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THE YATELEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER 1981

1. PROJECT GROUPS Reporting .....a) Ecology Group

Our main winter project will be the survey of Yateley's streams, ditches and ponds. Some of the streams only flow during the winter months when the rainfall is higher, and we hope to be able to complete the survey before they dry up in the spring. We URGENTLY NEED people to help with this detective work of tracing streams back to their source or down to where they merge with another stream or river. It can become quite a treasure hunt when parts of it are culverted underground for any distance. If you would like to take part please telephone Elizabeth Preedy on 878871.

A list of our proposed projects for 1982 will appear in the January edition of the Newsletter.

Susan Dawson

b) Local History Group

The Landscape History Group invited Mrs. Jane Doherty of Hampshire County Council Planning Department and author of its booklet on "Ancient Lanes and Trackways" to its Thursday evening spot. Eventually the Society will be contributing to HCC's survey. Yateley is rich in ancient rights of way, from the paths trodden by mediaeval villagers on their way to the common fields between Manor Park and Cricket Hill; to the old cart roads such as Lomer's Lane, part of which was recently surveyed by the group; to the ancient Welsh Drive crossing Blackbushe Airport and which Mr. Arnold has now seemingly obstructed with his new hangar; to the A.30 itself with its long history from ancient trackway to Turnpike to trunk road. Has the A.30 always been in its present course? The old Anglo-Saxon boundary charters suggest the old route was some distance south of the current highway, and contiguous with the old parish boundary. The group therefore spent a recent Sunday afternoon walking the old parish boundary starting behind the Gibraltar Barracks. The old boundary dyke was clearly discernible and the "believers" are convinced they found the road, mediaeval, Anglo-Saxon or even Roman? Who knows? Now is the time for more documentary research.

Peter Tipton

2. FOR YOUR DIARYa) CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thursday 17 December 1981 at 8 p.m.



This will be a 'Cheese and Wine' event with a few other items thrown in! It will be held in Room Cl.1 at the Yateley Centre, School Lane. Tickets cost £2 and are available from Alice Hoare (872948) or Tony Hocking (875158). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

b) Annual General Meeting

Thursday, January 28th, 1982 in the Yateley Centre Drama Hall, at 7.30 p.m. See Sect.3 for further details.

c) Public Lectures

Thursday, March 4th, 1982 in the Drama Hall at 7.30 pm.

"Wildlife Comes to Town" by Lyndis Cole of Land Use Consultants.

Thursday, April 22nd 1982 in the Drama Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

"The Common Lands of England" by Paul Claydon, General Secretary of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society.

Make a note also of the following talks, dates to be announced later:-

"Local History from Wills & Inventories" by Diana Coldicott.

"History of the Basingstoke Canal" by Mr. Geary.

d) Walks and Visits, January - April 1982

We are continuing for the time being to have a walk or a visit on the afternoon of the first Sunday in each month. Comments, suggestions, and particularly offers to lead walks will be welcomed by Michael Holroyd or Susan Dawson. Walks are generally about 2 to 3 miles in length. Children and friends of members are welcome.

Sunday 3 January Charles Kingsley's Village

Gerry and Jennie George will lead a walk starting from Eversley Church, where Charles Kingsley was Rector, and using some of the footpaths which he used. Meet at Eversley Church at 2.15 pm. Directions: fork left off the A327 at Eversley Village Hall, turn left at the crossroads, and take the first road on the right.

Sunday 7 February Visit to Elvetham Hall

By the kind invitation of the Elvetham Hall Conference Centre, we are to have a guided tour of this very interesting Victorian building and hear the story of its predecessor, which was the home of Jane Seymour and was visited by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. Visit organised by Peter Tipton. Meet at Elvetham Hall at 2.30 pm. Directions: follow the A30 to Hartley Wintney, turn left along the A323 towards Fleet, and the entrance is on the left in about a mile.



Sunday 7 March    Water Birds

A tour of the gravel pits on the western side of Yateley led by Edward and Susan Dawson, with particular attention to bird life. Meet at Moulsham Green (at the end of Moulsham Lane) at 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 4 April    Following a Stream

John and Liz Preedy will lead this walk which begins by following a stream from the Reading Road back to its source on the Common. Meet in the public car park behind the Royal Oak (opposite Sandhurst Road) at 2.30 p.m.

Path Clearance

Last spring a few of us attempted to clear and drain two overgrown and disused lanes leading from Cobbett's Lane to Stroud Pool. We are now organising another working party for each lane, and shall be glad of any help from anyone who can use a pair of secateurs or larger implements. Come and help to preserve your rights of way.

Michael Holroyd

Sunday 17 January (afternoon)

Clearance of Bridleway 28 off Cobbett's Lane. Contact Ron Hayett (Yateley 875923) for details.

Sunday 21 February (afternoon)

Clearance and drainage of Bridleway 30, leading from Bridleway 28 to Stroud Pool. Contact John and Liz Preedy (Yateley 878871) for details.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held in the Yateley Centre Drama Hall on 28th January, 1982 at 7.30 p.m.

- 1) Nominations for Officers and Committee Members of the Society should be received by the Secretary by 14th January 1982. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15 Tolpuddle Way, Yateley: Tel. 873836.
- 2) The Executive Committee are drawing up resolutions for consideration at the AGM. Anyone interested in putting further resolutions for consideration should contact the Secretary by 7th January 1982.
- 3) Papers and Agenda for the AGM will be sent to all members by 14th January 1982.

4. W.E.A. COURSE IN YATELEYLandscape History

The Yateley Branch of the Workers' Educational Association is



holding a course of lectures on 'Landscape History: Sources and Methods'. There will be 10 lectures held at the Yateley Centre, starting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 13 January 1982. The lecturer will be Dr. John Porter, who lives in Farnborough. He has written a book on landscape history, 'The Making of the Central Pennines', and has contributed to The Local Historian.

The course results from a suggestion made to the WEA by the Yateley Society, and we are most grateful to the WEA Committee for arranging it. It will deal with the variety of historical documents, maps, and other evidence used by the local historian in reconstructing the changing pattern of the landscape. Students will have the opportunity to use source materials at first hand, and special reference will be made to the landscape history of the Yateley area.

The fee for the course is £8. Enrolment is at the first lecture, but you are welcome to attend this free of charge and without obligation. We are very fortunate to have a course so relevant to the Society's activities so conveniently located. I am sure the work of the Local History Group will benefit greatly from it. Whether you are already active in the Group or have only a casual interest in local history you should learn a lot from this course. I hope many of our members will be able to attend.

Michael Holroyd

#### 5. SOCIETY DIARY

##### 5th September 1981 - Trip to The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton

Rather disappointingly, only four turned up for this outing. We "all" arrived at 11 a.m. on a beautiful late summer day, and toured not only the familiar exhibits but also the considerable number of new ones which have appeared in the last year or so. For the uninitiated, it consists of a large area of lovely Sussex downland, between Midhurst and Chichester, on which buildings of many types and periods have been re-erected in their original form.

In addition to buildings going back to Saxon times there are also exhibitions and working demonstrations. A working watermill can be seen, and flour ground on site purchased, and many other crafts and working methods were on show.

Jack Edwards

#### 6. FANCY THAT .....

##### Thunder Storm 1797

"In a tremendous storm of thunder and lightning on Sunday, July 16th 1797, the poor house at Yateley was struck by lightning; the roof was entirely torn off and demolished, the window-frames were driven in and shivered to pieces, two doors were knocked down and rent to splinters, and part of the brickwork on one side of the house forcibly burst into the yard. Four women were sitting round a table, and a child in the arms of one of them, was struck down, and remained insensible for near an hour;



and a young woman, standing in the same room at a small distance, had her cap forced off, and her hair much singed, but providentially neither of them received any material injury. The bed of a poor man, an inhabitant of the same premises, who, that evening happened to be detained by the tempest at Blackwater, was forcibly thrown through the chasm of the wall into the yard, and the bedstead was broken to atoms."

Derek Doherty has copied out all the Yateley references in the unpublished early nineteenth century manuscript Bingley's History of Hampshire. The above extract is quoted by Bingley from the Gentleman's Magazine, September 1797. Who were the unfortunates involved in this dramatic incident? The Overseers Accounts, available on microfilm, may provide the answers and further leads. Anyone interested in taking up the story? .....

## 6. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Society since the last Newsletter :

Raymond & Margarete Eley	19 Gibbs Way	878628
Edward Stacey	Little Oaks, 2b, Darby Green Lane	877654
Clive Gallifent	Flat 2, Hawley Park, Hawley	Camb. 34493
Michael Cock	16, Hillfield	877641
Alan & Linda May	Stapleus Cottage, Potley Hill Rd.,	876736
Ronald & Jill Pattenden	26 Home Park Rd.	874994
David & Eileen Read	9, Reading Rd., Blackwater	873079
Frank & Christine Heckscher	3, Crondall End	879006
Lynda Deavin	20, Sandhurst Rd.	879255
Michael Waterman	15, The Flats, Blackwater	874899

After less than 1 year, the Society membership of 152 already exceeds the National average!

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7. SOCIETY CALENDAR

Dec.	3	PLANNING
	10	* LECTURE - 'NATIONAL TRUST'
	17	CHRISTMAS PARTY
Jan.	3	WALK - CHARLES KINGSLEY'S VILLAGE
	17	PATH CLEARANCE - BRIDLEWAY 28
	28	* A.G.M.
Feb.	7	VISIT TO ELVETHAM HALL
Mar.	4	* LECTURE - "WILDLIFE COMES TO TOWN"
	7	WALK - WATER BIRDS, GRAVEL PITS
Apr.	4	WALK - FOLLOWING A STREAM
	22	* LECTURE - THE COMMON LANDS OF ENGLAND

\* Held in Drama Hall, Yateley Centre: starting at 7.30 p.m.

Details of regular Thursday evening meetings in The Yateley Centre Youth Suite will be published in the Newsletter, January 1982.

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Margaret Taylor.

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

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, Firegrove Road, Eversley (Y.872439)
	Jean McIlwaine	2 Firglen Drive, Yateley (Y.872768)
	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

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