

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1981

STOP PRESS

THURSDAY MEETING THIS WEEK ?-- MARCH 5TH

The Thursday Meeting will be entirely devoted to this month's Planning Applications. The committee promised at the inaugural meeting to seek your views on the important and controversial conservation and planning matters. This month we have them in abundance:

- HDC 8009 Land adjoining Hill Farm, Cobbetts Lane
A large housing estate of at least 500 houses
- HDC 8052 Equipment store Yateley Green, extension for offices
The application for Town Council offices
- HDC 8060 Blackbushe Airport - use of airport facilities
for Drag Racing
- HDC 8068 Site of Tockington Cottage Oaklands - erection of
eight bungalows in the existing Conservation Area
- HDC 8071 Old School Lane - 3 detached houses adjoining Close
Cottage. Detail application in the new Conservation
Area.
- HDC 8118 Handfords, Handford Lane ? conversion of a barn to
dwelling that we have proposed to be listed Grade II.

If you feel strongly about any or all of these applications, this is your chance to air your views. The committee hope that you will fill the classroom B-23 in the Main Block at Yateley School at our usual Thursday meeting time of 7:30 pm.

Peter J. Tipton

THE YATELEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 1981

Editorial

This is the first Newsletter of The Yateley Society. We hope you will find it interesting.

With membership already over the 100 mark and increasing, and with such a diversity of activities and interests, your Executive Committee consider that it is essential that a Newsletter be published regularly to keep members informed of the Society activities.

Since The Yateley Society means YOU, The Yateley Society Newsletter is YOUR Newsletter. Please, therefore, support it by using it as a vehicle for relating items and articles of interest to the other members of the Society. All contributions will be very gratefully received, so start writing now. Copy Date for Issue Number 2 is April 16, 1981.

1. PROJECT GROUPS Reporting

a) Conservation Group

Those of our members who were present at the first-class lecture and slide show on "Timber Frame Buildings" given by Richard Warmington earlier this month, will have seen the plan which Hart District Council have published proposing to encompass the whole of Yateley Green within a Conservation Area.

The Society's proposals to Hart D.C. that this area, which still retains the essential village character of Yateley, should be afforded some protection were acted upon with commendable speed by the Council. The published plan covers a slightly larger area than our original proposals and includes several buildings for local listing which have previously had no form of protection. A letter endorsing Hart D.C. proposals has now been sent and a minor modification to the perimeter has been suggested. We have also advocated that four houses proposed by Hart for local listing should be raised to Grade II status on the grounds of their age and social significance and a reply is now awaited. Further historical research is still required on many of the older houses in this and other areas of Yateley to substantiate our proposals for those buildings worthy of either local or Grade II listing and if you feel interested in this work, we will be delighted to hear from you.

Two planning applications have recently been submitted to Hart District Council for large scale residential developments on white belt land in Yateley and some members have enquired as to what response the Society will make. It is the Society's view that any development should be thought out properly and carefully controlled. In this particular instance the Conservation Group is carefully considering the merits and demerits of the applications and the stance the Society should take. In any case, within our membership there will be opinions for and against these proposals and each individual should act according to his/her own dictates if strong views are held.

The first application will have already been considered by the Council by the time this newsletter reaches you but the application affecting Hill Farm (Baggs Farm) off Stevens Hill will be published under the Public Notices section of "The Yateley News" probably on Friday 27

or the work after. If you have an opinion regarding this development proposal, whether in favour or against, then please let your views be known to: The Director of Planning, Hart District Council, High St., Hartley Wintney.

One aspect of the Stevens Hill proposal which does concern us as a Society is that a number of mature oak trees are likely to suffer in the event of the plan being approved. Contact has been made with Hart D.C. Tree Preservation Officer on this point but it seems likely that no T.P.O's will be issued since a) the trees affected are in roadside banks and are thus a Council consideration anyway, and b) any road widening scheme which is likely to be a necessary adjunct of the development has prior concern over preservation of trees.

Lets hope that someone somewhere realises that it is not always necessary to go 'through' but sometimes possible to go 'round'.

b) Local History Group

As part of the exercise to 'bring-to-life' the period 1841-81, Bethan North and Barbara Garrett have been transcribing the 1861 Census to supplement the excellent work already carried out by Claire Harrold with the 1871 Census Returns. Effort is still needed to complete these and the 1841 and 1851 Returns. Note that the 1881 Census Returns will not be available until next year as censuses are only released to the public after a 100 year interval.

Anyone with a day to spare in London, Winchester or Kingston who would like to get involved in this aspect of the work for the Society is asked to volunteer their services.

c) Ecology

The Ecology Group now has 5 Projects under way:

1. Yateley Common - this is a general habitat survey of the area. We have so far concentrated on moths and butterflies, fungi and lichens, birds and some vegetation mapping. We hope to start looking at the mammal population in the spring and summer.
2. Gravel Pits - this started in the New Year and is looking at the colonisation of the land surrounding a newly released pit. We will study all the plants and animals moving into the area from the nearby River Blackwater, other established lakes and fields.
3. Hedge Dating - this uses ecological methods to date hedges, by counting the number of tree species and studying the herb species present. The results will be used to build up a picture of past land use patterns, and will help the Local History Group with dating old parish and house boundary lines.
4. Water Courses - this project is just starting and will try to survey and map out all streams, rivers, ponds and lakes in the area at present and as far back as possible. It will also look at problems caused by changes in the level of the water table, and work with the Conservation Group on pond rehabilitation schemes.

5. Moth Trapping - this project started in March 1980 and during that time has built up a species list of over 200 moths. Trapping took place on the edge of the Common, and the results - as well as being sent to the Biological Records Centre in Huntingdon - will be used in the Yateley Common Survey.

Anyone interested in helping on any of these projects or with ideas for new ones, please contact Susan Dawson, Tel: 877458.

Note: Any member who wishes to join in the regular Thursday evening Group Meetings should contact the Group Project Leader concerned in order to obtain details of current activities and venue.

2. FOR YOUR DIARY

a) Walks and Visits Programme, March - June 1981

This section has been prepared by Michael Holroyd who is Chairman of the Walks and Visits Sub-Committee. If you have any questions concerning this programme, please do not hesitate to contact Michael, Tel: 872439.

Following the success of the walk on 25 January (91 people came), we have increased our programme of outdoor activities. The events on 5 April and 3 May were announced previously but are repeated here for convenience. This is an experimental programme and comments are invited. Suggestions for future events or offers to lead them will be particularly welcome.

Unless otherwise indicated walks will be about 2 to 3 miles long, moderate in pace, and will include stops to look at items of interest (numbers permitting). Children and friends of members are welcome.

Michael Holroyd

Sunday 15 March (afternoon) Wellington Walk

A walk from Darby Green to Yateley Common and back led by Michael Holroyd, using an old lane recently cleared by the Society (see Note). One part of this lane is very wet and muddy, and wellingtons are essential. Meet at 2.30 p.m. outside St. Barnabas's Church, Darby Green (park on road behind church).

Sunday 5 April (afternoon) Spring Walk

Susan Dawson will lead a walk round the recently excavated gravel pits by the River Blackwater. The walk is on land not normally open to the public, and has been arranged by kind permission of Leisure Sport. Meet at 2.30 p.m. at Leisure Sport Car Park, Sandhurst Road (left-hand side).

Saturday 11 April (afternoon) Conservation Area Walk

A walk round what we hope will be the newly designated Yateley Green Conservation Area, proposed by the Society. Sydney Loader will talk about the old buildings and other features of interest. Meet outside the Library at 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 3 May Dawn Chorus and Breakfast

Meeting on the Common at 3 a.m., followed by breakfast at Montenglo House. Book by 26 April with Peter Tipton (Yateley 873378).

Monday 25 May (all day) Spring Bank Holiday Eversley/Bramshill Forest Walk

A 7-mile walk at a gentle pace (with shorter alternatives) led by Gerry and Jennie George. By footpaths to Eversley Church (where Charles Kingsley was Rector) and Cudbury Clump (tumulus), and back along the Welsh Drive. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at 10.30 a.m. on Firgrove Road, Eversley, opposite the road to Kits Croft and Firgrove Farm (park on the right of Firgrove Road beyond this point).

Saturday 6 June (all day) Visit to Selborne

Edward Dawson will lead us on a walk round Gilbert White's village, with a visit to his home, 'The Wakes', and an ascent of Selborne Hanger. Pub lunch at the Queen's Hotel (or bring a picnic). There is an excellent bookshop. Meet 10.30 a.m. in the National Trust Car Park, Selborne (at the far end of the village on the right).

Thursday 25 June (evening) Starveacre and Hawley Common Walk

A walk to the south of the A.30, led by Mike and Roni Kelly. Meet at 6 p.m. by the pond to the north of the A.30, half a mile west of the junction with the A.327 (Gravel Pit Car Park).

Note:

Bridleway No.28 is an old lane starting from Cobbett's Lane just north of Hill Farm and leading southeastwards to the Common. The northwestern end has been overgrown and impassable for some years. After discussion with the Ranger for Yateley Common, Peter Dinsdale, we have made a pilot tunnel through the brambles and hope to enlarge it so that the lane is reasonably passable for the walk on 15 March (see programme). At the southeastern end, the lane is extremely wet and muddy, but we are hoping that the County Council will be able to improve the drainage later this year.

b) 2nd Public Lecture, 12 March 1981 by Tim Shadla-Hall, M.A.

Do you like MUSEUMS? Many people do, and our rates support them. To find out more about Hampshire Museums and how they are run; come to our lecture 'Why have Museums' on 12th March, in the Yateley Centre Drama Hall at 7.30.

Remember - members free, with coffee!

c) New Members' Evening, March 19: 1981

It is proposed to hold a short introductory evening for existing new members at which various relevant topics will be introduced, e.g. Natural History and Ecology, Family History, Archaeology, Local History and Conservation and at which ideas for projects will be put forward.

Please note the date, 7.30 p.m. at the Yateley Centre, Room B.2.3 (History Room). All welcome.

d) Frogmore Centre, September 1981

It is planned to provide a longer course from September 1981 to be held at the Frogmore School. This would be entitled 'Introduction to Yateley by the Yateley Society' with the aim of attracting interest to the Society. More information to follow - watch this space.

e) May Day Fayre, May 4 1981

The Yateley Society will be on show at this annual event. Volunteers to prepare for and man the exhibits are required. This could be the opportunity for you to get involved with Society activities. Don't be shy, please come forward, and ring Tony Hocking Tel: 875158.

3. SOCIETY NEWS

a) Michael Holroyd is compiling a list of maps showing Yateley. He would be glad to hear from anyone who has any maps other than current Ordnance Survey maps or who can supply information about them. Please ring 872439 or write to: Firgrove Farm Cottage, Firgrove Road, Eversley, Basingstoke, Hants.

b) Application for registration of The Yateley Society with the Civic Trust is now proceeding. Registration would also entitle the Society to receive 3 copies of the "Heritage News" bi-monthly.

c) The Secretary is writing to the Charity Commissioners to register the Society as a Charity.

d) Arrangements are being made to affiliate the Society to the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. This Society publishes the findings and results of any group in Hampshire that researches local history or archaeology in Hampshire. Affiliation would entitle the Society to receive their Proceedings quarterly.

e) Gordon Peake and Pam Pearce are co-ordinating the arrangements for next season's Lecture Programme, and they are now actively "booking up" all the country's top lecturers for your delight and edification.

It is planned to hold one lecture approximately every 6 weeks during the Autumn/Winter and Winter/Spring terms. Suggestions for topics and/or speakers will be most welcome.

4. SOCIETY DIARY

Some bright spark has suggested that an informal account of each Society event, walks, lectures and so on, should be written in a diary to form a readable history of the Society for posterity (poor fellow) and for members who want to know what has been going on. The scheme is that a different member should write up each event. A shortened version would appear in the Newsletter for current members who miss an event.

To set the ball rolling I will have a go at

The Winter Walk, January 25 1981

91 people and 12 dogs gathered at Heathlands Cemetery in brilliant

weather. One of the Yateley Country Park Rangers, Mike Cross, came along to help describe the work going on.

The first stop was at Wyndham's Pool where Mike showed us the improvements made since the Rangers took over and warned us to buy permits before fishing. After discussing the plant life we walked around the pool and headed back towards the heath.

Sue Dawson found examples of the different heathers on the common beside the path and everyone had a look at the variations in leaf arrangements.

There was then a moment of panic because a child had been left behind; in fact all was well, she had joined the front of the party while her family was at the rear.

Back on the heath we saw the areas set aside to show the development of heathland vegetation from just heathers to tree cover.

We admired the view and said "Goodbye" to those who left us before the muddy part of the expedition.

Next we turned east to Stroud Pool, crossing an ancient boundary marker formed of two earth banks.

Mike Cross pointed out the improvements to Stroud Pool including a sump to keep the water supply clean and a new picnic area being cleared.

Sunday dinner now called and most of us made our way home via Dead Man's Lane, which was its usual very muddy self.

An enjoyable morning in the fresh air for all of us, we look forward to more like it.

A.J.F.H.

Now, who will volunteer to write up the "Timber Framed Houses" Lecture?

5. 'WANTED' (preferably alive): Press Officer

Articles and news releases in the local press are a good source of publicity and keep people informed of Society activities.

Our publicity team is in urgent need of someone with a good turn of phrase. This is a good opportunity for you to help the Society - if you can write you could do it! (If necessary, we have books on the subject).

If you can help, please contact Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close, Yateley (875158).

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Friday, March 20.

Any member who wishes to raise any item for discussion should record details with the Secretary no later than March 12, 1981.

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T H E Y A T E L E Y S O C I E T Y

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Edward Dawson	21 Gibbs Way, Yateley (Y.877458)
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Sydney Loader	37 Darby Green Lane, Darby Green (Y.879430)
TREASURER	Tony Hocking	30 Connaught Close, Yateley (Y.875158)
HON SECRETARY	Rita Colclough	15 Tolpuddle Way, Yateley (Y.873836)
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	*Edward Brooks	14 Tolpuddle Way, Yateley (Y.874962)
	+Susan Dawson	21 Gibbs Way, Yateley (Y.877458)
	Richard Earnshaw	1 Bridge Walk, Yateley (Y.875270)
	Ron Hayett	14 Beechbrook Avenue, Yateley (Y.875923)
	Michael Holroyd	Firgrove Farm Cottage, Firgrove Road, Eversley (Y.872439)
	Jean McIlwaine	2 Firglen Drive, Yateley (Y.872439)
	Gordon Peake	26 Barbara Close, Church Crookham (Fleet 4492)
	=Peter Tipton	Monteagle House, Monteagle Lane, Yateley (Y.873378)

PROJECT LEADERS

*Edward Brooks	Conservation
+Susan Dawson	Natural History/Ecology
=Peter Tipton	Local History