

Newsletter No 9

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NOTICE

of

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

To be held on Thursday 16 September 1982 at 7.30pm  
in the Drama Hall, Yateley Centre

The Meeting is being called to consider the Executive Committee's proposal that The Society's Constitution be amended to enable membership subscriptions paid on entry to The Society to be valid for a 12-month period, for renewal 1 year after joining, instead of at the start of the next following calendar year, as is the present rule.

The Motion to be put is:-

"That this Special General Meeting of The Yateley Society amends the Constitution as follows:-

- i. Delete the last sentence of Clause 3  
MEMBERSHIP
- ii. In the first sentence of Clause 4  
SUBSCRIPTIONS, after the words 'payable  
on' delete 'or before 1 October each year'  
and insert:- 'becoming a Member and there-  
after on the anniversary of joining The  
Society.'
- iii. After the first sentence of Clause 5  
MEETINGS, insert:- 'The Society's financial  
year commences on 1 October.'

This Meeting will precede the Public Lecture and must start promptly at 7.30pm. Please arrive soon after 7.15pm.



THE YATELEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 9

August 1982

Editor; Elizabeth Tipton 873378

Dear Member:

Sometimes it does seem that the dice is well and truly loaded against poor Yateley. Here we are, in a perfect English summer, actually in the finals of the Hampshire Best Kept Village competition, with the judges due to inspect our 'large village' this month, and what happens? Works caravans, diggers, trenches and 10-foot high mounds of gravel appear at one end of The Green. The calm green space which is Yateley's prized focal point is made ugly and uneasy. Though the experienced judges will doubtless not mark us down for something beyond the control of mere residents, it is annoying to have our best aspect marred at this moment. The upheaval and turmoil of building is always present in Yateley, somewhere, and this disruption consequently seems an especial indignity.

As it happens, this is one consequence of a classic situation of practical conservation which The Society has come slap up against.

RED ALERT ON THE GREEN

No one in a hard hat can hope to set foot on Yateley Green without Lorna Simons noticing. Mrs Simons, a keen Society member, has lived on The Green for 34 years. She has seen it turn from waist-high gorse, through which old Mr McKay walked his cats, to the present-day complex of overused playing fields. One recent summer morning Mrs Simons spotted hard hats near Hall Lane and immediately contacted the Society's conservation officer, Valerie Kerslake.

Valerie has herself seen Yateley grow from a rural village 18 years ago to the present town of 21,000, so really cares about preserving the best of the past. Having phoned Hart Council and ascertained that the work was for a surface water sewer, she went with her camera to investigate. Trees were already being felled, and she was told by the contractor that she must not take pictures. More phone calls to Hart. Isn't it a fact that trees in a conservation area cannot be chopped down and are effectively all protected by Tree Preservation Orders? Not true in this case. Hart Council, acting as agent for the Thames Water Authority, can do virtually anything in a conservation area.

By this time the press was involved in the story. Liaison with the local reporter is important; often the 'official' explanation given to the press fills in the gaps in the picture. And of course the "Yateley News" wanted to know what The Yateley Society thought about a 9-metre swathe being cut through an attractive copse.

Valerie also contacted Yateley Town Council, the owners of the land, only to discover that they had granted a wayleave for the sewer. It seemed there was nothing that could be done. Nobody objects to the sewer; the objections are against its routing and the consequent destruction of valued trees.



As it happened, that same evening there was a meeting of the Blackbushe commoners, most of whom also have rights over The Green. The commoners questioned the legality of such works on commonland, and Paul Clayden, solicitor for the Commons Society, confirmed that "even the Thames Water Authority is not exempt from Section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925. Any works or erections on commonland subject to S.194 must have the permission of the Secretary of State to be lawful." The commoners have subsequently written to Hart to point this out. They have made it quite clear that they do not object to the construction of the sewer, but do object to Hart and/or TWA dispensing with the law. They have also pointed out that public opportunity to object to the routing of the sewer could only arise during the process of gaining the Secretary of State's consent.

The Society did what it could as quickly as it could but in this case was powerless to stop the destruction of trees. However the matter does not end there because, as a town councillor has pointed out, what happens to the 9-metre swathe when the work is finished? Does it become a convenient thoroughway for motorcycles? Plantings cannot be made immediately over the sewer because of the danger of root damage. Consequently the line of the sewer will become effectively a trackway, to the detriment of the appearance and ecological balance of the copse and its impoverishment as a convenient nature study area for the Cubs, Scouts and Brownies who use The Green. Although Yateley Town Council may have considered the money obtained for the wayleave as a useful increment to the rates, the conservation factors in the case need assessment too.

#### AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS!

Susan and Edward Dawson have a son, Aubrey James Mayne, born on 8 August at Frimley Park Hospital.

Perhaps it may be discounted as post-natal euphoria, but Edward, observant as ever, claims to have spotted a pied wagtail roost actually on the hospital buildings. This, if we are to believe him, is only the second one known in these parts; the other is at Hammersmith Broadway. Pied wagtails like buildings it seems.

However his observation on the new Lappet Faced Vulture baby at the Zoo seems a trifle harsh: "Like a Hoover bag with a head at one end," were his words. Clearly the comment of a brand-new father, so entranced with his own offspring that he is oblivious to the fact that all parents think their baby the cat's whiskers.

Baby Dawson has in fact a most endearing shock of black hair, and The Society most warmly congratulate Susan and Edward on his birth.

#### MEANWHILE, BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOTH TRAP

Or rather, when the eerie blue light is switched off, the moth team gets to work on beautiful summer mornings to identify some amazingly lovely moths which flit around unseen in the Yateley nights.



This is the third summer that trapping has been going on and members who have not seen the brilliant colourings of many moths, especially the hawk moths, should go along one morning (usually Sunday) and help inspect the trap. Depending on the weather, trapping begins some time in April and can continue into late October if the conditions are good. Many moths are quite specific to certain months or weeks throughout the year as well as being very fussy about their food plants. Consequently although the Society's cumulative list now numbers at least 120 different species, you will not see them all at any one time. For the last two weeks there have been just over 50 species including, again to the chairman's delight, the August Thorn appearing to schedule on the 1st of August.

Any members wanting to know where and when the trap will be operating should contact either the Dawsons (Yat 877458) or the Preedys (Yat 878871). No previous experience is necessary, of course, and it's amazing how quickly the untrained eye begins to detect patterns and shapes on the fragile velvety wings.

#### TREES IN YATELEY

by Valerie Kerslake

1982 might well have been designated "Yateley Tree Year". The Ecology group have started a project to identify all the noteworthy trees in Yateley. Quite a task, when you consider the number of single old trees and areas of woodland which have not yet succumbed to the developers' axes, as well as the newly planted trees which are often not even native species.

Members of the group each have an area of Yateley to study. (There are still quite a few areas left for anyone wishing to join the survey.) As a result of the project we hope to publish a small leaflet, to include a map locating some of the more notable trees.

The Society is also trying to ensure that these trees continue to grace our landscape and has been establishing which trees in Yateley are "protected" by a Tree Preservation Order.

People sometimes wonder about Tree Preservation Orders. Anyone can apply for one to the local authorities but they are not very freely given; the trees usually need to be under threat, when very quick action may be required, or else they must be exceptionally fine or interesting specimens. Nevertheless there are about 67 current TPO's in Yateley, which means a lot more than 67 trees, since many of the Orders are for groups or patches of woodland. Conservation areas do not need TPO's as permission must be sought for lopping and felling these anyway. [See footnote.]

The Yateley Society is hoping to get a TPO put on Green Lane (running between Reading Road and Firgrove Road), where the hedges have grown into mature trees that meet overhead in a cool dim tunnel. When the field beside it is covered in houses, which looks to be not too far off, it will be valued more than ever. An application was submitted but turned down, on the grounds that these were merely hedgerow trees, and that in any case Green Lane was commonland under the care of Yateley Town Council. In fact on the west side of the lane most of the trees are over the boundary and in the field that is being developed; we have pointed this out in a further application.



There are regulations requiring a certain distance between trees and new buildings and complying with these all too often leads to the removal of the trees. A recent example is the large oak that used to stand near the corner of Dickens Way and Vigo Lane.

The next meeting of the Ecology Group on Thursday 23 September we intend to devote entirely to trees. We shall see how far we have got with our individual surveys and hope to discuss the format of the final map and leaflet. We shall also be able to examine a map of Yateley on which all the TPO's are marked.

Whether or not you have been tree-watching up till now, do come along if you are interested. You will be most welcome.

#### VANISHING VILLAGE

Vanished medieval villages figure prominently in many current local history studies up and down the country, but Yateley is now evidencing a new phenomenon: it has vanished between editions of the Domesday Book. The new edition of the Domesday record for Hampshire has just been published and of Yateley there is no trace. We were in the Victorian translation of the 1783 text but this new edition of text and translation banishes us.

Readers familiar with the Stilwell/Loader History of Yateley (p.13) will know that Yateley has been identified as 'Effeli' and was held by Hugh de Port, "one of the wealthiest of the Conqueror's Norman followers". The Domesday tally is of 22 homesteads with a church, a mill, and a fishery "at 100 eels", 3 acres of meadow and woodland for 100 pigs. This sounds a about right for Yateley, bearing in mind the man-made features which still remain in some form and the fact that until very recently the number of farms has traditionally been around 25.

However, Sir William Cope, in his Victorian History of Bramshill, argued that Effeli was Heckfield, although it seems far-fetched for the Saxon name for Heckfield - 'Heggefild' - to have mutated to 'Effeli'. The modern editors of Domesday now agree with Sir William and translate 'Effeli' as 'Heckfield'. Against 'Heckfield' in Note 23,36, they brusquely say "Effelee is distinct from later forms Hecfeld and Hefhfeld, Gover 120. Not Yateley as DG." [Gover "Hampshire Place-Names" 1961, unpublished typescript, copy in HRO. Domesday Gazeteer, Cambridge 1975.]

Since there is no other mention of Heckfield in the Domesday record, it's a toss-up between us. Which of us is in Domesday? Finding the answer, and arguing it, will afford some nice winter's evening research.

#### WHAT SORT OF SHOPPING?

Most people in Yateley when asked will say that Yateley's shopping is inadequate. What do they really mean? Do they mean that because there is no Marks & Spencer's or C & they are disgruntled at having to shop in Reading, in the next county? Or do they mean that they can't buy their favourite brand of cornflakes at the local supermarket?



When Yateley Town Council surveyed residents to find out what new shops were wanted they got the startling reply: COBBLERS. No one quite knew how to take this. For its part, the Town Council has suggested the re-development of the area between Fry's Lane and Sandhurst Road; the Town Clerk under cross-examination at the recent Public Enquiry said he thought the people of Yateley would welcome a 25,000 sq ft supermarket at Monteagle Farm (i.e. half as big again as Waitrose in Fleet); and Charles Church suggested 4 or 5 shops at Hill Farm to go with the new church. There is even an idea that if Yateley Industries were to relocate, that site could become a shopping plaza.

Perhaps on careful reflection, we like the Yateley shops as they are and don't mind going off to Fleet, Camberley, Hartley Wintney, Reading or wherever?

Whatever the real attitudes on this prickly issue, the Society must begin gathering concrete information. We need someone to join the Planning subcommittee to take charge of the issue of shopping for the next stage of the Planning Exhibition. This doesn't need expertise; it just needs common sense - and time. Think about it. Even if you cannot actively join the project, all members can express their opinion. Start thinking objectively about the problems and likely actual results of any hypothetical solutions and let's have some comments for the next Newsletter to start the ball rolling.

#### READING MATTER

The Society regularly receives newsletters or bulletins from associations such as the Civic Trust, The Hampshire Field Club and CoEnCo. The publications are scanned by Executive members and are available to any Society member. The Hon. Secretary, John Barker (Yat 875445) will hold the current issues for approximately 6 weeks and then pass them on to Mary Hocking (Yat 875158), the Society archivist.

Mary already has a collection of printed materials relating to Society interests and is hoping to compile a master list covering reference materials owned personally by members but available to others for consultation. In time it is also hoped that the Society will gather a small library of basic reference books, particularly field guides and local maps, for members' use.

#### DISPLAY MATERIALS

Some of the money from the DOE grant was used to purchase a variety of pens and lettering aids suitable for using in public displays. In particular, the "Alphaline" system of stencils and sticky tapes is particularly versatile, both for large and small items. The lettering materials are kept by Tony Hocking (Yat 875158) and may be used by members on Society projects. Tony also has a large roll of medium weight "Vistafoil" for protecting field guides and suchlike. For a small fee, members can apply to Tony for some of the foil.



LINLEY SAMBOURNE HOUSE: "An Artistic Home of the 90's"

Any member fascinated by Victoriana should make an immediate note to visit this remarkable London townhouse. Now owned by the GLC and administered by The Victorian Society, this was the home of Edward Linley Sambourne (1844-1910), a leading Punch cartoonist of the late Victorian and Edwardian period.

The lush 'artistic' interior of the house has survived largely unchanged, with its original wall coverings (William Morris paper), fixtures and furniture reflecting the lifestyle of a successful artist in the heart of Kensington.

The address is 18 Stafford Terrace, W8, just to the north of Kensington High Street, off Argyll Road. The house is open from March to October on Wednesdays from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, and on Sundays from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Barbara Garrett 'discovered' the house through the WEA Victorian Course and says it is a gem not to be missed.

WINSTON CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP 1983

Could this offer the chance of lifetime to a member or friend?

The Churchill Trust was founded in 1965 as a tribute to Sir Winston. Churchill Travelling Fellowships are open to all UK citizens, of any age or occupation. No educational or professional qualifications are needed and awards enable those who would not otherwise have a chance to visit other countries and bring back knowledge, skill and experience to make them more effective in their work and in the community.

About 100 awards are made annually, in categories which change each year. Candidates may propose a project within one of the categories for whatever country they choose. The only requirement is that applicants must show they can effectively use the opportunity, both abroad and when they return. The grant will cover return air fare, plus all travel and living expenses abroad for a period of about two months. The final selection for the next group of awards will be made by interview in London in January 1983.

To apply, send name and address only on a post card to: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR (01-584-9315). You will receive an explanatory leaflet and form to complete and return to the Trust office by 27 October 1982.

INTRODUCING YATELEY

The Society is again offering its 5-week course on the archaeology, history and ecology of Yateley. Enrolment will be in the Main Hall of Yateley School on Thursday 16 September from 7.00-9.30 pm. The fee is £6.40, £3.20 for OAP's, and the course will run on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.30 pm.

The first class is on Thursday 23 September when the speaker will be the Society's Vice Chairman, Gordon Peake, speaking on the archaeology and geology of Yateley. Since almost all those who have attended previous 'Introduction to Yateley' courses have joined the Society, this is an excellent way of getting to know what the Society is like; members are urged to encourage friends and neighbours to consider joining the course.



SOCIETY DIARY

Wednesday 18 Aug Executive Committee Meeting 7.30pm 25 Wistaria Lane

Saturday 28 Aug Ecology Visit to Warren Heath

An area referred to in the County Council Minerals Plan as of Natural History interest. Grid ref. 783586. Contact 878871 for lifts if required.

Saturday 4 Sept Walk Hornley Farm 2.30pm

Mike Waterman will lead a walk through this deserted farm and the adjoining woodlands. We hope to find a number of interesting plants and particularly fungi. Follow the road (Woodside) which starts from the A30 opposite the Reading Road (A327) and continue via Starve Acre to the end of the surfaced road at grid ref. 840587.

Sunday 5 Sept Yateley Common Nature Trail 2.00pm Hants and IoW Nat Trust

Many of the Ecology group are already members of this worthwhile organisation which is actively involved in local conservation projects and has many experts in Natural History. All welcome. Grid ref. 823597 (Wyndhams Pool.)

Thursday 9 Sept Planning and Conservn Yateley Centre 7.30pm

The Planning and Conservation group meets monthly to discuss current planning applications and practical conservation projects. Over the next few meetings a major part of the group's activities will be to prepare material for an extended exhibition on planning and development in Yateley and to consider The Society's case in anticipation of the next stage of public involvement in the Hart District Plan. More members are needed to help. Further details from Ted Brooks (Yat 874962.)

Tuesday 14 Sept Enrollment Week, Yateley Centre Main Hall 7.30 - 9.30pm

Thursday 16 Sept Enrolment for Yateley Course "Introduction to Yateley"

See details of this 5-week course in this Newsletter  
7.30 - 9.30pm £6.40 OAP's £3.20 Yateley Centre



Thursday 16 Sept SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 7.15 for 7.30pm Drama Hall, Yateley Centre

See Notice of this short meeting to be held before Lecture to change details of The Society's membership year. NB Early start

and

PUBLIC LECTURE "THE COUNTRY HOUSE IN THE 1980's" John Young

John Young, Planning Correspondent for the "Times," will open The Society's Autumn Season with a lecture based on his book which describes how Britain's historic homes are maintained in the 1980's. Since his book has many anecdotes about the houses and the people who live in them, Mr Young's lecture promises to be thoroughly lively as well as factual.

8.00pm Drama Hall Admission to non-members 60p

Friday 17 Sept Executive Agenda Last date for items for the Agenda to John Barker (275445)

Monday 20 Sept Executive Committee meeting

Tuesday 21 Sept WEA Course "Iceland and Arctic Britain" by Andrew Cleave (£9.00 8 lectures and a field trip.)  
First lecture 7.30 - 9.00pm Yateley Centre

Wednesday 22 Sept Yateley History Project Dr John Porter First class

A series of 20 tutorials. Four groups will study materials and sources for the history of Yateley. Run by the WEA in conjunction with The Society Fee £15.00 Interested persons most welcome to attend first evening 7.30 - 9.00pm Yateley Centre

Thursday 23 Sept Ecology Group Trees in Yateley 7.30pm Youth Suite

Tree survey project and Tree Preservation Orders in Yateley. See article in this Newsletter for details.

and Introduction to Yateley First night Gordon Peake  
Archaeology and geology of Yateley  
7.30 - 9.00pm Yateley Centre

Saturday 25 Sept Ecology Walk Hook 2.30pm Details from Liz Preedy (878871)

Thursday 30 Sept Planning and Conservation 7.30pm Youth Suite



Sunday 3 Oct Walk Blackwater Valley 2.30pm Moulsham Lane

Pat Tattersall will lead us on a circuit including footpaths in Finchampstead and Sandhurst with fine views over Yateley. The distance is about 4 miles, a little longer than most of our walks, and one of the paths may be rather overgrown but can be avoided if necessary.  
Start from Moulsham Lane at the North end  
Grid ref 807615

Thursday 7 Oct History Family History - How to Get Started Richard Thackrah

Have you ever wanted to know who your ancestors were and where they lived? If so come and find out how to research your family tree at this talk by Richard Thackrah, Lecturer in Politics at Bramshill College. Everyone welcome.

7.30pm Yateley Centre C.1.3.

Thursday 14 Oct Ecology Species Lists 7.30pm Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

The group will be examining and collating lists of species collected this year from various locations in Yateley. In particular, Fungi and Moth records will be brought up to date.

Thursday 21 Oct LECTURE "A CONSERVATIONIST IN PARLIAMENT TODAY" Lord Melchett

An exceptional opportunity to hear and put questions to a statesman and conservationist.  
Lord Peter Melchett, the 4th Baron, farms in Norfolk and is well-known from radio and TV appearances. (You may have seen him as recently as 18 August.) His conservation interests range from the World Wildlife Fund to the RSPB and the Ramblers' Assocn. As Leader of the Opposition to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill he spoke on most of its tabled 1,000 Amendments.  
Local organisations and councillors will be invited to this lecture and all members are urged to attend.

7.30pm Drama Hall, Yateley Centre Non-members 60p

Thursday 9 Dec LECTURE "THE TRADITION OF MORRIS DANCING" Yateley Morris Men

Village Hall  
7.30pm

£2.00 n.m.

£2.50 n.m.

We have all enjoyed the Morris Men at their many displays in the area. We thought that many people would like to know more about the tradition and its history and so The Yateley Morris Men will be giving a lecture illustrated by music and dancing. Since it will be approaching the Christmas season there will be food and drink in the Village Hall to help keep out the cold. The Morris Men will expect some volunteer student dancers - so come prepared.