

Newdigate Society Magazine

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Captain Sir Henry. W. Tyler

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

Welcome to our new format Magazine, which we hope you will enjoy reading and will want to keep. We are indebted to Maurice and June Sage of Gaterounds who have so kindly agreed to cover our copying costs and thus allowing us to maintain the fee for membership of the Society at the low cost of £1. The Society will welcome any ideas and suggestions for the magazine. So put forward your ideas please.

On June 9th we held an open Forum at the Village Hall. Your committee lead what proved to be a very lively discussion on such items as memories of the village during the Second World War, Mrs. Janson and life at Newdigate Place, Cudworth, the Shops and pubs. The meeting was well attended and the general feeling was that another similar Forum should be arranged. The date we have made for this is Tuesday January 26th in the Village Hall as usual at 8 p.m. Please note it in your diaries.

The proposed trip to the Pageant of Monarchy at Guildford on July 7th was abandoned due to lack of response from members.

Our efforts to publish the full story of "A Village at War" in booklet form are being thwarted by the high printing costs. We need a publisher who will be prepared to print a maximum of 500 copies at a reasonable cost - so if anyone has any ideas for this please let us know.

Diana Salisbury has produced her third footpath map and this is now available at the Village Shop, price 20p. Also, all three colours of the tea towels are again available.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd September. Please come along to support the work done by your Committee, the present members of which are -

George Green	President
Charles Thompson	Chairman
Diana Salisbury	Secretary
Bob Howard	Treasurer
Barbara Capel	
John Callcut	
Pam Keeble	
Peter Monk	

After the formalities and a break for coffee George Green will give an illustrated talk on his memories of Newdigate. George has lived in the village since 1934 and was one of the first commuters from here to London. He had a house built in Mill Lane and lived through the trauma of being bombed out. He has served on many committees throughout his life and we can promise a varied and witty talk.

On Saturday October 17th we have booked the Village Hall for another Open Day, similar to the one we held in April last year. Much of our collection will again be on show. Doors will be open from 11a.m. until 5p.m.

On November 14th the Surrey Local History Council will be holding its one-day seminar at Surrey University. The subject this year is Surrey at War. We will be mounting a stand and have been asked to present a feature/lecture on Newdigate in 1914-18 at the afternoon session. The seminar is open to any member of the Society who would like to attend. Tickets can be obtained through the Committee.

Diana Salisbury and Bob Howard are working on a Village Trail. More news on this later.

The Betchworth Society is hoping to restart its local history research activities and has arranged a first meeting in the back room of the Betchworth Village Hall at 8p.m. on September 8th. Mr. James Hamilton will speak on his family genealogy. All will be welcome to attend.

THE TYLER FAMILY OF HIGH TREES NEWDIGATE

By John Callcut

Since compiling the "Village at War" I have often wondered about the lady who wrote so appealingly in the Parish Newsletter about sandbag making. In 1915 Miss Margaret Lucy Tyler wrote :-
"Newdigate is amazing! 1700 bags. I will send your letter to France to my brother. He was down every Sunday at High Trees last autumn when waiting for his Brigade to arrive from India. It seems years ago. I have not been down to Newdigate since he went out to the Front. Certainly not since sandbags. I simply work at them, writing for them every moment. I can't get away from Hospital till late at night, or late next morning rather, and all Sunday. I comfort myself that to labour is to pray. It is to save life, and we have the Divine sanction here. I think we are doing what he would have done. We should have been proud had we raised and equipped a Regiment. We should be more so for having saved one! Suffering and death and bereavement averted. Lives, the bravest and best of the Nation preserved. The Germans fight over sandbags. They turn their machine-guns on to them. Thank the people of Newdigate. We do belong to them and they to us. My father did love the little farm, and my mother too. So many memories are there! I was never reconciled to their passing on till this war. Now I thank God they have been spared all this.

Of ours at the Front, so far three are killed and one wounded and long ago back in the worst of it. Three more to go - perhaps five. What will be left when it all ends?"

There was a desperate need for sandbags at the Front and women in Newdigate volunteered to make them at specially organised parties in the Village Hall. The finished articles were sent to Miss Tyler at Linden House in Highgate and she wrote the above to the people of Newdigate in appreciation.

I have spoken to a number of the older residents in the Village but although the name of Tyler sounded familiar nobody could recall the family or tell me anything about them. One person I spoke to who did remember them was Mrs. Barbara Hall of East Grinstead, who is the daughter of the late Rev. J. Ward, a past Rector of Newdigate. She recalled that Miss Tyler was a doctor in a large London hospital

and on one occasion she took the Ward children to the theatre to see a "promising young actor" named Laurence Olivier. She also recalled that in the 1930's Miss Tyler used to come down from London on the train and was met at Holmwood station by a pony and trap driven by Sidney Burberry.

It was very unusual before the first World War for women to qualify as doctors as only a handful of exceptional, independently minded women had the opportunity to fill what was considered to be a man's place in society. This was before the suffragette and feminist movements had come to the public attention, so clearly Margaret Tyler must have been a remarkable woman.

Abandoning my search locally I turned to official records as it became apparent that in the mists of time the Tylers and their work had gone from Newdigate almost as if they had never existed. I soon discovered that Margaret Lucy was the daughter of Sir Henry Whatley Tyler and his wife Margaret. The Tyler family came from Wyvenhoe in Essex and Sir Henry, the son of John Chatfield Tyler, was born in Chesterfield Street, Mayfair on the 7th March 1827. He was educated at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich and became a Captain in the Royal Engineers. He was stationed in St. Lucia in the West Indies, where he became a corresponding member of the Zoological Society. He sent specie to the Society and had papers published in the Proceedings of the Society. He retired in 1851, the year in which many of his specimens were used at the Great Exhibition and later for the initial exhibits at the Natural History Museum. From 1853 to 1870 he was Inspector of Railways under the Board of Trade and his travels took him as far afield as Australia. Indeed, en route his ship was dismasted in a severe storm off Portugal and his wife had to return to England to recover from the trauma of this experience. In 1870 he was appointed Chief Inspector of Railways. From 1880 to 1885 he was M.P. for Harwich and then for Great Yarmouth to 1890. From 1877 to 1895 he held other positions such as President of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada and Chairman of the Westinghouse Brake Co., The Peruvian Corp. and Rhymney Iron Co. and Deputy Chairman of GERC.

In 1893 the family lived at Pymmes Park Edmonton before moving to Highgate and Newdigate. He was a member of the Carlton and Army and Navy clubs.

The Tylers had three daughters - Margaret Lucy, Madeline Georgina and Amelia Charlotte - and eight sons, amongst whom were John Charles, Edward Ernest, William Pастey, Henry Edward, Arthur Malcolm and Alfred Henry.

Sir Henry died on 30th January 1908, aged 81, and in his will he left effects to the total value of over £162,000, a very large sum of money and property for that time. The will mentioned that Woodlands Farm was owned by John Charles Tyler and the farm at High Trees by Margaret Lucy and Madeline Georgina. He left Linden House in Highgate to John Charles with the proviso that his wife should continue to live there with an income of £400. His wife had the organ installed at St Peter's in her husband's memory, and a brass plaque nearby commemorates this gift.

Following Mrs. Hall's information that Margaret Lucy had been a doctor I consulted the Medical Register and found that she was

first registered on July 30th 1903, at the age of 46, although she had graduated as M.D. in Brussels in 1893, and by the First World War she was the Assistant Physician at the London Homoeopathic Hospital. Barbara Capel wrote to the Hospital and they kindly sent some more details which we quote :-

"Margaret took an early interest in homoeopathy and this was probably aroused by her mother's skilful care of a large family, and she took up the study of medicine in order to be able to help the poor patients at the London Homoeopathic Hospital. There she worked for over forty years, in various departments, being appointed to the staff of the Hospital in 1914."

"The out-patients department, she declared, was the happiest place of her life and she always looked forward to meeting her friends, as she termed her patients."

"Dr. Tyler had a able pen though she declared that she wrote with difficulty and much correction" (By the start of the war she had the novel "Lost Identities" and the drama "Anne Boleyn" to her credit)

"Dr. Tyler served the Hospital with single-minded devotion: indeed she was part of the Institution. She was full of enterprise, and would seek the good in anything that offered possibilities. She had to stand criticism, but that did not weigh with her once convinced. The best was always her aim in life, nothing less would satisfy."

After the war she continued working at the Hospital and with her writing. Her "Drug Pictures" published in 1942 dealt with homoeopathic remedies, culled from every possible source, was a storehouse of information and became standard reading for students. She spent years also over the preparation of a correspondence course on Homoeopathy. In between she found time for another novel entitled "Miss Lydd".

From 1932 to 1942 she was the editor of the Journal of Homoeopathy which had a world-wide influence. In an issue of the Homoeopathy Recorder (U.S.A.) Dr Tyler was described as "one of the grandest, greatest and most beloved of teachers and workers of the present day."

She was particularly interested in the problem of the mentally handicapped and sub-normal child and had special clinics for these problems.

In her obituary notice, written by Sir John Weir K.C.V.O. and published in the British Homoeopathic Journal, he states :-

"Behind the physician was the woman who was deeply imbued with the ultimate religious values of life. In that spirit she did her work, trusted and respected by many, for her fine character, personal integrity and complete lack of all selfish ambition. She will rank with that good Victorian company in which we honour the name of many richly endowed adventurous souls who saw "the future in the instant" and clung to their faith and, for right or wrong, brooked no interference in their concept. Despite failing health she worked to the very end, and died in service. It is typical that almost her last quotation was "At the end of life we shall not be

asked how much pleasure we have had in it, but how much of service we gave to it; not how full of success, but how full of sacrifice, not how happy we were, but how helpful we were."

She died on June 21st 1943 at the age of 86 and her will shows that probate was granted to members of the next generation of the Tyler family.

Margaret Tyler dearly loved to retreat to her country home at High Trees and she felt deep affection for the people of Newdigate. It is sad that the only visible evidence of the family's connection with the village can be seen beside the organ in the church and on the War Memorial, which includes three members of the family - Alfred H., Albert and John C..

(Sources; Who's Who, Medical Register, British Homoeopathic Journal, Newdigate Parish Magazine, Public Record Office, 'Dorking Advertiser')

A SELECTION OF ITEMS FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Jubilee Day (Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee)

The Church bells rang out a merry peal at 6 o'clock, the single bell tolled 50, and God Save The Queen was played. At 11.15 the Special Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God, upon the completion of the fifty years of her Majesty's reign, was held. Flags hung from the old Tower and many of the inhabitants showed their love and loyalty by decorating their houses.

Our kind friend Miss Pocock of Norman Cottage has presented a handsome oak alms box to the Church. (ed. Norman Cottage is now called Holly Tree Cottage and can be found on the right hand side of the road halfway between Newdigate and Rusper)

On Wednesday, August 3rd, the Annual School Treat took place. The children assembled in the school at 3 o'clock, and marched to Church, carrying Church and School banners. After a short service, all, in the same order, proceeded to the Rectory Meadow (ed. now the site of the present school) where an ample tea was provided, and a pleasant afternoon spent.

On the same day, about 5 o'clock, the parents, mothers and others partook of a substantial "Jubilee Tea" in a spacious tent kindly lent by Mr. Broadwood of Lyne. Nearly 100 sat down, not including the babies who were in great force. Games of all kinds were engaged in and at 8 o'clock all separated having given three hearty cheers for "The Queen" "The Rector and Mrs. Kennedy".

"To the glory of God, and in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, this clock was erected by the Parishioners of Newdigate, September 1887. L.S. Kennedy, Rector. W. Young, H Hackwood Churchwardens."

This inscription has been placed upon the clock which was solemnly dedicated to God on Sunday, September 18th. At ten before

11. the Rector and Choir proceeded to the Tower, when the clock was set going for the first time. The dedication prayers were said and 11 o'clock struck. Then after a pause this verse was cited "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom".

(ed. As our clock, looking as smart today as it did a century ago, ticks up its first hundred it is interesting to ponder the changes it has seen. No cars or motorbikes roaring past, no aircraft overhead, no telephone wires and no television aerials. What changes will it see before it celebrates its second century.)

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The Hall was gaily decorated in Coronation colours, tea set out on flower-decked tables.

The results of First Aid classes were satisfactory, nine out of eleven candidates having passed. Mrs. Nagle was thanked for all the trouble she had taken in arranging the classes.

By way of a "Good Turn" a party of tired mothers from Walworth are to be invited to a tea party in June, and by kind invitation of Mrs. Trouncer, they are to be entertained in the garden of Henfold House.

The thirty-two mothers from Walworth were entertained on June 9th. After a morning on Box Hill, where they had lunch and donkey rides, they enjoyed tea and games in the garden of Henfold House. Mrs. Trouncer and members of the Committee were indefatigable in providing amusements, and the Village Folk-Dancing Team performed on the lawn for their benefit. They started home about 6 o'clock, laden with eggs, flowers and other country produce, very grateful for their happy day in the country.

The summer holidays draw near and a year's work is approaching its end. What have we to show for it? The answer lies we think in the faces of the children.

July 6th saw a lively party gathered in the fine old barn, kindly lent by the ladies of Dean House Farm, for the monthly meeting of the Women's Institute.

The Choir, Bellringers and Children of the Sunday School - accompanied by as many adults - had their Annual Outing on Thursday, August 26th. A full day was spent at Bognor, in the best of weather, and it was a very happy company that sat down to tea at 4 o'clock. The party returned at 8.30 whole and happy and gathered in front of the Post Office to cheer and thank Mr. Horley for all the arrangements of the day.

Apropos to the outing, I remember that some years ago we always engaged a special train to take our large Sunday School to the seaside. One scholar, who had been blacklisted by his mother and had been told he was not going, was not to be outdone. Creeping quietly out of the house whilst the other members of the family were in bed, he turned up on the railway platform to join the party. Just as the train was pulling out of the station the boy's mother rushed into the station. The boy, seeing her, put his head out of the carriage window and saluted his mother as though to say "Ah me how I have done you". The mother outraged at being outdone cried out "Ah you go and get drowned and I'll kill you when you get home"