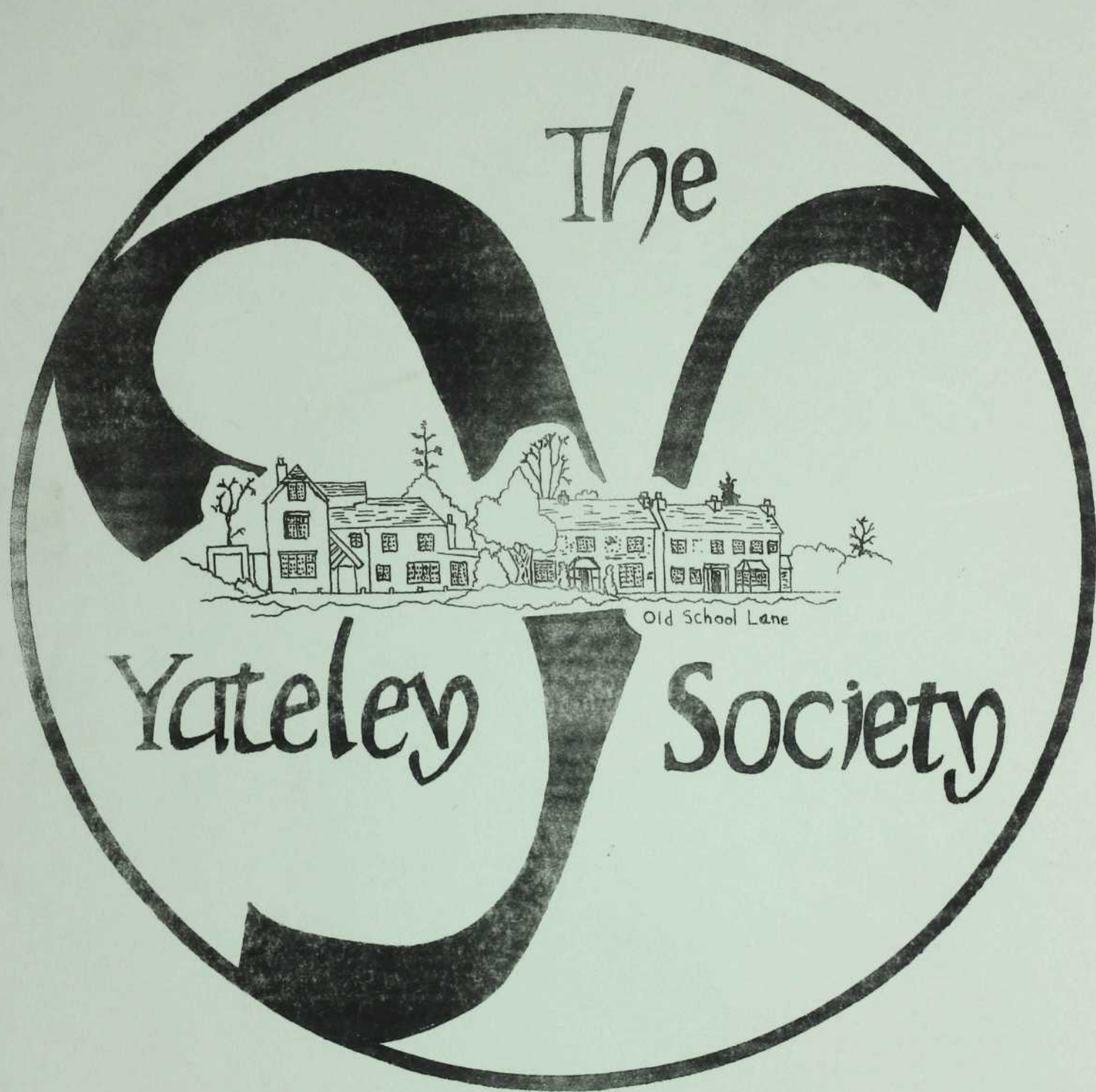


No. 35

AUGUST 1988



Newsletter

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

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Editor: Tony Hocking (Yateley 875158)

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member:

The first attempt at putting a cartoon into the newsletter was obviously not a success- more experiment needed! (It was supposed to show a toad offering Tippex to a typist making out botanical lists.)

It has been suggested that the newsletter should be more light hearted - a splendid idea - any contributions will be gratefully received! (they can be anonymous if you are shy!); were I not so preoccupied with model railways and other frivolities I might dream up something myself!

The snag is that many of the members and committee are constantly immersed in the serious matters with which the Society is concerned - the threats to our countryside, unsuitable planning within Yateley and so on. Some of these things need reporting in the newsletter if only to show members that we are trying to meet our aims. By all means add something more light hearted and entertaining, or how about some "letters to the editor"? there is plenty of scope - just put pen to paper!

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following members who recently joined the Society.

Mr D Coltart, 6 Moulsham Lane.

Mrs Laceby-Stevens, 14 Tockington Court.

A SPECIAL PLEA

In the last issue a request was made for any historical information on Cricket Hill and Darby Green; Hart District Council are considering new Conservation Areas at these places and need supporting historical background.

If you have anything, such as dates of buildings, uses of buildings or land, names of early occupiers, etc, please tell Valerie Kerslake (Y. 872240) or Gordon Harland (Camberley 32014). Obviously any written material, photographs or artifacts would be returned after use.

Hart D.C. have asked for our help, so please dig out anything which you have.

PLEASE NOTE:

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT "STOP PRESS" - 1 Oct 88 (REMEMBER, ONLY URGENT ITEMS ACCEPTED)

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER - 5 Nov 88.

A botanical survey of Yateley Common has been under way during the past few months. Yateley Society members were asked to contribute any relevant information they had on the plants and their habitats. Farming can change habitats considerably and this account from Tom Dodd could explain why some plants do or do not appear on the western common.

FARMING ON THE EDGE OF YATELEY COMMON

by Tom Dodd

This is how I remember the area around Silver Fox Farm in the 1920s. The area stretched across to the houses to the east, at the top of Little Vigo, and right over to the A30, in other words, the whole of the 350 acres of Yateley Common which was taken over for the airport during the last war.

The herbage on this area was always very short, as it had been grazed very hard, and had been for many years. The grass was kept so short because my cousin's grandfather who had a 20 year lease on Monteagle Farm (now Monteagle House where Peter Tipton lives) used the common rights that went with this farm to graze his cattle and sheep, and it is reasonable that previous tenants used the common for grazing as well. This means that quite a lot of animals had been grazing that part of the common for many years.

When my cousin's grandfather's lease came to an end he did not renew it, as he didn't get on with his landlord; but instead, he bought four smallholdings around Yateley Common (this was in 1883) to hold the stock at night and to graze the common by day. Three of these were at "Blackbushe", they were Silver Fox Farm (the old workhouse for Yateley, Hawley, Farnborough and Cove), Catchetts Piddle, which was on the edge of the common near Little Vigo, and Moor Plots, which was very close to what is now the new roundabout in Vigo Lane. The fourth smallholding, also with common rights, was at Moulsham green. Cattle were driven from here up the Green Lane and into Monteagle Lane and then up the other Green Lane (the lane that leads to Silver Fox) onto the common.

Catchetts Piddle had a bungalow and farm buildings on it, and this is where the 200 sheep were housed at night. With 30 to 40 cattle and 200 sheep, they would eat anything that grew on this very poor common land including heather, small trees and shrubs, etc.

My cousin's family had a ladder leaning against a tree at Catchetts Piddle, and every so often someone would climb up it to see that the cattle were not getting too close to the A30. If they were, they sent a dog across to bring them back. I well remember seeing this being done!

BLACKWATER VALLEY WALKS

The Programme Page includes several walks taken from the list published by the Blackwater Valley Project.

These walks are always interesting and are fully recommended. Only a few are mentioned - if you want more details of these walks, or of anything else to do with the Blackwater Valley Project ring Farnborough 516222 extension 347.

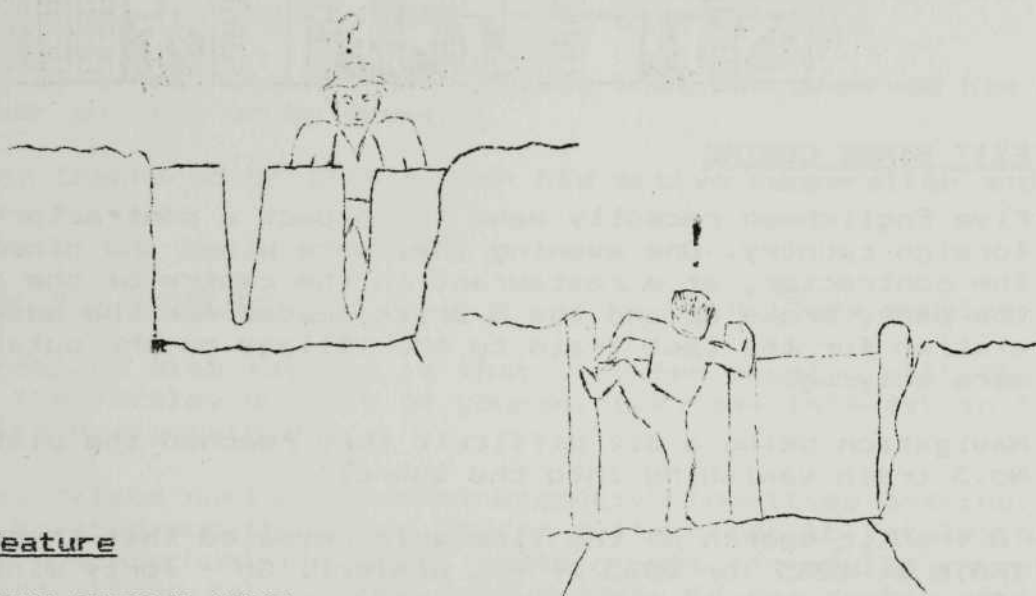
DO YOU FIT IN DOVEDALE?

by Tony Hocking

Mary and I recently had a walk through Dovedale.

We found a crafty method of reducing the number of people who can erode the footpath through the dale. Soon after starting we came to a stile; this consisted of a stone wall about four feet high with two very narrow slots to squeeze through - this was shortly followed by a second stile with a high wooden barrier which was distinctly difficult to climb over: so - unless you are thin and have long legs you cannot get into the best bit of the dale!

Seriously, it is well worth seeing, For those who have not been there it is a limestone gorge lined with cliffs, rock spires and masses of trees, and with caves in the rock walls. The river Dove is full of trout and frequented by ducks, kingfishers and dippers - a truly delightful spot. The spectacular part of the dale is 3 miles long with a good path and is best approached from Milldale at the northern end, the southern end at Thorpe Cloud tends to be as crowded as Blackpool during a wakes week.



Advertising Feature

TYPEWRITER SEEKS FOSTER HOME

The Society owns an Olympia typewriter, at present not in use, though it may be needed if a future secretary does not have his or her own machine.

Would any member like to use it in the meantime? It is a heavy typewriter with the special advantage of an extra wide carriage that will take paper up to 15 inches wide.

Please ring Valerie Kerslake if you want to look at it. (Yateley 872240)

CRAFT FAIR

The "CRAFTS IN ACTION" craft fair will be held at Swallowfield Hall, on Saturday October 1st, from 11am to 4pm

Anyone interested in taking part please ring Jean Fletcher on -
Reading (93) 760 439

HISTORY MEETINGS

by Michael Holroyd

On Wednesday 28 September I shall give an illustrated talk about the history of some Yateley footpaths, including a controversy of the 1890s which involved Mr Currie of Minley Manor, Mr Stilwell of Hillfield, Mr Fitzroy of Frogmore Park and Mr Stooks the vicar.

On Wednesday 19 October Richard Johnston will give an illustrated talk about what Yateley Hall, its gardens and farm were like before the Second World War, and about life there under its last private owner, Miss de Winton Corry, who died in 1943. This will be based on pictures, documents, and the recollections of people who lived at the Hall at that time.



EXIT STAGE CENTRE

Five Englishmen recently went to inspect a contractor's factory in a foreign country. One evening they were wined and dined very well by the contractor, at a restaurant in the centre of the city. At 1150 the party broke up and the 5 Brits headed for the underground railway station for the last train to the village on the outskirts where they were staying.

Navigation being a bit difficult they reached the platform to see the No.3 train vanishing into the tunnel!

A frantic search of the timetable revealed that there was ONE MORE TRAIN at 1235 (or 0035 if you prefer). So - forty minutes to kill. "Time for a beer!" said one unsteady voice.

On regaining street level it became obvious that the city was closing down for the night, the only sign of life was in the palatial Kings Hotel - a possible source of refreshment, but undoubtedly expensive. There being no alternative the five marched into the hotel foyer.

There were lots of very smartly dressed people all over the place. "The lights are bright in here!" said a doubtful voice. "Help! it's a film set!" exclaimed another. "Never mind there's the sign to the bar!" said a third. With relief they trooped down a corridor, found the bar and had their beer.

At 1230 "Time for the train!" was called and they marched back up the corridor to the foyer. "No No!" said a large man blocking the way, "Filming!". The five looked at each other in horror. "I saw a side door." offered a voice. They charged back down the corridor, but - it was securely locked! Back to the foyer - "No No, filming!" again. There was panic! there was running round in circles! Then there was a slight pause in the proceedings in the foyer. Instantly the five frantic Brits charged through the set scattering actors and cameramen, plunged through the main door and hurtled down the station escalators, - and just caught the train.

MILL FARM, MILL LANE

Geoff Hoare

The planning approval granted for the demolition and subsequent rebuilding on the above site was subject to a condition requiring access for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out. As Secretary of the North East Hampshire Archaeological Society I was requested by the Hart District Planning Office to carry this out, which I did with the full cooperation of the owner, Mr J Illsley.

It was thought that the farmhouse, while not having the outward appearance of any historical or architectural merit, might have as its core the medieval mill or part of it. As stripping of the interior and careful demolition proceeded it became evident that this was not the case and the earlier building had been completely dismantled and the farmhouse built on the same site around the end of the 19th century.

Excavations for the foundations of the new house did reveal the mill race, which had been infilled with material from the demolition of the mill. Apart from brickwork, apparently from the bridge over the mill race, there were a number of very large worked timbers recovered from the foundation trenches. Of these timbers I only considered one to have been found in situ and the others just used as fill.

While nothing of great note was discovered, what was observed has been recorded either on film or by drawing.

Once again, my thanks to Mr Illsley for his active cooperation and forbearance.

A STUDY CENTRE FOR YATELEY?

by Tony Hocking

One of the problems with Yateley is that very few people, with the exception of the Yateley Society of course, take any interest in the village and its surroundings.

This point was raised during a recent Executive Committee meeting. Malcolm Pope pointed out that some places quite close to Yateley have study centres where school children, youth groups and adults can see exhibitions and attend talks. One good example is the centre at Rowhill Nature Reserve in Aldershot. He claimed that Hampshire County Council is willing to finance such centres in other towns and villages; so why not in Yateley?

At the Society barbecue on July 16th we were delighted to hear that the new Yateley Common Warden, Paul Rutter, is very keen on setting up just such a centre, possibly using the building at Potley Hill which at present is little more than an equipment store.

Ideally perhaps the village should have somewhere more accessible as a centre and it could provide information about the village itself as well as about the common.

Any thoughts YOU might have on the matter would be received with interest.

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1988 (FROM AUGUST 12)

August - NO FORMAL MEETINGS IN AUGUST -

Thurs	12	Blackwater Valley Guided Walk ROWHILL NATURE RESERVE Meet in the Reserve car park off Cranmore Lane. One and a half miles	Rowhill Map Ref: 848 499	7:15pm
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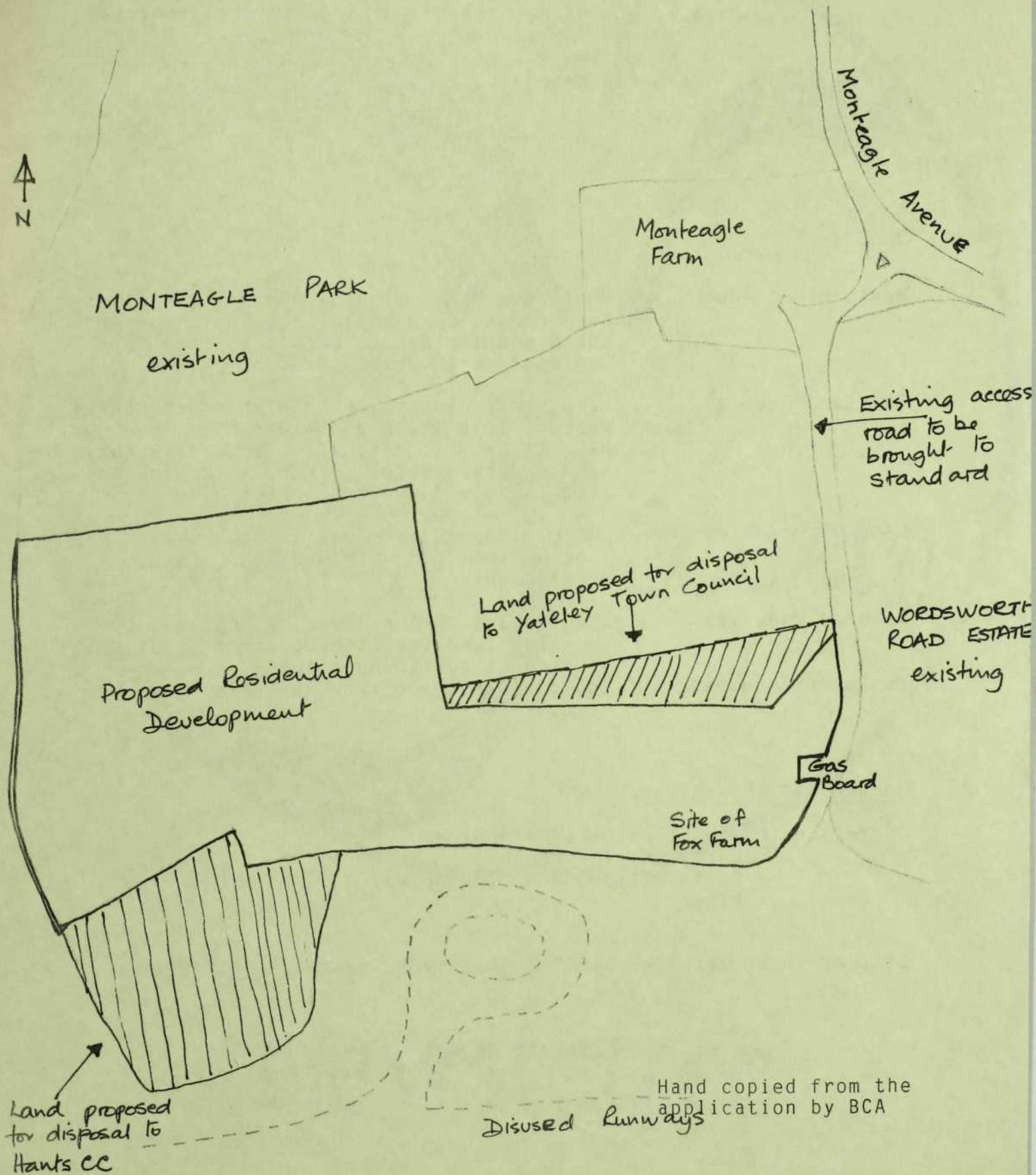
- September -

Thurs	8	NATURAL HISTORY Subject to be announced later.	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sun	11	Blackwater Valley Guided Walk CUDBURY CLUMP and EVERSLEY CHURCH Meet at entrance to Heath Warren off Eversley-Bramshill Rd. 3 miles	Heath Warren Map Ref: 761 613	11:00am
Thurs	15	Monthly Review of Local Planning	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sun	25	Blackwater Valley Guided Walk YATELEY COMMON Meet at Wyndhams Pool car park 3 to 4 miles	Wyndhams Pool Map Ref: 822 592	2:30pm
Wed	28	HISTORY - Yateley Footpaths. An illustrated talk by Michael Holroyd describing the history behind some of our paths.	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm

- October -

Thurs	13	NATURAL HISTORY Subject to be announced later.	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sun	16	Blackwater Valley Guided Walk FUNGI IN EDGEBARROW WOODS Meet at Edgebarrow Woods car park off A3095 3 miles. NO DOGS	Edgebarrow Map Ref: 837 630	3:30pm
Wed A.1.5	19	HISTORY - Yateley Hall before the war 7:30pm An illustrated talk by Richard Johnston A description of the property, and of life in the Hall.		Y.C.
Thurs	20	Monthly Review of Local Planning	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm

British Car Auctions have made an application for permission for residential development on "Land at Silver Fox Farm, off Monteagle Avenue, Yateley"



The application gives these details:

Owner:	British Car Auctions
Area	5.68 hectares (14 acres)
	Permission for land use only at this stage
Status	Vacant land temporarily used as riding school
Access	No new access for pedestrians, vehicles Existing access to be altered
Tree felling	Yes
Hedgerow removal	Yes

Note

Monteagle Avenue	Monteagle Lane; already 30mph limit signs have had to be erected to attempt to control speed and increased traffic volume from Monteagle Park development
Existing access	bridleway, owned by Hampshire County Council narrow, tree-lined and pleasant. Trees will have to be felled to widen to carriageway width; access point to Monteagle Lane on increasingly dangerous uphill bend
Land for Yateley TC	immediately adjoins designated public open space associated with Monteagle Park development
Disused runways	should have been removed by BCA by July '87 to allow land (registered commonland) to be used as public open space
Number of houses?	could be anything from 10 to 28 units per acre.

Letters of objection:

Addressed to The Director of Planning
Hart District Council
Civic Offices, Harlington Way
Fleet

Letters to be received by 17 August 1988, quoting HDC 17031

PLEASE OBJECT