

Sarratt Local History Society, March '16

Joanna and Christopher Staughton, (Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton) of Sarratt Hall have been so much part of the Village for so many years that it is often forgotten, or in some cases never known, that it was Joanna's family, the Day Family, that were the Sarratt connection, going back well over four hundred years. So it was with great pleasure that our Local History Society managed to persuade Joanna, while still mourning the sad death of her husband, to delve into her own family's past and try to piece together the complicated story of the Ralphs, Rafes and Thomases and the 'Great', 'Little' and just Sarratt Hall, not to mention Micklefield Green as against Micklefield Hall. To add to the puzzle, the family was variously called Daie, Day, or Day and Sarratt itself can appear in documents as Syret, Syreth, Seret, Sarratte, Sarrat and finally Sarratt. Anyone wishing to keep their brain and memory sharp should forget sudoku, IQ tests and crosswords and try following a trail through archive documents.

There seem to have been Days in Sarratt since at least 1556 and the earliest documents in Joanna's possession are an indenture dated 1587 (during Elizabeth 1 reign) mentioning Thomas Daye of Micklefield and another involving a Mary Day, under the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. How the land on which the various Sarratt Halls and Micklefield Green were built, and which passed from Offa in 796 via St. Albans Abbey and the Earl of Essex to the Day family remains unknown, but it seems likely from its kitchen and cellar, with tudor bricks, that Sarratt Hall itself was a Tudor Farmhouse attached to the Gt. Sarratt Estate.

The first record of a Day in Sarratt is a Marriage of one Ralph Day, who went on to have nine children, and their assorted families seem to have lived in the various Halls, Micklefield Green and even Rose Hall and be called alternately Ralph and Thomas. So following their individual lives proved on a parr with actually reading War and Peace and identifying the characters by their full Russian names! But Farming and Land seem to have been the ongoing source of the Day's income throughout the centuries. Joanna has nothing to tell her whether her family were Royalists or Parliamentarians, but certainly most of this area supported Oliver Cromwell, who kept his troops at nearby Chenies Manor and in the Kings Arms in Old Amersham, and the dominance of Baptists, Quakers and similar 'low church' supporters in this part of the country would suggest it to have been unwise to display active Royalist sentiments.

For most of us, the Day name in Sarratt is associated with the charming red brick 'gothic-windowed' alms houses next to the Church. In 1821 the six, semi-ruined almshouses that already stood at Church End were in such bad condition they had to be demolished. Although the land they stood on

was granted 'in perpetuity', no funds were provided for the cottages' upkeep. So the then Ralph Day, 'of Sarratt Hall', with contributions from his brothers, Henry and Thomas, had the six homes built under one roof and left provision for their maintenance. This Ralph was Joanna's Great, Great Grandfather.

To further complicate matters, a sister married Peter Clutterbuck at Micklefield Hall (not Green)! and Joanna's father inherited Sarratt Hall via a female line. Joanna and Christopher have filled Sarratt Hall with charm and distinction and Joanna gives great credit to the old family of Days. As she has two daughters, we don't know if she would have continued the tradition of Ralphs and Thomases!

Angela Colman

Sarratt Horticultural Society Spring Show

With 310 entries from 65 individual entrants, this year's Spring Show in the Village Hall on 9 April was one of the best that most people can remember.

Chairman Margaret Stratford took the major honours winning the Dickens Trophy for other Flowers whilst sharing the Pinaroo Trophy for Daffodils with John Hopkins and the whole Show Bernard Downer Cup with Christine Head.

Barbie Knight won the Flower Arranging, Ted North the Arts and Crafts, Joan North the Cookery while Steven Booth and Michael Rogers shared the Roy Ward Trophy for Vegetables, Fruit and Produce.

The Children's classes were very well supported with Tom Soothill narrowly retaining the Dorrett Trophy ahead of Alfie Lawson.

In presenting the prizes, Vice-President John Rickard paid a special tribute to Show Secretary Jennifer Haynes and everyone involved in putting on such an excellent Show.

Muir Stratford

The Grey Knights



A relatively quiet month for the buses with Jenks' bus being laid up with waterworks problems, or it might have been the faulty odometer, my brain shuts down when I hear Black Oily speak! A new water pump, or possibly odometer, has now been fitted so she will be ready to scamper off to Brighton on the first of May. Her problems meant that Bubbles was needed to collect members of the Benefice of Holy Cross and St Paul's from St Albans after their Easter Monday walk. Having been given a stern talking to she behaved herself and the weary pilgrims enjoyed the ride home.

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