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THE YATELEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 11

December 1982

Editor: Elizabeth Tipton 873378

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

Dear Member:

I sometimes think of the Yateley Society as being three rather discrete entities. There are certainly three facets that seem to motivate people: history, ecology and conservation. It is also clear to me that it is vitally important that this trinity is brought together in one organisation. How do I justify the use of the word vitally? Well, because in a place like Yateley we have to appreciate the interplay of these three in order to gain any understanding or insight into our environment and how it works. I would go further and say that any ideas of protecting or even improving Yateley have to be well founded, both in fact and in recognising its dynamic. Our record shows that we have kept these things in mind and not become defensive and inward looking, but we must remain relevant to our situation.

However, you might be wondering what the point of this article is. Analysis should be kept to a minimum and the English were never overfond of it anyhow. We stand at the end of a second exhausting but exhilarating year. Possibly the largest thing we undertook was the exhibition and survey, now reaching its second stage. The obtaining of grants of £1,500 and the displaying of materials on several occasions was a brave and successful project for such a young society. It provided a wonderful backdrop when Lord Melchett came to address us in October. Well-presented cases to the Hill Farm and Monteagle Public Inquiries and on the District Plan were a credit to the whole Society. The willingness to consider issues openly such as with BCA and Blackbushe have gained us respect in many quarters. Similarly, a programme to publish the results of our researches on local history and ecological data underscores the willingness to communicate. We have also become more sociable. Our first AGM, with its drinks party and slides, was said by some to have been the best AGM they had ever attended. It also helped to shape our policy on certain issues. This year's Bonfire Party was (if the Editor will let me say it) unsurpassed in all respects, as was the Midsummer Barn Dance; superb opportunities for everyone to get together.

1983 will see difficult planning decisions being made in this area and beyond.

We of course will put our firm efforts into influencing policy at every turn. The strengthening of our planning team will be a key factor here. Many of the History and Ecology projects will come to fruition. Throughout all our work these three issues will interact. But no matter how specialised some of our interests will become, we must always remember that we are one Society.

Edmund Dawson

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE YATELEY SOCIETY

This meeting will be held on THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 1983 at 8 pm in Room C1.1

According to the terms of the Constitution, all members of the Executive Committee, including co-opted members, must stand down at the meeting but

may be re-elected if they are willing to serve again. Of the 12 members of the present Executive at least one does not wish to stand for re-election and there may be others who by January may not be able to offer themselves for re-election.

Nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee must be lodged in writing with the Secretary, John Barker (21 Wyndham Close, Yateley) by 6 January 1983, i.e. 14 days before the date of the AGM. The nominator must have the consent of the nominee to any nomination.

The business meeting will be followed by wine and cheese refreshment and an item of informal entertainment.

STOP PRESS: FUND RAISING

COMMUNITY MARKET SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER YATELEY CENTRE
(9.00 am to 3.30 pm)

Offers urgently needed of items for sale: Secondhand Books - Home and Garden Produce - Pot Plants - any other Used Items in Good Condition. Offers of help also badly needed, to Susan Dawson (Yat 877458) as soon as possible, please.

WEA YATELEY HISTORY PROJECT

by Michael Holroyd

The WEA group studying the history of Yateley under Dr John Porter is now firmly established. It has 10 members, most of whom are Yateley Society members, and has held 6 meetings. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm and more members would be welcome. (Details from Micheal Holroyd Yat 872439)

Members have been working on three areas of study:

Rural society 1830-1870
Population, wealth and housing 1600-1800
Medieval and early settlement.

So far members have been analysing sample documents relating to these areas. A list of record resources held by members of the group has been prepared, and the group is hoping to add to these as the course proceeds. The group is about to launch its first publication (see below).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

By the time this newsletter appears it is hoped that two new publications relating to the history of Yateley will be available. The first of these is a booklet published by the WEA local history group, in association with the Society, entitled "Yateley - A Medieval Village". This has been written by Derek Doherty, a Yateley Society member who lives in Cove. It is a study of landscape and society in Yateley in the 13th century, and aims to show in straightforward language what everyday life was like at that time. An extract from the booklet was included in the Yateley Centre Mag for July 1982. The booklet, which includes two maps, will cost £1.

The second publication is an edition of the 1844 Tithe Map of Yateley, prepared by Michael Holroyd and published by the Yateley Society. The map covers the area of modern Yateley (north of the A30) on four 11" x 16"

sheets at a scale of 11 inches to the mile. The map shows the name by which every field was known in 1844, including such intriguing titles as 'Sawpit Field', 'Weighbridge Mead', 'Ligbeds', and 'Little White Lyes'. The type of cultivation and the names of the owner and occupier are also shown, as far as space permits. A fifth sheet describes the purpose of a tithe map and lists the owners and occupiers of all the houses. The price is £1.

It is hoped to have both the booklet and the map on sale at the Society's stall in the Community Market at Yateley Centre on Saturday 11 December. Booklets will be available at meetings of the Society or direct from Michael Holroyd (Yat 872439). Any profits from the sale of these publications will be used to obtain more historical records. The booklets are available for sale to the general public, and members may be able to help by bringing them to the attention of non-members who are likely to be interested.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

by Valerie Kerslake

... On action in conservation, which is what was happening on an area of Yateley Common near Brandy Bottom on October 14. With the Warden's approval more than a dozen Society members gathered to saw down and wrench out the gorse, young birches and Scots pines that were gradually overwhelming the heather. It went rather against the grain for some of us who are strenuously trying to save trees in other parts of Yateley, but having mastered such scruples we spent quite an exhilarating and energetic hour or two, and had a wide, clear sweep of heather to show for it at the end. (As a spin-off, we also had a good many branches to contribute to the Montagle House bonfire, and there was talk too of turning birches into broomsticks: Halloween being past, these may materialise at the pre-Christmas market stall.)

We hope to do this sort of thing again in the New Year; the Warden has other sites in mind which could benefit from our help, and one or two ponds need attention as well.

NOTICE FOR THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORLD'S DISAPPEARING FORESTS

A skip for waste paper appears outside the Scout Hut on the corner of Macrae Road and Firgrove Road on the 4th Friday evening of each month. (In December it will be there on the 3rd Friday - 17 December - instead of Christmas Eve.) Any clean waste paper is welcomed - but not cardboard - and it will help the Scouts as well as saving paper.

Then, if you want to buy it back again, recycled, you can do so via Friends of the Earth from Mrs Plashka (Fleet 3144) who has A4 duplicating paper in various colours at £1.90 a ream (500 sheets); and from Mr Shailer (Farnborough 549562), who has notepads, loo paper and calendars.

PRESERVATION - NOT CONSERVATION

From the Hants & Berks Gazette, March 1880:

YATELEY - An otter was shot by Mr Oram, gamekeeper to Capt. Golding, on coming out of the little stream that divides the counties of Hampshire and Berkshire. The animal weighed over 28 lbs and the length from nose to tip of tail was over 4 ft. Capt. Golding had it conveyed to Reading to be preserved.

And another one that didn't get away.....

SHOT IN BLACKWATER RIVER - A giant musk rat measuring 2ft 11in long

and weighing 10½ lbs was shot by Mr Jason Cox of Breach Farm, Sandhurst, in the Blackwater River early yesterday. He took the animal to Mr W T Maycock at Sandhurst Helt, who immediately telephoned to the County War Agriculture Committee Office at Reading. Within a few hours experts were sent to Sandhurst to conduct a search for other mu k rats which may be in the neighbourhood.

HISTORY HOW-TO SERIES

The monthly series of talks arranged for members with general history interests is proving very enjoyable. Numbers attending have been steadily rising, and Peter Tipton was very gratified to have 23 listeners and questioners for his own evening.

Number 5 in the series will be given by Richard Thackrah who, in his own words, sees History as "something that happened yesterday". The inner room of the Yateley Centre Youth Suite was an excellent setting for Richard's first talk on genealogy, and we look forward to the January talk on tackling local history. See Diary for date.

HI-TECH CORRIDOR?

Hart & Rushmoor Branch of the CPRE had an interesting AGM on November 8 in Hartley Wintney. The guest speaker was Tony Long, CPRE's Assistant Secretary. His simple yet eloquent address provoked some excellent questions from the floor and several very revealing responses from persons present.

Perhaps the most remarkable were the comments made by Hampshire councillor Dudley Keepe. Answering a question on the likelihood of reducing Hart's housing quota at the District Plan Appeal stage, he said there "wasn't a chance in Hell" and then went on to wax lyrical on the attractions of this 'western corridor' area as suitable siting for high technology industries. Since we who live here know that houses are not being built to house people working locally, are we to infer that they are being built to entice even larger numbers of workers moving in for the jobs of the future? What of our hard-pressed open green spaces then?

HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Members are reminded that any objections to the Plan as now published must be sent in writing to: The Director of Planning, Hart District Council, Council Offices, Hartley Wintney, Basingstoke, Hants, RG27 8NP before Monday 20 December.

Certified copies of the plans are available for inspection in Yateley Library. Forms for making objections are also obtainable from the Library.

BLACKBUSHE WALK

On Sunday 2 January 1983 Gordon Peake will lead a walk round the northern part of Blackbushe Airport which forms part of Yateley Common. British Car Auctions who hope to acquire the airport site, propose to close this northern part of the airport and allow it to be used for recreation.

This walk will be an opportunity for members to examine the site and to discuss informally the various possibilities suggested for its use in the BCA planning application.

MONKS' HALL

On Sunday 16 January 1983 we have been invited by Mr and Mrs Johnson to have a tour round "Monks' Hall", the reconstructed Tudor manor house that they have

been building for the last 9 years on the Lower Finchhampstead Road, below Finchhampstead Ridges. The tour will be followed by coffee and a chat and you are asked to bring welly boots to cross the field and lighter footwear for inside the house. This outing has been arranged for us by Pat Tattersall and those wishing to go should please let her know before Saturday 15th. Pat's telephone number is Yat 878027.

BONFIRE EPILOGUE

Very many thanks to all members who helped to make this evening such a success. Common clearers, cooks, bonfire lighter, firework igniters, serving wenches and guests all combined in a mixture which, of not authentically Jacobean in all respects, was a match in conviviality for any historic gathering.

There were 103 of you in all. With 68 being adults, it was a case of keeping your elbows in, and we hope you managed to sample more than one of our pies. Although we couldn't reproduce the correct "coffyn" or "coffyr" pastry shape, the spice and fruit content of the pies was authentic. Or didn't you notice?

English cooking of this period was "heavy with ginger and pepper, cloves, nutmeg and sugar" (Elizabeth David). Almonds, pine nuts and fruit - both dried and fresh - were often main ingredients in meat pies, which must consequently have been indistinguishable from our Christmas mince pies. Interestingly enough, present-day Middle-Eastern and Arab cookery blends sweet substances with meat in much the same way as our ancestral cookery did, while the memory of that cookery is retained in some British regional recipes: Westmorland has a 'Sweet Lamb Pie', Devonshire has a 'Squab Pie', and Cheshire and Wales have variations of 'Fitchet Pie'.

The breads we offered you were not the expensive white "manchet" rolls (rather like milk leaves in texture) but were closer to the bread made from unbolted flour eaten by yeoman households. The cheeses were all English, though Red Windsor for example is not an ancient variety.

Gingerbread and parkin are medieval in origin but the fruit and almond bread was a 1664 recipe from Hannah Wolley and is typical of the sweet yeast cakes which became popular at the time. The small ginger biscuits were second cousin to the "fairings" commonly sold at Michaelmas fairs from the sixteenth century onwards.

The most truly Jacobean offerings were Valerie Kerslake's 'Quince Kickshaws', morsels of delicious golden-pink paste with a texture akin to genuine Turkish Delight. 'Kickshaws' or 'Kickses' (OED 1597, derived from French 'quelques choses') were generally made of almond paste, but could be of any sweet material. They were cut into shapes and used to decorate the elaborate "subtleties" or set-pieces which were the centrepieces of Elizabethan and Jacobean banquets. Hence they were the ancestors of today's supermarket jelly cake decorations.

Some of you may subsequently have heard a Radio 4 programme, "Take Three Hundred Swans", during which a full and very varied meal of Elizabethan dishes was served to studio guests. Although the Monteagle fare did not include "the English root" (parsnip with ginger) nor Alexanders, a curious herb added to green salads - the tasters commented on a flavour resembling aniseed with overtones of Four Star petrol! - our 'Capricorn Pasty' was distinguished enough to hold its own against the BBC's 'Chicken in Orange Jelly'. Chicken and goose became status foods in Jacobean times and homebred Kerslake kid in the 1980's certainly has equal rarity value.

Our coffee was an anachronism, since the first coffee house did not open until 1652 in London, when it was a wild success. The mulled wine and cider however were brewed to a trustworthy receipt of some antiquity, descended in spirit if not in fact from some favourite brew of that forerunner of all devoted home brewers and winemakers, Sir Kenelm Digby, whose remarkable cookery book was published posthumously in 1669.

LOST PROPERTY: One white crocheted shawl, left behind at Monteagle after the fireworks. Owner please contact Elizabeth Tipton (Yat 873378).

CAR LIFTS

If at any time there are members unable to attend one of the Society's evenings or functions through lack of transport, please do not hesitate to contact John Barker (Yat 875445) who will willingly arrange car lifts.

ANOTHER FROLIC

Mulled wine will also be offered at the start of what promises to be another evening of Society conviviality:

THE YATELEY MORRIS MEN'S LECTURE AND DISPLAY

Thursday 9 December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Members who attended the Society's summer barn dance will vouch for the swing with which that occasion flew by. This December promises to be as good if not better. The Yateley Morris Men are well-known for their exuberance and enthusiasm, and in addition we are expecting a number of Mystery Guests to contribute an unusual element to the dancing and jollification.

Don't miss this chance to start off the Christmas season in traditional style. Supper will be served at half time and with additional fortification from the Village Hall bar we should need no cajoling to join the Morris Men in their leapings and twirlings.

Tickets still available from Liz and John Preedy (Yat 878871).

£2.00 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

SOCIETY DIARY

Thursday 2 Dec Planning Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

Contact Ted Brooks (Yat 874962) with any matter you wish the group to discuss.

Sunday 5 Dec Walk Yateley Common South 2.30pm

A walk led by Michael Holroyd around part of the common lying to the south of the A30.

Thursday 9 Dec LECTURE/
SOCIAL "THE TRADITION OF MORRIS DANCING" 7.30pm
EVENT The Yateley Morris Men at the Village Hall

See details of this special evening in this N'letter.

Thursday 16 Dec Ecology Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

Discussion on ongoing projects, particularly the Tree pamphlet, and compiling Species List file.

Saturday 11 Dec FUND
RAISING Community Market 9.00am - 3.30pm Yateley Centre

Please support this event which will raise funds for the study groups.
The Society will be offering a range of items for sale at keen prices, including maps, leaflets, books, plants and produce suitable for Christmas gifts.

Offers of help and Items for Sale to Susan Dawson (Yat 877458.)

1983

Sunday 2 Jan Walk Blackbushe Airport 2.30pm

See N'letter for explanation of this Walk.

Meet in the car park at the edge of the airfield at grid ref 810594 - turn right off Vigo Lane 150 yds south of "The Anchor" pub.

Thursday 6 Jan Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday 13 Jan History "Modern History - How to Get Started" Richard Thackrah

Number 5 in our 'easy to listen to' series of mini lectures. Richard Thackrah will explain how to begin the study of modern history in your area.

7.30pm Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

Sunday 16 Jan Visit Monks' Hall 2.30pm

See this N'letter for details. Please let Pat Tattersall know (Yat 878027) if you wish to join the visit and note remarks on footwear please.

Thursday 20 Jan ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.30pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre

Items for the Agenda should be submitted in writing to the Secretary, John Barker (21 Wyndham Close, Yateley) without delay.

Nominations for Executive members also to John by 6 January in writing.

Thursday 27 Jan Ecology Monthly Meeting 7.30pm C.1.3 Yateley Centre

Saturday 29 Jan Ecology Monthly Study Walk 2.30pm

Deatils from Liz Preedy (Yat 878871). All welcome.

Thursday 3 Feb LECTURE "THE RAISING OF THE MARY ROSE" David Price

This lecture by David Price of the Mary Rose Trust will fill in the background to the successful raising of the old Tudor warship in October 1982. In addition to slides and photographs, Mr Price will have some examples of the artifacts found in the wreck, preserved from decay over the centuries in the mud of the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour.

7.30pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre

Sunday 6 Feb Walk The Boundary of the Yateley Hall Estate 2.30pm

A map made in 1791 for Everard Arundel of Yateley Hall (now yateley Manor School) shows the boundary of his estate. This boundary has been marked on a modern map by Michael Holroyd who will lead a walk to see what traces of it still remain among the modern housing estates. Wellington boots advisable. Meet outside St Peter's church.

Thursday 10 Feb Planning Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

Discussions for District Plan public inquiry.

Thursday 17 Feb History Monthly Meeting Youth Suite, Yateley Centre

It is hoped to have Number 6 in the mini lecture series but it has not been possible to finalise this as this N'letter goes to press since although the topic will hopefully be "Hampshire Tokens" our projected speaker has to arrange to come from Cheshire. Members will be fully informed in time for that meeting.