



The  
Yateley  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 98 April 2010

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Those of you who attended the AGM on 18th February will be aware that Trudy Boothby and I have swapped places on the Executive Committee, so that I am now Chairman and Trudy is Vice-Chairman. I am glad to say, however, that Trudy is retaining her responsibility for arranging the Society's monthly programme of talks and visits. Conversely, I am sorry to see Tony Hocking stepping down from the Committee after 29 years; ie since the Society came into being. During that time Tony has held every officer's post. Quite a record! He will still be around however, amongst other things, contributing to the planning sub-committee and taking part in the conservation group, so we will fortunately continue to benefit from his experience and wisdom.

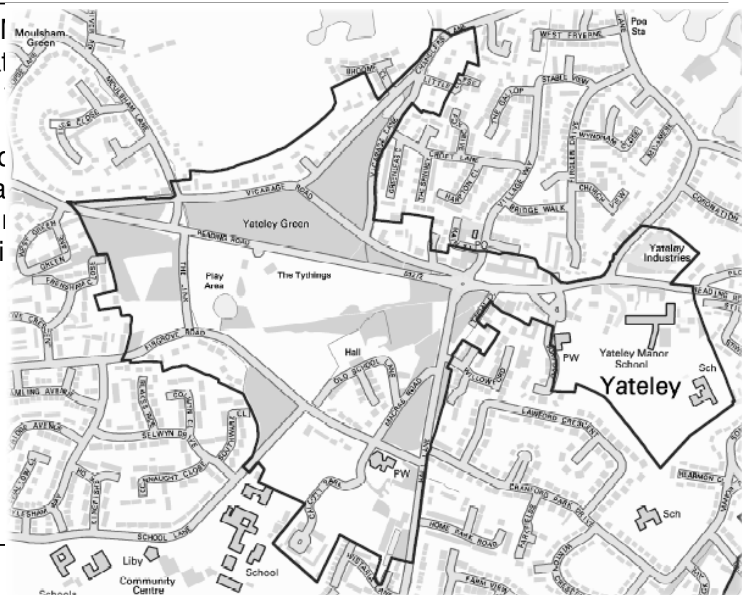
Last year the Committee lost another experienced long term member, Richard Johnston, who is leaving Yateley for the green pastures of Devon. With Peter Tipton looking to become less involved in planning matters the Society is set to lose much of the combined experience of these two gentlemen, which will leave a big gap in the Society's strategic role in safeguarding Yateley's heritage. The "new" (or should I say "surviving") Committee is now having to think very carefully about finding new blood within the membership that will become actively involved in the planning role, and indeed about recruiting more members in general, if the Society is to survive and continue in the dynamic role within the community which it has built up over almost thirty years. You will be hearing more from us about this later in the year.

In the meantime, I hope to welcome more of you to some or all of our monthly meetings.

Roger Coombes  
March 2010

The Society passed a resolution at the AGM for consultants to commence review of the Yateley Conservation Area. We have just received the following reply from

"The Council has a long standing published out reviews to Conservation Areas. For each area we have attached it to the email. We are just finishing up our reviews and our consultants will shortly turn to begin Yateley reviews."

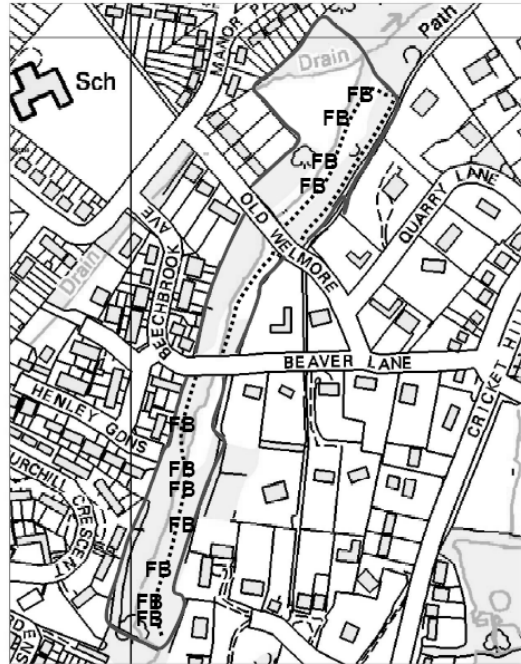


## Royal Oak Valley – Management Plan

Our friendly Hart Ranger, Tim Ackroyd, has drawn up a Management Plan for the Royal Oak Valley. If you are interested, it can be viewed on the Hart DC website: [bit of a long address!](http://www.hart.gov.uk/index/leisure/leisure-countryside/leisure-countryside-places_to_go/leisure-royal_oak_valley.htm)

[www.hart.gov.uk/index/leisure/leisure-countryside/leisure-countryside-places\\_to\\_go/leisure-royal\\_oak\\_valley.htm](http://www.hart.gov.uk/index/leisure/leisure-countryside/leisure-countryside-places_to_go/leisure-royal_oak_valley.htm) .

The Management Plan is under “Downloads” on the right hand side of the page.



**Reminiscences of Old Yateley by a Septuagenarian.**  
(William Burrows Tice b 16.8.1860, d 3.6.1941) (UNDATED, ca1933)  
**Part Seven of a serialisation of the Yateley Society booklet**

*Footnotes by R H Johnston, 2008.*

On all the Sundays in Lent<sup>1</sup> we school-children filed up into the Chancel and stood along by the Altar rails where the Vicar or Curate heard us say the Catechism<sup>2</sup>. On Good Friday we all had a bun; the Vicar had a large basket of buns taken down to the Church and he stood inside the Vestry door<sup>3</sup> and gave each one of us a bun as we passed out of the Church through the Vestry, they were substantial, quite as big as a tea plate. The Chancel was quite bare with the exception of Mr. Lewin's private pew where Mrs. Lewin always sat<sup>4</sup>. If the Vicar was only taking the sermon he would don his black gown and take his seat beside her until sermon time and if the Curate was preaching he would do likewise. Once the Vicar attempted to preach in the surplice, but the people were all up in arms about it and said he was too lazy to go and change, he said to the verger, "They shall not say that again, Hilton," and he preached in the black gown until his death on November 13th, 1874, aged 94 years, having been Vicar for 53 years<sup>5</sup>.

**Decorations of the Church.**

The Church was only decorated at Christmas when old Isaac<sup>6</sup> the verger used to stick a sprig of holly in a hole which he made with a gimlet, at each corner of the old square pews.

**Re-opening of the Church.**

The greatest day in Yateley in connection with the Church, either before or since<sup>7</sup>, was when it was reopened after the great restoration in 1878. The Clergy from all the neighbouring parishes were present, without exception, even the Rev. F. Sotham, the aged Vicar of Cove came over, also the Rev. R.T.P. Wyatt, accompanied by Mr. James his Curate, Dr. Randle, who was afterwards Bishop of Reading, but who was then Rector of Sandhurst, he was accompanied by his two Curates, Mr. Copleston and Mr. Ditchfield (Mr. Ditchfield died at Barkham Rectory in 1931, having been Rector for over 40 years). We had two Bishops, the Bishop of Winchester and the Bishop of Guildford, then being part of the Diocese of Winchester. The Bishop of Guildford at the time was Mrs. Summer's father, Dr. Utterton. The Rev. Sir William Cope also came over from Bramshill House, and he wore a coloured stole. Oh my goodness! Of course we quite thought it was something to do with Roman Catholicism, we had never seen such a thing in Yateley before.

Mr. Gadd lent his drawing-room<sup>8</sup> for the Bishops and Clergy to robe in, and the Hall for the Choir. We then formed a procession outside the front door - it was a most imposing sight, the different hoods of the Clergy added colour to the scene - we then moved off towards the Church, and such was the length of the procession that when the leading boys had reached the Church gate, the Vicar<sup>9</sup>, who was acting as director of Ceremonies, halted us, as the two Bishops, who were of course in the rear, had not emerged from the door. When they appeared we again started and entered the Church by the North door, the Choir and Clergy quite filling the Chancel. The Bishop of Guildford took his seat in the Sanctuary and the Bishop of Winchester went straight up into the pulpit. The service consisted of bright Hymns and Psalms, appropriate for the occasion. The Bishop's address was of course very lengthy, congratulating us on the work that had been so carefully done and splendidly carried out by the workmen who were all Yateley men.

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<sup>1</sup> That is in the forty days before Easter.

<sup>2</sup> The 1662 Anglican Prayer book required that candidates for confirmation, that is to become full members of the Church of England, should have learned the catechism, which stated, in question and answer form, the basic theology of the Church.

<sup>3</sup> This would have been the vestry at the south east side of the church, as the one at the south-west was built in 1901, and that on the north side of the chancel (the so-called anchorite cell), was rebuilt on an ancient site in 1952

<sup>4</sup> This was common before the Oxford Movement reintroduced a more high church liturgy, and robed choirs. After the Reformation, the Catholic altars were removed, and most services only required the use of the nave.

<sup>5</sup> See earlier footnote for more details about Rev R Lewin.

<sup>6</sup> Isaac Hilton, see above.

<sup>7</sup> Tice presumably means within his lifetime.

<sup>8</sup> He lived at what is now Chaddisbrook, next to the church

<sup>9</sup> Rev Henry John Le Couteur Sumner. He was related to Rt Rev Charles Sumner, bishop of Winchester from 1827 to 1869.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2010

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.*

Thursday 20 May 2010	Hampshire Record Office – House History. Following on from Peter's talk in January.
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### **The Conservation Group normally meets 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



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