THE YAT' LEY SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER No 17 February/March 1984

Editor E J Tipton 873378

Dear Member

1983 Annual General Meeting

The Annual Report, circulated to all members, will have given a clear picture of the achievements and growth of The Society during 1983. The Society s Third AGM, held on 96 January, was consequently well attended, with several welcome new faces also present. The debate on the proposed Motions concerning the Royal Oak Valley and the Gypsy Site was especially lively and the evening concluded with the usual genial refreshment and chat period.

The death of Maj-Gen Brown during 1883 and the resignation of Fdward Dawson from the chairmanship 'a position he has held since The Society's inception) heralded changes in the Society's structure. It seemed fitting that Edward should be asked to become a Vice-President, to which he consented. We are happy that Sydney Loader, for so long the custodian of Yateley history, remains as the other Vice-President.

The Society's elected officers for 1934 are as follows

Chairman Edward Brooks Vice-Chairman Paul Reavley Treasurer Richard Earnshaw Secretary vacant

Because of work pressures John Barker has had to relinquish the Secretary's position but will continue to act in that capacity until the Executive can fill the vacancy.

The eight elected Executive Members are

John Barker Michael Holroyd
Irene Draper Valerie Kerslake
Geoff Hoare Caroline Powell
Tony Hocking Fergus Russell

Full details of Exective, sub-committee and co-opted members are appended to this Newsletter, together with the names of all others who directly aid the Society's smooth running.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Ted Brooks

As "he Society enters another year, it seems appropriate to review the progress we have made over the last three years and to consider the way ahead.

Under the able leadership of our first chairman, Edward Dawson, we have grown from the 67 trusting souls who enrolled at the inaugural meeting back in 1981 to a membership of 200. We have built a reputation for being a source of informed advice, opinion and reasoned argument on matters of local history, nature study, conservation, planning and other environmental issues, and we are now regarded as a

consultative body for many such matters where they concern Yiteley and some of its surrounding neighbours.

This situation has been achieved not by any ready-made experts, with the exception of Susan and Edward Dawson who are professional ecologists, but by many members who have found new interests in learning about, say, the ways in which public records can be used to trace the past—the importance of ecosystems in maintaining the balance of nature—the ways in which strategic planning and development controls should work—and the ways in which Queen's Counsels can use procedures to press their clients' cases at public inquiries.

In seeking to achieve the primary objective of The Society - the study, conservation and improvement of the environment in which we live - we learn as we go and in the learning try to offer a varied programme to stimulate the interest of all our members.

In the short term we will be reviewing and commenting on the current modifications to the Structure Plan for North East Hampshire, which will determine development of our area into the early 1000 s- and reviewing the Development Brief for Montagle Farm which, by bringing an additional 400 houses to Yateley, will have major impact for us all. We shall be conducting necessary tree and scrub clearance on the common, under the direction of the Common Warden, before the nesting season begins. We again plan to carry out pond clearance work in Chandler's Lane as a contribution to the Best Kept Fallage competition. Our contribution to the May Fayre is being planned and our Public Lecture Programme will resume in March with Gilbert White and Selborne as a topic to entice even those of us with only a casual interest in nature.

In the longer term we plan to commence work on a small publication covering the development of Yateley- that we have, and why. We must consider making input to the studies now being conducted by Hart District and Yateley Town Council into possible improvements for Yateley Town Centre. A number of Yateley's older houses are thought to meet the criteria for listing to safeguard against indiscriminate demolition, and historical research is needed to verify this. A joint history and natural history study of the common is planned, as are a number of film evenings on matters of general interest.

These, however, are our ideas. What we would like to hear are your ideas. Why not come along to the regular Thursday meetings, where you will always find a warm welcome, and tell us what you would like from your Society.

Finally, it is fitting to note that by its nature The Society must seek to influence many events as they affect Yateley. The stronger our membership, the stronger will be this influence. Have you mentioned The Society to your friends and neighbours, particularly new neighbours? Please spread the word and help to achieve our very modest target of 250 members by the end of 134.

YOUR SUB DUE?

The Red Dot is your reminder that your 1984 subscription is now due! Memberships falling due during the year are personally notified by the Membership Secretary, but with over 50% of memberships renewable in January, Geoff Hoare cannot remind you all individually. January subscriptions actually are due at the January AGM, but the Treasurer reports he has received very few 1984 renewal fees. Since it must be confessed that several members of the Executive are guilty of the same omission, please, like them pay up speedily if you wish to remain members of The Society.

Only 21 memberships have lapsed during 1983 and since the majority of those represent people who have left the district, The Society's numbers s till increase. As Ted Brooks has indicated above, The Society's scope is constantly widening as its experience grows. Already there are indications that 1984 could be an especially fruitful year with very evident achievements.

Membership fees remain the same

Adult £3.50 Joint Adult £5.00 Junior £1.50
Life £50.00 Joint Life £65.00 Corporate £10.00

Please Note All payments for the time being must be sent to the Treasurer, Richard Earnshaw, 1 Bridge Walk, Yateley (Yat 975970).

Please do not send them to the Membership Secretary who is also being made homeless through one of Yateley's recurrent problems, subsidence, and will not be able to deal with envelopes put through his door for some time:

MARCH PUBLIC LECTURE

by Fergus Russell

Thursday 22 March Yateley Centre Room C.1.1 "GILBERT WHITE AND SELBORNE" by Robert Storrar

Selborne, a few miles south of Alton, was the birth-place and home of Gilbert White, the great naturalist. The Wakes, where he wrote "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne" published in 178), is a memorial library and museum to Gilbert White and also to Captain Oates who died on Scott's Antarctic Expedition in 1912. Overlooking the village broods the Hangar, a steep beech-covered hill owned by the National Trust here Gilbert White often wandered as do many walkers today.

A few words about the lecturer - Robert Storrar. He is Vice-Chairman (formerly Chairman) of The Selborne Society and does a weekly stint of duty at The Wakes. He has lived in the village since he retired from Wellington College where he was Head of the Modern Languages Department for many years and a Tutor (Housemaster) too. A man of wide interests which he pursues in depth, in music (opera in particular), architecture, the arts in general, botany too, he can also frolic in Selborne dramatic ventures and in the past has enlivened many Gilbert and Sullivan productions and the occasional Wellington Common Room Revue. He certainly does not lack a sense of humour.

So if you already know something about Gilbert White, do come and hear what Robert Storrar has to say. If like me you know very little - and know me very little - do come and be enlightened. Non-members are always very welcome (60p at the door). Since I have, rashly perhaps, agreed to arrange public lectures for the next year or two, I'm naturally anxious to have a good turnout for the first of my series. NB Lectures will now commence at 8.00pm.

HEATHER SOWING

by Valeria Kerslake

We have been sowing on the common, hoping to re-establish it on the long bare scar where the water main was laid last summer. There have been several sorties - one with press escort as may have been observed by readers of the "Yateley News" - and we have covered about two hundred metres of the fifteen-metre wide strip. Sowing takes no time at all gathering seed from heather elsewhere is a much slower business and cannot be left too late in the winter or the flower heads will have already dropped their seed. Heather grows slowly, so even if it 'takes' and is not then destribed by motor bikes there will not be much to see for three or four years.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

At our January meeting we looked at Mary Robin's slides taken on a memorable visit to Noar Hill led by Arthur Jollands. (It is hoped to make a return visit to Noar Hill in June or July.) A series of unlabelled slides of plants, insects and fungi, lent by Sue Hailes, tested our skill at identification and found it lacking in places. Thanks also to Mike Waterman and Chris Rose for providing colour photographs.

Those of you who regularly feed the birds in your garden may have noticed numbers of quarrelling blackbirds. One member of the group noted that territorial disputes were breaking out early in January. Also recorded during January a white cockatiel (male) seen on Yateley Common. Not a bird to be seen on our bird tables. If you keep records of birds visiting your garden we should very much like to hear from you.

Geoff Hoare has kindly agreed to take photographs of the Royal Oak Valley and the Common. We have begun to collect photographs of species and habitats if you have any that might be suitable, especially of the common, we should be delighted to receive them or pay for copies. Any material from magazines would also be most acceptable.

Those of you who attended the AGM will be aware of our concern over work being carried out in the Royal Oak Valley. At our meeting on Thursday 19 April we will discuss events to date, the continuation of our survey started in 1982, and The Society's involvement in monitoring future maintenance work. In May, June and July we hope to arrange outdoor meetings, weather permitting, one of which will be to the Royal Oak Valley. The other two will be to the common.

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone coming to our meetings. Should you have travelling problems, or he unsure of our meeting place, please contact me on Yateley 870470.

FROM OUR URBAN CORRESPONDANT

"Oh Really, Which One?"

by John Preedy

At times bird watching can be keenly competitive, as you strive against the experts to see the most species, while horizontal rain drives across the marshes and soaks your binoculars. At other times it can be a relaxing stroll, with pale spring sunshine filtering through the treetops, their leaves just breaking from the bud, while you watch pied flycatchers darting about amongst the oaks on a Welsh hillside. With the right people, on the right day, it can be a pleasant social event when, between observations, you can catch up on the gossip. Such a day was a recent Friday.

Since moving to London, apart from the kestrels resting on the tower block opposite the windows of our flat, bird watching for us has involved an expedition. Our friends in Yateley also have to migrate to see coastal creatures so we met at Farlington Marshes near Portsmouth. For the end of December it was bright, calm and relatively warm. It was going to be a good day.

Meeting the warden, an off note was struck.

"Have you booked?" he enquired.

Our hesitant response caused him to explain further.

"If you are an organised party you should have booked."

We told him that we were a group of friends not an official party and set off around the sea wall. Pausing to identify the waders and Ann's red breasted merganser, but lingering longer at the lagoon where the wildfowl congregate, Liz and I were congratulating ourselves on our progress at being able to distinguish between species. Only a year or two before we had been struggling with Andrew Cleaves' slides at the WEA course and they kept still! Suddenly a cry went up, "Look at the owl!" Sure enough an owl was flying elegantly up and down over the long grass on the other side of the lagoon. The sun was at just the right angle and the large bird gave us beautiful views of its outstretched wings as it twisted and turned and almost hovered in its hunting flight. "What is it?" I asked. "It's a short-eared owl," everyone chorused.
"How do you know that?" I enquired, revealing my ignorance but being impressed with the unusual degree of agreement on the identification. "Can't you see it has one ear shorter than the other?", teased Jack. When it had flown from sight Mary explained that short-eared owls are the only ones which hunt by day on the marshes. By the end of the day we had 39 species in Helen's book, or 40 if you counted the water pipit, and as we passed the Warden, who was still in the same place, sitting on the bonnet of his car, he asked Jack what he had seen. "We saw a short-eared owl," said Jack, considering it to be the best bird of the day. "Oh really, which one?" It was my turn to smile as Jack Hesitated and racked his brains for some rare overlooked sub-species of the short-eared owl. "Did it have a dark or a light back?" added the Warden helpfully. Again Jack hesitated while I, having never seen one before, maintained a dignified silence. "Well we thought it had one ear shorter than the other," said Melenie, thinking someone should say something. While I stifled a guffaw he patiently explained that there were five on the marsh at the moment two with light backs, two with dark backs, such variations being typical, and one with several damaged flight feathers. Well never mind. We thought we had done well to see just one and here was the expert who could practically identify them individually. Still we all agreed that the next time someone tells us that they have seen a short-eared owl over the marshes we would know what to say! LOCAL HISTORY GROUP by Michael Holroyd On Thursday 8 March Jean McIlwaine will be showing slides of old Yateley, including a number of recently added to The Society's collection. On Thursday 12 April there will be a joint meeting of the Local History and Natural History Groups. Both groups have projects concerning Yateley Common, and the meeting will enable members of each group to hear what the others are doing. We can then discuss any possible correlations or joint activities. We expect this to be a particularly interesting evening with much of general appeal. Do come along if you can. On Saturday 7 April the Hampshire Field Club is holding a symposium in Southampton on nineteenth-century towns in Hampshire, including lectures on Southampton, Romsey, Basingstoke and Bournemouth. The cost of attending is £4 excluding lunch. one wishing to go should let me know by Monday 26 March. (Yat 872439). HRO PROGRESS by Peter Tipton Ten members of the Local History Group visited the Hampshire Record Office in

November to copy ownership records and field names from the Crondal manorial Court Books. Yateley is particularly lucky that these records, a hangover from feudal times, can be used to trace the ownership of houses and farms for about 700 years right until manorial copy holdings became freeholdings in this century. One objective is to abstract all the records from 1250 back to 1775. We hope to catch exchanges of title for every single property in Yateley at least once. Using these abstracts, together with Michael Holroyd's Tithe Map, we shall be able to locate the farms and cottages listed in the famous Crondal Customary of 1567. We shall be using the ancient field names, some of which derive from the surnames of Yateley villagers mentioned in the Rental made in 1207 for the Prior of St. Swithin's monastery in Winchester.

The 1567 Customary is an extremely important document for Yateley. Not only does it mention the common rights then enjoyed by all the villagers (and still enjoyed by about 40 of us), it also surveys all the properties, giving the copyholders' names and all the fields with their ancient names and their acreages. Last year the WEA course did sterling work analysing the Customary and all the Wills in the HRO still existing from Elizabeth I's reign. Coincidentally I have been studying the tax records of former Yateley residents, including those in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. We therefore already know a substantial amount about the Elizabethan villagers but we do not know yet where they lived in relation to the modern streets and landmarks of Yateley.

Each Yat Soc scribe was responsible for one court book of about 300 folios (pages) and, according to experience and the type of property encountered, between a tenth and a quarter of each of the ten books was abstracted. Which properties we came across was therefore a matter of chance, but as luck would have it practically all were in Darby Green, Frogmore and Potley Hill, areas we had not touched before. Amazingly we found almost the complete succession of Hilfield, Darby Green Farm and Wheelers Farm in Darby Green.

At the time of the Tithe Map in 1046 Hilfield was a very large estate owned by Henry Browne Mason. We found that he had obtained it from B.G. Rouviere, Esq. in 1834. The area extended from Cricket Hill to Stroude Pool and included Wicks Field, Staplins Cottage and what is now Cottage Farm. The previous owner had been John Limbrey, who purchased the major part on 26 September 173° and William Paynter who amassed the southern part including Stroude Pool between 1712 and 1731. One of the ancient names of the latter farm was 'Atmeads' and from this we deduce that the Elizabethan copyholder was John Goodinge. We can go even further back, to 1287, when Alice Goodynge jointly held 16 acres with William le White, plus half an acre of encroachment in la Strode.

The WEA team have found that the largest farm in Elizabethan times belonged to Nicholas Geale, who had three sons, Richard, William and John, all of whom held property in Yateley in 1567. We now find that it was Richard Geale who inherited what we now call Hilfield, eventually owned by the Stilwell family and known as "Yateley Place.' In Elizabethan times it was called 'Lanys'. There is a memorial brass dated 1608 to Richard Geale and his wife Elizabeth in Sandhurst Church.

For Darby Green Farm we traced the ownership from Bartholomew Arlett through his son of the same name to the Rev. Frederick Augustus Glover of Blackwater. The latter gentleman unfortunately forfeited the property when he was not able to pay his mortgage of £1000, owed jointly to William Pain of Micheldever and Charles Pain of Bishops Sutton. This was on 24 July 1847. On 10 September 1847 the two Pains sold some of the land to the Reading Guildford and Reigate Railway Company to build the line between Sandhurst and Blackwater stations. Intriguing, isn't it?

We plan to make about five more visits to Winchester. Some of the November volunteers had never before visited a record office or done any local history. If you are interested in joining in we will show you what to do and you'll soon get the hang of it. The next visit to the HRO will be on Saturday

3 March, from 0.00am until noon. If you are interested please give me a ring on Yateley 873387.

NORTH HANTS NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE

The National Trust is holding a public meeting at the Haymarket Theatre, Wote Street, Basingstoke, Hants on Wednesday 25 April at 7.30pm, when a panel of regional speakers will be giving illustrated talks about the management and development of Trust properties in Hampshire, with particular reference to The Vyne. It is hoped that some of those attending the meeting will be interested in helping to start 2 much-needed North Hampshire Centre for the Trust. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance from Mrs. Anita Bain, Polesden Lacey, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6BD enclosing s.a.e. please.

GREEN BELT DEBATE

Friends of the Earth have drawn our attention to a public meeting they are arranging at the Carnival Hall, Fleet on Wednesday 7 March, when their national countryside campaigner, Charles Secrett, will speak on the Green Belt, the countryside and the threat of development. Meeting commences &pm.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England have arranged "a major one-day conference" in central London on Saturday 24 March. Entitled "London and the Future of the Green Belt" the conference will be able to question the Secretary of State for the Environment directly, following the Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin's address to the meeting. The afternoon session will include an all-party parliamentary panel of spokesmen on the environment. The conference will take place at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SWIA 2HE from 10.15am for 10.45am until 4.15pm. The registration fee is £5.50 per head, including lunch. Further details from Elizabeth Tipton.

"SPINNERS OF SILK"

Is the title of an illustrated talk being given for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalist Trust. Dick Jones, author of the recently published book "Country Life Guide to Spiders of Britain and N Europe" will talk about the behaviour of the British spider. The talk is at 8.00pm at the Carnival Hall, Fleet Civic Centre on Tuesday 27 March. Admission 50p, children and OAP's 25p.

ROWHILL NATURE RESERVE

The Rowhill Nature Reserve Society are opening a new Nature Trail and have invited Yateley Society members to be present at the ceremony which starts at 10.30am on Saturday 14 April. Turn left off the A325 from Aldershot on the way to Farnham, on to Cranmore Lane The Reserve is then just to the right.

MAY FAYRE

News comes hotfoot from the organisers' first meeting that the arena and stalls layout will be as of last year but there will not be any general theme. The Society plans to have a double site again, with roughly the same layout. Ideas for the exhibition part of the enclosure are simmering away and we should like to be able to repeat our fund-raising sales, which as the Annual Accounts will have shown you, were very worthwhile. The members of the Social Committee have

agreed to be the nucleus of the sales force but they will need good strong support from many more members than helped last year. Unfortunately this Newsletter is going out before the first meeting of the PR Committee which will agree on the range of goods to be offered for sale, but the Ed will stick out her neck and guess that they will be largely homebaked goods of a limited range and style so that we can offer them in reasonable quantities. None of the recipes are likely to be complicated but we do need firm offers of help soon in order to plan production lines. Please, if you will be able to help bake and/or pack, contact Caroline Powell, 57 Bartons Drive (Yat 875706) NOW!

We shall also need offers of help to man the stall throughout the day with enough volunteers the duty periods need not be long. Please contact Tony Hocking (Yat 875158) if you can help man the enclosure. It will be wind and weatherproof, as last year, so you may be glad to 'officially' shelter while you do a stint to help The Society.

AMENITY WORKOUT

As an opening contribution to Yateley's bid for the Best Kept Village accolade, the conservation workforce will again tackle the pond area of Chandler's Lane. First assault will be on <u>Sunday 18 March at 10.30am</u>. Rendezvous in the lane by the pond and come equipped with bow saws, strong secateurs, tough gloves and willing muscles. If you've never seen how much can be achieved in a short time by cheerful workers, come and join us and win a glow of satisfaction.

ADVERTISEMENT: Fresh Goat's Milk

Available daily at 50 pence per litre from Valerie Kerslake, Yat £72240.

FD'S APOLOGY for the two-week gap in the Programme/Diary, due to conflict of school holidays with reproduction system for Newsletter.

Copy date for next Newsletter Sunday 1 April.

YATELEY SOCIETY - OFFICERS and MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 1984

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Sydney Loader

Edward Dawson

CHAIRMAN

Edward Brooks

14 Tolpuddle Way, Yateley

(Yat 874962)

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Paul Reavley

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(Yat 875768)

HON TREASURER

Richard Earnshaw

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(Yat 875270)

HON SECRETARY

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John Barker

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(Yat 875445)

Irene Draper

22 Lawford Crescent, Yateley

(Yat 870470)

Geoff Hoare

1 Blakes Ride, Yateley

(Yat 572948)

Tony Hocking

30 Connaught Close, Yateley

(Yat 875158)

Michael Holroyd

Firgrove Farm Cottage,

Firgrove Road, Eversley

(Yat 872439)

Valerie Kerslake

Lime Tree Cottage,

Chandlers Lane, Yateley

(Yat 772240)

Caroline Powell

57 Bartons Drive, Yateley

(Yat 875706)

Forgus Russell

Shane Cottage, Vicarage Road,

(Yat 872133)

PUBLIC RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman Secretary Tony Hocking Julia Vincent

Press Offr

Margaret Taylor*

Newsletter Membership Elizabeth Tipton*

Geoff Hoare

SOCIAL EVENTS

Chairman Secretary

Member

John Barker Caroline Powell Maisie Hoare

*these are co-opted Executive members

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NATURAL HISTORY Ir ne Draper (Yat 870470)

PLANNING Edward Brooks (Yat 874362)

SECRETARY TO PLANNING GROUP Christine Heckscher

COMMONS & RIGHTS OF Michael Holroyd WAY OFFICER

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Mary Hocking 30 Connaught Close

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MEETINGS CO-ORDINATOR Pat Tattersall 25 Connaught Close Yateley (278027)

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SCRAPBOOK RECORD Stephanie Pattenden 26 Home Park Road, Yateley (Yat 874904)

WALKS Michael Holroyd

Executive Committee Meetings

Members wishing to raise items for discussion by the Executive should contact Ted Brooks at least one week before Executive meetings. The dates of Executive meetings are given in the Programme.

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME MARCH - APRIL 1984

Thursday	l Mar	Planning	Monthly meeting 8.00pm R om C.1.3 Yateley Centre Discussion of Amendments to N-E Hants Structure Plan and Monteagle Farm development brief.
Thursday	8 Mar	History	Pictures of Old Yateley slides shown by Jean McIlwaine 7.30pm Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre
Saturday	10 Mar	Walk	Heath Warren and Eversley Church a 2-mile walk led by Irene Draper. Meet at 2.30pm in carpark on N side of Eversley/Bramshill Road, where the r lon line crosses it (SU 760613)
Thursday	15 Mar	Natural History	Natural History Miscellany slides shown by Tony Hocking. After coffee there will be discussion of group's contribution to May Fayre expo. 7.30pm Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre
Sunday	18 Mar		Pond Clearance, Chandlers Lane 10.30am.
Monday	19 Mar	Executive	Committee Shane Cottage 7.30pm.
Thursday	22 Mar	LECTURE	"GILBERT WHITE AND SELBORNE" by Robert Storrar See Newsletter for full details 8.00pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre NB new time
Thursday	20 Mar		May Fayre Workshop Room C.1.3 8pm Yateley Centre
Sunday	1 April	Walk	Canalside Walk about 3 miles, engineering and natural history interest, led by Tony and Mary Hocking. Meet at 2.30rm at Curzon Bridge, Deepcut (east of Frimley, over canal) SU920564. NB Bridge is closed to vehicles and must be approached from side, from 33012. Ample parking up side road.
Thursday	5 April	Planning/ Conservn	Monthly meeting 8.00pm Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre
Thursday	19 April	History & Natural History	Joint g roup meeting. Yateley Common project discussn See Newsletter for datails. All welcome 7.30pm Room C.1.3 Yateley Centre
Saturday	14 April		Rowhill Nature Reserve - Opening of new Nature Trial Society members invited to opening 10.30am Reserve is on A325 between Aldershot and Farnham, turn at Cranmore Lane (SU 848499).
Monday	16 April	Executive	Committee meeting
Thursday	19 April	Natural History	Royal Oak Valley discussion. This meeting will be held at Valerie Kerslake's, Lime Tree Cottage, Chandlers Lane at 7.30pm.
Thursday	26 April	No meeting	(Half-term, school closed).