

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 14
July 1983

Editor: E J Tipton 873378

Dear Member:

The theme of 'Rural England' was chosen for this year's May Fayre held on one of the wettest weekends of the spring. To celebrate the theme with enthusiasm the Society booked a double stall, planning to use half the space for an exhibition and the rest for sales of various products, some edible some decorative. In the event, the garland competition for children also provided an attractive flower display. All these things contributed to make our stall look so inviting that when the judging for the best stall took place there was one clear winner. And when the announcement was made, Tony Hocking went up wearing a borrowed smock and was presented with a very beautiful cup.

The cup, made of silver on a black plinth, bears the inscription "The Neville Richard Glossop Memorial Cup 1.7.66 - 27.3.83". Neville Glossop had suffered from a defective heart for some years, and after his untimely death in March friends and neighbours collected enough money for the silver cup to be made and inscribed. The cup will be the first prize for the Best Stall at each May Fayre for as long as the tradition of Fayre persists in Yateley. In this way Neville's memory will be perpetuated. The Yateley Society is honoured to be the first holder of the memorial cup, and the cup itself has been occupying pride of place in the Chairman's dining room. It is intended that a vellum scroll will be made to go with the cup upon which the name of each year's winner will be inscribed. We hope that both the cup and the scroll will be displayed at a suitable public location in Yateley for everyone to see. Mr and Mrs Glossop were present at the Fayre and expressed their pleasure at the Society's achievement.

Edward Dawson, Chairman

A BUZZARD OVER BEECHBROOK,
GOLDFINCHES IN GIBBS WAY,
A HARVEST MOUSE IN HAND

by John Preedy

I suppose that most people in Yateley like to think that they live in a rural area even though the authorities and the developers appear to be doing what they can to create a standardised urban environment. And as long as Yateley remains outside the Blackwater conurbation and is surrounded by countryside, not housing or industry, we can still find some surprises right on our doorsteps. May and June has been one of those times when they all seem to turn up together.

At the end of May a Buzzard was seen over Beechbrook by Helen and Jack Edwards. Buzzards are more usually found in the open country of Wales and the West where they can be seen circling on updraughts looking for carrion or small mammals, but they are extending their range eastwards and this one is believed to be nesting somewhere on the other side of the Blackwater. Let us hope they breed successfully and that we have some more sightings in Yateley.

Almost as unexpected was the discovery of Ragged Robin growing in a garden in Betjeman Way. This is a plant of wet meadows not at all common in Yateley, where only isolated small groups of these plants are known, some of which do not appear to have survived the work being done in the Royal Oak Valley.

In Gibbs Way a pair of goldfinches are nesting in a small willow tree next to Susan and Edward Dawson's house. Although goldfinches are not rare birds I have not seen them very often in this area where chaffinches seem to be more successful. Perhaps they recognise the home of a professional conservationist.

Harvest mice were once common throughout rural England. They used to build nests in the stooks of cornfields and in hedgerows but the advent of the combine harvester and more intensive agriculture has reduced their population dramatically since the 1950's and they are now a protected species. On a walk over the Vigo Lane part of the Common on Sunday 12th June Valerie Kerslake spotted one and incredibly managed to pick it up to show the rest of us. It did not seem unduly agitated or concerned while it sat in her cupped hands looking back at our peering faces, but we quickly let it go and watched it disappear into the undergrowth.

Harvest mice are Britain's smallest rodent, nearly an inch shorter in the body than a house mouse, with a prehensile tail which is used to grip the stems of grass or plants as they climb about looking for food. We did not know they were on Yateley Common and so it is even more important to be ready to protect its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by collecting sightings and recording occurrences of plants, birds, animals and insects.

I have found by experience that small groups of people see a lot more since several pairs of eyes are more likely to spot something unusual or fast-moving than one person on their own. The Ecology group has a full programme of walks and field studies throughout the summer months and anyone is welcome to join in.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

The Society's Barbecue on Saturday 16 July will this year have a Middle-Eastern flavour. You may remember that the spices for last year's Jacobean bonfire gathering came in part from the eastern Mediterranean region. So to continue the theme the Social committee invite all members to come and sample a few flavours and aromas of the East.

Place: Monteagle House
Time: 8.00 pm
Price: £2 for adults & teenagers
90p for children

BUT PLEASE NOTE

We must have accurate numbers of those coming by Wednesday 13 July at the latest. So please phone now if you intend coming:
Peter/Elizabeth Tipton (Yat 873378)

Ticket includes 2 glasses of wine cup for adults and lemonade for children. Soft drinks will also be on sale; bring more wine if you want to.

To help with parking, and presuming it will be a gloriously hot evening, could some drivers please park in the Library carpark at the Centre and walk up the school field to the gate at the top. Also if you wish to sit/loll while consuming the delicacies, bring a beach chair or a rug. And if anyone has long (12" to 14") barbecue skewers, we should be grateful if they could be brought too.

We can promise you authentic Arabian background music to waft you in imagination to exotic climes and hope that you will come and make this evening another of our very successful Society get-togethers.

CANAL PICNIC

Saturday 27 August
Colt Hill Bridge
Odiham
2.30 pm

You are reminded about the trip on the "John Pinkerton" on a restored section of the Basingstoke Canal. The cost is £1 per seat and bring your own picnic. Again, please, names well in advance to Caroline Powell (Yat 875706) or John Barker (Yat 875445).

CHURCH AND PEOPLE

by Elizabeth Tipton

This was the title of the exhibition mounted in St Peter's church, Yateley during St Peter's Week from 25 June to 2 July. Some 15 members from all groups of The Society were caught up in the creation of the display which gave brief details of the church's architectural history, with adjoining sections on important local persons and general population growth of the village of Yateley in each of the five periods of church growth.

Since the boards had to be spaced around the church, it was a little difficult to convey the theme of growth and change which of course is expressed today in the new church building which has arisen from the wreckage of past ages. Certainly, in putting together the material we became more aware of the great debt which local historians owe to the parish church in its role as recorder of the basic details of the lives of parishioners. In particular, the burnt and singed sheet from the Polyglot Bible, owned by Sir Richard Ryves and given to St Peter's by his nephew-in-law in 1675, seemed particularly poignant when placed in the Chapel just to the left of Sir Richard's tomb slab which now lies on the North side of the Chapel altar.

Sir Richard owned Hall Place (now Yateley Manor School) which in 1567 had been owned by Richard Allen, gent. We were able to get his administration of probate and were thrilled to discover that, as we had hoped, it gives a full inventory of all the rooms and contents of Hall Place in 1607. A section of the inventory was shown with a transcription of the most interesting room, "the chamber over the hall", which was clearly Mr Allen's private living-cum-study room. The concluding lines of the inventory also revealed that Mr Allen owned a peacock!

This made a digression on Tudor and Elizabethan gardening seem not such a non sequitur and the small 'garden' mounted on the top of the old font, with strewn herbs and flowers in the niche of the South wall filled the Chapel with fragrance. The 'hornbooks' in the niche gave more details of herbs and their uses and were delicately illustrated.

The execution of the design and layout was again mostly Tony and Mary Hocking's impeccable work but it was Jean McIlwaine who originally suggested the display and supplied much of the material from her archives. The occasion spurred on some research and has suggested ideas which can be further pursued. We enjoyed being part of St Peter's celebration and hope that there may be future occasions when we may contribute.

HERO ARCHIVE VISIT

Peter Tipton had planned to take a party of 10 members to the Hampshire Record Office in Winchester on Saturday 9 July. The intention is to copy out all the Yateley manorial court books between 1775 and 1850. This is to enable the History group to continue work already done on the 1567 manorial Customary by locating properties given in the Customary.

Peter will now unfortunately be out of the country on that date, so the trip has had to be postponed until after August. As there are still a few places left for interested scribes, would anyone else wanting to go please let him know within the next few weeks (Yat 873378).

WEA HISTORY PROJECT

by Michael Holroyd

The WEA Yateley History Project will be starting again on Wednesday 28 September at 8.00 pm in Room A.1.5. and will welcome new members. I shall be pleased to provide further information to anyone who may be interested.

I realise that some Society members with an active interest in Yateley's history may not wish to commit themselves to joining the WEA group, and for them I am suggesting a project on the history of Yateley Common. This would be a study in landscape history and would aim to interpret what is visible on the ground today and relate it to the documentary evidence. At the History group meeting on Thursday 14 July I should like to try to pool our current knowledge and find out how many members would be interested in taking this suggestion further.

A RECORD FOR YATELEY

National headlines are not usually Yateley's lot. The town hit the headlines of one national newspaper just recently however. "43lb CARP! - PICTURE EXCLUSIVE" roared the headline of the Angling Times of 22 June 1983. The biggest carp for 30 years had been caught...in Yateley. The news even got as far as Radio 4. The fish, a Mirror Carp, was caught by Mr Graham Mountain of Portsmouth at the Tri-lakes on Yateley's border with Berkshire. It came within a whisker of breaking the previous British record of 44 lb, and had been attracted by a bait of boiled cat food. After being photographed the monster was returned and is presumably still enjoying the clear waters of the former gravel pit. Why it should have grown so big is a mystery.

AND ANOTHER GRAVEL PIT

Hall Aggregates have won a Restoration Award for the former gravel pit at Mill Lane, Yateley. Given by the Sand and Gravel Association, this is one of 15 awards in 1982 and the only one given in Hampshire. A small island has been created in the lake whose gently graded banks have been given hillocks planted with poplar, oak and elder. The resulting scene is pleasantly restful. The Society's Ecology group has been studying the pattern and growth of the plants recolonizing the area until very recently when the lake was sold.

BCA TO BLACKBUSHE?

by Ted Brooks

The Public Inquiry into Hart District Council's rejection of a planning application by British Car Auctions to move their activities from Frimley Bridges to Blackbushe has now finished, without any participation by The Society.

Since this is the first Inquiry into matters affecting Yateley at which we have had no strong representations since The Society was formed, it is perhaps necessary to explain why this area of such major concern to so many people in Yateley was seemingly ignored. First and foremost reason for the decision was that several meetings held to formulate a Society policy on BCA's proposals have shown that we have almost as many views as we have members. This being the case, it seemed that despite the Executive Committee being constitutionally empowered to adopt a policy, it would have been morally wrong to do so at this stage. Secondly, the reason for Hart's refusal was that the proposal would be contrary to the District Plan policy that there should be no intensification of use at Blackbushe Airport. This Society could not possibly argue against such a policy and it seemed therefore that any ensuing dispute on whether the proposals did or did not constitute such intensification of use should be resolved with The Society as a neutral observer.

By adopting this neutral position we are in a situation whereby, if BC.'s appeal is upheld by the Department of the Environment, your Society will be able to enter into the detail planning stage and so help to obtain the best conditions for the people of Yateley.

REVISIONS TO THE NEW HANTS STRUCTURE PLAN

by Ted Brooks

Hampshire County Council have now published their proposed revisions to the Structure Plan for our area. These proposals have been studied in detail and in The Society's response, which had to be in by 4 July, once again we argue strongly that Yateley should have no further major housing development. The problems arising from the fast and concentrated growth of Yateley during the past twenty years are known to all who live in Yateley and at the very least detailed studies of these problems must be undertaken before further growth is considered.

WESTFIELDS CAMPUS FETE

This will be all day on Saturday 9 July and The Society will use part of the May Day display to publicise our interests and activities.

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME: JULY - SEPTEMBER 1983

Saturday	9 July	Fete	Yateley Schools Association Westfields Campus, School Lane	All day
Thursday	14 July	History	Discussion of History of Yateley Common project, 7.30 pm, Youth Suite, Yateley Centre.	
Saturday	16 July	BARBECUE	8.00 pm Monteagle House, Monteagle Lane, See Newsletter.	
Tuesday	19 July	Executive Committee Meeting		
Wednesday	20 July	Ecology	Castle Bottom Field Study, 7.00 pm. Meet at grid ref SU787589 on the B3016, 400yds north of the A30. Wellingtons required.	
Thursday	21 July	Walk	<u>Evening tour of Frogmore and Darby Green</u> , 7.30pm Led by Gordon Harland. Meet at St Barnabus Church.	
Wednesday	27 July	Ecology	Rowhill Nature Reserve, 7.30 pm. With Camberley Nat Hist Soc. Meet at grid ref SU849499, on the B3008, 100 yds east of the A325.	
Thursday	28 July	Ecology	Monthly meeting, 7.30 pm. Little Acre, Brandy Bottom. Mary Robins, Yat 873374.	
Thursday	4 Aug	Planning/ Conservation	Monthly meeting, 8.00 pm. Lime Tree Cottage, Chandlers Lane. Valerie Kerslake 872249.	
Sunday	7 Aug	Walk	<u>Wildflowers on the Common</u> , 2.30 pm. Led by Valerie Kerslake. Meet at the carpark off Vigo Lane on the south side near junction with Cricket Hill Lane.	
Thursday	11 Aug	History	No monthly meeting.	
Thursday	18 Aug	Ecology	Walk in Yateley Heath Wood, 7.30 pm. Led by Chris Rose. Meet grid ref SU791580, 400 yds south of the A30.	
Sunday	21 Aug	Walk	Arranged by Hampshire County Council, 2.30 pm. Meet at Wyndhams Pool, Yateley Common.	
Saturday	27 Aug	CANAL TRIP/PICNIC, 2.30 pm, Details in Newsletter.		
Thursday	1 Sept	Planning/ Conservation	Monthly meeting, 8.00 pm, Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre	
Sunday	4 Sept	Visit	<u>Tour of Selborne</u> , 2.30 pm. Led by Edward Dawson, Phone Yat 877458 for details.	

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Autumn Term 1983

Regular Thursday meetings commence 8 Sept.

Thursday	8 Sept	History	Monthly meeting, 7.30 pm, Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre
Thursday	22 Sept	"Introduction to Yateley" course begins at Frogmore Centre. 5 weeks at £5 for the course. The Society again offers this introduction to the History, Ecology, Archaeology, Planning and Conservation of Yateley. Enrolment night <u>Monday 5 September</u> at Frogmore Centre.	
Sunday	2 Oct	FUNGAL FORAY	2.00 pm Wyndhams Pool, Yateley Common. Led by Mike Waterman and joint with Hants & IOW Nat Trust.