FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE

YATELEY SOCIETY

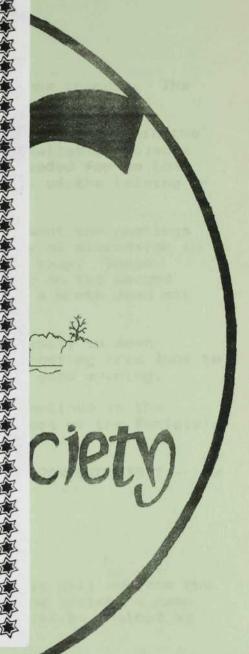
You are cordially invited to

A VERY INFORMAL EVENING MEETING OF YOUR SOCIETY

to meet and talk with some of the other 170 members about the things that you feel we should be actively doing and saying on your behalf...and to 'MEET YOUR NEW CHAIRMAN'

8pm on Thursday 9th March Room A1-6 · Yateley Centre School Lane · Yateley

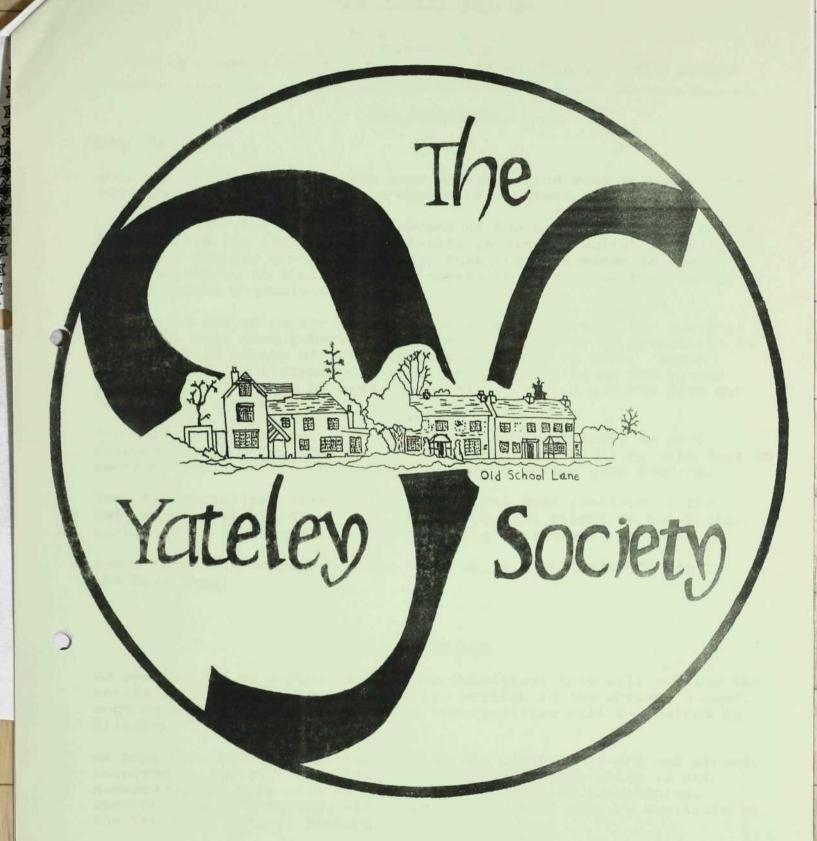
Refreshments and Wine
POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS
WILL BE VERY WELCOME



Newsletter

No. 37

MARCH 1989



Newsletter

- 1 --THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 37 FEBRUARY 1989

Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close Yateley (0252) 875158

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

When you get to the programme page you will find some changes. The main one is a reduction in the number of meetings.

Over the last year or two the leaders of the major groups within the Society have had increasing difficulty in finding suitable subjects for their regular monthly meetings; that they succeeded for so long was due largely to their own willingness to do most of the talking or demonstrating themselves.

This could not go on for ever, and so as an experiment the meetings are to be made more general in content, with plenty of discussion in the hope that people of all interests will come to them. These meetings will be limited to one per month, normally on the second Thursday. This should be easy to remember and once a month does not take up too much time!

The first such meeting, on March 9th, is an opportunity to meet Malcolm Pope the new Chairman; he has several interesting bees (not to mention toads) in his bonnet, and we should have a good evening.

The one specialised series of meetings that must continue is the Review of Local Planning, this is an important aspect of the Society's work tied to the Council Planning meeting schedule.

And - something we have not had for a while - AN ORGANISED VISIT - see the back page!

A NEW VENTURE

We are setting up a Publications Sub-Committee; this will oversee the entire publishing process of anything written in the Society's name, such as History Trails, etc. This sub-committee will be chaired by Elizabeth Tipton.

We hope that this will attract one or two members who are not already involved in Society activities. A knowledge of publishing is not necessary, but help will be needed for things like telephoning, keeping tabs on progress, etc. More information will be available at the 9th March General Meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr & Mrs Erskine Handfords, Handford Lane.
Mr & Mrs Mackay Close Cottage, Old School Lane.

Every year we have a display at the May Fayre. This is our public face and a good annual opportunity to enrol new members. The shelter, site and display materials cost money of course, so we have a sales section to alleviate this.

Some of our most loyal contributors are unable to help us this year, so I am appealing to all those of you who have not helped before. We need donations of cakes, preserves, handicrafts, etc, especially the latter which can be kept for the following year if not sold.

Please deliver all goods to 26, Home Park Road, off Hall Lane, during the weekend before the Fayre; this gives time for wrapping and pricing, something which is very difficult to do on the actual day

We need about three people at any given time, working in shifts, to serve on the stall during the Fayre.

Willing to make some eatables for the stall, or to help serve during the day? - then please contact Stephanie Pattenden (Yateley 874 994)

* Yateley Society picture postcards & tea-towels this year! - Ed. *

For some of us the day starts and finishes with hard work - putting up the stand/shelter at 7:15-ish, and taking it down at about 5 pm. The more people there are, the lighter the work - so any volunteers for this please tell Tony Hocking (Yateley 875 158). (We usually have a rehearsal a week or two before the Fayre.)

A message from your lender Chairman

by Malcolm Pope

Firstly and most importantly I would like to take this opportunity to thamk our retiring chairman Richard for steering the Society through 1988. It was a very constructive and informative time for your Executive and sub-Committees, who were both pushed from behind and ably led from the front by this hard 'task master'. Whilst extending our thanks to Richard I would also like to include our thanks to Debra Reading, our Secretary for 1988, for the many hours of hard work in compiling the necessary paperwork associated with this very active Society...again, 'Thank you Richard and Debra'...

Next - I would like to thank all members of the Society who were present at our last AGM for their enthusiastic endorsement on electing me to be your Chairman for the coming year - I have just been looking at Richard's opening statement to you in last year's April Newsletter... it ran to 12 very constructive and far reaching paragraphs..."and you expect me to follow that!?

I'll start by giving you a very brief and boring summary of Malcolm Pope - "He's not a very interesting person really"..my wife Valerie says, "He's middle aged and really boring - talks about nothing but toads at this time of year." I came to Yateley, this sleepy little hamlet, nestling in the valley between Finchampstead and Bramshill roughly 21 years ago with Valerie -but for the first 10 years or so not very much was seen of this place they called Yateley 'Gateway to the south west' as I was working at night which kept me behind closed curtains during the day.

I became involved in local politics in the early days of the Town Council, acting as election agent for some of our still very able and long standing Town, and in those days, District Councillors. About this time I was very active with the Yateley Residents Association, became its chairman for a year following in the footsteps of some of

化工作的 古外科学 经自然 经的现在分词 医神经性

todays Town Councillors. As chairman of that association I had the pleasure of working with some very active members of our community..in fact several are still very active on your behalf, working now as members of this Society and really doing a great and worthwhile job.

Let's see..Ah, yes...I then became interested in horses and dogs - which in the long run made me aware of the environment around Yateley..."It's a mess, you know it's a shambles. Everybody you talk to is always mouning about the place, you name it they'll be mouning..rubbish, trees chopped down, parking, more building, gypsy problems, why can't they park on the Common, vandalism, buses, rubbish dumping in lanes and ditches, flying, go-karting noise, etc, etc, and to crown it all the biggest mouner of them all is ME!

During the coming year I'll try and stay active on your behalf, but I will need your active support especially with the nagging but constructive letters expressing your point of view, and hopefully the Society's, to the "people who make the decisions which affect us locally."

..in closing, I know it's not everybody's cup of tea going to AGM's, committee meetings and the like, but we would like to see some new faces at some of the events which your Committee spend so much time arranging. Why not come to our 'Dawn Chorus Breakfast' or our 'Deer Watching Evening', you won't need a car it'll be on your doorstep. Look forward to seeing you sometime, maybe at the Blake's Pond site.. ("Boring stuff was'nt it!!" Malcolm Pope.)

Chris Hall set the following quiz on Hampshire flower names after gaining no more than a pass on the one in the last newsletter, which, he says, contained some highly regional names and some used exclusively in the north. (The compilers, who had previously been ignorant of half of them anyway, didn't know that either. Have we immigrant members from the north who recognised them all?)

A ROSE BY EVERY OTHER NAME

by Chris Hall

The first column lists 12 folk names of common wild flowers (all of which grow in Hart District) which have been recorded as formerly in use in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight. Can you match them with the more familiar common names now in geneal use given in the second column? Be warned: two extra common names have been included as 'false friends'. All are from Geoffrey Grigson's An Englishman's Flora, probably still the best source book for the folk lore of British plants.

Folk names

Pig-in-the-hedge
Gipsy rose
Blindman's hand
Cow weed
Cat's eyes
Blue bobs
Five finger grass
Twistwood
Bishop's weed
Adder's flower
Fat hen
Hoer withy

Answers on page 6

Common names

Corn marigold
Honeysuckle
Tormentil
Wayfaring tree
Blackthorn
Water mint
Water crowfoot
Early purple orchid
Devil'sbit scabious
Bluebell
Germander speedwell
Bugle
Whitebeam
Field scabious

For several years now The Yateley Society has been concerned about the area known as Blakes Pond (see map opposite). The pond was once open water approximately the size of the one on the Village Green. Gradually over the years willow and alder have colonised the open water; the leaves from these have fallen into the water building up sediment. At one time the stream only ran into the pond on one side and out the other, since a new channel was made for the stream most of the water bypasses the pand. Bravel and sand Earried down by the stream during heavy rain has settled out almost blocking the stream inlet to the pond. These factors, combined with the introduction of Rhododendron, other alien species and other rubbish, has turned what could be a pleasant semi-wild area into a rather derelict one.

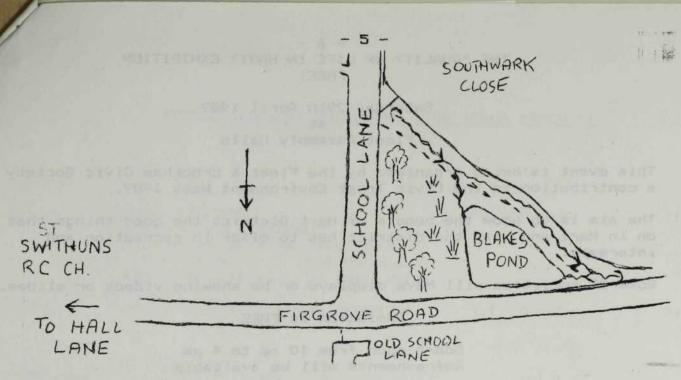
The Society appreciates that to return the pond to its original state would be a huge task and not necessarily a desirable one. With its mixture of oak, alder and willow and understory of holly and bramble it is now a good place for birds. However, because of the dense shade caused by the trees in summer many of the plants are struggling to survive. With the pond filling up with sediment and silt and little water running in there is a danger that the pond will be lost for ever. The Society therefore, subject to permission of the owner, proposes to take over the management of the pond area.

A large oak on the edge of the pond needs some work done on it. Several branches were damaged in the great storm and need to be removed to make it safe. As much of the rubbish as possible will be removed, we will then clear out the rhododendron and the small willows which are growing at the south end; this will let more light into the pond. The west end will be left as it is. Once the willows have been removed a good channel will be dug from the stream into the pond, over this we will lay a sleeper bridge; another bridge will be laid over the stream at the outlet end.

The footpath that runs along the edge of the stream around the back of the pond needs its edges building up in places. During the summer the footpath will need to be kept clear of nettles and brambles which tend to obstruct it. Some of the bramble growing around the edge of the pond needs to be cut back to encourage new growth; this will be done a section at a time.

A careful eye will be kept on the area of cleared water to see how it develops. We already have a list of plants that grow in and around the pond. The pond is used by frogs and possibly newts and toads as a breeding area. This spring a survey will be done to see what amphibians are present. Later we may find it necessary to remove some of the silt to make a smaller area of deep water; this will involve using a mechanical digger as it would be an impossible task by hand.

Before starting this project, which we anticipate will take several years to complete, the people living nearby will be notified about what we intend to do. We hope that they may join us in our tasks or at least support us by not dumping rubbish there. We would like this to become a community project involving schools, scouts and guides, local people, conservation volunteers and Yateley Society members. A photographic record will be kept of the work undertaken.



DARTFORD WARBLERS WANING

from Valerie Kerslake

Britain's small population of Dartford Warblers is now heavily concentrated in the New Forest, with only one quarter of breeding birds to be found elsewhere. According to the latest survey by the Hants and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust, the population in the New Forest has increased over the past four years from 203 to 450 pairs, but elsewhere they are declining through loss of their heathland habitats: they need a mixture of mature gorse and heather.

One severe winter in the New Forest could endanger their survival; after the particularly cold winter of 1962/3 the countrywide population dropped to only ten pairs [from The Times]

As described in the last Newsletter, Dartford Warblers used to be found on Yateley Common. Has anyone seen them there in the last few years?

YATELEY HALL MOAT

by Geoff Hoare

An article in a previous issue described how the moat mentioned in the late 17th Century estate agent's 'blurb' was located as a result of a Resistivity Survey carried out by the North East Hants Archaeological Society.

Recent underpinning works allowed further investigation to be carried out. The north and south arms of the moat were identified at the west front, where they ran under the present building which was extended long after the moat was dug.

Probably the greatest interest arose from the evidence revealed on the eastern side of the Hall. This indicated that the side of the house platform had been 'laced' with timbers before the present east wall was built. 'Lacing' has been used in earthworks from the prehistoric age on and consists of a succession of heavy horizontal timbers, each with one or more cross pieces, and secured with vertical stakes, built into a bank, etc., during its construction in order to stabilise it. In the case of Yateley Hall there is a strong possibility that the east arm of the original moat was infilled to extend the house platform in that direction, and the lacing was used to stablise the upcast which in this case would have been the excavated material from the present ornamental rectangular pond or canal.

THE "QUALITY OF LIFE IN HART" EXHIBITION FREE!

Saturday 29th April 1989 at Fleet Assembly Halls

This event is being organised by the Fleet & Crookham Civic Society as a contribution to the Civic Trust Environment Week 1989.

The aim is to show the people of Hart District the good things that go on in Hart and what the district has to offer in recreation and interests.

Some 29 societies will have displays or be showing videos or slides.

Admission is FREE

Doors open from 10 am to 4 pm Refreshments will be available

An information booklet, giving details of all the participating organisations will be on sale.

Outside the hall, as a crowd puller, there will entertainment from a youth band, Yateley Morris and Fleet Ladies Morris.

Local Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies are competing for the best environment-related projects, the results will be on show.

The exhibition is supported by Hart District Council, who have provided a generous grant.

THE YATELEY SOCIETY WILL BE THERE! - come and see what is happening, find out what you have been missing in Hart - and bring your friends!

ANSWERS TO THE FLOWER QUIZ

Five finger grass Tormentil Water crowfoot Cow weed Blindman's hand Bugle Twistwood Wayfaring tree Hoar withy Whitebeam Gipsy rose Field scabious Blue bobs Devil'sbit scabious Fat hen Corn marigold Adder's flower Early purple orchid Bishop's weed Cat's eves Water mint Cat's eyes Germander speedwell Pig-in-the-hedge Blackthorn

Not used: Honeysuckle Bluebell

ADVERTISEMENT

POULTRY RINGS WANTED, new or antique. About six, different colours.

These are the spiral plastic bracelets that an old-fashioned hen used to wear around her ankle to distinguish her from her mates.

Fresh eggs in exchange, as available. Ring Yateley 872 240.

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1989 (FROM MARCH 1)

- March -		- 1 - 2	
Thurs 9	GENERAL MEETING "MEET THE NEW CHAIRMAN" A discussion with Malcolm Pope. (A short video film will be shown) Coffee and wine will be available.		7:30pm
Thurs 23	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
- April -			
Sat 1	THE MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Visit to the comprehensive collection of domestic and farming	Reading University	11:00am
	utensils, carts, machinery, etc. Ample parking. Entrance will be 50p. Leader: Jill Howell.	SEE BACK PAGE	
Thurs 13	GENERAL MEETING OLD PICTURES OF YATELEY. History revealed in old postcards.		7:30pm
	The collections of John Herman and Je	an McIlwaine	
Thurs 20	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sat 29	THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HART An exhibition about your local area. Open until 4 pm.	COLUMN TO SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY	10:00am
- May -			
Mon 1		Yateley Green	All day
Thurs 11	GENERAL MEETING KEEP YATELEY CLEAN & GREEN A talk by Friends Of the Earth on		7:30pm
	how to avoid environmental pollution with domestic and garden refuse.	BY F.O.	
Sun 14	DAWN CHORUS	Details to be announced.	
Thurs 18	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Fri 26	DEER WATCHING	Details to be announced.	
			PTO

Advanced warnings.

- June 25 Blackwater Valley/Yateley Society Walk. Royal Oak Valley Ramble. Leader Irene Draper.
- July 8 Malcolm Pope will have a stand showing Yateley Society and Blackwater Valley Project activities at the Yateley Schools' Association Fete.
- Sept 25 Blackwater Valley/Yateley Society walk. Moulsham Green to Finchampstead. Leader Irene Draper.

---- 000 ----

COPY DATES:

STOP PRESS 2nd April 1989

NEWSLETTER 4th June 1989

---- 000 ----

A VISIT! A VISIT!

*** THE MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE, ***

*** UNIVERSITY OF READING ***

Jill Howell, our Secretary, is organising a group visit to the Museum of Rural Life in Whiteknights Park, Reading, on Saturday 1 April.

This museum is devoted to the tools and implements of farming, rural industries and the domestic environment. There is a very good selection of farm carts and ploughs amongst a very varied and extensive collection.

Meet in the Museum car park at 11:00am. (See map)
The entrance fee will be 50p per head.

Interested? - please tell Jill
(Yateley 876 478)

