



The
Yateley
Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 97 December 2009

Registered Charity: 282397

Thursday 17 December 2009
at the "Tythings", Reading Road, Yateley at 8.00pm

This Year's Yateley Society Christmas Event presents
"A TALE TO TELL"

Including the first public airing of oral history recorded in 1982
of Lorna Simons who came to Yateley in 1948.

Whilst we enjoy a glass of festive cheer, and a mince pie or two, we will be listening to reminiscences from Yateley residents, some no longer with us, about the life and times of Yateley past.

Friday February 5th

THE CHAIRMAN'S DINNER

at The Highwayman, Monteagle Lane
Yateley
at 7:00 pm

Our Chairman, Trudy Boothby, would like
to invite you all to attend her annual
Chairman's Dinner.

Set menu £20

Booking beforehand is ESSENTIAL
Numbers will be limited to 30 to keep things
informal and manageable

Please book by Friday January 15th at the
latest

Ring Trudy on (01252) 409262 to book.

18th 2010

Thursday February ~~24th~~ 2007 THE YATELEY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8pm at **The Tythings**, Reading Road,
Yateley

You will shortly receive a copy of the Annual
Report, together with notices of resolutions to
be discussed at the AGM.

These resolutions are topical and relevant to
what is going on in Yateley – the outcome of
the discussions and vote will be recorded as
the formal position of the Yateley Society.

This is the most important meeting of the year.
We must have a quorum. and hopefully some
new nominations for the Exec Committee!

**Come along, have a glass of wine and join
in the fun!**

Executive Committee nominations to Graham
Brown please - new members always
welcome!! Tel: (01252) 871934
agraham.brown@ntlworld.com

Officer nominations have been received for
Roger Coombes, Trudy Boothby. Jo Hill and
Graham Brown.

Yateley Commons Management Committee Moving Forward



Yateley Common in 1930s – Heathland with no trees (or houses!)

Yateley Common is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), but more importantly it has been designated as a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds under European legislation. In July 2009, the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee called for declassification of SSSIs if they could not be brought into "favourable" status. The County part of Yateley Common is currently classified as "unfavourable declining". Declassification from SSSI could mean the opening up of the Common, and the remaining green parts of Yateley, to housing development.

There are four main owners of Yateley Common: Hampshire County Council, MOD (whose land is managed by Hampshire Wildlife Trust), Blackbushe Airport and Lord Calthorpe. In order to protect our historic heathland and the associated wildlife that makes the Common so special they are each responsible for maintaining their part of the Common to standards administered by Natural England for achieving the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. It is the job of Yateley Commons Management Committee to make sure that this status is maintained. But the YCMC only has jurisdiction over that part of the common owned by Hampshire County Council.

The Yateley Commons Management Committee has been meeting since 1964, run by the County as a joint committee with the Town Council. But when administration of the County Council was recently changed, administration of the committee was given to Yateley Town Council, and this has injected a new lease of life. Mike Mann (Head of the Yateley Society Conservation Volunteers) attends as an observer on our behalf, and Exec Committee member Peter Tipton also attends in his own right as a commoner (having rights on Yateley Common). Meetings are held 3 times a year and are open to the press and public.

Yateley Councillor Bob Harward is Chair this year, County Councillor David Simpson is Vice Chair, and Yateley Town Clerk, Lawrence Smith is Secretary. Adrian Collett attends as County Councillor, with Councillors Don Benham, Edward Dawson, and David Murr for the Town. The County's Management Team is represented by Phil Allen, Team Leader North and the Site Manager, Nicki Paton. Frequently other Rangers also attend.

At the November meeting Nicki Paton presented her Site Manager's Report which included a new implementation plan for upgrading the status of the Common, starting with an application to the Forestry Commission for permission to fell about 16 hectares of trees, to return the land to heathland instead of forest. She is also working with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to formulate a Common Purpose scheme, in the hope of obtaining more funding to supply the resources needed to upgrade the historic heathland to "favourable". Discussions are moving forward to include all owners of the Common in some sort of Common Purpose structure which will allow the whole Common to be managed cohesively.

Nicki also reported that she was investigating the possibility of achieving Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) status for parts of Yateley Common, our old friend Carol White having carried out yet another very successful archaeological dig in August. Other projects include Rights of Way discussions, investigation into diminishing water levels and encouraging corporate involvement in conservation working parties.

Reminiscences of Old Yateley by a Septuagenarian.

(William Burrows Tice b 16.8.1860, d 3.6.1941) (UNDATED, ca1933)

Part Six of a serialisation of the Yateley Society booklet

Please note that these are reminiscences, recorded about 1933. Some information is now out of date or may be factually incorrect. They do however, provide a glimpse into the world of Yateley as it was in the nineteenth century. Footnotes by R H Johnston, 2008.

I am going back once more to the old Dog and Partridge¹ - on a window-pane in the room where I frequently took the club² members contributions was written the following:-

God gave us light, He thought 'twas good, Pitt he's taxed it, Damn his blood.

it was supposed to have been written by a gentleman with his diamond ring whilst waiting to be served with refreshment he had called to obtain. Pitt who was afterwards Earl of Chatham was Prime Minister in the early twenties of the 19th century³. Money had often been offered to subsequent landlords for the above but was always refused, it was eventually stolen⁴, not a difficult job being in a lead frame which could be easily turned up with a small knife or even with the thumb nail.

There is a very interesting and romantic story in connection with the two angels that are carved in stone at each end of the Chancel Screen⁵, they were carved from a large piece of stone that used to lie in the Chancel under the north wall, no one knew what it was, it had lain there for years, some thought it was the base of a monument or statue that had fallen down, no one could be certain what it was, they were carved by a gentleman who kept the White Hart Hotel, Blackwater⁶, named Gomm⁷, and the story is this:- Mr. H. Hilton⁸, who as the verger, had been in the habit of going to the White Hart hotel to act as an extra waiter during Blackwater fair⁹ and Mr. Gomm had come over to ask him if he would come as usual. Hearing that there was work going on in the Church and that he would find Mr. Hilton there, came in and found him in the Chancel and asked him what that large piece of stone was, he replied he did not know or how it came there. Just as this conversation was going on the Vicar came in and Mr. Gomm repeated the question to him, he also said he did not know what it was, it was in nobody's way and simply laid there. Mr. Gomm suggested that he could make something of it, so the Vicar asked what could you make? Mr. Gomm said I can see two angels in it, so it was arranged that he should take it away and do as he suggested. After a time he returned with his work, he sent for the Vicar to inspect it and when he saw what was done he was very delighted and said, have you found a place for them, Mr. Gomm said, "Yes, sir, with your approval, one at each end of the Chancel Arch," there being no Screen at that time¹⁰, he pointed out the spot where he thought they should be placed at the entrance to the Chancel, being emblematical of the Holy Communion, so that is where you will find them to-day. They are beautifully carved and are well worth a close inspection, on the background of the one with the Chalice is carved a grape vine, and the other with the Paten, wheat ears and straw.

¹ That is, the building that was demolished in 1912.

² A reference to the Yateley Clubs, see more on these below

³ Tice's knowledge of English history is defective. William Pitt the younger was prime minister from 1783-1801 and 1804-1806. He was responsible for a particularly large increase in window tax in 1787, which is most likely the event being referred to.

⁴ It is not currently known when this theft occurred

⁵ Unfortunately these were destroyed by the church fire in 1979.

⁶ The White Hart Hotel was close to Blackwater station, on the north side of the road. It was demolished in the 1960s, and replaced by a row of shops which bear the White Hart name.

⁷ Henry Jesse Gomm is recorded as proprietor of the White Hart in Directories dated 1875, 1878 and 1880.

⁸ Henry Hilton (baptised Yateley 6 Aug 1837, died 25 Nov 1918), son of Isaac Hilton, was also parish clerk for 47 years, in succession to his father.

⁹ The Blackwater fair was originally a cattle fair held on 8 November, the cattle having been driven from Wales. In the mid nineteenth century, cattle droving was outlawed to prevent the spread of cattle diseases, but the fair continued as a funfair until the 1920s. It was held close to the Hawley roundabout junction of the A30 and the B3272.

¹⁰ "there being no screen at that time" implies that these events took place before the 1878 refurbishment, which restored the chancel screen, which had been removed in the 1830s.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2009/10

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 17 December 2009	Christmas Special – the first public airing of oral history recorded in 1982 of Lorna Simons who came to Yateley in 1948.
Thursday 15 January 2010	Tracing the history of houses – Peter Tipton using actual Yateley research to illustrate the best ways of tracing house histories.
Friday 5 February 2010 7.00pm	Chairs Dinner – we have booked the newly opened Highwayman in Monteagle Lane, Yateley. Set menu £20. Please ring Trudy Boothby to book (01252) 409262 or email trudyb@rya-online.net
Thursday 18 February 2010	Yateley Society Annual General Meeting
Thursday 18 March 2010	Hampshire Record Office – House History. Following on from Peter's talk in January.

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



D Gibbs, who lived at School House 1923-1950, sent me this poem.

God be with you

I was home from the R.A.E. not long
When in our house we heard a low drone.
Into the school yard Mum, Dad and I went
The sky full of sound, by aircraft rent.
It was seven in the evening, June 6 1944
The sky full of Dakotas approaching
On sagging tow ropes, gliders towing
The faces of glider pilots showing.
We waved, what could we do
But pray, God be with you!
I'll never forget Yateley, June 6th that evening
D.Day, to war. Brave men England leaving.

D. Gibbs May 31 2009

Heritage Gallery

4 The Square,
Camberley Shopping Centre

The Yateley Society is now displaying an exhibition about

"Yateley in WW2"

Yateley Archive Project

A huge thanks to all those who volunteered for the Yateley Archive project. It is going well and here is Richard Johnston with the first consignment which went to the Hampshire Records Office on 2 December!



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