



“Yeldall opened my eyes to what life was all about because I thought the world owed me something. Truth be told, I was just being selfish. I thought I knew everything but I knew nothing. I can say now that Yeldall was an easy programme but, when I was going through it, it was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life - pure blood, sweat and tears. Yeldall loved me back to life and taught me to love myself and love others. I’m getting emotional as I type this: tears of gratitude are running down my face, tears of pure joy.” (Will B, resident 2014/15)



Will (second left) at a service at Westminster Abbey for DrugFam



“Yeldall Manor has given me my life back - a life worth living. Without this opportunity I would be in prison or dead. I have my family back, I love my life and I have a forgiving God who loves me. Life is great!” (Richard E, resident 2017)

“I came to Yeldall when I was taking various drugs in a chaotic way, which I’m guessing wouldn’t have ended well. Plus I was desperately sad and feeling alone. Now I’m abstinent, pretty happy and have friends and family around me. Whilst life has had all sorts of stuff happen in it, getting off drugs and finding better ways of managing me has been fundamental to everything, and I have the staff and residents at Yeldall to thank for that.” (Richard P, resident 1997)

“In December I celebrated my 70th birthday. Over 30 years ago I was a resident at the Manor. It’s been a long time since those days of drugs, prisons and rehabs. Without the help and the dedication of the staff at the Manor, I would not be here today. Who I was then and who I am now are two different people - through the mercy and living power of Jesus, we can be saved.

“I’m getting older now, but still have the scars on my body from injecting drugs, a reminder of where I have come from, and where I never want to return.” (Keith, resident c.1984)



Keith at Yeldall

“Yeldall brought about a change that I can only describe as a renewal of my mind. Yeldall was like the reset button on my life. A sanctuary and a hospital for the lost and broken. I personally will be eternally grateful.” (Marcos L, resident 2015)

“Thanks to Yeldall, I still have a life.” (Lee D, resident 2014)

An amazing story in the making - Yeldall

Where did the name Yeldall come from? It was almost certainly related to the name of Endalls Farm on which Yeldall Manor was built in Victorian times, and completed in 1894 as an impressive private residence. The grounds were lavish and by 1912 were featured in Garden Life magazine. It boasted a two and a half acre labyrinth of trees with steps to a viewing platform from which you could see four counties. Then there was a rose temple plus orchid houses, 300 yards of herbaceous borders, and a large variety of fruit trees and vegetables.

It was later that year that the estate was sold to Professor Arthur Schuster, a well-known German physicist, subsequently knighted in 1920 for services to science. The house was more than big enough for him and his wife to entertain lavishly, thanks to many household servants and gardeners. There were tennis and squash courts as well as the swimming pool, which became known as Schuster's Pond. There was a large Coach House and a Stable Cottage, which housed the chauffeur and his family as well as a Panhard and Rolls Royce.

The property was sold in 1938 and bought by an Anglican religious community, so becoming the Convent of the Good Shepherd, which cared for elderly folk. In addition to giving care, the nuns grew all their own vegetables and fruit as well as running a laundry for the locality. It was during this time that the Annexe was built and the famous (still in use) external bell installed to call the community from the estate to services in the chapel (now the dining room).

By 1973, following the death of the Mother Superior, the house and grounds had become very run down and Yeldall was rented to a rather different Anglican community. This was the Community of Celebration, which originated from the Church of the Redeemer in Texas. This community brought with them a charismatic spirituality rather than the previous Anglo-Catholic flavour, and they incorporated the Fisherfolk, whose worship ministry reached many churches locally, nationally and internationally. In 1976 the community moved on to the Isle of Cumbrae in Scotland and the house was put up for sale.

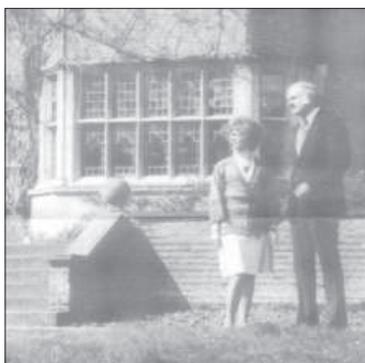


It's not difficult to look back and see how the convent and Community of Celebration laid a foundation which they could only have dreamed of as a legacy. A legacy which lives on in a prayer- and worship-soaked building, and an environment which has resulted in hundreds of transformed lives. It's also interesting to read a French inscription in the main lounge which translates: "Let us seek far from the noise of town for happiness, a sure refuge." These words, from 1894, set the scene for what Yeldall was to become from 1977 until today. And if ever a strong spiritual foundation was needed, it was for the establishment of a base for a drug rehabilitation programme.

Yeldall, the early days

However, before Yeldall would be used for such a weighty mission, God had already been working in the lives of His children to make it happen. The family He chose to use were Bill and Joanie Yoder and their two daughters. As American missionaries, they lived in Reading - a good base for Bill's primary evangelistic work in Europe.

One day they were on a tube train, on their way to a gospel concert. A young man next to Joanie asked: "Have you got any bread?" (slang for money). Joanie's response (a story she always told with a smile) was to take out of her bag some sandwiches she had packed to eat before going in to the concert. The subsequent conversation soon revealed the young man was really asking for money because he had a drug problem. Despite gently making it clear no money would be forthcoming, they still chatted on until their station. Joanie subsequently wrote (in her book 'The God-Dependent Life'): "*Off we went to Central Hall, minus my ham sandwich, where I wept throughout the entire performance... Each song seemed a heart-rending reminder that somewhere out there on the streets of London was a young man named Derek who had been sought and found by [Jesus'] love.*"



Was it on that Tube train the ministry of Yeldall to addicts began? It is, of course, more realistic to say it began in the Father heart of God. An amazing story was in the making and, two and half years later, Yeldall Manor was purchased and began its latest use as a centre for drug and alcohol rehabilitation through Christian discipleship.

Yeldall Manor - transformational community

This was indeed just the beginning. The story and development of Yeldall Manor through to the present day is being told in a new book by David Partington, which will be available soon. Contact us to reserve your copy.



We are delighted to share with you the news of a most generous gift that will enable us to purchase a new move-on house. Coming after a difficult year financially, this donation has been an amazing blessing and a firm reminder of God's provision. It will add to our three rented properties providing safe accommodation for men leaving our rehabilitation programmes - a much-needed stepping stone.

Our Good Samaritan Bursary Fund remains vital in allowing men to access our programmes as local authority drug and alcohol teams have their budgets squeezed. In 2017, we have so far opened our doors to seven residents without access to statutory or private funding - a lifeline to them, which enables us to continue to fulfil our calling to men in need. In faith we have also offered places to men who need rehabilitation even when our bursary pot is empty, and then seen God provide the money later through the generous giving of supporters. We thank you for standing alongside us, and the men that we serve, as we step out in faith in this way.

Back in 1982 our newsletter announced the birth of Matthew Partington, the first Yeldall baby. Now we are pleased to announce the birth of Nathan, a son for him and Marlene. Nathan was shortly followed by Paris Hannigan, a daughter for Pete (former resident and now staff member) and Kat. We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Yeldall family.



40th Anniversary Open Day

We celebrate our forty years of ministry with an extra special Open Day on Saturday 8th July. We hope that many ex-residents, ex-staff, supporters and friends will come along and join us for the afternoon.

Gates open 1pm (free parking) for a hog roast lunch (£4 a head) or bring a picnic. Then have a go at the free games and activities – penalty shoot-out, golf, coconut shy, and a Yeldall photo booth. For the youngsters, there will be activities like face-painting and a bouncy castle to enjoy, and there will be things to buy including hanging baskets, handmade cakes and craft items. The Coach House will also be open throughout the afternoon, showcasing Chissock Woodcraft and the other businesses there.

At 3.30pm, we move into the marquee for our Celebration service. There will be rousing worship and uplifting testimony as well as updates on life here at Yeldall Manor. At about 4.45pm, we will round off the afternoon with a strawberry tea enjoyed on the main lawn to the background of live music.

We hope that you'll be able to stay all afternoon but, even if you come for just part, we are sure you will have a great time and go away inspired.

(For SatNavs, follow RG10 9TA.)



Ride for Recovery Sponsored cycle ride Saturday 29th July

We will be cycling a 40-mile circular road route from Yeldall Manor to raise money through sponsorship for our Good Samaritan Bursary Fund - helping men who cannot otherwise afford to join our programmes of drug and alcohol rehabilitation. There will also be a more challenging route of 60 miles and a family-friendly route of under 10 miles.

The route will be available in .gpx format (for smartphones) plus basic printed directions, but there will not be signs or marshalls en-route. Drinks and snacks will be provided at one stop along the longer two routes and upon the return to Yeldall Manor.

See www.rideforrecovery.co.uk or contact us for more information and to book your place.



Dates for your diary:

Please join us for our **Celebration services** at 7.30pm on Friday 29th September and Friday 8th December.

We also hold **prayer meetings** on the first working Monday of every month at 8pm to hear from and pray with some of our residents.

Yeldall Manor, Bear Lane, Hare Hatch, READING, Berkshire, RG10 9XR. Tel: 0118 940 4411

E-mail: info@yeldall.org.uk Website: www.yeldall.org.uk Find us on [facebook](#)

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