

McIlwain

THE YATELEY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER No 6

February 1982

Dear Member:

Richard Earnshaw piloted the Society Newsletter through its first year and many thanks are due to him for the hours he spent in inaugurating the Letter. Following his elevation to the position of Treasurer at the January AGM, there is a new editor, whose task is already a little different.

With rapid growth of the Society, and its increasing prominence in the community, the importance of a swift communications line to members has become obvious. In terms of physical distribution, the speed cannot be improved upon; Ron Hayett gets the Newsletter out to you within a day of its coming hot off the duplicator. In terms of frequency however the Executive feel that the Letter now needs to be published every 6 weeks. As well as 'formal' information, it must also begin to actively link members together.

The Society began from a group eager to discuss topics relating to Yateley. Since we now number over 150 members we are unlikely to all meet regularly. If the Newsletter can bridge the gap and air as many views as possible, it will further the Society's aim of acting as a forum for general discussion, while keeping members aware of the areas of active Society interest.

So any member with anything to say, on whatever topic relating to the Society, there's space waiting in the Letter. Although written copy would be appreciated, please feel free to ring Yateley 873378 at any time with your views.

Elizabeth Tipton - Editor

HILL FARM INQUIRY

By now all members should know that the Society's most urgent concern at present is this Inquiry. The Planning Group will make the Society's first public presentation of opposition to more needless housing development in Yateley, arguing that the population of Yateley has already reached its limit. As we see it, the little remaining acreage of open space is an essential amenity to a community painfully trying to emerge from the social disruption and muddle caused by planning decisions which have depersonalised the old village community of Yateley.

The Society has joined the Yateley Residents, the Yateley Sports Council and all the political parties to form a joint publicity committee. 8,000 leaflets have been distributed to households and other publicity devices are being used.

The Inquiry opens at 10.00 am on Tuesday 2 March at Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney. The Yateley hearing is expected to last 4-5 days. We urge as many members as possible to be present on the first day. Press and TV coverage will be extensive and numbers of people attending will affect the Inspector's subsequent conduct of the Inquiry. It is entirely at his dis-

cretion to designate the day on which members of the public may speak. However the usual stipulation is that persons wishing to speak must register their desire to do so on the opening day. You may not wish to speak, but please be there. The other communities affected by the Inquiry are mustering crowds of supporters. Lapel badges will be issued at the door to identify Yateley Society members to help demonstrate our growing importance in Yateley. (Please return your badge as you leave).

Margaret Wood is acting as transport co-ordinator and will be kept informed of the daily progress of the Inquiry. She has also offered her home as a creche but she will need help. Her address is 5 Bridge Walk (connects Village Way with Firglen Drive). So if you are going to the Inquiry and have car spaces, or if you need transport/babysitting or can offer help, please call:

Margaret Wood Yateley 872520

Be there for as long as you can and LISTEN!

MONTEAGLE FARM - HART DISTRICT PLAN - REVISED YATELEY TOWN MAP

Another Planning Issue also arises in March. The Revised Yateley Town Map (available from the Council Offices price 50p) designates "Monteagle Farm and land adjoining (approx 75 acres)" at a priority site for development from 1988.

Since only 40 acres of this site are at present owned by the developer Heron, the TC's Working Party has assumed that privately owned land will be sold for development. In fact the TC's figure is substantially greater than the allocation in Hart District's Draft District Plan, and includes a well-known egg farm, a horse stabling business, and the local gymkhana fields.

Hart Council have called a Town Meeting on Tuesday 30 March at 7.30 pm (Main Hall, Yateley Comprehensive). This is part of the official process for public participation in preparation for the District Plan.

Again, as many members as possible are urged to attend this meeting. If there is sufficient public outcry, the Draft Plan can be modified at this point.

Now for a more domestic Society topic:

THURSDAY EVENINGS

Briefly, these weekly Society meetings were given a 4-week rotation to give an average once-a-month coverage of the Society's main study groups. Until now the pattern has been:

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|----|
| 1st Thursday | - | Planning & Conservation |) |
| 2nd " | - | Local History/Landscape History/Parish Records) | or |
| 3rd " | - | Ecology |) |
| 4th " | - | Local History etc. |) |

Public Lecture.

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Public Lecture.

In January Dr. John Porter's course on "Landscape History" started running on Wednesdays for 10 weeks. (The course was suggested to the WEA by the Society and we look like gaining several new members from amongst the students.) Most of the regular History members are attending the Wednesday classes and cannot therefore manage another night out on Thursdays.

The Planning Group is also now working at top speed and meeting almost every couple of days in the run-up to presenting the Society's objections to the developments at Hill Farm and Monteagle Farm. Consequently it is proving impossible to keep to the 4-week pattern at the moment.

By Easter the pace should have slowed and, although there have been teething troubles with the schedule, the 4-week plan still seems the simplest system to adopt. The executive have therefore looked for a co-ordinator for the weekly activities. From now on, please make any queries about Thursday evenings to:

Pat Tattersall, 25 Connaught Close Yateley 878027

After the Easter break weeks 1, 2 and 3 should be as set out above. The variation will usually occur on the 4th Thursday when we may explore the possibility of a more general get-together, with no set topic, just discussion (and coffee) for all members. The Diary for all Society activities is at the end of this Letter where you will see Thursday 25 March is set out as General Club Meeting. Try to be there.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1982 subscriptions now please!

Adult	£3.75	Joint Adult	£5.00
Junior	1.50		
Life	50.00	Joint Life	65.00
Corporate	10.00		

Please make cheques payable to 'The Yateley Society' and either send to:

Richard Earnshaw, Hon Treasurer
1 Bridge Walk, Yateley Yateley 875270

or pay him at the Public Lecture on 4 March. Alternatively Richard has Bankers' Order forms if you prefer.

WALKS AND VISITS

If you were not among the 58 members and friends whose dismal February Sunday afternoon was transformed by a memorable visit to Elvetham Hall, you will have another chance; to see the grounds in their summertime glory, and be entertained by a most energetic and informative host. Mr. Hamersley, Director of the Institute, has most cordially invited the Society to picnic in the grounds, probably on Sunday 6 June, when he will regale us with further tidbits of history and show us the refurbished stable block.

Meanwhile, a reminder of the remaining walks planned for the 1st Sunday in the month, until May:

Sunday 7 March Water Birds Edward and Susan Dawson will lead a tour of the gravel pits on the western side of Yateley.
2.30 pm Meet at Mousham Green (at the end of Moulsham Lane).

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.
2.30 pm Meet at the public car park behind the Royal Oak (opposite Sandhurst Lane).

PUBLIC LECTURE PROGRAMME

The varied and accomplished speakers who gave the Society's First Lecture Series in 1981 will be followed this year by an equally talented and distinguished range of speakers. Without exception, the lectures have all had points to interest everyone and we hope attendance will continue to rise as more members of the public are enticed into attending. Try to bring a friend with you and help publicise these wide-ranging talks.

Thursday 4 March "WILDLIFE COMES TO TOWN" by Lyndis Cole
Yateley School
Room C11
7.30 pm

Miss Cole, a qualified ecologist, has worked for the last 8 years for Land Use Consultants, a private company. Formerly with the Nature Conservancy Council, she was adviser to the London Silver Jubilee Celebrations Committee in 1977 which set up the William Curtis Ecological Park by Tower Bridge. Her illustrated talk will undoubtedly hold surprises, as she discusses urban wildlife and how and why it is being sustained.

Thursday 22 April "THE COMMONLANDS OF ENGLAND" by Paul Claydon
Yateley Centre
Drama Hall
7.30 pm

Secretary to the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpath Preservation Society for several years, Mr. Claydon is a solicitor with expert knowledge of every aspect relating to commons. His talk on the origins and present status of commons, their future, and public attitudes to them has elements of drama as well as plenty of fact.

Thursday 27 May "LOCAL HISTORY FROM WILLS AND INVENTORIES" by Diana Coldicott
Yateley Centre
Drama Hall
7.30 pm

Inspired by ownership of a house in Long Sutton dating from around 1575, Mrs. Coldicott published its history in 1970. Since then she has catalogued all the wills and inventories relating to Long Sutton, spent many hours transcribing documents in Winchester Cathedral Library, and is now researching for a history of nunneries in Hampshire. Mrs. Coldicott's talk promises to convey the excitement of the chase through documentary mazes as much as practical details of locating and understanding documents.

S O C I E T Y D I A R Y

- Thursday 25 February (Planning Group Committee
attend Hawley Hill Association meeting -
Hawley Parish Room, 7.30 pm to support their
protest).
No History Group Meeting.
- Tuesday 2 March Hill Farm Inquiry, Hartley Wintney.
- Thursday 4 March Lecture: "Wildlife Comes to Town" - Room C11.
- Sunday 7 March Walk: "Water Birds" - Moulsham Green
- Thursday 11 March No History Group Meeting
- Thursday 18 March Ecology Group - Youth Suite 7.30 pm
- Thursday 25 March General Club meeting - Youth Suite 7.30
- Tuesday 30 March Yateley Town Meeting on Revised Town Map
Main Hall, Yateley Comprehensive 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 31 March Yateley Town Council AGM - Main Hall
Yateley Centre. Open to the public. The
Society has been asked to talk on the Con-
servation Area. The Public Relations team
plan a visual presentation.
- Thursday 1 April No Planning Group Meeting
(Executive Committee Meeting)
- Sunday 4 April Walk: "Following a Stream" - Public car park
behind Royal Oak
- Thursday 8 April School holiday - No group meeting

Next Newsletter out week beginning 4 April; will give details of all new officers and members having specific responsibilities.

Postscript for Ecologists?

Northern Soviet Union is being plagued by wolves, whose numbers have grown sharply in the last decade. They have learnt to hide under the snow from helicopter hunters

Financial Times