

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 21
January 1985

Editor: E J Tipton (873378)

Dear Member

Finding this letter on your doormat you may well wonder why you received a separate Notice for The Society AGM only some ten days previously. What is the Executive doing? Why not send everything out in one go?

The answer lies in the Agenda to the AGM which has as Item 10, "Proposed Amendment to The Society's Constitution." You may or may not recall that proposed alterations to our Constitution must be notified to members 28 days before the AGM date. Consequently all members should have received the Notice by 3 January.

Complying with the requirements of the Constitution can be awkward. Constraints, in this case the Christmas holiday period, can often set a committee almost impossible deadlines. It would be 'easier' not to embark upon a course which places such demands upon people. Why should a committee accept such pressures? The answer to that is in the nature of our Society, which is based on orderly and regulated procedure, yet must be able to respond to changing and accelerating commitments.

Paradoxically, as the membership of The Society increases, so too do problems of remoteness. The Executive can no longer recognise every member's name and face, nor can increasing numbers of members recognise all of the Executive Committee. The Annual General Meeting affords a special chance for us to meet face to face and exchange ideas. The Executive needs to find a way to tap talents and goodwill more directly. One avenue may be through the suggested Amendment.

You are asked to consider carefully the implications of this proposal and come to the AGM ready to put your thoughts into words. The issue seems simple and straightforward but there are valid arguments against such a step. It will be for the Meeting to decide.

PATTERN FOR '85

Following the idea mooted in the October Newsletter - that regular general meetings should be added to the pattern of monthly Group meetings of The Society - the Executive decided at their December meeting that the Planning and Conservation meeting, usually held on the first Thursday of the month, could make way for such general meetings.

The Planning sub-committee is small and can and does confer by telephone. The major planning issue of 1985 is likely to be the Yateley Town Centre Plan. Representatives from The Society have already taken part in two preliminary discussions of "interest groups" convened by Hart District Council. The minutes of the second of those discussions have now been deemed confidential by Hart planners, for reasons best known to themselves, and the publication of the Draft Plan is now awaited. The Society's response to the proposed Plan will need special attention and extra time but the majority of planning

applications in Yateley do not need comment. All planning applications will continue to be studied by the sub-committee. Any applications needing to be drawn to members' attention will be mentioned at the beginning of the new general meeting each month.

This meeting will, for the first six months, take place on the first Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in Room C.1.1 at the Yateley Centre. Generally there will be a short informal talk and/or slide show, or a short film, to provide the departure point for discussion. But the real aim is for us to be able to chat informally about topics of general local interest. In this way we can generate ideas for projects, perhaps for specific events such as the May Fayre, while at the same time providing a regular evening for members to air their views and hear at first hand what others are thinking.

The first of these new sessions will be on Thursday 7 February when Geoff Hoare will show us slides he has taken of "St Peter's Cottage" (alias Ye Old Vicarage). The recent roof repairs exposed timbers and wall structure and several new puzzles have been posed about the building. Its position, so close to the church, suggests an ancient site but the proof of such antiquity is frequently difficult to find.

The second evening will be on Thursday 7 March when we hope you will be able to see a short film entitled "Look, Love and Preserve" made by the Sevenoaks Society. Made about 17 years ago, the film makes a partial record of Sevenoaks as it was then, sketches the historical background of the more notable buildings, and encourages a more critical and appreciative look at the town with the aim of improving future planning. That should provide we Yateley-ites with plenty to comment upon!

These general evenings are an experiment and it is hoped that they will appeal to the large proportion of our membership who have broad local interests.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SPONTANEOUS CONSERVATION

by Valerie Kerslake

As well as the dates for conservation work announced in the Newsletter (and the "Yateley News") we sometimes need to fix up one at short notice for a particular project. It is then necessary to pass the word around rather quickly to people who we think might participate. If you would like to be informed of these occasions please let me know, and don't feel abashed if you are not going to be free and have to say no.

Non-members too are very welcome for conservation tasks; there is always more than enough to do. The telephone number to call is 872240.

PLANNING: CHURCH v. STATE

by Geoff Hoare

Although most churches are listed buildings they are exempt from the requirements of the 1968 Town and Country Planning Act as far as alterations to the structure are concerned. (New buildings are subject to planning controls.) This results from the Church of England's decision in 1913 not to participate in the legislation for the preservation of ancient monuments but to make its own financial arrangements for the upkeep of its churches.

This present exemption does not mean that individual churches can carry out building works without restriction since they are in fact subject to "faculty jurisdiction." Briefly this means a church has to apply for a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which is staffed largely by architects and usually includes an archaeologist. This committee can grant a Certificate of Exemption in the case of a simple alteration. In the case of major works, or those liable to cause objection, the application must be forwarded for consideration and the hearing of any outside objections to the Consistory Court, which is presided over by a High Court judge.

However now that the decision has been made to grant state aid to churches, the question has again been raised whether churches should still be exempt from state control.

In his editorial in the latest issue of "Current Archaeology" Mr A Selkirk turns this suggestion on its head. He quite rightly states that since 1968 our historic towns and landscapes have taken their worst battering in history and the question should be not whether the Church should be drawn into the present state system, but whether the State should change over to the Church system. Might not judicial control be preferable to local government control?

HISTORY GROUP

by Michael Holroyd

On Thursday 10 January Derek Doherty gave an illustrated talk on "Yateley, Hawley and Cove in the Middle Ages." Derek was the author of the WEA Yateley History Project's first publication and a contributor to the second. He is particularly interested in landscape history and drew special attention to the evidence for local common-field agriculture. He also described a medieval document which gives some information about the population of Yateley after the Black Death.

The meeting on Thursday 14 February will be a joint one with the Natural History and Conservation groups (see below.)

On Thursday 14 March Dr John Porter, the WEA History Tutor, will give a talk on "Discovering Old Buildings in North-East Hampshire." This will be based on a recent publication in which Dr Porter describes the distribution of surviving old houses locally, the materials used in their construction, and the characteristic features of buildings of different periods. Old buildings are one of the main topics of investigation by The Society and this talk will provide a good introduction to the subject.

HISTORY/NATURAL HISTORY/CONSERVATION MEETING

by Michael Holroyd

On Thursday 14 February there will be a joint meeting of these three sections of The Society to discuss Yateley Common. We shall concentrate on the vegetation of the Common and how it has changed in response to the activities of man and other animals. Our aim will be to bring together evidence of different kinds - maps, memories, photographs and documents - and see how this fits in with general accounts of the effects of various factors on heathland vegetation. The three Society groups are broadly concerned with the past, present and future of the Common, and we hope to be able to fit these aspects together and perhaps draw some practical conclusions. Please note that this meeting will be held in Meeting Room 3 in Yateley Village Hall. You will find the room upstairs in the renovated building. The main entrance to the building is from the carpark at the rear of the building.

GROUP MEETINGS - YATELEY VILLAGE HALL

With the re-opening for hiring of Yateley Village Hall in February, the monthly meetings of the History and Natural History groups will move from Room B.2.3 in Yateley Centre to Meeting Room 3 upstairs in the Village Hall complex. It is hoped the size and character of the room will be more congenial to the nucleus of members who meet regularly in these groups.

The new carparking area on the site will not be completed until the latter part of March, but there should be sufficient room to park on the existing tarmacadam. Cars should not be parked in Old School Lane, and the building should be entered from the carpark through the Main Entrance. The Hall lies on Old School Lane and is reached from Macrae Road which can be entered either from Hall Lane or from Firgrove Road.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

by Irene Draper

On Thursday 17 January Ann Kingston, Yateley Society member and keen ornithologist, will talk about birds, those that remain with us during the winter and winter visitors; what birds are around and where to see them. After Ann's talk there will be an informal discussion on attracting birds to your garden, feeding them during the winter, nesting boxes - the best ones to use and where to site them. This meeting will be in Room B.2.3 at Yateley Centre.

The Walk on Sunday 3 February will also concentrate on birds, this time those found at this time of year on Fleet Pond. We shall meet at 10.30am at the carpark by the Pond (Grid ref 825554).

On Thursday 14 February there will be the joint meeting with the History and Conservation groups to discuss Yateley Common (see above.)

If you missed Robert Guest's slides of butterflies last year, there is a second chance to see them as well as new slides taken last summer, on Thursday 21 March. After the slides we will have a general discussion on butterflies - which ones were around in '84, which are the best local places to see butterflies and what to grow in your garden to attract them.

The April meeting on Thursday 18 April will be a general discussion evening when it is hoped individuals of groups of members will talk about their particular interests and activities. We will also look at the colour slides taken in the Royal Oak Valley during 84/85. As mentioned above, the meetings from February onwards will take place in Meeting Room 3 at Yateley Village Hall, at the usual time of 8.30pm.

CONSERVATION IN PRACTICE

Sunday 20 January
Chandlers Lane Pond
2.15pm

We will attempt to clear Chandlers Lane pond of the rubbish it has gathered since our last efforts and will remove some of the overhanging tree branches. Bring rakes and saws and wear BOOTS.

Sunday 24 February
Goose Green Pond
2.15pm.

An attempt at a second pond clearance. Meet at the junction of Chandlers Lane and Vicarage Road and come equipped as before.

Sunday 24 March
Old Welmore
2.30pm

We will work in the Royal Oak Valley at some
stream clearing. Bring spades and wear boots.

PUBLIC LECTURE PROGRAMME

by Fergus Russell

Thursday 25 April
Green Room

"THE BLACKWATER VALLEY PROJECT

by John Tickle

Yateley Centre
8.00pm

John Tickle is the Project Officer recently appointed to implement this project, which has been in existence since 1976. Three County councils and five District councils together contribute half of Mr. Tickle's salary and with the Countryside Commission also giving grant support, to get the scheme under way clearly needs many skills and much discretion. When completed, the project will be a tangible demonstration of co-operation between local government authorities. The project has been designed to conserve and improve the 15 miles of the Blackwater River Valley, making a long informal leisure area, with footpath access along its entire length, where at present there is much that is unsightly. The talk will be illustrated with many slides and you are urged to come and listen to an excellent speaker explaining at first hand the problems and rewards of the most positively beneficial schemes that our area has ever had.

Thursday 28 Mar
Main Hall
Yateley Centre
8.00pm

"THE WORLD OF ISLAM"

by Peter Willey

You may well ask what has "The World of Islam" got to do with the world of Yateley. The answer is, 'Nothing at all,' but here is a chance to support a type of lecture which, as far as I know, has not been presented in this area before. It was Peter Willey who suggested coming to talk in Yateley and I jumped at the offer, for he is a well established lecturer who for many years was on Foyle's No.1 list of lecturers. His knowledge of the Moslem world is considerable; he had been on 19 expeditions searching for Assassin Castle, mainly in Iran (with strong support from the Shah.) Awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1967 and allowed a sabbatical term from Wellington College, where he was a housemaster, he travelled widely in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Pakistan. On two expeditions he investigated drug peddling and prostitution for the Anti-Slavery Society. He is currently giving a series of lectures in Salisbury on Islamic Art for the British University Department of Extra-Mural Studies. However I can assure you that his approach will not be too academic. He has a great sense of humour and with awareness of the political and economic unrest throughout the Moslem world being forced upon us all, we need to learn from Mr Willey more about the currents which shape a culture very different from our own.

WHAT ON EARTH WAS MR HOPKINS ON ABOUT?

What would the world be, once bereft
Of w ... and w ...? Let them be left

O let them be left, w ... and w
Long live the w ... and the w ... yet.

No prizes, but the desperate can ring 872240.

FINE FEATHERS

courtesy of Jean Mollwaine

Amongst Jean McIlwaine's family papers is a letter written by Charlotte Tigar, second wife to Jean's great-great-great-grandfather, Pennock Tigar. Pennock was one time mayor of Beverley in Yorkshire and as such had to journey to London to present three separate addresses at Court, one to Queen Victoria, one to Prince Albert, and one to the Duchess of Kent.

Charlotte's letter, written in April 1842 when she was about 41 years old and had been married about 15 years, describes how Pennock - resplendent in court dress with white silk stockings, buckles, sword and "Chapeau Bras" - paid his respects. Charlotte then recounts her own presentation:

"The lady of our Member, Mrs. Towneley, upon whom we called, kindly offered to take me to Court, which was an honour I could not resist, though I thought it required some consideration as to the courage I should possess on such an occasion, however, Mr. T. and all my friends urged my accepting the offer so all arrangements were made, my Court Dress ordered and once I thought to write to Mrs T for some of her nice point lace, however, I found that more modern would pass as all descriptions of material was worn. The sight was most splendid, the blare of Diamonds and magnificent costumes worn by the Duchesses, Marchionesses, and ladies of rank was most magnificent. Mr. T. went with me.... As I was presented I had the honour to kiss the Queen's hand; she was splendidly dressed in white Satin, Tulle sprigged with gold, her manner is queenly, her size diminutive, rather pretty, a brilliant white neck, handsome nose, and nice shaped head, her hair plain, feathers and diamonds. As for Prince Albert he stood by her side, he is a very nice looking, drawing-room gentleman. We were about three hours at Court, met with a lady and gentleman whom we knew and several others told me who the individuals of note were, which was very pleasant. I assure you it is a very difficult matter to obtain access to this brilliant scene, as the Queen is very scrupulous, every lady's card has to be seen by her, three days before the Drawing Room, for her approval, and every precaution taken to avoid fraud. I think you (her brother) would not have known me, a plume of white feathers, pearls and lace lappets, white watered silk petticoat, lilac satin train $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards long trimmed with lace, and bouquet of flowers, bare neck and arms which in an old lady like me was exceedingly becoming."

SITUATION VACANT

The Newsletter is looking for a new Editor. Because of private and business commitments the present incumbent is unable to continue editing the Newsletter and is hoping that somebody out there would like to have a go at what is really not a difficult job. Now that the contributors have been trained to hand in their pieces, the Society has its own duplicator, the invaluable services of the stencil typist, Barbara Garrett, are available for some time yet and the distributing system is working smoothly (I hope), it really is a job which only needs inclination - and some spare time. Anyone interested please phone 873378 or discuss it with me at the AGM.

Elizabeth Tipton

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME JANUARY - APRIL 1985

- Thursday 17 Jan Natural History Birds Ann Kingston will talk on winter birds, native and visitors, where to see them, how to attract them during winter.
7.30pm Room B.2.3 Yateley Centre
- Sunday 20 Jan Conservation in Practice: Pond clearance, Chandlers Lane Pond
2.15pm Meet at Chandlers Lane Pond. Boots and tools.
- Thursday 24 Jan May Fayre meeting - initial planning
7.30pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre
- Thursday 31 Jan ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre
- Sunday 3 Feb Walk Winter Birds Ann Kingston will lead a walk around Fleet Pond which has a variety of habitats, open water, reedbeds, mixed woodland and nearby farmland. Cold weather could bring some interesting bird visitors. Meet at 10.30am at Fleet Pond Car Park (Grid ref 825554)
- Thursday 7 Feb General Meeting Topic: St Peter's Cottage, Yateley Slides and informal comment by Geoff Hoare for the first of the new discussion evenings.
8.00pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre
- Thursday 14 Feb History Natural History Conservation Joint Meeting Yateley Common - its changing vegetation A discussion on the past, present and future of the Common (see Newsletter)
7.30pm Meeting Room 3 Yateley Village Hall
- Sunday 24 Feb Conservation in Practice Pond Clearance, Goose Green Pond
2.15pm Meet at junction of Chandlers Lane and Vicarage Lane. Boots and tools.
- Thursday 28 Feb. No meeting.
- Sunday 3 Mar Walk Footpaths to Yateley Common This walk will start at St. Peter's churchyard, then follow footpaths to "The Cricketers" pub from where we shall follow footpaths across the common returning via Stephens Hill. Meet at 2.00pm. Wear boots.
- Thursday 7 Mar General Meeting Topic: **Appreciation and conservation in a town, based on a film made by the Sevenoaks Society
8.00pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre
- Thursday 14 Mar History Discovering Old Houses in NE Hampshire A talk by Dr John Porter based on his recent publication
7.30pm Meeting Room 3 Yateley Village Hall
- Thursday 21 Mar Natural History Butterflies Dr Robert Guest will show his slides on butterflies, followed by discussion of sightings in '84 and plants for butterfly gardening.
7.30pm Meeting Room 3 Yateley Village Hall.

- Sunday 24 Mar Conservation in Practice Stream clearing in Royal Oak Valley
2.30pm Meet in Old Welmore. Boots and spades.
- Thursday 28 Mar LECTURE "THE WORLD OF ISLAM" By Peter Willey
An insight into the currents which have shaped the Moslem world and govern its attitudes today by a much-travelled authority on Islamic art.
8.00pm Main Hall Yateley Centre.
- Thursday 4 April General Meeting
Topic: **Yateley Town Centre Plan
This discussion may be interchanged with that scheduled to take place on Thurs 7 March depending on the span of the statutory period for public debate. Please watch local press for confirmation of topics for both dates.
8.00pm Room C.1.1 Yateley Centre
- Thursday 11 April History
Group meeting
7.30pm Meeting Room 3 Yateley Village Hall
- Sunday 14 April Walk
Bramshill and the River Blackwater This walk will start from the ford just upstream from where the River Whitewater joins the Blackwater. We will follow the footpath along the river, taking tracks which can be very muddy, and along country lanes in a circular walk back to the river.
Meet 2.30pm Grid ref 743634.
- Thursday 18 April Natural History
General Discussion when it is hoped individuals or groups of members will talk about their particular interests and activities. We will also look at slides taken in the Royal Oak Valley during 84/85.
- Thursday 25 April LECTURE "THE BLACKWATER VALLEY PROJECT" by John Tickle.
The Project Officer in charge of executing this scheme will talk about an ambitious and heartening local project. Illustrated with slides.
8.00pm Green Room Yateley Centre.
NB Change of room.

May Fayre Work Shop

June Bird Song Recognition.

A meeting for all members concerned
involved with the Fayre final preparations
for the great day!!

All strong and able members, ^{their} families
and friends who are willing to help
erect the shelter for the May Fayre please
assemble at Broo

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NB Change of room.

Ring Yateley Centre

Ring (June) Dr. Chatfield 042 050 275 ✓

Ring Roy Mayon

Talk Valerie about change of walk?
Hazel Heath.

Ring Michael