

## **Marian Barraclough**

1920-2019

Marian was born in Wortley, Ecclesfield, West Yorkshire and brought up in Chapelton, Sheffield. She went to Ecclesfield Grammar School and read geography at Bristol University. She was a meteorologist in the WAF in Lincolnshire during the war.

Afterwards she became a journalist on the *Ideal Home* magazine in London and then, on coming to Bristol to care for her elderly widowed mother, Marian trained as a teacher as a mature student. After a period at Warmley Primary School she finally became head of Chilcompton School.

Whilst living in the area, Marian ran further education evening classes on local history and this led her, together with Tony Coe and Brian Bradbury, to the setting up of a local history society. An exploratory meeting took place in 1981 and Yatton Local History Society was inaugurated in 1982. Marian undertook copious amounts of research, both locally and at the Somerset Record Office, much of which found its way into the volumes of *Yatton Yesterday* and *More Yatton Yesterdays* published in the 1980s and 1990s (see YLHS website publications). A major publication was her book 'A History of Yatton' (1991), the title of which she insisted on because she realised this might not be the only definitive work ever produced on the subject.

Her Claverham Road home became the Society's archive store and venue for both the Society's Committee and Research meetings and Marian acted as Meetings secretary, arranging speakers and also summer outings in the early days, besides leading some evening trips herself. Memorable among these were a walk to the site of Wemberham Roman villa, a tour of the Mendip lead mines and a visit to Christon and Loxton.

Besides YLHS, Marian was a founder member of Yatton Ramblers and Yatton Music Society and she also belonged to Yatton Horticultural Society.