Come to our **Free** event and find out more about us!

A relaxed evening of chatter and there will be a quiz too

7.30pm Saturday 12th July

Buffet is included

Please bring a dessert to share, your own drinks and a prize contribution for the raffle welcome



The Yateley Society researches local history, monitors local planning applications and participates in conservation work on Yateley Common.
www.yateleysociety.org.uk

Contact membership@yateleysociety.org.uk or 01252 449917 to book your place and confirm the location (central Yateley venue).

Yateley Lodge



I was briefing Valerie about the Yateley Society's progress towards its 2014 WW1 exhibition. With her formidable memory she kept offering me ideas to check out. We are short of evidence to prove that Yateley Military Hospital transferred to Yateley Lodge from the Vicarage in early 1917. This might be because it might only have operated there for about a year. Valerie suddenly said that she interviewed a Mrs Bunch who had worked there!

This is Valerie's record:

"Mrs FRED BUNCH 5 Mousham Copse Lane interviewed 26.7.86

Has lived in this council house since it was built 60 years ago [so ca.1926]. Father returned from [blank] on ship with Sir [blank] & Lady Cope who asked him to work for them at Bramshill (gardener?). Little Lillian du Pree (=Mrs B) brought up there. In 1914 war cooked at war hospital at **'big white house with the big cedar in garden at bottom of road leading to the Flats'**. Then at Princess Eugenie's hospital in Farnborough; cooked special food for officers having ops; they came down to thank her before they left. Lots of royalty about."

A later note was added in Valerie's handwriting: Died 1995, aged 94. Lillian was thus born about 1901. Since Yateley Lodge became a military hospital in 1917, Lillian would have been 16

years old when cooking at Yateley Lodge, and 17 when she was cooking the officers' special diet at the Empress Eugenie's hospital at Farnborough Hill.

If true then Valerie's interview would be key independent evidence that Yateley Military Hospital was transferred from the Vicarage to Yateley Lodge in January 1917. Furthermore, since Valerie's interviewee then transferred to Empress Eugenie's hospital (obviously before the end of WW1) this evidence implies that the Hospital at Yateley Lodge could have closed in December 1917 as suggested by the Red Cross service cards of Miss Beatrice Stilwell and Mrs Sylvia Macrae.

The facts regarding Valerie's interviewee working in the two hospitals is highly likely to be true because it is a direct personal account. It is key independent evidence of the existence of the hospital at Yateley Lodge since it is not a hand-me-down story from person to person and generation to generation. However the one facet of this evidence which jars is that Lilian Dupree appears to have been only 16-18 years old when she claimed to have been entrusted with preparing special meals for the wounded officers after their operations. Is her age miscalculated, or is there some other erroneous factor?

Valerie's worksheet indicates that she was interviewing 'Mrs Fred Bunch'. Searching FreeBMD for Fred Bunch's marriage gives us the information that Frederick J Bunch married Ada Dupres in June quarter 1920 (Hartley Wintney reg district 2c 699). Did Lilian Dupree get married to Fred Bunch under the name 'Ada'?

Searching the 1911 census for "Lilian Dupree born in Bramshill in 1901" confirms the information given in Valerie's interview: Richard Dupree, an estate labourer aged 45 born in Weymouth, was living on Plough Lane, Bramshill with his wife Edith Winnie and their

children. The surprise is that, as well as Lilian aged 10, the Duprees had another daughter called Ada, aged 13. Perhaps Fred Bunch successively married two sisters, Ada in 1920, then Lilian?

Another search of FreeBMD was made to determine whether Fred Bunch did marry twice. No record was found. A third search was entered with groom's surname = Bunch and bride's first name = Lilian. The result: Bertram Bunch married Lilian Dupres in Mar quarter 1927 (Hartley Wintney reg district 2c 335). This marriage took place almost exactly 60 years before Valerie's interviewee told her she and her husband had moved into their Council House on Moulsham Copse Lane. The question now is: did Valerie interview Lilian wife of Bertram Bunch or Ada wife of Fred Bunch?

To try to answer this question I consulted the Electoral Registers for 1939 and 1945, transcribed by Richard and myself for our 2004 exhibition on Yateley in WW2. The registers confirm that Fred Bunch was married to Ada and Bertram Bunch was married to Lilian. Bertram and Lilian lived at 1 Robin's Grove Cottages, but Fred and Ada lived in the council houses in Moulsham Copse Lane, albeit at No.2 and not No.5 as in Valerie's interview notes. It does rather appear that Valerie interviewed Ada, Lilian's sister who was three years older.

Because Ada was older than Lilian it would make more sense that Ada started working at the Yateley Military Hospital aged 19; 18 perhaps being likely to have been the minimum age to recruit VADs. Definitive proof is only likely to be obtained if the Red Cross Museum has a service card for Ada Dupree at either Yateley Lodge or Farnborough Hill.

Whichever sister it was who cooked at these two hospitals is immaterial to our main findings that the hospital at Yateley Lodge did exist, and probably only between January and December

1917. The value of Valerie's interviews and notes, however brief, cannot be over estimated.

P J Tipton

Planning Matters

URNFIELD - LATEST

Welbeck Strategic Land will be giving a presentation of their Urnfield development to a special meeting of the Yateley Town Council planning committee on Monday the 21st July at 19.00 at the Tythings.

This meeting is open to the public so we would suggest that anyone who is interested or has a concern about over development in Yateley should attend.

HART LOCAL PLAN

Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath have been consulting on a new draft Strategic Housing Market Area (SHMA) as an evidence base for a new Core Strategy. This is a requirement of the Duty to Cooperate placed on Local Planning Authorities by the Localism Act.

The three councils have commissioned Wessex Economics to undertake the study. They in turn have produced a great deal of data about population growth, migration, housing availability, historic trends analysis, etc. and have produced a comprehensive report which will allow the councils to determine the amount of housing required over the next 15 years.

There is still some way to go. There are conflicts between Government population figures and historic data, effects of the recession, employment growth, immigration, etc. One thing is certain, however, and that is the next Core Strategy is bound to cause plenty of controversy about the numbers and locations of future housing in Hart.

Barry Moody

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Our monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane, Yateley, GU46 6LU (Unless otherwise stated). Members and non-members welcome, admission free.

Sat, 12 July 2014	Yateley Society Summer Social. Please book with Abby Boles. See front page.
Thu, 17 July 2014	NO MEETING

Other society journals

As Chairman I receive copies of The Odiham Society Journal (which is published twice a year) and the Basingstoke Canal News (published quarterly). I always find things of interest in both of these worthy publications, and they inspire me to dream of what we might produce had we more members and a commensurate income to finance it!

It is right and proper for me to make these journals available for all members to read, so I propose at the next few meetings to bring them along for members to browse and to borrow if they wish.

Roger Coombes

[<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/publications/> gives free access to both the Basingstoke Canal News and the Basingstoke Canal Bulletin. The Odiham Society Journal appears to be paper only - Ed]

June meeting in the churchyard

The weather was kind to us as members gathered at the lych gate outside St Peter's for the June meeting. It was indeed a fine summer's evening such as we recall from childhood, when good weather was consistent ... but perhaps my memory cells have become rose-tinted?

For some of us this was a first visit to the churchyard, whilst others were returning after several years, but everyone was attentive to Jean McIlwaine's descriptions of the histories behind some of the ancient names on the gravestones, names which are synonymous with the history of Yateley as a village and then as a fast-growing town - Stilwell, Bunch and Loader for example. There is very little that Jean, formerly church archivist, does not know about St

Peter's and its graveyard incumbents, and those who had not heard her before on the subject were amazed at the depth and breadth of her knowledge, which she imparted in a relaxed and anecdotal way.

I suspect that most people who pass Church End regularly without entering the Church, and even many who are regular attenders, are unaware of the size and extent of the graveyard which lied behind it. We were grateful that it had received some attention recently so that it was largely accessible, although a few areas remain impenetrable.

Following the tour outside we went into the Church and Jean guided us through the features which survived the fire of 1979 and described the areas of expansion and development which the opportunity of rebuilding (albeit undesired and unplanned) had made possible.

Sadly, despite a good article in the Yateley News in the previous week's edition no-one apart from members accepted the invitation to join us.

Roger Coombes

EXERCISE THE BODY AND CONSCIENCE!

The Conservation Group normally meets at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill 10 am— last Sunday of each 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

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