

MORE YATTON YESTERDAYS

NO: 4

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Cover picture is a van used by H. H. Reynolds Transport,
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Editorial

We are delighted to publish *More Yatton Yesterdays Book 4*: this is our eighteenth publication overall. *Book 3* is virtually a sell-out, whilst *A History of Yatton* is still selling steadily - thank you for your support. Members of the Committee, Society members and interested villagers have all contributed to this new edition.

For sales we are again indebted to Clive at Yatton Newsagents, Nicola and Christine at Yatton Post Office, George and Lyn at the Corner Shop, Richard at Claverham Post Office, together with Jean in Yatton Precinct. It all makes a first class community team with our members supporting our programme of talks and trips.

Our Millennium Exhibition will be held in the Methodist Hall on Friday January 14th from 2pm to 6pm and Saturday 15th from 10am to 6pm. Here you will see a 40 foot long mural of Yatton High Street as it was in 1900, with coloured sketches of all the buildings at that date. There will also be items of historical interest including photographs, domestic appliances and agricultural implements. We look forward to seeing you there (admission is free !).

A. F. Coe, President
October 1999

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H. H. Reynolds Transport

After the end of the First World War, Mr Hubert Henry Reynolds purchased a lorry, sort unknown and commenced a haulage business, so you might say early 1920's was the start. There is no record of what he actually hauled.

About this time Wake & Dean's had two vans of their own and did their own haulage. This went on for a period of time until one vehicle was destroyed in a road accident and the other one caught fire, whereupon the firm decided to hire transport and this is where H.H. Reynolds stepped in and started his expansion.

Requiring a base from which to work, he took over the yard at the top of the railway incline when Mr Dickie Bird moved out. There is no record of when he actually bought the premises.

Although it was not part of the transport fleet, who always had the yard at Yatton, one must mention Rhodyate Service Station at Cleeve, which was built in the 1930's, the big house adjoining the Service Station and the row of bungalows on the Weston side which housed a number of the Company drivers. This garage was the repair base of the transport fleet.

When the writer started school at Cleeve, Rhodyate Service Station was a green painted, galvanized iron workshop with some petrol pumps outside, yet by 1940 when the writer commenced work at Rhodyate, the

place had been built and already extended, proved by the partition in the middle which had a large pair of sliding doors, obviously formerly external doors.

In 1940 the transport fleet was of mixed manufacture comprising a number of Guy Vixen chassis, some Dodges, a Commer, two Dennis and some Fords, these being equipped with transverse springing, with the usual roll on turning corners, which was common with such vehicles.

At this time Rhodyate Service Station were Guy Distributors for the West of England, but this notwithstanding, the fleet was never all Guy.

The pre-war vans could be recognized by the two colour green paintwork, light on top and dark on the bottom, and a double line about two thirds of the way up with a circle on both sides and on the front of the Luton containing intertwined letters HHR. (See the cover illustration) This, I think was the work of Longwell Green Coachworks where I think all new vans were built.

A number of second-hand vans were bought during the war, mostly from the London area, so when they arrived they had to be extensively overhauled and all were repainted a single colour, dark green, in the workshop at Cleeve by the foreman, Gilbert Robbins with the writer's help - all the dirty work!

All the vans were very lightly built to come within the then current regulations of 2.5 tons and whilst this was adequate for furniture carriage, the heavier work from war service with the Bristol Aeroplane Company resulted in nearly continuous body repairs and repainting.

All mechanical repairs were carried out at Cleeve including all major units. The Guy petrol engines comprised two OHV units, with 90mm & 95mm bores (22-25 HP RAC rating) and therefore we never knew which engine we were dealing with until the cylinder head was removed.

As well as the van fleet, two open trucks were purchased second-hand – one was a Vixen 3 tonner and one was a hybrid, a Vixen with twin rear axles; these vehicles were mostly used to transport heavier castings from foundries in Birmingham to BAC Bristol.

Towards the end of the war, a few new vehicles became available, one was a Bedford OL Model, with the flat wartime front. This chassis was extended by Baico of London and a third prop shaft was fitted to lengthen the drive train. This vehicle was fitted with a Luton van body and was in service with the company when I left their employ in 1951.

Two other vans were built, these were called “Vixants”, because the chassis portion was the old Vixen length and the cab had the wartime “ant” front and seating arrangements – seat bolted to floor and very cold to drive. No heater in any commercial vehicles at this time and draughts through all pedal apertures!!

These were built and painted to pre-war design by Longwell Green Coachworks

or Oldland Body Works. These vehicles were also lengthened by Baico of London.

Most of the vans were employed hauling for BAC, Parnells of Yate and the Ministry of Food during the Second World War and covered huge mileages, most of them being fitted with twin 25 gallon tanks. A certain number were still working for Wake & Dean, who were also on war work. As well as the full sized, full forward control vans, the fleet also contained a smaller Guy “Wolf” normal control van which was used for short journeys.

During the entire time the writer was employed at Rhodyate Service Station the Garage and the Transport business were part of the “Bristol Industries” which also encompassed Henry Russett’s “Royal Blue Coaches”, Avon Ice & Cold storage, Neptune Mineral Waters and The Bristol Haulage Company and it was only after I left that the name of Western Transport came into use.

About the time I left the employment of Rhodyate Service Station, the whole Reynolds family emigrated to Australia and as far as I know this finally terminated any interest in HHR Transport.

W.M.(Monty) Lane

(The writer, from 1940-1951 was employed at Rhodyate Service Station, Cleeve, who did repairs and servicing on the transport fleet. Rhodyate Service Station has now been demolished, there is no trace of the original buildings and houses have been built on the site- now called Warner Close).

Yatton Doctors – 300 Years Of Service

The names of some of the early doctors in Yatton are recorded in the accounts of the overseers of the poor. The churchwardens and overseers of the poor had been made responsible for raising a compulsory poor law rate and for the relief of the poor by the 1598 and 1601 statutes of Elizabeth I.

The Church House on the north side of Yatton parish church became the parish poor house in 1620 and continued in use for housing the poor until the 1950s.¹

The overseers made payments to local doctors for treating the poor when they were ill. Payments to Dr. Joseph Wornell were made from 1686 onwards. The Wornells were one of the leading families in Yatton and Dr. Wornell may have been a grandson of John Wornell who occupied the Old Rectory next to the church in 1635 and died in 1637.² In 1708 the overseers paid Dr. Wornell 6s 0d for going to Wrington and for 2 bottles of cordial.³ Cordial can mean a medicine but why did the overseers pay Dr. Wornell for treating a patient at Wrington? Perhaps the patient came from Yatton and was therefore the responsibility of the Yatton overseers.

Later the parish had an agreement with Dr. Hinkes to treat the poor. In 1729-30 he was paid for bleeding one patient and had £2.18.0 as half a year's salary.⁴ In 1737 and 1742 payments of half a year's salary of £2.12.6 are recorded.

In 1740 his bill of £4.4.0 was paid and in 1741 he was paid £1.2.0 for setting William Earl's arm and attendance.⁵

In 1772 the overseers paid Dr Whitchurch £3.5.2 but Dr. Samuel Norman, who had come to Yatton in 1770, was also paid £2.2.0. Payments to Dr. Norman continued until 1810 when his bill was £39.9.0, but from 1805 onwards payments were also being made to Dr. James, whose bill in 1808 was £39.7.3. In 1805 Dr. Norman had been paid £4.4.0 for attending Charles Stuckey.

The parish also paid annual subscriptions to Bath Hospital (£1.1.0 in 1778) and the Bristol Infirmary (£2.2.0 in 1772 and 1790; £4.4.0 in 1808 and 1809) as well as entrance money for those going into hospital. 12s.0d. was paid to the Infirmary in 1782 for Betty Fry and 18s.0d. in 1792 for Arthur Hunt.⁶

The following entry relating to Yatton is included in the notes made by Richard Paget (1766-1794) for additions to *Collinson's History of Somerset* 1791:-

"The affair of Lukins, the supposed demoniac, which a few years ago found its way into most of the newspapers, has rendered the name of Yatton familiar to the public, and is too notorious to need a particular detail or investigation." ⁷

Dr. Samuel Norman was closely involved with this controversial case which related to George Lukins, a Yatton tailor.

He was said to have been possessed of seven devils for nearly eighteen years from which he was delivered on 13 June

1788 by the spiritual efforts of seven clergymen in the vestry-room of the Temple church in Bristol. A number of accounts of the affair were published in 1788. On one side Samuel Norman, surgeon at Yatton, claimed that George Lukins was an impostor, whilst Joseph Easterbrook, vicar of Temple church, took the opposite view.

Samuel Norman's papers were entitled "Authentic anecdotes of George Lukins the Yatton demoniac, with a view of the controversy, and a full refutation of the imposture" and "The great apostle unmasked or a reply to the Rev. Mr. Easterbrook's appeal in defence of his demoniac George Lukins". A 4th edition of the narrative based on the accounts of the clergymen, with the Rev. Mr. Easterbrook's letter annexed authenticating the particulars which occurred at Temple church, was published in 1845, 57 years after the event.⁸

The following statements made by Samuel Norman in his first paper give his version of the events in Yatton.

"In the latter end of 1769, or beginning of 1770, G. Lukins of Yatton, the person whose case I have been speaking of, with some young people, went to the house of the late Mr. Love, to perform Christmas plays. Mr. Love being of a generous disposition, gave them so much liquor as to intoxicate them. G. Lukins was greatly overloaded, and in endeavouring to walk out, fell down at the door, where he remained till assistance was given him. Soon after this incident his fits commenced. In

some few weeks he pretended he was bewitched." – "All these oddities were attributed to the power of witchcraft. In June 1770, I settled at Yatton, and some time lodged in the same house as this man; so that I had frequent opportunities to see him in his fits."

"Soon after I settled at Yatton, the parish officers employed me for him. He was at different times under my care; and on the 11th of last January [1788], I was the last time employed by the overseers for him; but I quickly gave his case up, as unworthy my notice."⁹

In 1813 Earl Poulett sold Cadbury Lodge (later Henley Lodge) to John Norman, surgeon, then aged 37.¹⁰ Could he have been the son of Samuel Norman? As the payments in the overseers' accounts after 1779 refer only to "Mr. Norman" it is possible that the son followed the father as surgeon at some stage.

The system of poor relief introduced by the 1598 Act continued in this country until the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 which grouped parishes into unions, with guardians of the poor replacing the overseers. The parish of Yatton was grouped with 22 other parishes to form the Bedminster Union. The union was divided into 8 districts, each of which was assigned a medical officer. In country areas the medical practitioner's only hope of existence was by acting as parish doctor.

Tight-fisted boards of guardians drove the hardest possible bargain and often cared little whether the doctor was qualified, or not; the man who would

accept the lowest wage, sometimes as little as £20 a year, received the appointment. In 1837 the Yatton medical officer was Mr. Shipton.¹¹

Under the Apothecaries Act 1815 all apothecaries (who were actually general practitioners) had to be examined and licensed by the Society of Apothecaries after a five years' apprenticeship. Until the second half of the 19th century the three trades of physician, surgeon and apothecary were separate and their duties undefined. The physician attended landowners and aristocrats and entered by the front door. If an apothecary or surgeon was called, he used the tradesman's entrance.

No register of qualified practitioners existed until the passing of the 1858 Medical Act, whose declared purpose was to enable the public to distinguish between qualified and unqualified practitioners. The General Council of Medical Education and Registration (now known as the General Medical Council) was required to compile a register of qualified practitioners and to ensure that the practice of medicine was restricted to those who had passed a recognised examination.

The longest serving practitioner in Yatton during the 19th century was John Hurd whose name is listed in directories from 1848 to 1887. His surgery was at Rose Villa (Cottage), 10 High Street. In 1851 he was aged 38.¹⁰ He obtained a licence from the Society of Apothecaries (LSA) in 1845 and became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh (by exam) (L.R.C.P. Edin.) and a member of the Royal College of

Surgeons, England (M.R.C.S. Eng.) in 1860. It was no doubt a result of the new registration requirements of the 1858 Act that John Hurd obtained these further qualifications in 1860.

As well as John Hurd, the 1848 and 1849 directories listed T.S. Lang at Yatton but no further details about him are given. Rice Wasbrough, M.D., was included in the directories from 1849 to 1854; his qualifications were M.D. Edin. 1840; M.R.C.S. Eng. 1839; L.S.A. 1840. He was medical officer for the Yatton Friendly Society and probably lived at Somerset House, 157 High Street (now a Residential Home). The mid-19th century wing at the rear of the property may have been built by him.

Dr. George Payne is recorded between 1872 and 1878, Dr. C.A. Daubeney in 1876 and Dr. Charles Wathen Sayer of Linden House, 155 High Street, between 1873 and 1877.

From 1880 to 1887 John Hurd and Alfred de Courcy Lyons, who leased Henley Lodge at the south end of the High Street, were the two doctors practising in Yatton. In 1888 John Hurd is no longer listed and has been replaced by John Usherwood Bolton of Glenville House, 118 High Street. The practice became known as Lyons & Bolton, surgeons. In 1891 both doctors moved away, Alfred de Courcy Lyons to Wrington, where he lived at Aldwick Court, and John Usherwood Bolton to Scarborough.

Peter Pearson Johnson came in 1891 and continued to practise in Yatton until his death on 29 January 1911 aged 57. In 1891 his address was Glenville House but

later he was at Henley Lodge. His monument is on the south side of the footpath running towards Court Avenue, near the south-west corner of the church. The inscription on the monument also records the death of his wife Clara Johnson 41 years later, on 4 August 1952, aged 87.

Dr. P. P. Johnson was elected to the first Yatton Parish Council on 15 December 1894 and was the second chairman of the Parish Council from 1895 to 1897. Although he qualified at Edinburgh University in 1877 it does not necessarily follow that he was a Scot.

Medical training in Scotland had for a long period been far in advance of what could be obtained in England and most of the doctors in Yatton during the 19th century had obtained qualifications from one of the Scottish universities.

Dr. P. P. Johnson was followed by Thomas Christopher Johnson, of Henley Lodge, during the period up to the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war. Between 1915 and 1920 Charles Carew Webb, of Bristowe, Wood & Webb, was at Henley Lodge. This joint practice covered Wrington, Langford and Yatton, with H.C. Bristowe at Wrington, W. V. Wood



Dr Dyson's retirement party at the Railway Hotel in March 1965

at Langford and C. C. Webb at Yatton. C.C.Webb may have been assisted at Yatton by Richard Bertram Johnson in the years 1915-1917 as Dr. R. B. Johnson's address in 1915 and 1916 was The Ridge and in 1917 was Henley Lodge.

In 1921 William Vincent Wood moved to Henley Lodge and the practice was re-named Bristowe, Pines and Wood, with E.G.D.Pines replacing Dr. Wood at Langford. In 1928 H. C. Bristowe retired at Wrington and was replaced by A.T.F.Rowley. The practice then became known as Wood, Pines and Rowley. Dr. W. V. Wood continued to practise at Henley Lodge until 1939 when he was joined by his daughter Dr. Ursula Wood who had qualified in 1938. Dr. Ursula Wood assisted her father until his retirement on 30 April 1945.⁴

Dr. W. V. Wood was followed by Alexander Dyson of Orwell Cottage, 25 High Street, who practised in Yatton from August 1945 until he retired in March 1965.⁴ He then went to live on Jersey in the Channel Islands. Brian James Dorrان of Glenville House was Dr. Dyson's partner from 1948 until 1950, when he moved to Australia.

After the retirement of her father in 1945 Ursula Wood had married another doctor, J. R. G. Damrel and for a time they both practised in Truro, Cornwall. However after the death of Dr. W. V. Wood on 18 December 1952 his daughter Ursula Damrel (nee Wood) returned to Henley Lodge and from 1954

assisted Dr. Dyson until his retirement in 1965. In 1956 Dr. Ursula Damrel moved to Cadbury Lodge, Claverham (now 32 Claverham Road), a new house built when the Henley Lodge estate was developed.

Dr. Dyson used his home at Orwell Cottage as a Surgery until 1960 when the premises at 14 Church Road were taken over and used for that purpose. These premises continued in use as a Surgery until 1972 when the practice moved to the new health centre in Mendip Road which was designed to serve the increasing population in Yatton.⁴

When Dr. Dyson retired in 1965 David Cloberry Robinson joined the practice, followed by Andrew Fraser Boyles in 1970. Dysons Close, which was developed in 1986-87, was named after Dr. Dyson. Michael Fenner Hermann Nelki joined the practice in 1974 when Dr. Ursula Damrel went into semi-retirement. The practice then became known as Robinson, Boyles and Nelki.

Dr. Ursula Damrel moved into the former Surgery premises at 14 Church Road in 1977 and in the following year Dr. Nelki moved into her old home in Claverham Road. Dr. Ursula Damrel was still living at 14 Church Road at the time of her death on 18 January 1989. Doctors Robinson, Boyles and Nelki still continue to work for the practice but on a 50% job share basis.

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6. SRO D/P/YAT; 13/2/4 and 13/2/5.
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8. *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, Vol.3 (1902), pp.22,23; British Library Catalogue. Lukins (George); Easterbrook (J); Norman (Samuel).
9. Bristol Central Ref. Lib. No.9592, pp.10, 11, 19.
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11. *Yatton Yesterday* No.5, p.42.
12. *Yatton Yesterday* No.3, p.10.

Nicholas A. Deas



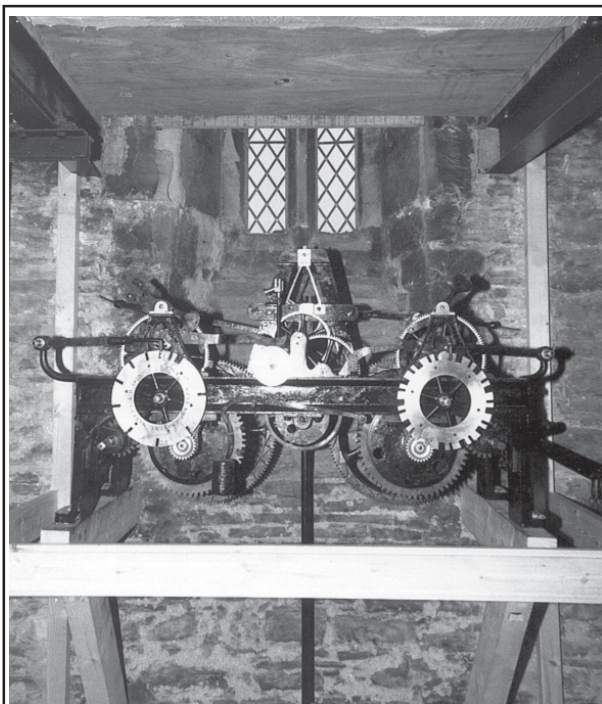
Yatton Church Clock - Half A Millennium of Timekeeping

The most recent repairs to the church clock continue a Yatton tradition spanning over 450 years.

In 1536 William Sensam or Sansom of the village was paid 1d "in ernes for making a clock and chyme". He was obviously a man of some renown in the high-tech field of clockmaking as he also constructed timepieces for St.Nicholas and Christ Church in Bristol. Elements of his clock still survive at Yatton as it was modified and updated over the years until the nineteenth century in much the same way, I suppose, as computer drives are updated in our era.

Initially the mechanism would have been a verge and foliot one as on the noted example in Salisbury Cathedral. When pendulum control was introduced in the early seventeenth century the Yatton clock was modified to take advantage of the great increase in accuracy offered by the new method. The whole of the original 1536 striking mechanism was retained, together with the main wheel of the clock apparatus. The barrels are of oak and virtually unaffected by four centuries of woodworm.

Between 1538 and 1540 a further 62/3d (£3.11) was paid to the clockmaker and with sundry expenses such as "hewying a tre for ye clocke howse 11/-" (55p) and "payd to ye clocke howse makyng



Yatton Church Clock

in ye Church 13/3d "(66p) the total project seems to have amounted to £4.0.3d (£4.01).

It appears that some early form of maintenance contract was agreed in 1546/7 under the heading of "repairs of the clocke all the yere - 1/-" (5p). Yatton seems to have been granted a preferential rate as the City of Bristol archives record a bond for £20 in 1566 to cover St. Nicholas Church clock, which Sansom apparently made and subsequently serviced for six years at 20d (8p) per annum and thereafter at 10/- (50p) per annum.

Sensam was also concerned with repairs to Christ Church clock in Bristol. This timepiece seems to have given him trouble and perhaps he would rather not have dealt with it at all as the 1560 Churchwardens Accounts imply:

"payde the sexten for expences to go to comsbury for ye clockmaker to go hither ageyne 4d (2p)"

"more for 11 Diners and breckfasts geven to the clockmakr to corrage hym to apply and follow his works 1/2d (6p)"

'Comsbury' is of course Congresbury (some long standing locals still refer to it as 'Coomsbury') and was no doubt indistinguishable from Yatton to the sophisticated and remote burghers of Bristol.

Reverting from the man to his machine, the clock seems to have performed well during the next half century. Interestingly, the stipend for looking after it apparently declined from 3/- (15p) per annum in 1545/6 to 4d (2.5p) by the early 1580s.

Most annoyingly, the Churchwarden's records for the period 1597-1725 cannot be located. This period covers the time during which the clock would have been extensively modified and converted to pendulum regulation around 1670. The details would have made interesting reading. In all probability the work would have been carried out by a local blacksmith, for there was no longer any great mystery surrounding the workings of turret clocks. The rate for minding it had by now risen to 5/- (25p) per annum.

In 1732 it was necessary to remove the mechanism from the tower for attention. Where it was taken is not recorded but the considerable sum of £3.15.6d (£3.77) was spent. Twenty years later in 1753 John Martin and Richard Reed charged 8/6d (42p) to transport the clock to and from Chewstokes for work by Mr. Edward Bilbie to the value of £3.10.0d (£3.50).

The years 1758-1761 were expensive ones but are of particular interest to us: it seems likely that the clock first had a face at this time. A total of £11.2.6d (£11.12) was laid out on "a new Horologe, painting the same, carriage from Wrington and putting up". Mr. Bilbie was again involved to the extent of £4.14.6d (£4.72), for which he would have needed to carry out some fairly intricate work to construct a drive relay to the hands. It seems that this may not have been entirely satisfactory, for in 1762 he was back again "mending and cleaning the clock and moving it to the East side of the tower". Most likely the Mark 1 version had given trouble and had to be resited with shorter drive rods.

Various routine expenses and repairs are listed for the next hundred years or so until the clock was removed and discarded in a corner of the clock room to make way for the present late Victorian timepiece in 1877. It is fortunate that the churchwardens of the time did not "remove the old clock and devote proceeds of same to necessary church expenses", as a minute of that year required them to do. It remained in the tower until 1981, when it was rescued from obscurity and restored to working order.

The current clock, recently converted to automatic winding, was made by Dell and Company of Bristol. It is a three-barrel flatbed turret clock with escapement control by a double three-legged gravity mechanism. This represented the pinnacle of accuracy in late Victorian timekeeping when coupled with a compound pendulum to minimise errors due to temperature changes. The centre barrel drives the clock mechanism, which is linked by levers to the other two barrels which activate the quarter and hour strikes respectively. Before electrification it was necessary to hand wind the mechanism twice weekly. The weights travelled a vertical distance of three floors (from just below the tower parapet to the nave roof) and were extremely heavy – around 250 kg each for the strike drives and around 60kg for the clock drive.

This clock performed with commendable accuracy and only occasional breakdowns until the fire in the early 1990s. In spite of an expensive rebuild funded by the insurers it has given considerable trouble over the last few years, sometimes necessitating three or four visits a day to make adjustments.

The drive to the faces has always been a weak point and the apparently simple task of getting the two faces to agree to the minute has frequently developed into an all day undertaking on account of the seven or eight minutes of torque in the relay rod which drives the north face. Adjustment requires a perilous climb among the bells and then a descent of 67 steps to observe the results from the churchyard. Four or five such trips in a morning are quite enough to assure a trim waistline!

The fire-weakened metal in a gear wheel finally gave way late in 1998, causing an uncontrolled run-down of the weights to strip many teeth from cogs and completely jam the works.

Thanks to the generosity of commercial organisations and many individuals over £8000 was raised to fund repairs and a conversion to electric winding by Messrs. Smiths of Derby.

Thus the writer has had the honour of being the last manual winder of Yatton church clock, ending a 450 year tradition.

Robert Young

Clock Dates And Records

(Taken from St Mary’s Churchwardens Accounts)

		£	s	d
1536/7	Payd to Wm Sensam in ernes for makyng a clock and chyme			1
1538/9	Payd to ye clocke howse makyng in ye Church		13	3
	Payd for hewyng a tre for ye clocke howse		2	0
	Payd to William Sensam for ye clocke	1	0	0

1539/40	Payd for a locke to ye clocke howse		4
	Payd for takyng down of ye clocke howse	12	0
	Payd for stoppyng of the holes under ye clocke howse		2
	Payd in part for ye clocke	1 2	3
	Payd to and ye seid Clockmaker	1 0	0
	Payd for bryngyng home ye clocke	2	8
	Payd for bryngyng home ye frame of ye clocke		6
1541/2	To ye Clarke for keepyng ye clocke	3	0
1545/6	To J. Lette for keepyng of ye clocke	3	0
1546/7	For reparations of the clocke all the yere	1	0
1582	Payd for keepyng the clocke		4
1583	Payd for keypyng the clocke		4
1592	Payd to for mending of the clocke	1	8
1594	Payd for mending the clocke		6
1595	Payd to George [Coomer] for mending the clock		3
1596	Payd to George [Creese] for mending the clock		7
□ □ □ □ □ □ □			
1726	Brown for Spring for the Cloak and Lenthning the Hamer	4	1½
1729	Jeremiah Wainwright for keeping the Cloak	3	9
1730	Wm Nobb for mending the Cloak	15	0
1731	William Nobb for mending the Cloak	7	6
	Mr Townly for mending the Cloak	7	6
1732	Pd for mending the Cloak	3 10	0
	Spent when Took Down the Cloak	1	0
	Pd for Carriing the Cloak and Cariing him back Again	4	0
	John Nobb for helping putt up the Cloak		6
1733	Pd for Gimmos for the Clock Case		10
	The Clockmaker for riting the Clock and Expence	3	6
1734	The Clockmaker for righting the Clock	2	0
1735	Clockmaker for cleaning Clock	5	0
1737	Mr Townley mending Clock	2	6
1739	Mr Townley for repairing the Clock	2	6
	Samuel Alford for mending Clock		6

1740	Repairing and cleaning Church Clock	10	6
1742	Mr Townley for mending and repairing the clock	7	6
1744	To John Wilmott for looking after the Clock a year due at Lady Day 1745	5	0
	To John Wilmott for mending the clock	2	6
1745	To John Willmott for looking after the clock a year	5	0
1746	To John Willmott for looking after the clock a year	5	0
1747	To John Willmott for looking after the clock a year and work done as receipt	6	6
1748	To John Willmott for looking after the clock a year due at Lady Day 1749	5	0
1749	Pd for a pint of Oyl for The Clock	1	1
1753	Pd John Martin & Richd Reed for carrying and fetching the Clock from Chewstokes	8	6
	Pd Edward Bilbie for repairing Church Clock	3 10	0
1755	Pd for a clock rope	6	0
1756	Pd Mr Bilbie for repairing clock and by bill	1 0	6
1757	Paid for a clock rope	8	0
1758/61	For a new Horologe	2 12	6
	For painting the same	2 12	6
	For carriage from Wrington and putting up	10	6
	To Mr Bilbie for the clock	4 14	6
	For carriage of same	12	6
1762	Paid Tho Bilbie for cleaning clock	7	6
	Thos Bilbie for mending and cleaning clock and removing it to the East side of the Tower	2 10	0
1763	Edw. Bilbie about ye clock as per bill	1 1	0
1766/7	Ed. Bilbie for cleaning clock	10	0
	Ed. Bilbie for cleaning and mending clock	11	6
1768/70	Ed. Bilbie for cleaning clock	10	0
1771	Edw. Bilbie for mending clock as by bill	1 19	0
1772	Oil for bells and clock	3	7½
	Mr Bilbie for cleaning clock	7	0
1773	Edw. Bilbie for cleaning clock	7	6

1774	Oil for bells and clock	2	7
1775/7	To Mr Bilbie for cleaning clock	10	6
	2 new ropes for clock	1	4
	Oil for clock		3½
1779	To Mr Bilbie for repairing the Clock	1	1
1780/2	Paid for cleaning the clock	7	0
1791	Paid Rich. Baber for repairing the Clocke	5	5
1869	Cash to John Salmon for attending to clock, oiling bells, repairing clock	1	15
1872	Terrell & Sons: new rope for clock	6	9
1877	Minute of Vestry Meeting, 2nd April : <i>"It was proposed by Mr W. Baber, seconded by Mr C. Light and carried unanimously that the Churchwardens be empowered to accept the new clock of which it was proposed to make a present to the parish and that they be authorised to remove the old clock and devote the proceeds of same to necessary church expenses."</i> [It is therefore presumed that subsequent entries relate to the present clock, which is by Dell & Co. of Bristol and bears the date 1877.]		
1881	Repairing clock	10	0
1882	Repairs to clock	1	14
1884	Dell for clock	1	6
1885	Dell & Co. for clock	6	15
1892	Mr Bevan for repairing clock	8	0
1893	Repairing clock	4	10
1894	Attending clock	1	0
1897	Clock repaired by Dell & Co.	12	10

Note: at this time the whole interior of the tower was altered with new floors being put in and all the bells being hung on one level instead of two as previously. This necessitated modifying the striking apparatus: the quarters had previously been chimed on bells 1 and 4, they now struck on 3 and 5. The total cost for all this work, including the commemorative plaque still in the porch was £ 242.17.7

1930 Minute of Vestry Meeting -
"The clock would greatly benefit from being cleaned".

Home Farm – Horsecastle

In 1927 Mr A J Moon began farming at Home Farm, when he and his wife took over a smallholding of three acres and gradually increased this until they farmed about sixty acres. This mixed farm remained in the Moon family until 1961. The land was then sold for building when Yatton expanded. The farm consisted of a dairy herd, sheep, pigs, poultry and a small amount of arable land. Miss Moon assisted on the farm from an early age as she was the only child of Mr and Mrs Moon and she remembers much of her childhood spent on the farm. Milking was carried out twice a day, every day, early in the morning and late in the afternoon, in the fields as there were no milking machines until the early 1950's. The milking was done by hand, regardless of the weather, sitting under the cow even if it was wet and cold or dry and hot - it was not unknown for a cow to 'up and away' without warning, leaving the milker sitting alone in the field!

Milk was taken back to the farm to be cooled by passing it over a water cooled grid – electrical coolers came later – and into churns which were ready for distribution on the milk round or taken to the milk factory if it was surplus. The milk round customers were supplied twice a day, every day (there were no 'fridges to keep milk in) and the milk was measured out into the customer's own container using quart, pint and half-pint 'cans', plus a cream measure. A horse and trap was the usual

method of transport and a license was required costing £1 per annum unless the trap was used for business purposes. That is why the name of the roundsman was painted onto the cart or trap, as well as for publicity purposes. Originally the wheels were iron 'shod' but re-bonding became more difficult and expensive so pneumatic, rubber-tyred wheels became the norm.

Miss Moon's horse was a dapple grey called Polly who knew the round very well and it was not unusual for the horse to move on without the driver. Miss Moon recalls one particular occasion when she called at the postman's house to collect the post but when she came out the horse and cart had gone! She found them at the Milk Factory where the horse had gone in, turned the cart round and backed it up to the loading platform. All without a driver!

The Milk Factory was on North End Road, opposite where the furniture factory was, and now the site is occupied by Smart Systems, although some of the original buildings may still be there. They took the surplus milk from the local farms and made dairy products such as cheese: about one ton of cheese was made each day by two workers at the factory. Only four or five farms delivered their surplus milk to the factory; it was collected from the other farms by lorry.

There were about nine farms supplying milk rounds - Messrs Tranmer, Griffin, Parsons, Jones, Gabriel, Burdge and Moon plus Miss Gabriel and Mrs Jones, who had their own rounds, all delivering twice a day, with cream being a speciality on Sundays.

Yatton Market, which was held weekly except during the Second World War when it was held every two weeks, was the local sales point for produce and for fat cows, calves, pigs and fowls. The cows and calves were driven on foot, the pigs and other small animals were taken on a cart. Ducks and ducklings were sold but not the duck eggs, and the main produce sold from Home Farm was apples from the orchard.

Although the farm was near to the railway station the rail service was not used very much except for wool from the sheep which was sent in a 'woolsac' and after the war sugar beet pulp was bought in as winter feed for the cattle. This was delivered in an open railway wagon which was parked in the goods yard at the station and the pulp had to be shovelled out of the wagon and into a tractor trailer. It then had to be taken to the farm and shovelled out of the trailer into large pits in the yard. This had to be done several times as there were several tons of pulp delivered in a wagon - and it was hard work. This sugar beet pulp was supplemented by a new feed, called silage.

During the war a prisoner of war camp was sited at Top Scaur, near where Henley Park is now, and farmers

employed both German and Italian prisoners of war to replace the farm labourers who had been drafted into the Armed Forces. Farmers had to supply the PoW's with bicycles to get to and from work. Miss Moon remembers them being very quick at returning to their barracks when rain started! They did not usually stay long in any one farmer's employment - whether they were moved from camp to camp or were moved from farm to farm locally is not known. Perhaps someone can tell us.

Miss Moon went to Barberry House School, at Barberry Farm, until the age of fourteen and although boys at the school had to move to other schools at the age of seven or eleven to complete their education, the girls could stay at Barberry. Some of the girls did move to other schools, this was before Barberry closed in 1944. Teachers still remembered are Miss Burdge with her colleague Miss Sawyer, Misses Revill, Southey and Gillet.

Many changes have occurred in the village: you could buy new clocks and watches or have your old ones repaired at Taylor's shop near Pullin's bakery; you could buy mens, ladies or children's clothing at several shops and petrol was available at several places; similarly groceries were sold at several stores.

Brian Bradbury

From an interview with Miss Margaret Moon.

Yatton Church Bells

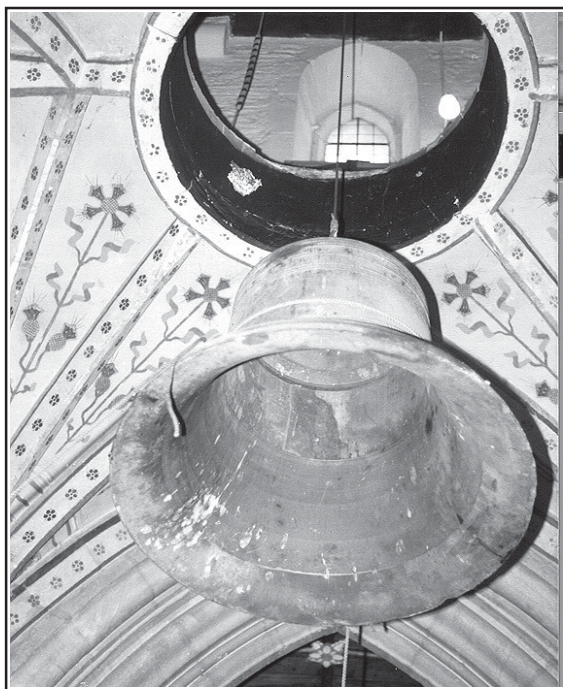
Yatton Church, viewed from the moors and from the A370 on the Weston side of Congresbury, stands very prominently above the landscape, a focal point for all to see. The significance of this is not an accident but a deliberate act to focus the attention of all on the church and its role in the life of the community. A second feature, shared by many other churches in the country is the presence within the tower of bells, which over the centuries have been rung to give uniquely audible messages to the local population of the presence of the church. In addition to this bells have traditionally provided a way of communicating with the communities in which they belong, from indicating the time of day by sounding out the hours to grandly expressing local and national joys and sorrows in a way unlike any other.

As the centuries have passed some of this usefulness is no longer as significant as it was and the sounding of the hours of the day is no longer as important as it used to be. The great majority of people, however, still have a very great love of church bells and they remain one of the most effective ways of marking the ups and downs of life as well as reminding about the presence of the church.

Yatton Church bells have changed a lot over the centuries to become the very fine peal of eight bells that they are today. Church bells are described by three pieces of information: the number of bells, the weight of the deepest toned

or tenor expressed in hundredweight (20 cwt in a ton) and the musical key to which the bells are tuned.

Yatton's statistics are eight bells with a tenor of 24 hundredweight tuned in the key of D. In addition to this, a fact quite important to bellringers, is that they can be rung in the English style. This can best be described as fixing the bell to a substantial piece of metal or wood, called a headstock, at the ends of which are bearings. The bearings are mounted on a framework allowing the bell to swing in between. By means of a large wheel fixed to one end of the headstock and a rope, the bell can be swung from mouth up to mouth up, a full circle rotation.



Lowering One of Yatton's Church Bells

It is fortunate that Yatton's churchwardens accounts survive back to the fifteenth century and from these many details may be found about the history of the bells.

From the mid-fifteenth century up until 1770 there were five bells in the tower, the heaviest weighing more than 30 hundredweight. In 1451 a bell was recast in Bristol by "Hew the Bellman". This bell is still in the tower, being the current seventh and would have been the third of the five at that time. As may be imagined the activities involved in melting metal and casting bells five hundred years ago must have been considerable and it is no exaggeration to suggest that there must have been a high degree of hit and miss about the process. This would seem to be supported by the fact that during the next century and a half there are several references to recasting bells.

In 1468 the "lyttyll" bell was recast in Bristol and in 1502/03 it was again recast. Another bell was recast in 1529/30 when payment was made to "Jo. White ye Belmaker" and in 1532/33 Thomas Gefferies for which he appears to have been paid £4.19s (£4.95) in two instalments recast the great bell, the tenor. In 1552 the little bell was recast again, probably by Henry Jefferies, son of Thomas, and in 1622 Roger Purdue recast another bell in Bristol. This bell is the current fifth of the eight.

A gap now occurs in the accounts until the middle of the seventeenth century when the next mention of bells is in 1693. This time the fourth bell of the five had to be recast, the work being done by Lewis

Cockey of Frome. Unfortunately he had to do the work again in Bristol for reasons that are not clear. This bell was a predecessor of the current tenor.

In 1760 "Mr Evans" was paid £43.2s (£43.10) for rehangng the bells. Mr Evans was George Evans of Wells, a bell hanger of some repute and the cost suggests that a new frame was also included in the price at this time. There now enters into the history mention of the Bilbie family of Chew Stoke, possibly the most commonly known bell founding family in Somerset. Mr Bilbie, most likely Abraham Bilbie, was paid to cast a new treble bell in 1770 using the metal of a second hand bell from Brockley. This bell seems to be the one that augmented the peal from five to six, no previous mention having been made of six bells.

Relationships with the Bilbie family now became somewhat strained. The fifth bell required recasting in 1801 and was taken to Chew Stoke in 1803. However several years passed and no progress had been made. The churchwardens were awarded and received from Bilbie the sum of £100 compensation for not recasting in line with the agreement he had made. By 1809, however the bell had been recast by James Bilbie and in 1811 he was paid for his work and the £100 was refunded. This bell was the tenor until 1980.

The accounts of this period itemise many payments and receipts about the work done, the clock also receiving attention. (See separate article) This was another enterprise of the Bilbie family although a different branch and

presumably meticulous accounting was prudent in view of the dilatory efforts in doing the work.

Whether the experience with the Bilbie family was too much can only be guessed but the next work, in 1824, was awarded to John Rudhall of Gloucester. This was a major piece of work and resulted in augmenting the bells to a peal of eight, the number in the tower today.

Rudhall agreed to use the metal from the tenor bell to cast three small bells that were to be one, two and three of the new eight. In addition it was necessary to recast the former third of the old six bells to become the sixth bell of the new eight. This recasting was necessary to enable tuning to be carried out in a major key. The rehangng and bellframe work was carried out by Richard and Moses Cole of Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire. There is still a plaque in the tower recording this. One item listed in the accounts records that an expenditure of 2s (10p) was necessary in order to remove a stile to take bells into the churchyard. This begs the question as to how the bells were got out.

It was found necessary in 1852 to recast the 1770 Bilbie treble of the old six and this work was entrusted to William Cary of Bristol. There exists some doubt as to whether Cary actually cast the bell. A more likely situation was that the bell was cast by Jefferies & Price of 69 Redcliffe Street, Bristol and Cary was the main contractor who carried out all the other work, including the rehangng of three other bells, the second, the seventh and the tenor.

The twentieth century opened with the requirement in 1903 to recast the sixth bell, which Rudhall had cast in 1824. This was carried out in London at the Whitechapel works of Mears & Stainbank and this company, now called the Whitechapel Foundry, has been responsible for all the work done on the bells since then.

1950 saw a major restoration. By this time the old wooden frame and fittings were showing significant signs of age, the bells being hard work to ring and requiring very regular maintenance and the bearings frequent oiling. An amusing story from this time was that there was going to be a ringers meeting on a particular Saturday and the local band were advised not to oil the bells before tea. This ploy resulted in so many critical comments that the rehangng scheme became a priority, the funds being raised very quickly.

The efforts made by the local ringers in successfully raising the money for this were immense, especially in view of the fact that the Second World War was not long over and everything was in short supply. All manner of fund-raising activities were employed with the result that the job was done much faster than might have been expected. The work done consisted of removing all the bells from the tower and sending them by rail to London. There is a photograph in the ringing chamber showing all eight bells on the goods loading platform of Yatton railway station prior to being loaded for shipment, the oil stains on the bells clearly visible.

The old wooden bellframe was removed with the exception of some of the larger beams that were kept high up in the tower to be used for lifting purposes. In addition others were used as supports for the floor which is inside the tower at the base of the pepperpot. The new cast iron frame was built about twelve feet lower inside the tower and steel cross beams were fixed below and above to provide support and strength. The position of the old bellframe is still clearly obvious inside the tower walls because of the areas of wall that had been hollowed out years ago to allow clearance for the bells to swing.

The bells themselves were overhauled in a major way, the front four being completely recast while the two oldest, the fifth of 1622 and the seventh of 1451 were not altered in any way. Tuning, a process of removing metal from the inside of a bell to obtain the right strike note, was performed on the other six and all eight were put back in the tower, this time on ball bearings. The tenor at this time weighed in at 21 hundredweight in the key of D. It is a tribute to the skill of the bellfounders that they were able to tune the bells without touching the two oldest and produce a very highly regarded peal of bells.

The ringers, having shown a remarkable ability in organising the restoration, now turned their efforts to creating and maintaining a band of ringers to ring the bells. Among the Yatton tower records are several books which contain information about special ringing which was arranged for local and

national occasions and in addition, from time to time, are lists of the members of the band and their occupations. An examination of these shows that the ringers came from many backgrounds and possessed many skills. It is not surprising therefore that these skills were fully used in maintaining ringing and maintaining the bells.

One member, a master baker, was able to ensure that the ringers' teas were never short of food, especially during rationing after the war. He also owned a car which was used for ringers' outings and the smallest ringer would travel in the boot. Another, a farmer, was meticulous in the detail of his ringing outings. On one particular day out in Liverpool he requested a 6d fare to Everton to be told by the bus conductor that it was a shilling. There then followed an argument, which he eventually won by producing a letter from Liverpool City Transport showing his evidence. The conductor was even more upset to be informed that there were another twenty ringers behind, all at 6d. The local blacksmith was also a ringer and in the sixties, when the bells were being rung at six o'clock one Christmas morning for the seven o'clock service, the tenor clapper broke. There was no hesitation, the two pieces were taken to the forge and rewelded and all eight bells were ringing again at ten o'clock.

This spirit of willingness and all-round ability was the main reason that overcame the next major event which was when the Bilbie tenor of 1809 cracked in 1980. There was no obvious reason

for this and more importantly no easy solution. As in 1950 the ringers once again set about to raise the funds themselves using the well-trying methods of local fundraising. The cost of £9000, reduced to about £6500 by the input of local labour, was raised however and ringing resumed twelve months to the day from when the bell cracked. The new bell that came back was heavier, now weighing 24 hundredweight and has certainly maintained Yatton bells as one of the highly regarded peals in the country.

It is a pity that the final piece to bring the history up to date was the result of a crime but as many might remember an arsonist started a fire in the tower in 1991. This started in the clock chamber and rapidly spread up through the tower and also down into the ringing chamber by means of the clock weight shaft. Fortunately it was spotted in time for the fire brigade to make an attempt to fight it but not soon enough to prevent serious damage. Much of the wooden items in the tower including the floors had to be replaced and many of the bell wheels and ropes were burnt. In addition to this the heat generated by the fire, which was concentrated under the fourth bell, caused it to crack.

This time, however, the cause of the damage fell within the insurance cover and the insurance company paid the bill. The work necessary, in addition to recasting the fourth, covered all the new fittings and ropes as well as all the structural repairs. Once again the end result of all the hard work is a peal of bells that Yatton can be proud of.

Today, Yatton bells are a peal of eight in the key of D with the following statistics:-

The Tenor	24 cwt cast in 1981 at Whitechapel
The Seventh	17 cwt cast in 1451 at Bristol Foundry
The Sixth	12 cwt cast in 1903 at Mears and Stainbank
The Fifth	11 cwt cast in 1622 by Richard Purdue
The Fourth	8 cwt cast in 1992 at Whitechapel
The Third	6 cwt cast in 1950 at Mears and Stainbank
The Second	6 cwt cast in 1950 at Mears and Stainbank
The Treble	5 cwt cast in 1950 at Mears and Stainbank

(Note-cwt represents one hundredweight, one twentieth of a ton)

From the Seventh of 1451 to the Fourth of 1992, five and a half centuries of history!

In writing this article my thanks in particular are to George W Massey of Frome for all the details of the early history of Yatton bells. The time he has spent gathering the information is considerable and I am very grateful to him for allowing me to use it in this account. In addition I would like to thank the ringers of Yatton, past and present, for the many hours of pleasure and fellowship I have enjoyed in the art of bell ringing.

Peter England

Memories Of Yatton Market

I remember the days before Alonzo Dawes and Sons opened their sale yard at Yatton. 'Teddy' Dawes sold calves and poultry outside the Railway Inn (now the Market Inn). Hurdles were erected outside the Inn to hold the calves and there were cages for the birds. One day a hen laid an egg in the cage and 'Teddy' took the egg, cracked it open, held his head back and swallowed it – he said it was good!

Later he opened the yard on the market site next to Messrs Nichols Hunt & Co and both continued for many years. The new sale yard sold farm stock, calves, poultry and all kinds of farm and garden produce. I remember there were a large number of eggs, sold by the dozen and bought by Bristol dealers.

Jill Dyer mentioned the drovers coming by train to the market. During my last three months at school in Bristol I cycled each day from Claverham. Each Monday I would see a drover in

his smock and carrying a large stick, walking to Yatton Market. He would spend the day attending the cattle in the yard. On my homeward trip I would see him again, driving cattle back to the slaughter-house in Bristol – for him a walk of 24 miles besides seeing to the cattle in the market, a very hard day's work.

Sharing the Inn frontage with the auctioneers were a couple of unscrupulous stall holders, selling cheap jewelry, ornaments, fountain pens etc. The stall holder would put a watch in a parcel and with sleight of hand drop in a guinea coin (£1.05) and offer to sell it at 2s 6d (12.5p). When the purchaser opened this, all it contained was the watch and a penny piece - much to his or her dismay. The stall holder would do this when things were quiet and it would attract the crowd to the stall.

Stanley Cleverdon



Yatton Then And Now



Floods on Yatton Moors in the 1920's



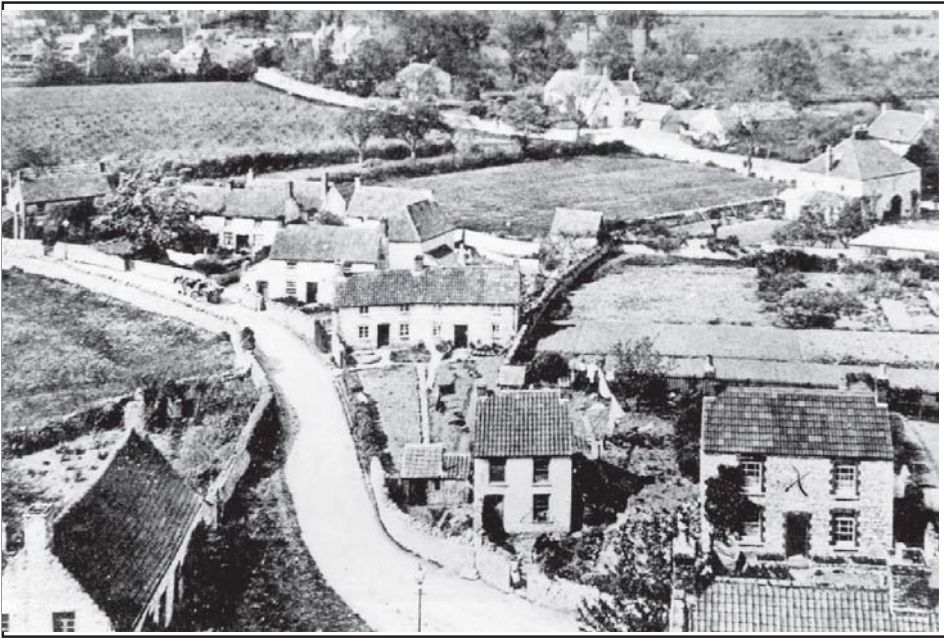
Yatton Moors in the 1990's



Yatton Vicarage Garden Lake in the 1930's



Well Lane, Yatton on the former Vicarage Gardens Site in 1998



Church Road and Yatton High Street in 1905 (Courtesy of M J Tozer)



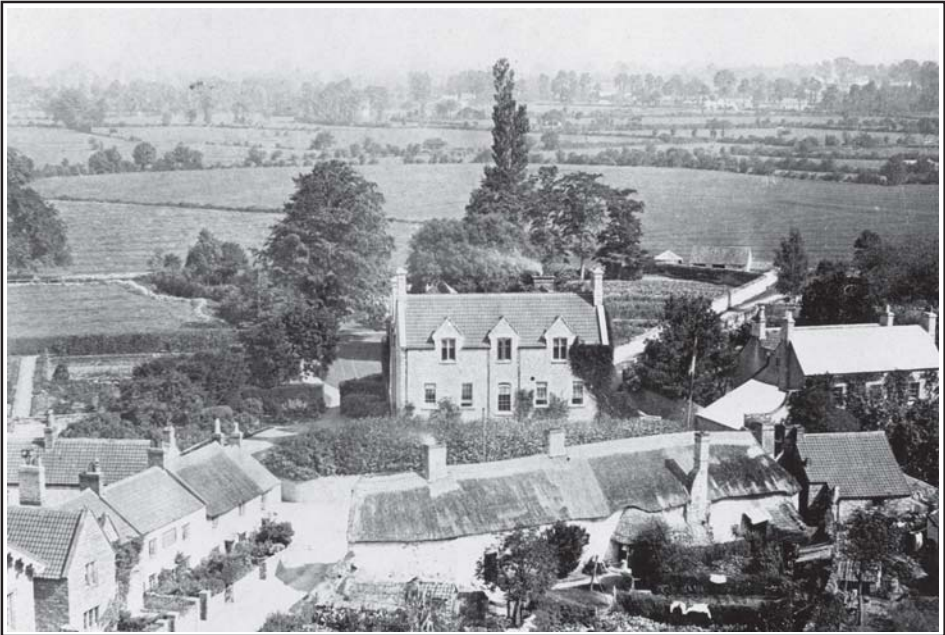
Church Road, Chescombe Road and Yatton High Street in 1997



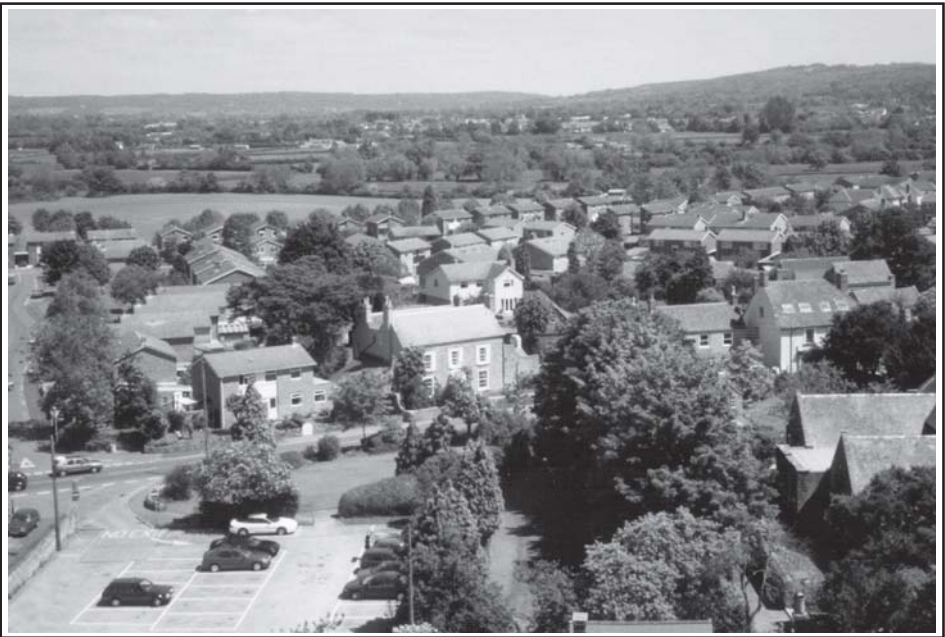
Henley Lodge in the 1900's



Henley Lodge in 1995



*Church Road, Vicarage and Yatton High Street in 1870's
(Courtesy of North Somerset Museum)*



Church Road, Well Lane and Yatton High Street in 1997

Yew Tree Cottages, 6 & 8 High Street, Claverham



Yew Tree Cottages or Wilmott's Tenements as they were previously known were renovated in 1998 when new houses were built behind them.

They have deeds dating from the sixteenth century with references to common rights which indicate an even earlier origin. They appeared on a map dated prior to 1798 when Court de Wyck was ruined.

There is evidence that parts, albeit small, of the building date from the previous centuries. The left-hand two thirds was

a three room cross passage house with a garden and orchard and which later contained a shop. At one time it was the centre of a small farm.

Between 1821 and 1840 a cottage was added on the right and the original building was divided into two sections to make three in all.

Later in the nineteenth century it became two cottages again, as it is now.

Marianne Pitman



H.M.S. LOTUS

Visitors to Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton will have noticed the following plaque:-

Warship Week 14th-21st March 1942

Admiralty Plaque

Hangstones, Yatton.

Presented by the
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty
to the Civil Parish of Yatton
to commemorate the adoption of
H.M.S. Lotus.

Mr Lovejoy's researches of this event make interesting reading, and his full work can be seen in Yatton Local History Society's records; however it is thought that some readers might enjoy the short summary here.

By about 1942 the cost of the war had risen to £14 million a day so National Savings became an extremely important part of the war effort. It was thought that some village savings groups might

be encouraged to pay for a tank and perhaps some towns might pay for a squadron of fighters etc.

To this end 14th-21st March 1942 was designated Warship week for the Royal Navy in the parishes in the then Long Ashton Rural District. The target would be £125,000 for a "Flower" class corvette to be named H.M.S. Lotus. Yatton managed to raise £12,598.2s.4d, ie £5.5s.7d per head of the population. In Abbots Leigh and Flax Bourton the sum per head of the population was about £27 but these were much richer parishes.

In 1942 H.M.S. Lotus escorted the Russian and Atlantic convoys and during that time it helped to sink two U-boats.

It also served in the Mediterranean during 1943 and the Atlantic in 1944 returning to Russia again in 1945. In 1947 The Lotus was sold to a private company having done wonderful work in guarding vital shipping from the enemy.

Mary Campbell



Allotments

Following the enclosure of common land in Yatton in 1815 (*Yatton Yesterday 10*) and loss of access to it, allotments were used mostly by agricultural labourers to supply a subsistence diet for their families when wages were low and there were fewer jobs as agriculture became more mechanised.

According to the Allotments Act of 1887 six electors could ask the Sanitary Authority to purchase or rent suitable land for allotments at a fair agricultural rent and on a long lease. If this failed the county council could require a compulsory purchase order against which landowners had a right of appeal. By 1892 the newly formed parish councils could acquire allotments.

Locally allotments were sought in 1859 according to the minutes of meetings of representatives of electors for Yatton, Claverham and Cleeve.

William Burdge of Claverham Court was the chairman. There were a large number of applications for allotments from Cleeve and Claverham.

In Yatton, in response to a request to sublet some land from a Mr Shiner in Claverham Road, they received an unfavourable reply. The committee resolved to ask the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a piece of land to rent. However in Cleeve, Mr Castle of Cleeve Court was prepared to let a pasture field opposite the Lord Nelson, but Mr Shiner was the tenant!

Some unsuitable land on Cleeve Hill was then offered. Most tenant farmers were unwilling to sublet some of their best and most conveniently situated arable land, even if the landowners agreed. In early 1890 the committee renewed its plea for land for the working classes to be identified voluntarily by local landowners. If this was unsuccessful it would apply to the Sanitary Authority. Part of a field called Oar Field, between Claverham Road and the northern slopes of Cadbury Hill and consisting of 10 acres was set aside. As 'oar' means bank, there was probably a degree of compromise with regard to the suitability of the land involved.

Arrangements were made to charge a quarterly rent of 5 shillings (25p) plus an initial ploughing fee of 3 shillings (15p) and 6d (2.5p) for stamping the agreement. The allotments were allocated by ballot. There were 24 men and 2 women paying rent for the three years for which records are available.

Bringing the story up to date, Yatton still has allotments in Mendip Road. In Claverham there are still allotments belonging to and near the Free Church but others disappeared under Dunsters Road as did those in Cleeve when the Multi-sports practice wall in the playing field opened.

Information obtained from records in the possession of Len Burdge

Marianne Pitman

The Sweet Shop

Memories of Mrs Tripp's Sweet Shop in the early 1950s

It is generally accepted that one's childhood memories are usually the best, the most endearing and so it is with mine: memories of seemingly endless summer days, carefree fun and the myriad pleasures that only childhood can bring.

Mrs Tripp's Sweet Shop was part of my childhood, part of my early days of

happiness, days that would last but for a few precious years and then be gone for ever as I stepped into manhood.

Should one walk to Frost Hill, adjacent to Mendip Road and Tripp's Corner, then one comes across a cluster of three elderly cottages, each with charm. The middle of these cottages has a plaque on the door with the legend 'The Old Sweet Shop'.

As a boy attending St David's School in the late 1940s to early 1950s, I can remember seeking permission from the Headmaster, Major Carr, to leave the school grounds to visit the sweet shop for the purchase of sweets and lemonade and to replenish our tuck boxes.

I remember well during football matches against other schools and also the local Yatton teams (these being played on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings) that we would visit Mrs Tripp to purchase bottles of lemonade, limeade, raspberryade, cherryade, etc, together with sherbet and lemonade crystals, sold in a paper bag into which we would dip and then lick our fingers afterwards.



Mrs Tripp was a very pleasant lady with fair hair and a kindly welcome. I think she had a certain empathy with the school boys from St David's, who trooped into her shop with muddy football boots and muddy kit.

The sweet shop was full of real glass jars, each containing a multitude of sweets, toffees, liquorice allsorts, barley sugar (I was very partial to the barley sugar sticks with twisting stems), gobstoppers and aniseed balls, and round sweets that changed colour as we sucked them. These spent as much time out of our mouths, being studied for colour change, as they did inside!

The bottles of lemonade that we purchased during football half-times would only be partially drunk, a few quick swigs from the bottle, then I would along with the others return the partially empty bottle to Mrs Tripp. She would carefully write the individual's name upon the label and place it in safe keeping until next week, when the

mud-covered school boys of St David's would descend once again upon the ever smiling Mrs Tripp.

Now, alas, Mrs Tripp has passed into memory and her sweet shop is no more. Only happy memories of what used to be remain with me – of heavy glass sweet jars full of many sweets and bottles of 'pop' of many colours, with Mrs Tripp always there to greet us.

When I visit Yatton I often walk to the shop, which is little changed in appearance from the outside. I say a quiet 'hello' and I would like to think that Mrs Tripp would understand.

The photograph was very kindly loaned to me by the present occupant of the Old Sweet Shop. Could the gentleman standing proudly behind the two small girls be Mrs Tripp's father? Could one of the small girls be Mrs Tripp? The window displays a poster advertising a Dance. The chain on the outside wall (to the left of the figures) could be a tether for a horse.

Michael Claridge



St Barnabas Church, Claverham: One Hundred and Twenty Years

Dennis Marshall, the then churchwarden, wrote in 1979 that a chance inspection of an old book of accounts for the Claverham Mission Room and Busy Bee (or Sunday) School, revealed the approach of an important date in the history of St Barnabas. It showed that the church began on September 17th 1879. However as the licence for worship was dated August 14th a compromise was arranged, and so the centenary was celebrated on August 30th 1979. In 1999 the one hundred and twentieth anniversary was celebrated with a festival depicting 120 years of flower arranging.



The church was set up as a chapel of rest linked to St Mary's at Yatton. It is dedicated to St Barnabas from Cyprus who travelled with both Saints Paul and Mark on missions to the early Christian Church in the eastern Mediterranean. It was to provide an alternative for villagers not wishing to travel to Yatton particularly in the winter and to make the church more accessible to those who did not attend. In the middle of the nineteenth century there had been three beer or cider houses serving a population of almost 500 people in Claverham. One was a cider house in Hunts Lane near Meads Mill and the other two beer

houses were near Claverham Green Farm and opposite South Bank Nurseries. All were in out of the way parts of Claverham, not well controlled by the authorities, where locals drank and danced to the fiddle all night!

(Yatton Yesterday No4)

The church started in a barn and, after transfer to a disused billiard room, was finally built on land donated by John Cox and his heirs. Prebendary Barnard who was responsible for the restoration of St Mary's in 1874 was the driving force.

(History of Yatton)

However, the income from collections was less than the outgoings, which included £3 a year for cleaning and lighting the oil lamps and tortoiseshell stove for Mrs Smith the sextoness. In 1892 the church owed the treasurer 13s (65p)- almost enough to heat the church for a year. On the other hand special collections (such as at harvest) amounting to £1.13s.4d (£1.67p) were sent to the Bristol Children's Hospital nearly sixty years before any treatment was free. The original rush chairs were replaced with thirteen pews for the congregation to seat up to sixty people. From 1920 until demolition for fire safety reasons in 1987 there was a church room, a converted First World War army hut next door in Jasmine Lane (*Yatton Yesterday No 9*).

The church has been linked not only to Cleeve but also to Brockley and Chelvey and the rest of Yatton Moor in various combinations over the years. For a number of years in the sixties the rector

lived in the house next door to the church in Brockley Way.

The churchyard has no burials since these are carried out at Cleeve or Yatton.

The 1914-18 war memorial inside the church identifies the following, (details are included in *Yatton Yesterday No 9*):

Harold Kingcott, William Baber, Grantly Skuse, Wilfred Payne, Bert Wynn, George Beacham, Frank Cooper, Albert Mills, Henry May and Montague Mills.

The latter was a Quarter Master Sergeant in the RAMC. One died of a fever in Salonica, one who had emigrated to Australia died at Gallipoli, another in East Africa and the rest died as a result of action in France. All were in their late teens or twenties.

This article was compiled with the help of the chapel warden Doug Styles.

The drawing is by Andrew Marshall.

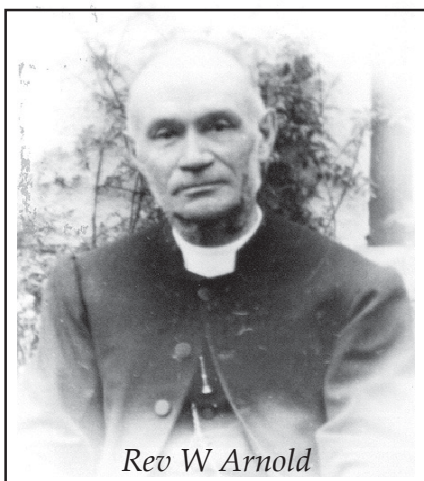
Marianne Pitman



Yatton Parish Council Chairmen

(Continued)

Some Chairmen were featured in *More Yatton Yesterdays No 3* and the following articles provide information about others including Ralph James, Tom Burdge, Greta Lewis, Bob Cox and the Reverend William Arnold. Further information is still being sought about the Reverend Arnold, Charles Knowles, (a coal and meal merchant who died in 1907), and R Salmon. Information about Robert Edwards will appear in the year 2000 issue. The following articles are by Marianne Pitman

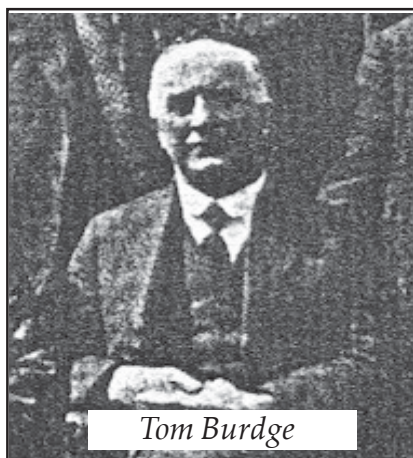


Rev W Arnold

Reverend W Arnold, Chairman 1895

A photograph of the Rev Arnold is kept in St Mary's Church and the reproduction above was produced by Malcolm Watson.

Mr. Arnold was the vicar at the time the civil parish council was formed alongside the parochial church council and the parish business was split between the two. He gave up the chairmanship to a village doctor, P Johnson, a few months after he had overseen the successful establishment of the parish council which then covered Cleeve as well as Yatton and Claverham.



Tom Burdge

Tom Burdge, Yatton Parish Council Chairman 1934 - 1947

Tom Burdge was not only chairman of the parish council but also a member of Somerset County Council. From an early age he was on the North Somerset Drainage Board and the dyke reeve or inspector of the rhynes. He was responsible for the viewers of the rhynes who ensured that specific sections were clear.

Thomas Burdge was born in 1874, the eleventh child in a Yatton farming family

of fifteen. He became chairman of the council when he was sixty and remained so until he died in 1947 aged 73 years.

One of the major controversies of his time on the council was the ownership of the land surrounding the church. Part of this Glebelands now belongs to the council. There was considerable debate as to whether the land already belonged to the parish through common usage or whether it was to be bought from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. As chairman Tom was concerned not to buy land which already was the parish's in his eyes and he opposed the decision to buy what was then a 99 year lease at five shillings a year. He offered to resign as chairman if the majority vote was acted on in 1936. In effect he did not resign as he continued as chairman until 1947.

Another issue was the lateness of the post to some businesses at a time when a lot of work was executed through postal instruction, by return of post or the equivalent. The chief postmaster in Bristol was not co-operative in improving the service!

As it does now, the traffic in the High Street posed a hazard to schoolchildren and a pavement was constructed using part of the Grey House and the Rectory gardens to provide easier access to the National School.

Tom farmed from The Grange in Yatton. His land surrounded the house, extended east to Hillsea, and west to Wemberham. Only one field was ploughed as the farm was a Shorthorn dairy one with some summer grazing for sheep. The farm was

run by Tom, his elder sister Mary and his younger sister Eliza, who lived there until she was 75, ten years before her death. Also there were two farmworkers.

In 1907 Tom Burdge's sister Annie, the wife of Ben Crossman of Chestnut Farm died of TB at the age of 43. To safeguard the health of the rest of the family she had spent some of her last years in isolation in a wooden chalet on the moors on Hillsea. Her daughters Kate and Marie used to take food to their mother. The chalet was later moved to the grounds of the Grange but has long since disappeared.

In some fields on the moors including those which previously belonged to the Grange it is possible to dig through layers of reed beds and bog oaks with blood red trunks to even deeper layers of silver birch. The ground never dries out completely and occasionally in sunny weather the water can be seen running backwards from the river under the drainage tiles.

As a farmer in the 1930's Tom supported other farmers' needs against Bristol Water when they pumped so much water from Chelvey that the water in the river ran backwards from Kenn Moor Gate. One Sunday morning he went to the home of the chairman of the board and secured a supply of water brought by horse and cart to fill affected farm water tanks. Most wells and bore holes which constituted the main water supply for many farms had run dry except where they were filled from springs on Cadbury Hill.

At this time holes were dug in the river bottom so that water could seep in from the surrounding soil to allow the animals to drink. Sadly at times dogs also got

into the fields which were now dry enough for sheep and killed them.

Yatton's Monday market was a major commercial feature of the village. Tom Burdge was a grader with an independent butcher for the cattle which would have come from a ten mile radius. The grading according to size and quality of the animal meant a lot in monetary terms when farming was in extreme circumstances and times of change, as it is today. During the Second World War cattle were transported to Birmingham and Nottingham after having been driven on foot to Yatton station. Butchers from Bristol used to attend as their shops were traditionally closed on Mondays.

In 1934 at the Christmas Fatstock Market Tom had the champion, a Shorthorn.

One of his many relatives was Alan Young from Claverham who trying to diversify in wartime grew barley using practices from East Anglia as a model. However it rained so much that particular summer that one waggish farmer at market said 'Young Young has rice growing on the moor!' (only the barley ears were showing above the water).

During the Second World War Tom showed his nephew that it is possible to trace a pattern of fields like a green track from Cadbury near Henley Farm to the moors beyond Mud Lane where there is a hidden stone pathway or possibly quay where it may have been possible to land a boat from the Kenn river. It is four to five feet wide and twenty yards long, about three to four inches below the surface.

This information was collected from Tom's nephews, Len Burdge and Alan Young.

Greta Lewis,

Yatton Parish Council Chairman 1976 - 86

In 1957 Greta Lewis came to Somerset from Leicestershire where she had worked as a secretary for a solicitor who was involved with the local council. This work awakened a continuing interest in local government and related issues.

Greta came to join her parents who had recently moved to Yatton. Shortly afterwards she met and then in 1959 married her husband Grahame, a member of a well-known Yatton family. His father had recently been churchwarden at St. Mary's.

Her eldest son Robert was born in 1961; another son, Richard and a daughter Rachel followed in due course.



Greta Lewis

Greta redeveloped her interest in local government partly because of frustration in not being allowed to speak at council meetings which she attended as an interest outside the home when there was little money for leisure pursuits.

Much to her surprise she was elected to Yatton Council at her first attempt in 1973. Besides her emphasis on remaining independent of any political party, which she maintains staunchly to this day, she put much of her initial election success down to the support of fellow mothers who used to gather every day to collect their children from school. Her view is that no party has the monopoly on beneficial policies locally and that a mixture related to local circumstances is what villages and towns need.

By 1976 she was elected chairman and continued for 10 years, being the first and indeed only female chairman to date. In 1978 she was elected to Woodspring District Council. She has an interest in a number of councils including Yatton, Kenn, Kingston Seymour and Cleve as part of her work for the District Council. In 1992 despite being independent she was elected chairman of the District Council.

The inhabitants of Yatton were proud of how her hard work had been recognised. Greta continues to serve on North Somerset District Council. She is also a Governor of Yatton Junior School.

Greta has innumerable interests all of which benefit greatly from her enthusiasm and thoughtfully used although limited time.

Greta was instrumental in setting up the after-church club for teenagers in the 1960's (Church Life) and also had the idea of forming the Young Wives group.

The Durban Trust which gives small educational grants to ex pupils of the infants school has her as trustee. Church House benefited particularly from her interest and that of Ann Batson. Its successful refurbishment by the Knightstone Housing Association was largely due to the efforts of the trustees after a long struggle to secure a satisfactory solution. The last step which will shortly be accomplished is the winding up of the Florence Stalling Trust. Florence Stalling left Church House for the benefit of the poor in 1620 and it is possible the small amount of money left will be used to commemorate this gift in a lasting way.

Much of Greta's work has benefited the wider population of North Somerset.

For some years she was a non executive director of Weston Area Health Trust and also a member and chair of the Weston Community Health Council (CHC) and the South West Home Safety Council.

Greta is immensely proud of the achievements of the Junior Lifeskills courses which were run at RAF Locking by the emergency agencies and the Council. Each year they allowed 300 local schoolchildren to have hands on experience of common hazards in the home and elsewhere, from escaping from a smoke filled house to what to do if approached by a stranger in the park.

Greta is decreasing the span of her interests but has hopes of many of her roles being

taken by those she has encouraged to help and who have the energy she has exhibited.

At present she is preparing her final report as chair for the North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau. She has been associated with CAB since 1976. For several years she was a member of the National Council and a founder Trustee of the 'Friends of NACAB'. This latter organisation was formed following a suggestion by Princess Anne. It included such notables as George Thomas, the Speaker of the House. Receptions hosted by Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace, the Mansion House, No.10 Downing Street, the Guildhall and other important locations ensured that funding was supported by industry and large commercial organisations as well as council grants. Greta used to go to London up to three times a week, leaving Yatton at six in the morning and returning just before midnight. She chaired the Wessex group which covered an area which stretched to Poole.

The CAB has expanded to include paid management and professional staff as well as highly trained volunteers providing advice. North Somerset Bureau has secured a Legal Aid franchise for debt and welfare benefits. The local CAB has branches in Weston, Clevedon, Portishead and Nailsea. Some mental health work is done by a mental health liaison worker at Weston Hospital. The majority of enquiries relate to welfare benefits, debts, employment and housing. Last year the CAB dealt with over 22,000 enquiries from all across North Somerset.

Bob Cox,

Yatton Parish Council Chairman 1987 - 1991

Percy Robert Cox (known as Bob) was a well known figure in Yatton for nearly fifty years.

Bob Cox who was born in 1922 came from a farming family in Hewish. During the Second World War he was in the RAF. After the war he married Joyce Smith, who was a daughter of Horsecastle blacksmith Walter Sidney Smith and his wife, Elsie. Joyce had seven brothers and three sisters. Two of Joyce's sisters, Grace Thresher and Mary Langson still live in Yatton.



Bob Cox

After their marriage Bob and Joyce moved into a new house in Henley Park. The house remained in the family until Joyce died in March 1999.

Bob's first job was working on the old Kingston sea wall, and later keeching the rhynes and lifting the hatches for the North Somerset Drainage Board.

At Frost Hill and along the old railway line Bob was a small holder with pigs, sheep and cattle mostly for home consumption. He was involved with Hewish Harvest Home, for which he carved the meat during the meal. He also walked puppies for the Clifton Foot Harriers based at Wemberham and gave a home to retired greyhounds.

Bob was parish council chairman from 1987 to 1991. Previously he had been a councillor since 1967 and vice chairman in 1973 and from 1976 until 1987. As a council chairman he was known to be just and fair. He stuck to his principles allowing others theirs. At meetings he was valued for his ability to allow a comprehensive debate and appropriate decision within the allotted time for council meetings, ending voting with a resounding 'The ayes have it!'

With planning applications he took pains to visit the sites and obtain relevant additional information. Of particular interest to him were playing fields, Hangstones Pavilion and the youth club at Rock Road. The third pavilion at Rock Road was opened while he was chair in 1991.

He was on Long Ashton Rural District Council before it was disbanded to make way for Woodspring in 1974 and he served on the housing committee.

For 20 years he was a trustee and for the last twelve years chairman of Yatton Charities and the John Lane Trusts, which gain income from tenanted agricultural land in Claverham, Dolemoor and Kingston. In his time the two groups of trustees were encouraged to 'walk' the grounds with him. As chairman of the parish council he encouraged councillors to walk the footpaths and both types of visit ended with a drink in a pub. He was also a trustee of the Durban Trust which gives small educational grants.

Bob was well known for his hospitality, often including his own home cooked ham. When he was council chairman he hosted a 'Christmas thank you' at the December council meeting for councillors as well as any members of the public present.

Bob died in 1994 aged 72 years and following his wishes his ashes were scattered in the Home Field at Ham Farm in the rhyne.

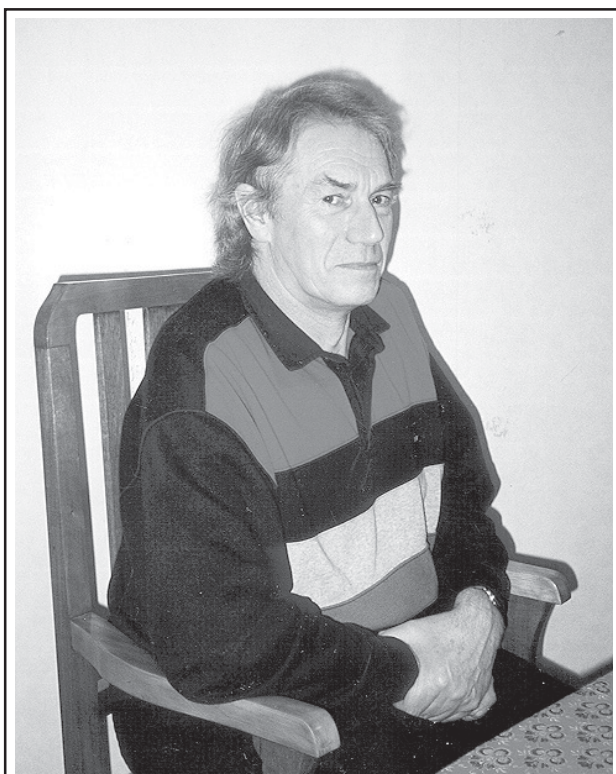
This information was obtained from Mary Langson and Grace Threasher.



Ralph James,

Yatton Parish Council Chairman 1991 - 1996

Ralph James was born in Claverham in 1944 and lived in Broadcroft Avenue. In 1970 he moved to Anvil Close which is shaped like an anvil and is near the building (now a shop) which had been Archie Mapstone's forge.



Ralph James

After going to school in Yatton and Weston-super-Mare he went into printing and worked at Avalon Furniture in Yatton until it closed its printing department. Then he started work at Court de Wyck while it was still

a tannery, until it closed in the late 60's. For a few years he worked in Bristol.

Court de Wyck closed and reopened as part of Imperial Tobacco, experimenting into synthetic material for cigarettes for a short time. Imperial Tobacco reopened it again recycling waste tobacco, which failed commercially because of revised duty.

Eventually Court de Wyck was again refurbished and in 1982 became an engineering research and development centre, which was part of Fairey Hydraulics from Heston, Middlesex. Ralph worked in the printing department. He still works for Claverham Ltd (formerly FHL) in Claverham. The company designs control systems for aviation, rail and military purposes. By the year 2000 it expects to employ 450 people, a high proportion of whom live locally.

Ralph joined the council in 1984. He was co-opted at a by-election for Horsecastle. This was shortly after Yatton and Claverham were warded into Claverham, Horsecastle, Yatton North and Yatton South. Prior to that it was common that there was no-one to represent Claverham on the council.

Interestingly the ward boundary is at Hollowmead but the ecclesiastical village boundary is near Top Scaur.

This is why Claverham Cricket Club includes Yatton. Do the gate hangers in the wall near Westaway Park have any significance?

When Ralph was chairman, the custom of allowing the public to speak at

sub-committee meetings began, as this allowed the full council to make better informed decisions about street lighting, for example.

While he was a finance committee member Claverham play area was set up. Later on this was refurbished and when the warden-controlled bungalows were built he was chairman of the playing fields committee.

Claverham now has a village hall which it has been without since St Barnabas Church Hall, which was an old World War One hut, failed its fire safety licence in the mid-eighties. This new hall is being partly funded by the National Lottery Fund. The Claverham Residents Association set up a working party which undertook a village survey to find out what was required and Claverham Ltd agreed to provide a site for the hall which is due to open this year.

Because of the efforts which Ralph and others put in early on to raise the money locally, it is clear that the Fund administrators were impressed.

Notable amongst these was Maurice Palmer selling firewood, running a sweepstake, whist drives and a village skittles league.

It is interesting to note that Franklins Way and Anvil Road were built on allotments, the sale of which raised money for the council. Dunsters Road was a self-build area. Ralph was chairman when Yatton celebrated the 100th anniversary of the council. Arnold Way was named, breaking with established custom, after a person – the very first Council chairman Rev W Arnold, vicar of Yatton (*see page 37*).

Ralph saw the setting up of the shadow North Somerset Council which eventually replaced this area of the former Avon county and has an emblem for each council on its chain of chairs.

Considering the boundary changes which occurred in Cadbury Farm Road it is interesting that Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils play skittles each year for a trophy in the shape of a boundary stone. Congresbury often win.



Swimming Pool Fund Raising

Further to the article on Yatton Schools' Swimming Pool in *More Yatton Yesterdays No 3*, one of the ways we raised money was to collect waste paper. At that time, I was Clerk to the governors of Yatton Infant School and frequently in school. Everyone was trying to think of ways to increase the pool fund and one day Miss Gumbleton, the Head Teacher, showed me an advert in a "School Publication". It was from a firm on the East Coast asking to buy waste paper. This was, of course, long before the organised collections we now have and, apart from paper collections during the war, was something new.

Miss Gumbleton and I discussed the possibilities, I offered to organise the collection and she sent a letter to parents asking them to leave their newspapers and magazines at the High Street School on Friday mornings.

The first problem was where to store all the expected newspapers. The old Headmaster's house next to the Church Road School was empty. It had been vacated by the Junior School Head Teacher Mr. Burgess and his wife when they moved into their own house. This was an ideal location. I asked several people if they could help and they were most willing – they were Beryl Bradbury, Jean Garland, Vivienne Manley and two others.

The response from parents, to the paper collection was very good. Every Friday morning when we took our children to school we picked up bundles of newspapers from the bicycle shed and carried them over the road to the School House. The waste paper firm had stipulated that the papers must be tied in bundles and each bundle to be a specified weight. So we used to meet some afternoons at 2pm and bundle and weigh the paper with a balance scale, lent by Jean, then tie each bundle with string. This was quite hard work and the bundles were then stacked as high as we could reach and my husband, Ken, would go down in the evening and stack them to the ceiling to make more room.

It didn't take too long before we had a room full. The paper was taken away by the firm's lorry, and a cheque sent to the school.

I cannot remember how many loads we sent but it came to a halt when a new Caretaker was appointed who needed accommodation and moved into the house.

At least we felt we had contributed a little more cash towards desperately needed money for the swimming pool fund.

Ruth Summerell



The Tannery at Court de Wyck

In 1918 Mr. Millward and his two sons Frank and Leslie came down from Northampton to Claverham and opened up what was then called "The Court de Wyck Tannery". I started work there in 1921 and stayed on for 22 years.

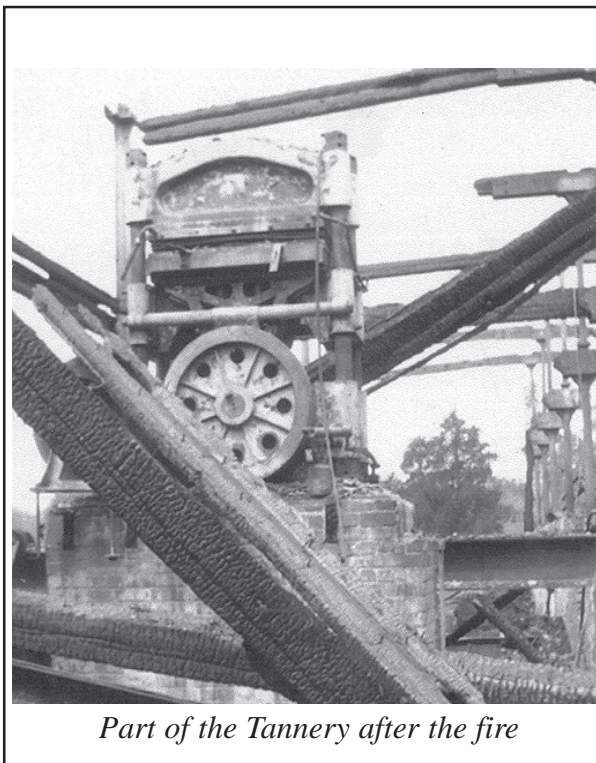
During 1927 there was a terrible fire at the tannery. I was living in Hewish at the time. I remember cycling to work that morning and on arriving at the turning to Claverham from the main road I could see clouds of black smoke. Within half an hour the whole building was gutted. Later it was rebuilt.

Bert Warren

This article was written by Mr. Bert Warren a few weeks before his 100th

Birthday; sadly he passed away soon after reaching his century. We would be pleased to receive any further information on the tannery and people who worked there.

Ruth Summerell



Part of the Tannery after the fire



Additions, Revisions and Feedback

We always welcome any feedback from articles which have appeared in previous publications.

More Yatton Yesterdays, No. 3 1998 Page 40, paragraph 4.

It was the father of the Misses Tutt who kept the grocery shop next to their dress shop, not their brother.

(Information from Kathleen Cawston).

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