

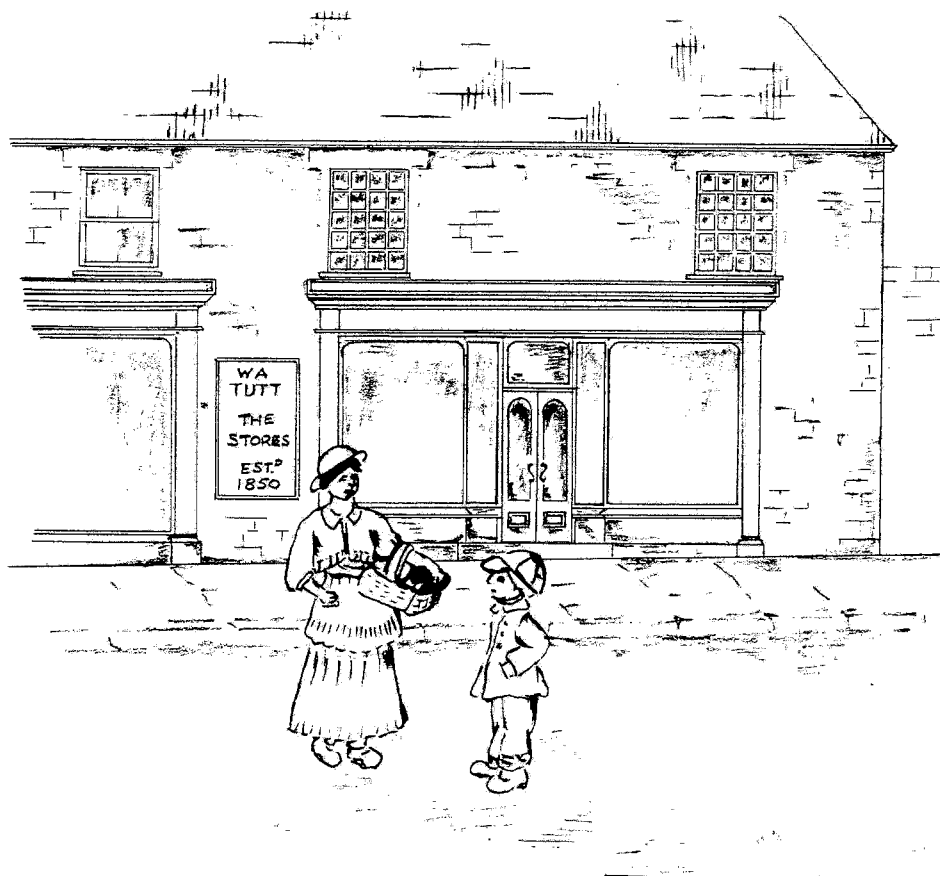
# MORE YATTON YESTERDAYS

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NO. 2

1997

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PUBLISHED BY  
YATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



## YATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society has, since its inception in 1982, become an established part of Yatton's village life. The members enjoy a varied programme of winter talks and summer outings while a hard working group of enthusiasts maintain a steady flow of research and articles for the journal '*More Yatton Yesterdays*', the follow-on to '*Yatton Yesterday*'. Books on special topics are also published.

In addition to research using documents and memories, there is the opportunity within the Society for archaeological excavations, field walking, recording the present (yesterday is history), video making, photography, audio recording and other activities.

The Society has the resources - but would like more man or womanpower. If you would like to find out more, then contact the Chairman or any Committee member (see list inside the rear cover) experience is not necessary, just a keen interest.

Cover illustration of Tutt's Stores by Dorothy Coe and Brian Bradbury.

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## **FOREWORD**

Once again Yatton Local History Society and friends have been delving, digging and researching into the seemingly endless history of Yatton. Herewith we present *More Yatton Yesterdays* No. 2. Thanks to local purchasers and many others scattered over England and Wales, our sales of book No. 1 were outstanding.

We would like to pay a tribute to Doris Nicholas who died this year. She was a founder member of the Society, a long serving Committee member and researcher. She will be sorely missed.

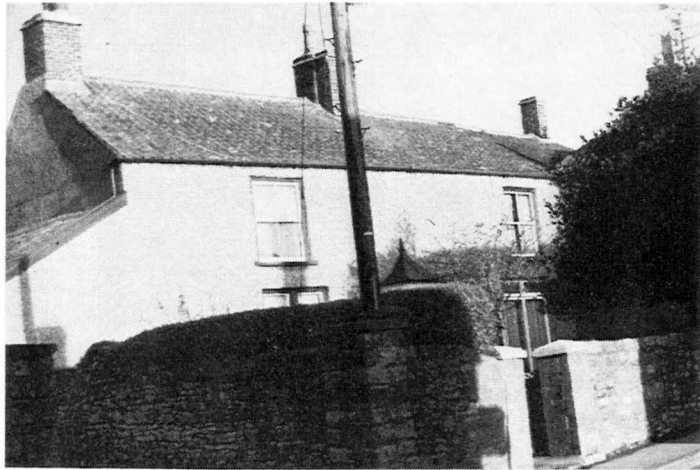
Our thanks are due to all our researchers and contributors, but particularly to Yatton News, the Corner Shop, Yatton Post Office and Claverham Post Office who have generously agreed to sell this publication without charge.

**A F Coe   President**  
**B Bradbury   Chairman**

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### Orchardleigh, 24 High Street.



Orchardleigh in 1982

Many people will remember Orchardleigh as part of the shop which was known as Tutt's Stores, later to become the International Stores, and Knight & Lawrence, still later Avon TV, Estate Agents, and now an insurance brokers and a pet food shop. But before all that ?

#### The House Construction

The building as we see it now, set back from the road has little to suggest that it could be one of the oldest dwellings in Yatton. It now has 'pebble dash' rendering to the walls and a 'latticework' porch. Adjoining 'Orchardleigh' is the shop building fronting the main road, currently the insurance brokers and pet food shop, which was part of the property and has only recently 'separated' in ownership from Orchardleigh.

We believe that the building dates from the 16th Century: this is based on the layout and the construction of the original building. There has been a dating of 1488 noting the original beams in the ground floor rooms, but this has not been confirmed. Incidentally the name of the house is believed to have derived from the orchard which was at the rear of the house, before Barnards Close was cut through.

Internally the house has a typical North Somerset layout with a cross passage and two rooms 'in line,' parallel to the road as shown on the

ground floor plan. The ground floor features a large ingle-nook fireplace in the west gable wall, with an adjoining void formed by a stone partition wall, which may have contained a staircase. This room also has a large beam supporting the first floor, and set into the gable wall is an unglazed timber framed window with vertical timbers set in 'diamond' pattern on plan. This window is now protected by the lean-to structure on the gable wall but it appears to have been moved or modified at some time as the stone recess it is set in is larger than the window frame.

The east room on the opposite side of the passage has another ingle-nook fireplace which is backing onto the cross passage, but the major feature of the room is the ceiling. This is timber framed into four panels subdivided again with moulded beams which are carved to a high standard; it appears that the ceiling was made for this house and fitted during construction, not 'imported' and modified as has been the case in some other Yatton buildings.

One should bear in mind that the most common form of 'ornamental' carving for ceiling beams in this area is a plain chamfer along their length. This simple 'trimming' is found in almost all the older buildings in Yatton - any more elaborate decoration is usually found in the ecclesiastical buildings. The other significant feature of Orchardleigh is the dimension of 18 feet between the front and rear walls. This is greater than most of the buildings in Yatton, requiring longer and more substantial timber beams for its construction. These two factors suggest that this house was built for a wealthy yeoman or a merchant, perhaps someone trading in Bristol.

A point of special interest is the position or positions of the stairs: the staircase as we now see it has been modified from the original layout. It is positioned to one side of the cross passage but starts outside the original house wall line, with a turn at the bottom. Possibly the stair was in the same general position but it would have needed to be a straight flight adjoining the ingle-nook fireplace and the cross passage. However if the void by the west room ingle-nook fireplace did contain a staircase then we have another question. Were there two staircases or only one, and which is the original? My experience of viewing old buildings in Yatton suggests that two staircases would have been very unusual, although a wealthy merchant might have wanted to show his acquaintances what he could afford!

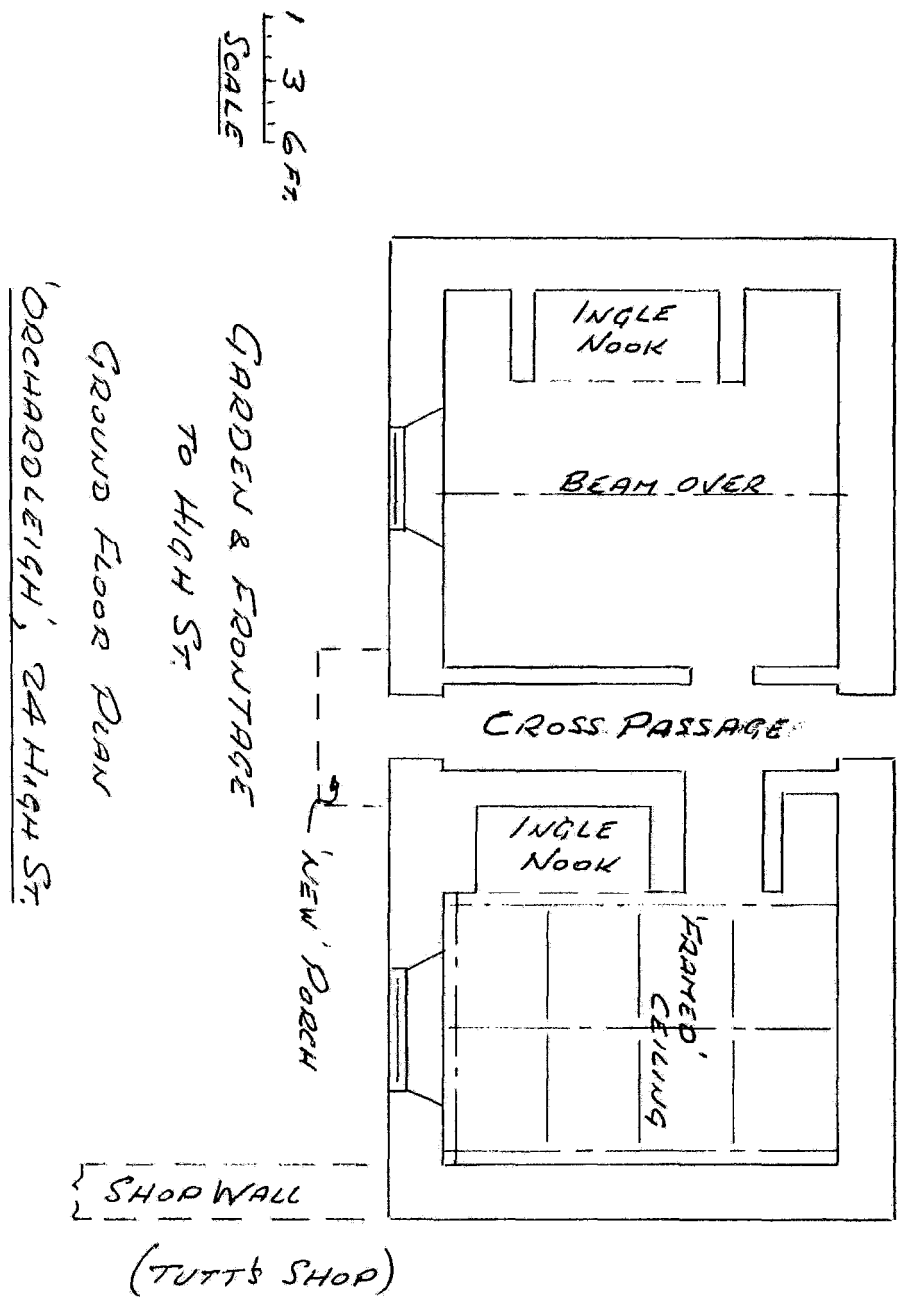
Assuming this to be unlikely then the staircase position becomes interesting. Very often the stairs in houses in this locality were adjacent to the fireplace but most have been moved, probably to reduce the fire risk. Therefore it is most likely that the stairs were originally in the west room. This would mean that the position of the unglazed window in the west gable wall is a correct location, as it would have allowed light into the otherwise dark stair well. It would also have been a practical use of an unglazed window which allowed ventilation into the void and then into the bedroom. Remember that usually the staircase did not lead into a 'landing' room as we know it, at the time when this house was built, but into a bedroom which inter-connected with other rooms.

This west bedroom contains a fine stone fire surround of a 'Tudor' style design; whether this is original is doubtful but it certainly adds grace and character to the room. The east bedroom is fairly undistinguished with only the bottom of the roof rafters visible.

The roof is covered with clay pantiles, probably from Bridgwater (which was well known for its clay tiles). The house roof looks similar to that of the shop and if you look closely you can see that the 'hip-end' of the house roof adjoining the rear of the shop has been added. The shop, which is attached to the east end of the house, was built much later than the house. From documentary evidence we think that it was purpose built about 1825 (see below). It seems that the house roof and the shop roof are of a similar construction, using sawn timbers, and it would be logical to assume that the house was re-roofed when the 'new' shop was built, the house roof being extended and the 'hip-end' added. So, was Orchardleigh originally thatched? Considering the internal features described above which suggest ownership by a wealthy yeoman or merchant, then it is unlikely that it had anything other than a clay tile roof. This would be a statement to the world that its owner had money; in addition it was a far more substantial and maintenance-free roof covering. It is doubtful that the roof construction is original but the appearance would have been similar, maybe with the original pantiles being re-used.

There is a well, as is usual with the older buildings in Yatton; this is situated at the rear of the house; it is still visible although now capped by a stone slab and it is under the cover of the 'outshut' or lean-to roof at the

rear of the house. The lean-to was added to enlarge the domestic accommodation, probably when the shops were built.





### The History and Ownership

Historically we can trace this property back to 1679, although we do not know who built it, or lived in it, until Samuel Wilmott in 1755. He had a lease from Lord Poulett for the "dwelling house, stable and a common right, also the garden and land". Lord Poulett sold most of his Yatton holding between 1812 and 1814 and this included Orchardleigh. Samuel Wilmott had died in 1811 but the lease continued in the names of his son and daughter, Joseph and Maria, with others. When sold by Lord Poulett to Richard Greville and his associates, the price was £160. Richard was described as "a gentleman of Yatton", and when he sold the property to Thomas Vowles in 1825, the selling price was £500. Thomas was a Yatton shopkeeper and he bought the "messuage, tenement and stable, garden and orchard adjoining". The increase in price from £160 to £500 was considerable, especially bearing in mind the static currency with virtually no inflation. It seems very possible that the shops fronting the High Street were built by Richard Greville before he sold to Thomas Vowles; the map of the village dated 1821 does not show the shops, but they do appear on the 1840 map. Similarly, if one looks at the buildings it does seem that the shops are of a later construction period.

Thomas Vowles, unfortunately, did not prosper and he mortgaged the property in 1830 for £600, then in 1837 he was declared bankrupt. The property was offered for sale but no one wanted it, so the estate passed to Henry Bridges Smith who held the mortgage. He died in 1863 and the property was then sold. However, according to the 1851 census Francis Gregory, a shopkeeper, was living in this part of the village and it seems very possible that he was trading here. His sisters, Fanny and Jane, lived with him, he also employed a servant, Mary Fry, and an errand boy, John Quire. We then find in Kelly's Directory of 1861 that William and Francis Gregory are running a grocery and drapery business with a postmaster's duties. This continued until 1875, except the postmaster's duties were transferred to the Derham family - presumably at Brandon House. Then in 1883, Kelly's entry gives Edward Carter as a shopkeeper with a grocery and drapery business, again in this area and probably replacing the Gregory's who are not listed; this continued until about 1904.

### The Stores

Mr William A. Tutt is recorded in Kelly's Directory of 1897 as a grocer in Horsecastle, similarly in 1902, but in Kelly's of 1906 his address becomes

High Street. So it appears that he moved to Orchardleigh between 1903 and 1906 and 'The Stores' remained there until 1967. In 1927 the telephone number for 'The Stores' was 28.

After William died the shop was run by his daughters, Vera and Irene, until the International Stores take-over. There was a grocery store and also a ladies drapery shop which was in the part of the shop nearest Orchardleigh, using the ground floor room of the present house as part of the shop to display clothes.

We have seen copies of the architect's drawings for modifications to the shop and the frontage, dated 1919, (the cover picture is based on these) which also included the provision of a petrol storage tank and pump, probably for the van used by the shop. At some time in the past, it has been stated, a total of nineteen people lived in the house and over the shop: these were the family, domestic servants and shop employees! This is quite possible, for the rooms above the shop were spacious (they now form a separate 'flat') but the number of persons employed does seem rather large.

*Brian Bradbury*

#### Trading at The Stores

The shop records for 1940 to 1943 show numerous suppliers to both number 18, the grocery, and number 22, the drapery. In the grocery it appears that orders were supplied by individual companies such as Bovril. There were 60 suppliers for the drapers and over 200 for the grocers! However, by 1960 there were fewer manufacturer's names, so possibly the market had changed to include more agents, as many names like Bovril had survived.

In 1940 the weekly 'egg and tomato' record book showed eggs being supplied by Mrs Alvis of Congresbury, amongst others, as many as eleven dozen for £1 7s 8d; and Mrs Crossman of Kingston Seymour supplied up to 20lbs of tomatoes for 15s.

In 1943 Mr Tutt was advertising 'The Stores' in the Bristol Evening World newspaper. Interestingly, he had an account with H H & S Budgett of Pembroke Road, Bristol for oats and flour, as Leslie Stuckey, who

managed Budgetts in Bristol, was a brother of Stanley, the Yatton butcher.

In 1940 the telephone bill for a half year was 6s, the council rates were £23 16s 10d per half year for both shops and by 1948 Miss Vera Tutt was managing the drapers shop. In 1952 Vera bought a Morris Minor Saloon from T R Atlay, Motor Engineer in Yatton (see *More Yatton Yesterdays No.1*) for £635, licensing was £7, and the number plates were £2 2s.

In the 1960s the shop dealt with local companies such as Baker, Baker & Co (Wholesale) of Charlotte Street ( later of St. Thomas Street), Bristol; Ralph Denton & Co. and Everett & Wear Ltd., both of Victoria Street, Bristol. Orders were also placed with Samuel Farmer and Co. hosiery manufacturers of Leicester, and Playtex of Port Glasgow. The account with Baker, Baker was longstanding from Mr Tutt's time, they provided shirts for a guinea, scissors at 5/9d, pillow cases and vests at 7/3d, carpet sweepers at 26/6d, and a wooden table at 43/0d.

*Marianne Pitman*

### **Tutt's Stores**

#### **1) Tutt's drapery**

Earliest memories of the shop are of a large entrance door with a picture of a man in a red hat, whose name was Wolsey (as I found out when I could read). He seemed to be associated with men's socks and other woollen goods.

Inside the shop there were two ladies who looked exactly alike. They were the daughters of the owners, Mr and Mrs W.A. Tutt: Miss Vera Tutt, and her twin sister Irene (who later married the Reverend Ford - a curate of Yatton). Vera remained a spinster until she died in 1994.

All the ladies who worked in the store wore black dresses with white collars. Tutt's Drapers sold everything which was needed to clothe everyone in the family from oldest to youngest, both 'working' and 'best' clothes. There was a large selection of hats.

As a child I was lucky to have warm woollen vests for the winter and interlock for the summer. I remember that underclothes were stored,

packaged between pieces of cardboard neatly tied with string, according to size.

My mother was able to buy enough gingham at 6d a yard to make me dresses that would last a couple of summers. Goods were priced in LSD (Pounds shillings & pence) down to a farthing. If you did not have the exact money and the change was very small, i.e. three farthings to a farthing, then pins or other small haberdashery items were offered instead. The Miss Tutts were very fashion conscious: it was said that they never stocked more than one copy of any coat, dress, or hat, so that any lady in the surrounding district could not say 'snap'.

At Christmas time, toys and general fancy gifts appeared for sale. The above memories of the store were up to my age of about 12, when by necessity for me, clothes rationing and school uniform shops in town took over.

In about 1951 I resumed buying clothes for myself and a growing family from Tutt's Drapers. If ever you were seen to be in doubt, you were usually persuaded to take the goods home on approval so that you could decide. So, armed with a brown paper parcel, neatly tied with string and a bill with "ON APPRO" written on it, you took it home. It was a good ploy, as it was almost certain one would make the purchase! A genuine Sale always took place in January. The Miss Tutts always matched any department store, and if they didn't have something in stock, they would obtain it for you.

## 2) Tutt's grocery

Mr W. A. Tutt was called "Bill" by his staff but never to his face. He was profoundly deaf and used to communicate with customers and staff through a long flexible earphone, the trumpet of which he would present to one's face. He did not serve behind the counter but mainly stayed in front of the counter to welcome and talk to customers. If there was anyone waiting to be served he would call "forward one" to bring an assistant from the storeroom at the rear of the shop. Mr Tutt was a founder member of Yatton Bowling club in 1927.

The grocery store staff around the years 1937-38 included:

Office girls:- Nancy Viney and Ruby Short.

Assistants:- Mr Whitting    Pat Lyons  
                  Ted Viney     Stan Warren  
                  Reg Cox      Peter Ching  
                  Cyril Gallop

Sales Orders:- Mr Drewitt (Traveller- Bike)

Van Driver:- Mr Burnell.

Boy:- Tom Rawlings.

Errand Boy:- Sam Vowles.

Most assistants served an apprenticeship in their career at Tutt's. These were served over four and half years, were very low paid and very stern, but the training was very thorough. All assistants had to be attired in white coat and white waist apron to below the knee.

When the Second World War broke out young ladies were engaged for the first time in the grocery section and from memory these included:

Betty Lyddon, Kath Shears, Irene Griffin, Joan Cadwgan.

In the shop outstanding memories of stock sold are:

Biscuits - sold loose from glass top tins.

Tea - from tea jars which were topped-up from tea-chests - Mr Tutt was well known for his own tea blending which he did on Monday mornings. It is remembered that this was a very dusty operation, but was apparently well worth it financially.

Cheese - cut by cheesewire from whole cheeses (always a taster before purchase).

Bacon - the customer selected the side required and then it was always cut on the hand operated slicer.

Sugar - not pre-packed but served in blue paper made into a cone.

Bananas - boxes of Fyffes bananas (green) were gently heated on trays and sold when ripe at seven bananas for 6d.

Grocery sales were not only from shop callers, but the major source was from orders collected from the traveller. These orders were made up in

the shop warehouse and delivered by regular weekly round to the customer's home.

Orders for small items with immediate requirement could be made by 'phone (not many in those days!) and these would be delivered by an apprentice on a trade bike. This could be up to four miles distant and not popular late at night - up to 9 o'clock!

Two amusing stories:-

One Monday morning a new salesman from Bird's Custard called to sell his wares and was presented with the ear trumpet but not knowing Mr Tutt was deaf, he put it to his own ear which left them both "listening" to each other! Much to the amusement of the grocery staff!

The poorly paid apprentices had a little scheme which they carried out while sweeping behind the counter: it involved the "accidental" knocking down of a packet of cigarettes from the shelf and then "accidentally" stepping on them. These would be taken to Mr Tutt, who pronounced them as damaged goods and halved the selling price. The staff would then purchase for themselves!

*Eileen Viney, Alan Viney and Stan Warren.*

### **The Children's Corner at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Yatton.**



Children's Corner Banner

The Children's Corner came into being during the Second World War, about 1944. Mrs. Kemp, the mother of the then incumbent vicar had, while on holiday, visited a Parish Church which had a Children's Corner. She was so impressed with it she thought it would be a good idea for the local Yatton children to have a corner in their Church and to be involved in looking after it.

Mrs. Kemp talked it over with the Vicar and he agreed, she also consulted Miss Sybil Ralph. At that time Miss Ralph used to clean the Chancel and Sanctuary and she agreed to oversee the new area.

In order to create the corner, two rows of pews were removed from the south side of the Church, where the organ is now situated. Mrs Kemp brought a small table from the Vicarage to be used as an altar. Later, a small altar was made by someone who worked at the Wake and Dean factory. That altar is still used every Sunday by the Sunday School. Sybil Ralph made an Altar Cloth and Miss Gillard made one with tatting. Two small chairs were donated by bereaved families, one by the Marsh family in memory of their daughter Sally and a bookcase was given by the Travis family in remembrance of their daughter Brenda. Children from the Church collected a sum of money and a Bible was bought for the bookcase. Someone gave a folding Icon which was placed on the back of the Altar. Two three candle candelabra were also donated and parishioners gave a large brass vase and two smaller ones.

Sybil Ralph was a music teacher and she asked all her pupils if they would like to help with the Children's Corner and to take their friends along. A rota was made with approximately five children helping at each session. The rota for each month was published in the Church Magazine and was also posted in the Church Porch. The children met at the Church at 2 pm on Saturday afternoons, they brought fresh flowers for the vases, polished the brass, swept the floor, polished the furniture, dusted and generally looked after their Corner.

On the Saturdays before the main Religious Festivals, the "duty" children helped to decorate the window above the Children's Corner with flowers and greenery. During the rest of the year the window was Sybil's own responsibility.

About the year 1949 members of the Mothers Union asked Sybil if she would design a banner for the Corner and they would make it. However, when they saw her design they decided it would be too difficult for them to make, so Sybil went to classes at the School of Art in Weston-Super-Mare to learn how to do Church Embroidery. At first Sybil's teacher was reluctant to let her work on her own design, as all

pupils were supposed to start from scratch but Sybil was determined and was eventually allowed to work on it.

The completed banner was kept in the Children's Corner and paraded through the Church, in procession, each Mothering Sunday followed by members of the Mothers Union carrying their banner. Each year three children were chosen to parade the banner. The children felt it was a great honour to be allowed to carry the banner or to walk on either side of it. The banner can still be seen in the Newton Chapel.

The children of the Children's Corner always had their own stall at the Church Bazaar. They bought or made gifts which they gave to be sold. Sybil drew up a timetable for the afternoon and all children helped on the stall in small groups, each group serving for about 15 minutes. The children loved being involved. Afterwards, Sybil sent each child a letter of thanks and a note stating how much money they had raised.

With the arrival of a new Vicar, The Reverend Dick Acworth, in 1969, many great changes were made. He set about making big improvements to the inside of the Church, bringing an altar to the head of the Nave so that the congregation could be more involved in the Services, The organ was moved to the site of the Children's Corner and no room could be found to place the Corner anywhere else. Miss Ralph and some of the older children tried hard to find a space to keep an area of their own but were unable to do so. The congregations were very large at that time and it was impossible but those involved with the Corner were very sorry to lose it.

The final day of the Children's Corner was 4th June 1977, the last children to clean it and fill it with flowers were Justine and Antonia Duys with Julie and Angela Summerell.

*Ruth Summerell*



## **Reminiscences of a Childhood in Yatton** **during the late 1940's & 1950's**

I was born at two minutes past midnight on the 10th August 1944 in the downstairs front room of our rented house at No.1 The Brow, Horsecastle, Yatton.

My parents had been bombed out of Clifton and had first come to live in Church Road, Yatton where my Dad said that you could actually leave the front door open all night in the summer to let air in through the house without any worry.

However, they moved subsequently to the Horsecastle area, firstly to a cottage which used to stand near Jake Willmott's house, and then to No.1 The Brow owned by Mr Burdge. The house was on three floors with two rooms down and two up, with the door and the stairs in the middle. In the rear bedroom a wooden set of stairs led to another bedroom which was in the roof space. This room had one full size window affording a good view of the road up over the railway bridge to Wemberham and the engine shed in a siding off the Clevedon railway line, also the Weston end of Yatton station with the 'muck ' and 'muck gate'. This was a little white gate leading to a parcel of land at the side of the engine shed.

In all but the top room there was an open fireplace, usually a fire was only maintained in the downstairs rooms. Only when one of us was ill would a fire be lit upstairs.

My Dad worked in the local furniture factory, Wake and Dean's. After he had been working from eight to five or six, as a french polisher, he would collect a sack of wood offcuts from the saw mill in the timber yard for our fires. It was stored in the coal house under the stairs and each morning before going to work he would get up and light the kitchen fire. This was a cast iron grate with a range including an oven. Each night my mother would rake out the ashes and damp them down with water from a kettle; sometimes silver fish ran around in the grate.

When the chimneys needed sweeping my Dad would do it with his own brush set. As the chimneys were the shape of a two pronged fork, the top part could only be reached by taking some bricks out at a point in the top

bedroom, sweeping up to the chimney pot from there, then replacing and cementing the bricks back in place.

In the back room we had oilcloth on the floor which was uneven. In the early fifties people made rugs out of hessian and rags cut in strips pulled through - no two were ever the same.

We had an outside toilet across an alleyway which was very dark and cold, especially on winter mornings and nights. Next to it was the back kitchen, separate to the house, with a heavy earthenware sink and only a cold water tap made of brass, with lead piping: this regularly froze in winter and often burst. Our cast iron cooker was also out there with the copper boiler in which my Mother did all our washing. This had an open fire under it which my Dad lit before going to work on Monday mornings. My Mother would prepare food on the kitchen table and then take it to the back kitchen to cook; washing up was carried out in a bowl on the kitchen table after we had eaten.

Bath-time took place on Sunday mornings in a zinc bath in front of the kitchen fire. Our bath had a pot mender in the bottom so you had to be careful how you sat down! The rest of the week, water boiled in the kettle had to suffice for washing. A flannel and Puritan soap provided the means to wash with.

In winter the bedroom windows always seemed to frost up; a hot water bottle and great-coats on the bed helped maintain body heat. To this day I do not like heated bedrooms.

Clothes washing was mainly done on Monday mornings and hung out in the garden to dry. Sometimes in the winter I loved to see the washing go stiff with the frost on it, shirts took on the appearance of skinny people and could be danced with and socks would stand up on their own. If the weather was wet a clothes horse was placed in front of the fire with the clothes hanging on it to dry: my Mother was always concerned that clothes were aired properly. On many occasions Dad's socks were scorched in the fireside oven. Once my cousin and I were playing balloon football in front of the fire when the clothes horse toppled onto the fire, ignited the washing, and the local fire brigade had to be called. I can assure you we never did that again!

### Post - War Rationing

After the war rationing was in place so the food supply was limited, although as kids we always seemed to have plenty. I used to go to the Co-op ( where Loader's is now ) each week with my Mother for our main shopping. They used to pay a dividend to regular customers and our dividend number was 113642. You had to go to the meat counter, the dairy counter, the general provisions counter, and each had access to an overhead cable system where the list of items was placed in a little cylinder attached to the cable system, a handle pulled and off it shot across the shop to the cashier in her booth for billing. I always wanted to pull that handle!

We also used Mr Griffin's shop, still to be seen at the corner of the blocked off portion of Moor Lane. He used to have tins of different biscuits with glass lids and wonderful home cooked hams. On the corner of Horsecastle was Mr Pearce's shop, also with a wonderful cornucopia of items. Shopkeepers and customers actually used to talk to each other and service was a priority. Half-way down Horsecastle a new shop was opened by Messrs Venning and Stokes and was indeed always known by the locals as the new shop! I well remember the half- penny ice lollies made of fruit juice in little plastic egg cups. My brother once made an automaton for display in the shop window which had a moving arm and was made of wood and pieces of Meccano with a little electric motor.

Inflation was unheard of in those days and most prices seemed to stay the same for years. All this of course was pre-decimalisation which surely was the start of modern day inflation.

Everyday my Dad would come home for his dinner at twelve thirty: in those days a working man had his dinner in the middle of the day! Menus included corned beef, breast of lamb, chops, egg and bacon, stew, pork pies, sausages, and roast beef on Sundays. Chicken was a luxury only eaten at Christmas! All these items, of course, were difficult to obtain in the forties but the situation improved as the fifties progressed and it also depended on how well in you were with the local traders! Sunday tea was tinned peaches and Walls ice cream from the van which came round. Who remembers the " Lucky Walls Sign "?

We grew spuds and cabbages in the garden as well as sprouts and carrots. When I used to dig in the garden I always imagined that if I dug deep enough I would reach Australia...stupid boy!

### The Tradesmen

The milkman called each day and when I was very small it was Miss Gabriel who delivered it in a horse and cart and the milk was ladled from the churn into your jug. I think she lived in the farm where Cherry Grove is now. The baker came twice a week from Pullins: I think the gentleman was called Wilf Parsons and I think he wore breeches. Stuckey's the butchers called twice a week also, I think this gentleman was called Mr Harding. Their shop was on the High Street in what is now part of Somerfield car park, and it really did have sawdust on the floor !

The coalman, Clements, called fortnightly and I seem to remember we had two one hundred weight sacks delivered on each visit in the winter.

The provision merchants all had time for a chat or a cup of tea and they always seemed like friends calling, their visits were like benchmarks in the week. Virtually nobody had telephones so housewives had to plan their housekeeping in advance and place orders ready for the next deliveries. I am sure supermarkets have given us more choice, but in terms of a quality of lifestyle as human beings and the way we relate to each other, is all that has happened since, progress?

For a child, regular " good grub " included bread and jam, bread and dripping, bubble and squeak, fried bread, real faggots and apple pie served with mock cream, i.e. butter and sugar. One day a week we had fancy cakes delivered by the baker. Do you remember Everton Mints, Banjo Bars, and Cadbury's Five Boys?

### Celebrations

Two special events of the year were birthdays and Christmas. On my birthday I usually had a few friends round and my Mum would make her dreaded toffee apples - real teeth rotters they were, we loved them! Somehow she would conjure up a spread for tea including a birthday cake and fruit and cream.

Christmas in those days had a real magic. At school for weeks before, we would prepare decorations, all home made, and then trim up our classrooms. Then the class would enact the Nativity play and have a Christmas concert.

Christmas Eve was so exciting as it was usually the only time kids received toys. I used to hear my parents wrapping things up and filling a stocking. Usually I was still awake when they crept upstairs and placed the presents at the bottom of the bed and I had to pretend to be asleep. A train set was always my favourite, the first one I ever had was a toy Underground set. Rare treats appeared at Christmas like oranges, nuts and roast chicken. The day started with the Christmas carol at eight a.m. on the radio and ended with a very full tum! I always played balloon football with my cousin John on Boxing Day and we always ate up any left-overs from the previous day's banquet but could never quite recapture the magic of the previous day.

My earliest memory is of being in my pram. When I was two years old I scalded my foot and my mother used to wheel me up to the Doctor's each day to have the dressing changed. I can recall looking out over the apron on the front of the pram when it was buttoned in the up position and the smell of the rexine or whatever the material was. The Doctor's surgery was at the top of the alley opposite the Drill Hall, it seemed very dark up there! I believe there was a baize green door between the waiting room and the actual surgery and I seem to remember the doctor kept bottles of pills and medicines, and jars of ointment in there. I believe the Doctors were Messrs Dyson, Doran and Woods and the Nurse was called Barnard.

The most prominent villagers then were the Vicar, the Doctor and the Schoolmaster, and, of course, the village policeman.

### Starting School

I started school in September 1949 at Yatton Undenominational School in Miss Kingcott's class. My mother used to take me and collect me at dinner time, take me back after dinner, and then collect me again at the end of the school day. All this from Horsecastle, over a mile's walk in each direction. At first I hated it. The classrooms seemed huge, the teachers overbearing, the other kids seemed much more self-assured and the school seemed the other side of the world from the safety of home. It took me

several weeks to overcome all these childhood fears. I recall the coke stove in the corner of the classroom, too hot if your desk was nearby and freezing if you were at the other end of the room. The classroom doors were tall and narrow, joining what seemed like an endless corridor. The school had outside toilets. For refreshment, one third of a pint bottles of milk were left outside so the milk was icy in the middle of winter and turning off in the summer sun! I recall on the left-hand side of the playground, as you went in off the High Street were railings with what I believe was a small cemetery of some kind on the other side. There was a high wall at the bottom of the playground with a couple of well established trees actually in the playground and open fields spread beyond the wall. I remember in one playtime we all stopped to look up and watch the Brabazon fly over. It was all silver.

After two years I moved over to the junior school in Church Road. There were four classes run by Miss Bunstone, Mr Galvin, Mrs Stone and Mr Stone. A further class was held in the reading room at the Church Hall by Mr Thatcher. When assemblies were held, a glass partition was pushed back between Mr Stone's and Mr Galvin's classes. There was a school garden beyond the perimeter wall of the churchyard which we all loved tending. In the school playground opposite the school entrance and up four steps, there was a climbing frame and a bicycle shed. Up some steps on the other side of the yard was a small garden area where the rainwater gauge was kept. Mr Stone as headmaster, ran the school with a lot of discipline and great love and every child was proud of their school. Whilst I was in Miss Bunstone's class King George VI died and we all wondered why the church bell started tolling until the teacher explained. Sometimes the vicar, Prebendary Beechey would call into school. Other visitors included the school nurse and once a year the school dentist, whose name was Doctor Skull! The dinner lady who looked after the kids at playtime was a very kind Mrs Rainbow.

At first I walked to school, from Horsecastle, with a girl called Mavis and I recall we used to get our leg pulled. As soon as I had a grown up bike I cycled, there was very little traffic: in fact you were more likely to be held up by cows or sheep being driven along the road than by cars. When I was in the top class two of us used to take the dinner money on Monday into one of the sub-branches of the two banks which stood at the

entrance to the Market between the two gateways. I wonder if it would be safe to allow ten year-olds to do that now.

### Play Time

We used to play football in the winter and cricket in the summer, in the street without any worry about traffic - which was so infrequent and would slow down or stop until there was a break in play. Inevitably we argued constantly about offsidess and LBW's.

For a treat on Saturday mornings we went to the pictures at the Maxine in Clevedon. It was a great laugh, with all the kids reacting as the plot of the cowboy film unfolded, usually in black and white. Sometimes our parents would take us to the Odeon, Regent or Central in Weston, or we would go by train to Wells. Local events included the annual carnival organised I believe, by Mr Coles, and at which Mr Cadogan always provided elaborate fancy dress for everybody else to try to emulate. Sometimes we would walk up to the cricket field at Henley Lane: I recall once I had a new blazer of which I was very proud. While we were watching the game the cricket ball headed straight for me. My Dad, sensing the danger, grabbed me out of the way. Unfortunately the lapel of my new acquisition got torn and I was very upset until my Mum somehow invisibly mended it.

Now the hard luck story ! On Coronation Day we went to the Assembly Rooms at the Railway Hotel ( now The Great Western ) where two 12 inch televisions were placed on the stage for everybody to watch the day's events, in black and white of course! It was packed with people, none of whom had tellys of their own. In the afternoon street parties had been arranged all over the village. Ours was to be held around Wake Dean Gardens which, of course, still had a green in the middle then. All the kids were transported from the Assembly Rooms to the party by open lorry, an exciting experience. At the end of the party each child was given a souvenir Coronation Mug, but they were one short and I was the kid to go without as I was last in the queue. I had to wait until the next week when more supplies arrived; I still keep it on display today.

Games were a lot less sophisticated then. Marbles was a great favourite at school and it used to get very competitive. Should the large ballbearings be allowed? We used to play over "Muck", the ground near

the engine shed, my cousin John was fearless and used to climb the tallest tree to attach a rope over the highest branch so that we all could swing like Tarzan. We played for days over there in the school holidays, only going home at meal times. Another favourite pastime was building a "dilly" or cart, two particular models come to mind. Once my friend Ian and myself spent six weeks trying to find a way to make a real lorry steering wheel work on our dilly. On another occasion my brother built a fully enclosed one out of wood with a sliding door on the side. It was pushed to the top of the hill and came hurtling down, however when he tried to manoeuvre the corner at the bottom it toppled over onto the side with the door in it. He was trapped inside. My mother helped us free him and he was made to dismantle it immediately! On another occasion he built a full size Punch and Judy Show and charged other kids a penny to come and watch. A more elaborate attempt was made to build a stage in our top bedroom out of an old billiard table. As toys were scarce and there were few televisions and computers were unheard of, you made your own games and play - it was wonderful, only limited by your imagination.

I believe we rented our first TV in 1954 from Betteridge Brothers opposite the Odeon in Weston. It was a 12inch black and white set and transmissions were only on for a few hours each day. The radio programmes were the Light Programme and the Home Service and this was still the primary source of information and entertainment for most people.

### Our Village

The Market was a place of wonder as our end of the village came alive every other Monday when it was held. There were in fact two separate Markets, one run by Alonzo Dawes, Son and Hoddell and the other by someone whose name I am unable to recall. The former had red double gates either side of the bank sub-branches, inside there was a slight slope up from the main road to the market level. At the back of the banks was the Market office; immediately inside on the left was an open shed where produce and any odds and ends were brought in to be sold. The auctioneer's stand was in the middle at the back. Next door was the poultry shed with rows of wire cages for chickens, ducks and geese. Further down on that side were the pig-sties. The middle section consisted of the cattle pens, in front of which at the entrance end was the parade



ring; this was sloped all around the outside so that all the farmers bidding had a good view. There was a large scale showing the beast's weight. On the other side of the yard were the sheep pens with a wooden raised walkway in the middle for the auctioneer to stand on. The other side of the boundary wall on this side contained the other market premises which, as I recall, only dealt with cattle. Local cattle would be driven down the road to market, others arriving by lorry. Monday was a good day to get out with a bucket and shovel for gardening purposes. Market day was a great social event as well as a business forum!

Opposite the market were the premises of Mr and Mrs 'Dickie' Bird. At one time he had a petrol pump at the roadside, but I remember them best as the people who bought blackberries that had been collected by adults and kids trying to supplement their income. If you tried watering them down to increase the weight they always knew and generally struck a hard bargain. The fruit was sold on to a jam makers, probably Robertsons in Bristol. We used to collect along the lane known as "the accommodation" which ran alongside the main railway line to Weston on the side of the line opposite Wemberham Lane by the kennels. Between the Weston line and the Cheddar Valley line ( which would have been a wonderful tourist attraction as a preserved railway with superb scenery ) and adjacent to the latter was the sewage pumping station, run by a kindly man called Len Hale. If you were lucky enough to see inside he kept the machinery immaculate. There were allotments here as well; my Dad once kept a strip and I recall horse radish grew there.

A favourite Sunday afternoon walk, although strictly trespassing, was either along the cinder path at the side of the Cheddar Valley line, or the Clevedon line, sometimes collecting primroses, mushrooms or blackberries depending on the time of year and, of course, scrumping apples! At that time the station had plenty of staff and a well-kept garden which reflected this situation. Our house was at the foot of the bridge over the Clevedon line and as a small boy I was fascinated by railways and steam engines and the passion remains to this day! At night you could see the Clevedon train being emptied of its ash and prepared for the next day's running. There was a siding near "The Orchard " where Mr and Mrs Gabriel lived, which ran into the factory, through the timber yard, across the road from Horsecastle to Wake Dean Gardens and up through the

middle of the factory. This roughly followed the line of the new part of Wemberham Lane in the estate built about ten years ago.

I recall that Wake and Dean's had dark green Guy vans to deliver the furniture, with the Indian's Head at the top of the radiator. A lot of the work involved church and school orders as well as post war utility furniture for home and office. I remember they bought a three wheeler lorry and trailer which often came past our house loaded with planks for the timber sheds. As boys we used to play hide and seek amongst the huge stacks of different species of timber. I remember Ern Edwards and Jim Fletcher were two of the men who worked there. They were always kind to us. Our house was near the mill which was noisy during the day but we never seemed to mind. Each morning, dinnertime and evening, a hooter sounded to mark the start or end of a work period, calling the employees to the clocking-on machine.

Facilities were very different then. At the bottom of our garden on the corner of Horsecastle there was a gas street lamp. Periodically a man would come round and change the mantle, sometimes kids would swing on the arms either side at the top which were really to put a ladder against. I think the post was painted green. I can remember how modern we felt when the red telephone box was installed opposite Home Farm against the factory wall. Horsecastle was quite different then with the factory all along one side and Horsecastle Terrace in front of it part of the way. On the other side, up from the two cottages now known as the Long House, where the lower entrance to Wemberham Crescent is situated, was a cottage where Mr and Mrs Orman lived. At the end of the garden parallel with Horsecastle was a rhyme: they had a flat wall in one part where you could sit and watch the water. At the rear of the house on the Long House side was a shed which ran the length of the cottage. On the wall of the garden of the Long House there were some gooseberry bushes with huge juicy fat fruit which often got raided on the way home from school!

Adjoining the Methodist Chapel were two cottages, and next to that the gateway to the farmyard of Home Farm, owned by the Moon Family. Out behind where Wemberham Crescent is now were just fields. On the main road where the double glazing factory now stands was the milk factory where milk was delivered for processing; the factory was painted a

yellowy brown colour. Coming back into Horsecastle from the main road, on the left-hand side lived the Hayman family. Mr Hayman was an expert gardener and at all times of the year his garden was a picture of organised plenty!

### Changing Times

Apart from buildings which have been demolished e.g. the engine shed, the factory, the red telephone box, Orman's Cottage, the various cottages along the road from Horsecastle to Wake Dean Gardens where the Cox family, the Smith family, the Moore family and so on lived, other facets of life have disappeared. There used to be a fire siren ( which I believe originally served as the air raid warning during the war ) on the Garage, now sadly demolished. There was the weekly mobile grocery van operated by Mr and Mrs House. The regular visits by gypsies who used to travel the area selling pegs and heather. The door to door salesmen with their suitcases. The rag and bone man with his horse and cart and cry of "Rag Bone". The 'fish and chip shop' style side loading ash cart when everybody had open fires. The excellent real fish and chips sold by Mr and Mrs Hawkins with the superb "scrumps " at the end of the cooking. Buses, even single deckers, with a driver and conductor. Steam trains with guards with flags and signal gantries with semaphore arms. The local policeman, Mr Claxton, riding round the village on his bike and universally respected as the upholder of law and order. The fire engine manned by men who worked in the factory and practised around the village on Tuesday nights. The sight of a road gang with a steam roller. Also Tutt's Stores, Shore's shoe shop, Travis's ironmongers, the old Post Office, Manley's paper shop, Austin's and Dave Walker's hairdressers, Banes' grocery shop, Williams the chemist, Miss Eyres tobacconist, the Gas showroom ( next to the current bike shop ), Barnfields radio shop ( on the corner at the bottom of Elborough Street ), the vegetable shop next to Travis's, and so on!

Our village has changed greatly in size and make up. Much has been done which is real improvement but how I wish we could have retained the lifestyle which allowed people to relate more to each other and operate as a community, as seemed to be the case back in the forties and fifties. Anyway, in September 1955 I left Yatton School to further my education in Weston and progress into my teenage years.....But that's another story!

*R. F. Ashbee.*

### **Parish Surveys in the previous County of Avon**

The Yatton & Cleeve Survey was started in 1979 and has only recently been completed.

When the motorways were being constructed in Avon in the 1960's archaeologists kept a watch on the bulldozers and examined the sites for signs of previous occupation or activity by man. It was also necessary to visit the record offices and reference libraries in Gloucester and Bristol in order to find out about the history of the area. The M5 was being constructed at such a speed that it became almost impossible to obtain all the information required before the ground was covered in concrete.

In 1971 local archaeologists, who included Peter Fowler and Keith Branigan, conceived an idea that amateur historians and local history societies might be interested in carrying out the research, parish by parish in Avon, so that when by-passes or houses were constructed in the future, the work of watching the sites might be made easier. These would concentrate entirely on sites which could be given grid references ("if you can plot it, it counts"); they were not to be histories of the parishes. The idea was suggested to the Bristol & Avon Archaeological Group (BARG) - now called the Bristol & Avon Archaeological Society. The plan was taken up most enthusiastically by several of the members.

It was thought that it should be possible for a group of paid professionals to complete a survey in about 3-6 months but that amateurs, who had other occupations, might take three years: this turned out to be a huge under-estimation! In 1979 I was asked to become the co-ordinator. I soon decided that I did not know enough about carrying out a survey, so I thought I had better do one myself! I chose Cleeve, which was finished in 1988 with the help of George Maddicks. Over 50 surveys have been started since 1971, but sadly only a small proportion were finished. Alveston, Backwell, Bathford, Brockley, Burnett, Cleeve, Clevedon, Cold Ashton, Compton Dando, Downend, Flax Bourton, Loxton, Mangotsfield, Nailsea, Queen Charlton and Tytherington were those surveys which were eventually published. Many unfinished surveys, with maps and cards provided, still lie in cupboards and drawers all over Avon!

The Surveys were kept as simple as possible and were in the form of check lists, with just the name or type of site and a list of references for the readers to seek out the information for themselves, no actual descriptions of the sites were given. This did not make for very interesting reading!

All the early surveys were published in the BARG Bulletins in this form. Later ones were published separately and in a more detailed form, thus making it more interesting to the reader. When "Cleeve" was published I asked the readers for further information and to be notified about any mistakes. Several parishioners took the trouble to do this. These alterations are included in the reprint of "Cleeve" in the "Yatton Survey".

Meanwhile Marian Barraclough had started the Yatton Local History Society and members were collecting much information on the history and buildings of Yatton and East & West Hewish. Members of the Society took up the idea of a Parish Survey with enthusiasm and not only was I able to use all their information which had already been collected, but the members set out to find much more. Marian had invited experts to examine the older houses and Brian Bradbury has continued with this until nearly all the old houses in Yatton have been examined inside and out.

Marianne & Michael Pitman have identified as many barns, wells and other water supplies as possible. This has been a time-consuming operation and other members have helped in many ways. Doris Nicholas had recorded all the graves in Yatton Churchyard, except the most recent, a huge job of work. The Society is in the process of recording Cleeve Churchyard for the Cleeve Survey. The text and indexes needed careful checking to make the survey as accurate as possible and we were lucky to have Jill Riddle, who has spent many hours over this task.

Old photographs and drawings were a great help. At the Glebe we were able to see which cottages were thatched. Maps were invaluable and one member produced the 1799 map of Yatton and most generously allowed me to make a detailed copy which was used in the survey together with additions from the 1821 map. From these maps we were able to see how many of the original houses had disappeared, still existed or had been rebuilt. Over Lampley Bridge was an especially difficult task as

Horsecastle had changed enormously in the last 70 years, so the memories of Mr Frederick Tambling were invaluable.

It was most enjoyable to see the insides of the houses and I can remember the pleasure shown by Commander E. Williams when, in examining the houses in Cleeve, he found two possible longhouses and a possible curing chamber. I also remember his puzzled face at seeing some of the windows at Yew Tree Farm. He knew something was wrong and yet they seemed original; it turned out that a previous owner had made such good copies of the old windows that all but an expert would have thought they were original. Marian had managed to trace the name Forebery or Vorberry mentioned in the deeds to possibly Court Farm and it was fun trying to identify other sites shown on the maps.

A walk near Goblin Combe identified the 18th century cottages of Mr Rugg and Thomas Cox, which seemed to make history more real but I failed to find John Wornell's and Mr Knapp's cottages. The Iron Age camps in the same woods were difficult to find. One excitement I had was to find a cottage on the tithe map in Kings Wood near my house and when I visited it I could see the remains quite clearly. I had passed by it many many times since 1927 without noticing it! I also enjoyed identifying the ruins of a pre-1799 cottage in Kings Wood at the meeting of five paths: this must have been a most important site in the days of the iron mining, perhaps the building was an inn. Children have been involved and they enjoyed the day when we went out looking for post-boxes and making a note of the initials of the king or queen on the throne. Originally we had at least two Queen Victoria examples but unfortunately the one outside Claverham post office was replaced in this present reign.

It is hoped that the Survey will be a useful reference book for all the inhabitants of Yatton, Cleeve and East & West Hewish.

*Mary Campbell*

### **Memories of a Newspaper Delivery Boy in 1928**

My first job after leaving school at the age of 14 was with Wymans, a large distributor of newspapers and periodicals, who had bookstalls on

most important railway stations and in those days Yatton was an important station being a junction for Clevedon and Cheddar.

I worked five and a half days a week, starting at 8am, finishing at 5pm, and my first duty was to unpack the papers for the newspaper stand. After that I had to put together the papers and periodicals for the various rounds, there were 4 or 5 others besides mine, I then boarded a train on the Cheddar Valley line to Axbridge arriving there at about 10am. The station was where the by-pass is now.

My delivery bicycle was kept in the Station Porter's Room and I would collect it from there each day and then cycle through Axbridge, out on the old road to Compton Bishop, Weare and Chapel Allerton, then cycle back to the station, leave my bike in the Porter's Room again and get the next train back to Yatton, about lunch time. There were plenty of trains in those days. It was also my job, on a Saturday morning, to collect the paper money from my customers which sometime proved difficult as many of them had little money. Failure to collect resulted in a telling off from my boss and a lecture on how to be more persuasive in future!

After lunch I "worked the trains" - that is going up and down the platform when a train stopped, selling papers, magazines, chocolates and cigarettes to the passengers. In between trains I had to make sure that the display stand was properly set up and all the papers safely secured. If this was not done, when the Torbay Express rushed through the station the draught would scatter the newspapers all over the platform and up the track. When this happened, and it did from time to time, the boss was not at all pleased! There were times when he tested the honesty of us boys - he would place a coin, usually 1/- (one shilling) under a heap of papers on the stand and then later in the day would check to see if it was still there. We all knew what he used to do so the coin was always there!

In summertime the Cheddar Valley train was full of strawberries which were transferred at Yatton to the London and Bristol trains, destined for the fruit markets. Excursion trains from the Midlands went through to Weston's Locking Road Station, now a car park, and there was also a good service on the branch line to Clevedon.

One morning I collected my bicycle from the Porter's Room and set off in my usual speedy way down the hill unaware that the afternoon before

some road work had taken place and the hill was covered in loose chippings. It was not long before my bike and I had parted company with papers all over the road. I was in the hedge and I'd no idea where the bike was! I don't remember in detail what followed as I was semi-conscious but it seems that I was taken to the local doctor by horse drawn cart and then on to the St. John's Hospital in Axbridge, which wasn't an accident hospital but they did their best for me and then sent for my father to come and take me home. We went on the train!

That was enough of newspaper delivering for me and I left to seek other employment but it was a year in which I learned a lot about the people I met and the countryside I travelled whilst making my deliveries.

*Foot note*

Mr Manley was the Manager of Wymans Stall on Yatton Station and in later years when this was closed he had a shop built (which is now Yatton News), where he continued to sell newspapers etc.

*W. J. Marsh*

### **The Millennium**

As we approach the Millennium it is interesting to wonder what life was like in Yatton as villagers neared the new century 100 years ago and what issues concerned them most - certainly not heavy traffic thundering down the High Street! Celebrations then are likely to have centred more round the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the summer of 1897 than the year 1900. By then we were three months into the Boer War, although this does not seem to have had much effect on people's lives in Yatton. A collection was made in the November for the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in South Africa. Another national event was the death of Gladstone in May 1898.

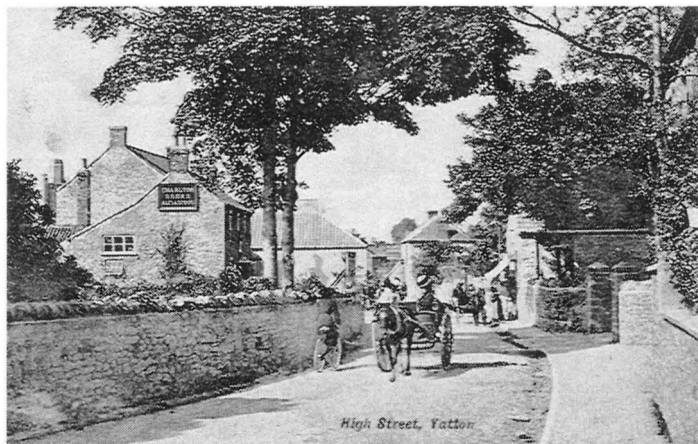
At that time Yatton was a true village of nearly 2,000 people (this figure included Claverham and Cleeve) and it had grown little in the previous 50 years. This may have been due to the agricultural depression, movement into Bristol and emigration. The main part of the village was at the south end of High Street near the church, the rest of the street being occupied by farms, for instance, Court House Farm (the Precinct now), Cherry Grove, Barberry, the Eagles, Macquarie, Weeping Ash and others along



the road to Clevedon. Some building had recently taken place near the station, such as South View and Laurel Terraces and Griffin's corner (corner of old Moor Road). In 1899 Rock Road was 'made or about to be made'.

The station master of the important railway junction was Mr.Barber. A fair number of men from the village were employed on the railway. You could travel to and from Clevedon on about 20 trains a day and there were approximately eight each way to Cheddar and Wells, in addition of course to the main line service. Commuting to work by rail, however, was not yet common. Mr.Mountstevens was licensee of the Railway Hotel by the station, said to be a 'family and commercial hotel and posting house'. The Assembly Rooms and a billiard room had recently been added.

The carrier still ran from Yatton to Bristol (a horse-drawn vehicle) but there was a sign of changes to come - in 1897 James Jefferies was advertising petroleum and benzoline for sale. The street was not tarred and had not as yet been widened opposite Edwards the butchers.



High Street before road widening. On the left is the Bell Inn and part of the Prince of Orange. On the right is Edwards, butchers, and Tutt's shop.

Most of the necessities of life could be had without leaving the village: for example, drapery, boots and shoes and tailoring at Tutt's; several grocers, butchers and bakers; a restaurant; a builders' merchant also selling corn, hay and straw; and saddles, harness and cycles were available. Traps and waggonettes could be hired. Families were 'waited on daily' by

shopkeepers. For other necessities a short trip into Clevedon by train would suffice.

In 1899 occurred a momentous event - Wake & Dean (later Avalon) began to move their factory down from London, having acquired a piece of land belonging to 'The Lawns' fronting the road to Clevedon. This factory was to give employment to Yatton people until it closed in the 1980s.

The Market, held on Mondays, provided a meeting place and social occasion for farmers. Animals were driven down the street to the market to be auctioned and there were two banks on the site. The Parish Council wrote to the Superintendent of Police in 1898 about the number of horses and carts standing in the road on market days without anyone in charge. He replied saying that standing on the highway was legal and the charge for standing on market premises was prohibitive. The Council's request for the market to provide accommodation at a nominal charge was refused.

Yatton was unusual for a village in having street lighting by gas, supplied by the Yatton Gas Co. at Wemberham (founded 1867). The Parish Council was responsible for this and often received requests for more lamps or complaints about lamps being lit too late. In 1898 Dr. Johnson said the pressure was so low that the lights went out in Henley Lodge when they were put on in the church.

The Parish Council had come into being as a result of the Local Government Act 1894 and had ten members. In 1895 the chairman was Dr. Johnson followed by Benjamin Crossman. At this time the burning issue was the drains and water supply, therefore one of the Council's first tasks was to inspect the drains. Sewage was flowing from cesspits down the street and in the drought of 1896 wells became contaminated. The handle was removed from the parish pump, although in any case this often ran dry in summer. The Council considered the provision of 'Good Water' but did nothing. Eventually they were forced to act and commissioned a report, published in 1900, so we end the last century still with no drains or piped water and sewage in the roads. For a fuller account of this subject, see the article in *'Yatton Yesterday No 2'*.

Not surprisingly there were epidemics of one sort or another, for instance in 1897 a child from the National School died in a scarlet fever epidemic and the school was closed for a time. The headmaster was Mr. Spiers. (The 'British School' run by the Richard Durban Trustees was still at the Cadet Hall). By our standards infant mortality was high, it not being uncommon for a couple of children under 5 to be buried each month.

In 1899 the Great Western Railway Co. finally agreed to the Council's request to widen the bridge by the station to 28ft to include a footway, at a cost of £300 to be shared with the District Council. There were frequent complaints about the state of the roads. At Yatton Scar 'there was nothing but the bare rock showing in several places', said to be dangerous for horses, and 'the state of the road from the Scar to Claverham was a disgrace to the district'.

A site for 14 allotments in Claverham was bought by the Parish Council in 1896, when they elected an Allotments Committee. The Council was also concerned with trees and bushes overhanging the street.

Some things never change. When the Rev. John Harrison was vicar of St. Mary's it was found that the church tower was in urgent need of repair and £1,000 was raised through sales, garden parties and donations. The church also spent £234 on re-hanging the bells in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, and the school children had a day's holiday. The Parish Council minutes do not mention the Jubilee and unfortunately there is a gap in the Society's copies of the parish magazine for the last years of the 19th century.

Fear of the workhouse was very real. There were clubs (e.g. coal, clothing) to which the poor contributed a few pence but as yet no state old age pension, unemployment or sick pay. The Friendly Societies were declining and their place was being taken by trade unions.

Yatton had a thriving cricket club organised by Tankerville Chamberlain of 'The Lodge' who left the village in 1899. The field was on the site of Derham Park / Elm Close and at times W.G. Grace joined the team (hence Grace Close). Obviously this was not a normal village club; the standard was high and it was said that 'the wicket would not have disgraced Lords'. But after Tankerville's departure the Parish Council minutes refer to 'a field formerly used as a cricket field but now turned into a nursery'.

The Council wished to repair Elborough Footpath running across the former cricket field. This had been a much used path for as long as the oldest inhabitant could remember but a Mr. Francis who bought the property tried to stop its use by fastening up the gate. Having been obliged to desist, he then erected a 6ft. high fence leaving only 4ft. between it and the hedge, which he did not cut back. 'Mr. Francis is doing all he can to make the path impassable' said the Council, and he threatened to apply for an Injunction if they tried to repair the path.

Entertainment in the village was provided by a social and rifle club, a choral society, football, reading room and in winter, evening entertainments in the National schoolroom. Also in winter there was often ice skating on the flooded moor between Yatton and Nailsea which had not as yet been adequately drained. For children there was the 'Band of Hope' each week and the Sunday School outing.

Some of the young boys at school who saw in the new century would never grow old; they would be swept away in the carnage in Flanders. In 1900, as they celebrated, little did Yattonians realise what this new century would bring. Is there a lesson for us here?

### **Sources**

This is not original research, rather a gathering together of scattered information.

Minutes of the Parish Council by kind permission of the Chairman.

Archives of Yatton Local History Society,

'A History of Yatton' chapter 21.

Volumes of 'Yatton Yesterday' Nos. 1 - 10.

*Marian Barraclough*

### **Court of Wick Pippin**

On the 1800 map of the Poulett survey the land (parcel no. 899) on the south side of the old mansion of Court de Wyck was described as "old orchard"(1). This is probably the orchard where the apple known as Court of Wick Pippin first arose. It is believed to have originated from a seed of Golden Pippin. Although the fruit literature states that it was introduced in 1790 by Wood of Huntingdon, and is also known as

Wood's Huntingdon, (2) it probably grew at Court de Wyck much earlier. The mansion house was said to be in ruins in 1791 (3) and in a rental of 1798 it formed part of the land and buildings known as "Court de Wick Farm" which was occupied by a tenant farmer (4).

The Court of Wick Pippin is a golden dessert apple flushed with red and freckled with russet. Its almost yellow flesh has an intensely fruity flavour in the style of the Golden Pippin family, with plenty of sugar and acidity. It was widely grown in gardens throughout the 19th Century and was admired for its flavour, plentiful crops, hardiness and freedom from disease. It made a sturdy tree and in its homeland of the West Country was said to withstand "in some places the most severe blasts from the Welsh mountains and there bearing in greatest abundance". By the 1920's however, the nurseryman and connoisseur Edward Bunyard found Court of Wick "a good old sort, now little grown"(5).

At Compton Bishop and Cross, situated on the southern slopes at the western end of the Mendip Hills, there were 68 separate orchards in 1830 (6). Dyke Acland writing in 1851 stated that the favourite apple was the Court of Wick Pippin, a golden pippin on a large handsome spreading tree. In the 1870's John Scott's Catalogue listing the trees available at his Merriott Nurseries near Crewkerne, Somerset, included a description of The Court of Wick Pippin in which he said:- " The tree is very hardy and a fine bearer, and it succeeds in almost any soil or situation. It deserves to be extensively grown for its intrinsic value as a dessert fruit of the finest flavour, and its abundant crops, added to its hardihood, should find it a place in every collection" (7).

Early in 1997 two of these apple trees were included in a tree planting scheme in the grounds of the Court de Wyck School, Claverham (8), opposite what was once the orchard of the old Court de Wyck mansion. It will be interesting to see whether the future crops from these trees bear out the favourable past description of this apple variety.

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*Nicholas A Deas*

### **Henry Grimsteed (1666-1714)? A monumental mystery**

In the S.W. corner of the Newton chapel in Yatton church is a monument signed by Michael Sidnell of Bristol (active 1714-1745). As well as being a sculptor he was an architect and between 1743 and 1745 was responsible for building Westbury Court, Westbury-on-Severn, Glos. The house has since been demolished but the water gardens remain and are owned by the National Trust.

Michael Sidnell designed many monuments in churches in the Bristol area and signed the great monument to Edward Colston 1729, in All Saints' Church, Bristol, although the semi-recumbent figure was the work of the famous sculptor John Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770). According to the work by Rupert Gunnis the monument by him in Yatton Church was to HENRY GRINSTEED d.1714 and a HENRY GRINSTEED was church warden in 1709. The name actually inscribed on the monument is HENRY GRIMSTEED. Was a mistake made in the inscription on the monument? (Sheet A2).

In the previous century RICHARD GRIMSTEAD had been churchwarden in 1635 and HENRY GRIMSTEAD in 1689. In 1786 the tablet on the monument to the Rev. John Markham was inscribed by a RICHARD GRIMSTEED (Sheet B1). The spelling of this Yatton family name seems to have changed over 150 years from GRIMSTEAD to GRINSTEED and finally to GRIMSTEED.

**Rev. John Markham (1708-1786). Buried in the Newton vault?**

The inscription on the monument in the S.E corner of the Newton chapel states that the REV. JOHN MARKHAM Rector of Backwell for over 40 years was buried in the family vault nearby (Sheets A1 and B1). The vault is presumably the one constructed for the NEWTON family when the chapel was built in the 1490's. The coat of arms on the monument (Sheet B2) indicates that even though the REV. JOHN MARKHAM died nearly 300 years later he was a descendant of the NEWTON family.

Although the coat of arms is not coloured, the fully blazoned arms would have been :-

Azure, on a chief or a demi-lion rampant issuant gules, for MARKHAM, of Ollerton, Co. Nottingham, impaling Ermine, three crescents gules, for KENN, Co. Somerset, and Sable, a griffin sergeant argent, for GRIFFIN of Braybroke, Co. Northampton. The REV. JOHN MARKHAM was the son of JOHN MARKHAM of Yatton and HANNAH his wife (1680-1768) (Sheet B1). He was probably descended from JOHN MARKHAM, 7th son of THOMAS MARKHAM (d. 1607) and his wife MARY GRIFFIN (d. 1633).

THOMAS MARKHAM was Standard Bearer of Queen Elizabeth I's gentlemen pensioners and his wife MARY was the granddaughter of SIR THOMAS GRIFFIN (d. 1566) and his wife JOAN NEWTON, who was the granddaughter of SIR JOHN NEWTON (d. 1488) whose tomb is in the Newton chapel. JOAN NEWTON was the younger of the two daughters and heirs of RICHARD NEWTON (d. 1500), eldest son of SIR JOHN NEWTON, and inherited half the Newton lands. These lands were in turn inherited by MARY MARKHAM (nee GRIFFIN) and her husband THOMAS MARKHAM on the death of SIR THOMAS GRIFFIN.

The following letter suggests that the marriage between THOMAS MARKHAM and MARY GRIFFIN was instigated by Queen Elizabeth I - "9 June 1560. From William Cecil [later Lord Burghley] to Mr. Edward Griffin esquire [brother of Sir Thomas Griffin] - The writer recommends Mr Markham, the Queen's Standard-bearer to her Majesty's pensioners, as a fit match for the daughter of Mr. Griffin's nephew [Mary, daughter of Sir Rice Griffin]. Dated Grenewych".

Although THOMAS and MARY MARKHAM sold the manors of Wike and Walton to CHRISTOPHER and JOHN KENN on 23 May 1574, the

Markham monument in the Newton chapel shows that a branch of the MARKHAM family continued to live at Yatton, as does the list of churchwardens which includes JOHN MARKHAM (1704 - possibly the father of the REV. JOHN MARKHAM) and ANTHONY MARKHAM (1736-8). The coat of arms on the monument indicates a marriage between the MARKHAM and KENN families, so it is possible that JOHN MARKHAM, the 7th son of THOMAS and MARY MARKHAM, married a sister of CHRISTOPHER and JOHN KENN.

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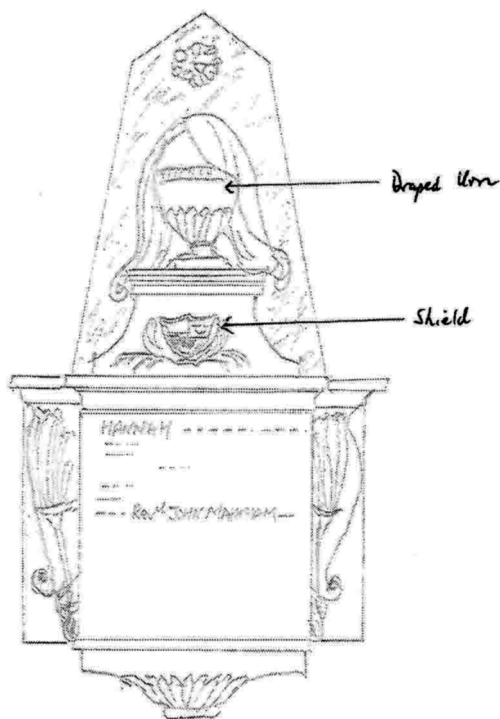
1. Gunnis, R. New revised ed. (undated).  
Directory of British Sculptors 1660-1851, p 351
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5. Historical MSS Comm. 9th Report. App. pt.ii, p.417a
6. Yatton Yesterday No.4 (1987), p.1

*Nicholas A. Deas*

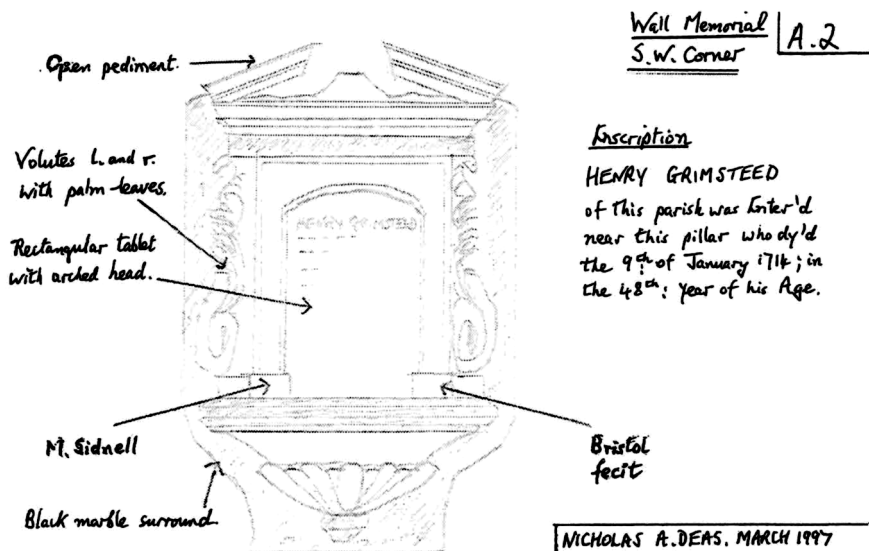
MONUMENTS IN THE NEWTON CHAPEL, YATTON CHURCH

A.1

Wall Memorial  
S.E. corner







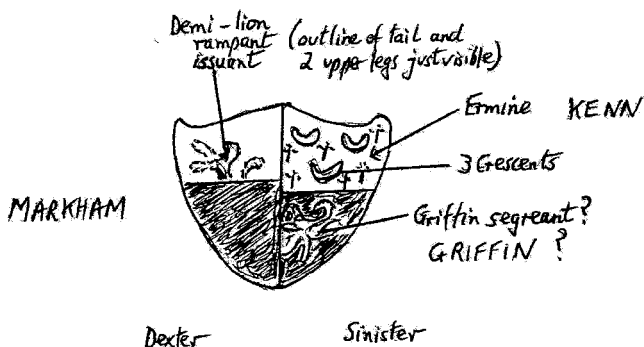
Monument in south east corner of Newton Chapel, Yatton Church

Sheet B1

Inscription:

HANNAH relict of JOHN MARKHAM  
of this Parish Gent  
died July (1)3th 1768. aged 88 years  
She was  
A dutiful wife A tender parent  
Kind to her Friends and Bountiful to the Poor  
The Revd. JOHN MARKHAM A.M.  
Son of the above JOHN AND HANNAH  
Upwards of 40 years the faithful and  
Exemplary Rector of Backwell in this County  
died the 29th of March 1786. Aged 77 years  
and lies in the family vault near this place  
He lived beloved by his Parishioners,  
and died regretted by all who knew him.  
To perpetuate the Memory of Virtues so estimable  
RICHARD GRIMSTEED with reverence  
Inscribes this tablet.

B. 2



Shield with coat of arms (black and grey) on upper part of monument

In Backwell Parish Church there is a Brass Chandelier (18 candles), the gift of the Rev. John Markham, for 40 years Rector of Backwell.

NICHOLAS A. DEAS, MARCH 1997

### Stuckey's Butchers

Some reminiscences from 1892 onwards

The 1904 Kelly's Directory listed three butchers in Yatton and district, only one of which, Arthur Edwards', is still trading. Pearce's was described in *More Yatton Yesterdays* No 1.

The third, Gilbert Stuckey's, closed in the early 1970's, when Gateway's store (now Somerfields) which opened in 1967, was extended and a larger car-park was formed. Interestingly, the Victorian stone Chescombe House, which gave its name to the road opposite, was alongside the butcher's shop and the original gate posts can still be seen in the wall of the car park. A rising pop musician, Andrew Davies of the Corgis, lived at Chescombe House when it was demolished in the 1970's.

The Stuckey family lived in a house which was built in mid-Victorian times for them, behind the shop. Gilbert Stuckey had four sons: Stanley, who remained in the business; Victor who left the business to concentrate on cattle dealing in the early 1940's; Clifford who went into a bank; and Leslie who was a manager for Budgens, grocers of Bristol.

Len Lawrence worked for Stuckey's for 40 years and has lent us some documents which have yielded the following information.

In 1897 E T Chidsey, carpenter, joiner and undertaker, of Railway Wharf, Yatton, was paid £50 on account for a contract. He had disappeared from Kelly's by 1904 but by 1910 W C Day featured as a plumber and general handyman who repaired the plumbing in the slaughterhouse (which had been the coach house) and painted the cold storage. The bill was not completely paid six months later!

In 1903 Leslie and Clifford Stuckey had English and music tuition for two terms at 14s each. The music included class singing. Next term there was 'dance' at 9d. They also paid 2s for breaking a gas globe and mantle! By 1904 they were receiving tuition and books on Chinese bellringing besides music. Tuition was given by Miss Crease at The Hollies in Yatton High Street.

For the adults, whisky was 4/6d a quart, gin 3/4d, 6 bottles of stout cost 10½d and bottles were returnable for a small deposit from J Knight wine

and spirit merchant, at the Prince of Orange. Amongst half a dozen or so deliveries, was eight hundredweight of coal delivered from Charles Knowles, corn, cake, seed, coal, coke, hay, straw, timber and general builders merchant of Railway Wharf, Yatton in 1898.

There are bills for bushels of corn, sacks of meal, bran and barley meal from James Denmead of Yatton, family grocer and baker, as well as corn and meal merchants, in 1893 -1898. Bills were paid at intervals of one year to over two years. E Burdge supplied meal in 1902 and later at the same price in 1903-4.

T Sheppey and Son, corn, cake and flour dealers of Congresbury also supplied meal and Sharps barley meal for pigs and poultry. In 1905-12 goods including salt were being bought from T Sheppey and Son. Sacks were on hire and noted on return and also the meat bill shows as a credit! Again the bills were outstanding for a year or more.

A butcher's apron with horizontal blue stripes (not fishmonger's vertical ones) cost 2/9d from G Rushbrooke of Smithfield and 1000 skewers were 1/10d.

In 1904 despite terms being stated as cash or on monthly accounts, some carriers such as E J White of Yatton were paying for hides and skins after three months, so Stuckey's had to wait three months for their £1 10s 2d payment. The Bristol and Western Counties Butchers paid 4d for a hide and 6d for a cut calf skin in 1905.

From 1898 to 1902 various meats weighing up to 20lb were bought from H Amos of Clevedon Triangle. An 18lb 6oz sirloin was 13s 9d from Amos Dyer of Clevedon but even more interesting was the fact that Amos' shop in Old Church Road, Clevedon was previously owned by Walter Stuckey, who was Gilbert's brother. Bills for large joints of meat bought from Edwards of Yatton between 1907 to 1913 appear among the records. Wise and Co. of Temple Gate, Bristol, who farmed at Whitchurch supplied wholesale beef and veal during 1912.

For a family's eight months supply of meat in 1899 ( that is a 4 to 5 pound joint weekly) the bill was £5-17-9½d. The meat was beef, veal, mutton and lamb, but no poultry. Beef and mutton were cheapest but varied little between 1892 and 1902 when there were many bills for Mrs

Dunn. In 1903 the occupant of Larchmont Hall was writing an IOU for £29-12-11d, the payment of which must have been eagerly awaited.

There were also bills for hay and grass and shearing seventy sheep in 1890 from John Wallis of Kingston Seymour, as well as bills for castrating colts amongst other tasks, from another brother, Norman in 1895-7. The Stuckey's continued farming at Yew Tree Farm, Kingston Seymour until the 1980's. Cheese cost 8d a lb and seven ewes were bought for 38s from T W Phippen of Middle Lane Farm, Kingston Seymour in 1899. Between 1895 and 1900, three calves, ten sheep and four lambs were bought from Ben Crossman and cost over £50. There was also a bill from G W Hazell of Kenn Moor, covering 1899-1901 for 10s for chain harrowing two fields, plus 15s for the harrow. Dipping thirty sheep plus the dip was 10s. An unknown sum was paid to the Radnorshire polo and riding pony club for serving a mare in 1902.

From 1907-13 calves and pigs were bought from Amos Williams of The Lodge, Yatton; sheep and pigs were also bought from A G Masters of Kingston Seymour and the slaughter of a pig cost 2s.

These bills give a picture of a butcher living alongside his shop with aspirations for his sons' education. He had grazing for animals, probably while they were fattened for slaughter, on a large part of the moors between Yatton and Clevedon. He slaughtered cattle behind the shop, sometimes had to buy in meat from other local butchers when necessary, probably also sold cheese, but no poultry, and used horses to pull his carts. The prices varied very little from 1892 to 1913 but bills were settled at long intervals, sometimes years.

The ledgers from 1891-1898 show delivery rounds to Langford (where cattle was bought from Colonel Llewellyn of the Court) to Clevedon, Nailsea, Congresbury, Claverham, Cleeve and other places. Most of the suppliers of goods, other than the meat suppliers mentioned above are included as having meat delivered to them.

For Christmas in 1911 Colonel Llewellyn bought twenty two 2-3 pound joints of beef, presumably as presents. Another interesting note is that two pounds of beef were twice supplied to Mrs Payne at the Bedminster Union, Flax Bourton by order of the medical officer in 1902.

In 1904 Chescombe Villas were let, one for £30 a year to a Mr Garrod from Bristol and the other to John Hodge, the solicitor ( the firm still remains there). In 1914 Gilbert Stuckey took the tenancy of a house belonging to a Mr Gosling of Blackpool for three years.

Len Lawrence himself started work at Stuckey's when he was aged twelve. Before school on Mondays and Thursdays he would cycle to Nailsea with meat to be made into sausages at Bakers and they would deliver them on Tuesdays and Fridays to the shop. Len learnt to drive on a bullnose Morris 1926 model with perspex side windows.

The shop was busy: there was cured bacon that could be kept for a year, salt beef cured with nitrite and prepared tripe. There was a 'fridge in the shop but before this there had been an icebox filled with one hundredweight of ice brought on a daily basis by Gills, carrier of Congresbury, from the cold store at Avonmouth. At that time meat was left hanging in the slaughterhouse for a week and improved rather than rotting. Cattle were fasted and had not travelled far before slaughter, so the meat kept well.

Victor Stuckey, who lived at Laurel Bank, concentrated on cattle dealing, fattening them for Yatton or Taunton Markets where they were sent by train.

Donald Lampert who lived in Yatton for many years, did work both at the house and on the farmland such as hedging, keeching and clearing fields of thistles, all by hand. He drove cattle, with the help of Mr Stuckey and some casual workers from the Station Yard to the fields beyond Well Lane, where they were watered, after they had come by train from Scotland. Donald, before he came to live in Yatton, bicycled from Sandford every day and was paid 35/6d for five and a half day's work in the 1930's and 40's.

*Marianne Pitman*

## **Farming at Cottage Farm , Claverham**

as told by Alan Young.

Near the back door of Cottage Farm there is a dairy platform where the milk from small local farms was brought. Most of the milk went to dairies in Bedminster and the surplus was made into Cheddar and Caerphilly cheese.

Alan Young's father, Ernest Edward Young took produce including cheese and butter made from this milk to Bristol market every Thursday, leaving at 6 am and returning at 12 midday. He would get up at 4 am and therefore slept on the way home in his cart before he did his farmwork.

Though this was a precarious living the prices paid to any group of twenty or so farmers was more constant and higher than one farmer alone could get. Payment for these services was in whey which was fed to pigs at Cottage Farm. These 'co-operatives' were the early precursors of Milk Marque. Other produce such as Morgan Sweet apples from the orchard was sent to Manchester for the dye industry.

There were eight wooden handmade milking stalls and seventy cows were milked between 6-30 to 8 am and 4 to 5-30 pm. In the 1930's hand milking by the light of oil lamps was replaced by vacuum milking using a portable bale. This could be taken to the cows on the moor in the summer, where it stood on a hard base, and from November to March it stayed in the farmyard.

By the 1970's there was a 250 gallon tank to replace the churns. Steam sterilisation on farms was a result of the 1926 Milk and Dairies Order which led to considerable changes in the way milk was produced.

Some farmers thought milking machines were cruel and even went so far as to call the RSPCA to more modern farmers.

Each cow had eight to ten calves (on average five) but steers were sold on after two years. When a change from Shorthorns to Ayrshires was made the herd declined due to poor immunity to TB. When milk production was stopped in 1989 the herd consisted of seventy Friesians.

It is interesting that when electricity arrived the cost of 'wiring' the whole farm was £50 in 1927 and the lead-covered electric cables are still in good condition.

The farm produced 200 tons of corn per annum which was dried and stored in various barns and there were 40-50 fat cattle for beef and 200 gallons of milk.

*Marianne Pitman*

### **Dentists in Yatton**

There would appear to have been no resident dentists in Yatton in the early years of this century. Kelly's lists Harold D. Oxley of 19, Old Church Road, Clevedon, as having a permanent surgery at that address. He travelled weekly to Congresbury from 1931 onwards but Kelly's makes no mention of Yatton.

In 1935 James Melville Calder of Gothic Lodge, Prince's Road, Clevedon started a weekly surgery in Yatton. This took place on Wednesdays from 3.0 - 5.0pm in High Street.

Mrs. Summerell said that Mr.Oxley lived at 'Glen Eagles', 125 High Street, Yatton and held a surgery at his house (we have no dates for this and Kelly's made no mention, but they only go up to 1939). However, he was operating as a dentist there in the 1965-6 period. From Ruth's information it would seem that Mr.Oxley also rented premises in Old Church Road, Clevedon, from a Mr. Jarrett (Oxfam shop is now at that premises).

Mr.Orrin can remember a dentist practising in rooms above the chemist (later Barclays Bank). He thought the dentist came once or twice a week and although he thought it might be Mr.Oxley he could not be sure. Mr. Orrin said that Mr.Thomas held a surgery for some years above John Hodge, the solicitor's office at 50 High Street.

He said that the first permanent dentist started part-time at 4 Elm Close. Mr.Orrin himself practised there with a partner, Mr.Phillip Davies until 1978 when Mr.Orrin left the practice. This practice began late 1965 or early 1966.



When the new complex of buildings which includes the Veterinary Surgery, was built, the dental practice moved there and has remained there to this date.

#### Sources

Kelly's Directories up to 1939

Mr & Mrs Summerell

Mr Orrin, Former Yatton Dentist

*Hilary Tincknell*

### **St. David's School/ Cadbury House, Yatton**

Cadbury House was the family home of the Hall's (T.S.Hall - Tinplate Makers of Bedminster). During the war, about 1940, St. David's School was evacuated to Cadbury House from Bexhill-on-Sea. The Headmaster was Mr. Griffiths.

The school was mainly a Boarding School for boys, with about 60 pupils but a few day boys also attended. Many pupils were Jewish refugees from Austria and Germany.

The uniform consisted of black blazer with a white griffin on the pocket and a black cap circled with a white ring which gave rise to the local villagers nicknaming the boys "Liquorice Allsorts".

Meals were eaten in the Dining Hall, the boys sat on benches at long tables and the staff sat on a dais at the end of the room. During the war, breakfast and tea consisted of bread and margarine with tea to drink, cake was served at Sunday tea. It seemed to be stew for dinner every day.

Some of the sleeping quarters were dormitories and some were small bedrooms with two sharing. The floors were just bare boards.

At the western end underneath the school was a tunnel, probably a cellar - with a wooden door. Once, some of the boys went exploring with a torch and found it was full of bats.

There was a Scout troop at the school and in the woods were three log cabins which were built from trees taken from the woods. The cabins were made by the boys themselves and used by the troop.



The Old Sweet Shop, Frost Hill.

A treat for the boys was to visit the "Old Sweet Shop" on Frost Hill, where they were able to spend their pocket money and also their sweet coupons when sweets were rationed.

When the school finally closed the building became a Country Club and was known as "Cadbury Country Club".

[From an interview with an ex-pupil.]

*Ruth Summerell*

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