



The
Yateley
Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 95 September 2009

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Heritage Gallery - at 4 The Square in Camberley's Shopping Centre.

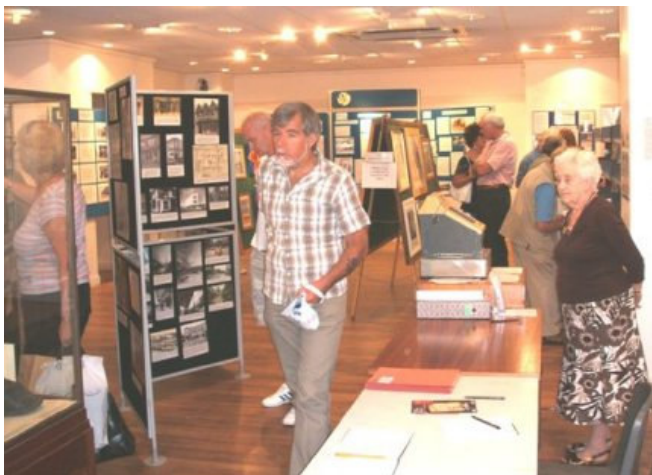
This Gallery has been created at the suggestion of Surrey Heath Museum Action Group (SHMAG) and with the co-operation of the Mall Management to display the work of over 20 local organisations in art and heritage and support the existence and activities of Surrey Heath Museum.

In the first 5 days, 1100 visitors looked at these displays and in many cases verbally expressed their appreciation of what has been done.

Comments in the Visitors' Book have all been enthusiastically supportive, ranging from the thought that the Gallery is a fascinating and exciting exhibition which

is just what Surrey Heath has always needed in the town centre, making the visit a greater pleasure and leading down memory lane to a child's observation that it reminded Daddy of his childhood and how much Camberley had changed. People thought it important to record Surrey Heath's history and that there was so much to be learned. Others were delighted by the local art. There was constantly the intent to return and view more.

Most were amazed at so many local organisations taking part and the standard of the displays. Groups range from artists and decorative arts enthusiasts to archaeologists and those supporting all aspects of heritage from local history to the Basingstoke Canal and the Romanies of Ash. It is a golden opportunity for groups to advertise for membership and sell their wares and the Yateley Society is proud to be one of them!



The Official Opening
of the
Heritage Gallery
is at
10.30 am
on
15th September 2009
by
Surrey Heath MP, Michael Gove



Reminiscences of Old Yateley by a Septuagenarian.
(William Burrows Tice b 16.8.1860, d 3.6.1941) (UNDATED, ca1933)
Part Five 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 Some information is now out of date or may be factually incorrect.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.

We must not forget the Old Church. I have seen great alterations there¹. I well remember the old high-backed square pews with doors that shut us in, they were more like small cattle pens than anything else, and the enormous reading desk which reared its hideous self and excluded our view of the sanctuary, it was not a three-decker like the one at Eversley, it had three book-rests one for the prayer-book, one for the Bible, and one for the sermon, there was also a most elaborate pulpit with an enormous red cushion along the front adorned with an imposing red tassel at each end, it stood on the same side of the Church² as the present pulpit only not so near the north wall, the entrance to it was at the back, somewhere where the stall now stands on the left-hand side of the Chancel³, the entrance also to the reading desk was at the back, there were three steps up into which put the Vicar⁴ in a very elevated position. Old Isaac Hilton⁵ the verger had a little box pew right underneath, he did a great deal of the responses and all the Amens, if anyone spoke out a little louder than was allowed the old man would look round, as much as to say now then, is this your job or mine, he was quite as much consequence as the Vicar, he always gave out the Hymns, or rather, the Psalms⁶, which we had in those days, and can be found at the end of any old Prayer Book, as we can find the Hymns in some of the modern Prayer Books.

Poor old Isaac was very fond of a glass of hot gin and water, and I have often seen him sitting in his little box with a vinegar rag on his head, there were naughty people in those days who would say unkind things, they used to say the old man made a miscount and had one over the usual. Before the Service began he would walk round and see if all the pew doors were shut, if he found one open he would shut it then come round and take his place in his little box, when he shut his door that was the signal for the Vicar to begin the Service. The men and women sat separately in those old days. The men always wore their smock frocks, breeches and gaiters and high crown hats to Church, and all sat on the north side facing the pulpit just as now, the women sitting in the centre aisle. The seats on the south side were raised one above the other like as at a theatre. I said just now there was a place for the Bible in the old reading desk, but I never heard Mr. Lewin read the lessons himself, there were several gentlemen who did it for him, but only a few would go up to the Lectern, the remainder simply standing up in their seats and reading. Mr. de Winton Corry⁷, Mr. Shute⁸, Mr. Stilwell⁹ and Mr. T. Barlow¹⁰ were among those who walked to the Lectern.

I must not forget the ladies of both high and low degree, their crinolines were most formidable articles of dress, there was one lady¹¹ in particular of rather stout build who wore a most wonderful one; I have seen her try time after time to get into her pew in the ordinary way, but, was unsuccessful, at last she would take hold of it at the side and turn it up like a cart wheel and so get in. Another lady¹² who was acknowledged to be a leader of fashion in the village, her bonnets were also most wonderful creations and were the envy and admiration of all ladies, her crinoline also was all that could be desired.

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- ¹ The church was subjected to more than one restoration in the late C19, but the main restoration was in 1878, when the church was closed for many months. A principle objective appears to have been to make the church better suited to "High church" ritual.
 - ² That is, on the north side at the east end of the nave
 - ³ Following the reconstruction of the church after the 1979 fire, the Chancel became a separate chapel.
 - ⁴ Strictly speaking Rev Richard Lewin was a "Perpetual Curate" rather than a Vicar.
 - ⁵ Isaac Hilton (born 16 Sep 1802, bur 6 Apr 1872, age 69), was a local shoemaker, and parish clerk. Tice states later that four successive generations of the Hilton family occupied the office of parish clerk, in succession.
 - ⁶ It would therefore seem that Yateley was late in adopting Hymns in place of the Psalms. The incumbant, Rev Richard Lewin, died in 1874, having begun at Yateley in 1821, following a curtailed career in East India Company service.
 - ⁷ Martin de Winton Corry (died 4 Feb 1885, age 64) lived at Yateley Hall, and was responsible for commissioning architect Norman Shaw to make a two storey extension of the house at the southern end in 1871-2.
 - ⁸ George Byng Hardwicke Shute, Esquire, MA (Oxon) (died 3 June 1892). He lived at Robins Grove, in Firgrove Road, at the west end of Yateley Green.
 - ⁹ John Pakenham Stilwell Esquire, of Hilfield, Yateley. He married Georgina Stevens, daughter and sole heiress of William Stevens of Hilfield, Yateley. Stilwell lived in Yateley after 1872, and died in 1921.
 - ¹⁰ Probably not Thomas Barlow, wheelwright, who had died 1858, before Tice was born, but his grandson Thomas William Barlow (b 1848, a commercial clerk), son of Aaron Barlow.
 - ¹¹ Her identity is not known
 - ¹² Her identity is not known

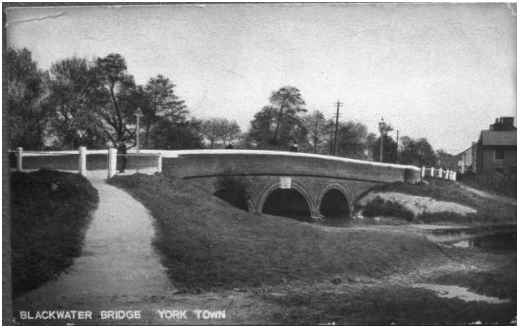
Yateley Society History Archive Project

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the history of Yateley to have access to the Yateley Society's archive collection. Dr Richard Johnston is embarking on a project to digitally record information which can then be lodged with the Hampshire Records Office. The project is a large one; more than can be carried out by Richard alone and **so he needs help!** There are at least 5 tasks:

- Operating a camera
- Scanning documents into the computer
- Updating the catalogue
- Preparing digital images
- Identifying items to send to Hampshire Records Office



The high speed scanning system is by digital photography, (which is much faster than flatbed scanning). This is the modern equivalent of microfilming. It isn't ideal for reproducing photographs, but is acceptable for most things. Photographs and artwork are normally scanned on a flatbed (A4 or A3 size). Once the images are made they have to be checked and pdf files (which may be OCR'd) created, and the catalogue updated.

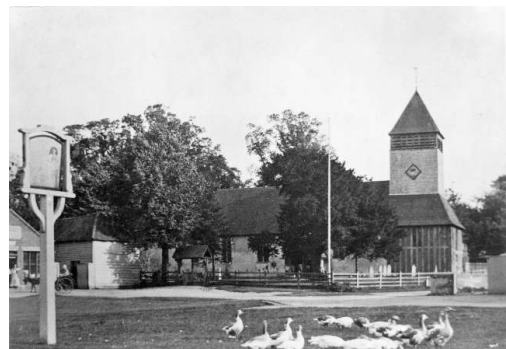


There is scope for speeding up this process by someone doing the photography, which is a relatively routine process once the system is set up, someone else could check the images were OK and set off the OCR & pdf process, and a third person could manage the catalogue updates, and place the completed material into the digital archive. A fourth person could then prepare the digitised material for its final resting place. Of course some of these jobs can be combined.

We could certainly make full time or job-share use of someone whose main job is to operate the camera and so create the images. This is not difficult. The camera is set up on a copy stand and once focused, it can be used to create a long batch of images of the same size. The item to be copied is placed below the camera and a single button pressed on a "cable release", and the image is taken and sent to the computer where it is automatically saved and numbered. The speed of the process is mainly controlled by the speed with which the items can be placed accurately on the copy stand table. Ten images per minute is possible. Hence double page images of books - even large ones - can be achieved quite rapidly.

Another distinct job is identifying items to send to HRO, checking they have been satisfactorily digitised (this is because items that were transcribed should usually be photographed as facsimile images), and preparing them to send there. In the first instance this can be done from the catalogue and comparing with the digitised materials to see if the digitisation is adequate. This could be done by a homeworger.

If you are interested in joining this project, or would like more information, please contact Richard on 01252 872832 or email johnstonrh@amen.org.uk



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2009

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 September 2009	History of Warbrook House – Philip Todd
Thursday 15 October 2009	The Ghosts of Hampshire – David Ford
Thursday 19 November 2009	Hampshire Marine Archaeology Trust
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 2009	tba
Thursday 19 February 2009	Yateley Society Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19 March 2009	Winchester Records Office – the history of houses



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



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

With this issue of the Newsletter, you should receive a Membership Renewal Notice because all memberships are due for renewal in September.

Please remember to complete and return the form in order to keep receiving your Newsletter and maintaining your membership. Thanks!