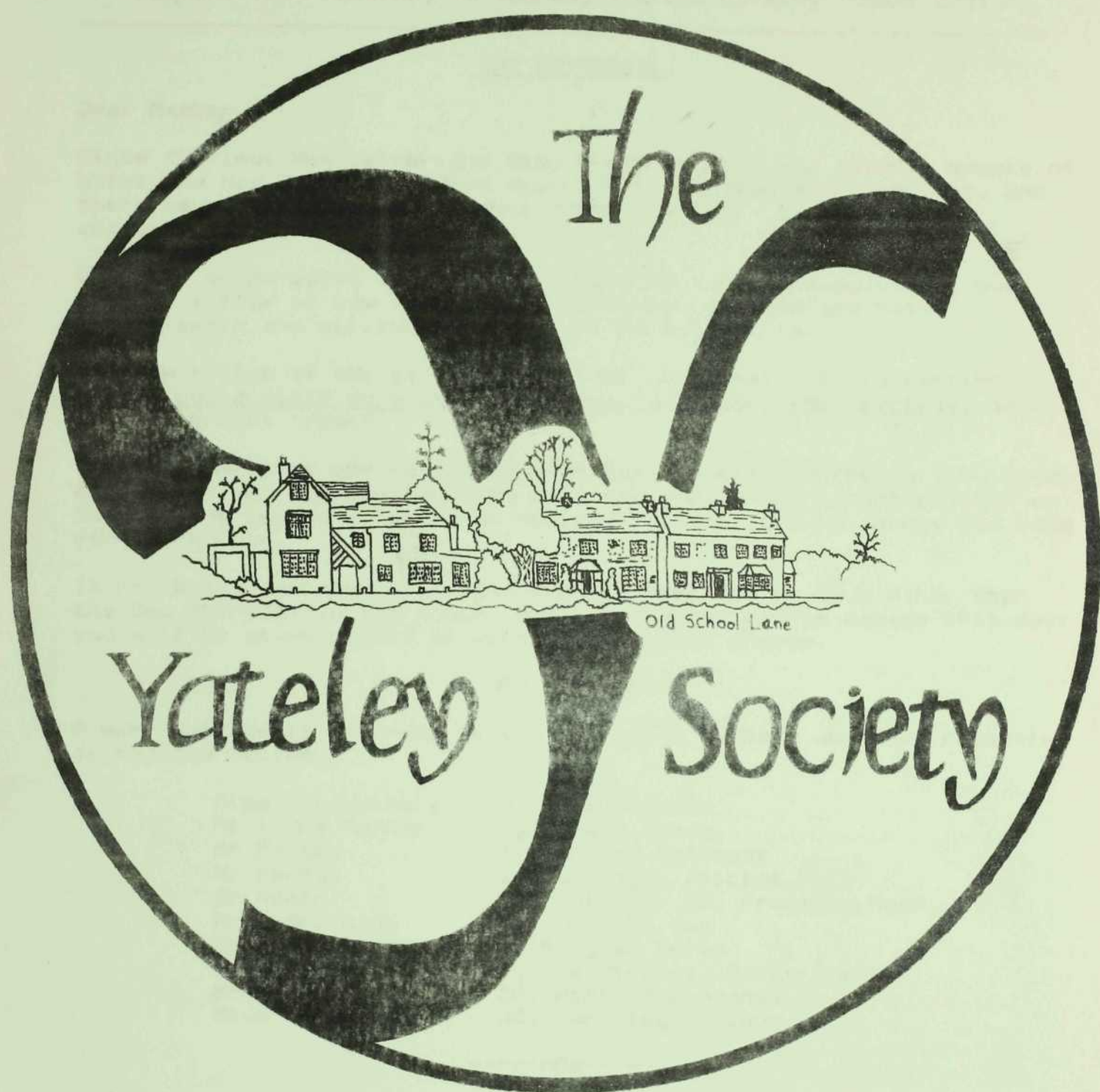


No 38

JUNE 1989



Newsletter



- 1 -  
-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 38

JUNE 1989

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

Since the last Newsletter and Stop Press we have had several events of note: the May Fayre is always one of the highlights of the year, and there have been two very unusual "meetings"; all of these are commented on in this issue.

One very encouraging sign is that there is a continuing small, but steady, influx of new members and these new members are both enthusiastic and willing to take part in activities.

The new system of one major meeting per month seems to be working - but we could still do with suggestions for themes for meetings, have you any bright ideas?

The room which we use for these meetings, Yateley Centre A.1.6 chosen originally for the availability of video equipment, is not so good as the seating leaves a lot to be desired - I will try to change the room for the autumn.

It may become necessary to have General Meetings on days other than the 2nd Thursday in the month, speakers cannot always manage this day; you will be given plenty of warning of such a change.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Miss Breschinsky	3, Ryde Gardens
Mr & Mrs Palmer	2, Kelsey Grove
Mr Palmer	5, Lawford Crescent
Mt Herman	Ivy Cottage, Cricket Hill
Dr Hearn	The Hollies, 72, Frogmore Road
Mr & Mrs King	10, Dickens Way
Mr & Mrs Clark	4, Firglen Drive
Mr & Mrs Peaple	5, The Birches, Darby Green
Mrs Harris	30, Partridge Avenue
Miss De Vos	30, Partridge Avenue

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OBITUARY

JEAN KERR

We were very sorry to hear that one of our members, Jean Kerr, died on April 13th following a long illness.

Jean had contributed a lot to the Society as Newsletter Editor, member of the Executive Committee and a leader of walks.

She was always cheerful and friendly, and on the Executive Committee we all benefitted greatly from her good sense and helpful nature.

A letter expressing the sorrow and sympathy of the Society was sent to Jean's husband Tony, and several members attended her funeral. AJFH



THE DAWN CHORUS, 14 MAY 89.

by Diana Healey

It was 3.30 am on a damp Sunday morning when 17 of us braved the weather to hear the dawn chorus in Finchampstead woods. We walked about 100 yards from the National Trust car park and then stopped to listen.

After a slow start, from the darkness came the hoot of a tawny owl, then more silence. Those standing began to envy the others who had brought seats, and the midges began to nibble at uncovered heads - Oh for a good hat!

Although it was not raining, you could hear drips from the trees, otherwise silence. At 3.55 am Canada geese were heard, but not until 4.17 am did the first robin call, soon joined by another and yet another.

At last the dawn chorus was really on the way and we heard song thrush, mistle thrush, wood pigeon, great tit, chaffinch and in the background a cuckoo - a beautiful variety of song. A tree creeper was seen close by.

We decided it was time to move on at 5.00 am and walk round the pond as it was now quite light. A Canada goose was sitting on its nest on an island in the middle of the pond, and a couple of tufted duck were on the far side.

Mallards and moor hens were also there. When we arrived on the far side of the pond we heard a great spotted woodpecker.

Finally, at about 5.45 am, we moved off for a well earned breakfast at Rorke's Drift, the wonderfully orderly stables of Malcolm and Valerie Pope. The tea and coffee, with bacon sandwiches were most welcome. Their superb organisation even provided tables with table cloths.

As we chatted over breakfast we watched a swallow fly in and out of one of the stables where it was nesting, undeterred by the occupying horse. We decided that the early start was well worthwhile and had not only learned much more about bird songs from our expert Ann Kingston but also much enjoyed getting to know other members better over breakfast.

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LEY PICTURES! HELP! YATELEY PICTURES! HELP! YATELEY PICTURES! HELP! YA

A few weeks ago we had an interesting evening looking at old pictures of Yateley, mostly in the form of old photographic postcards.

There must be other types of pictures, paintings, drawings, sketches, etc, which reflect peoples' personal views and feelings about Yateley.

(I know full well that there are a few in the Society archives and that there are many sketches by Sydney Loader.)

I shall bring any such pictures that I can find, including some from the archives, to the meeting on September 14th. PLEASE COME ALONG WITH ANY PICTURES WHICH YOU HAVE, OLD OR NEW any which are your own work would be especially welcome!



## YATELEY MANOR

by Geoff Hoare

A new gymnasium is being built at Yateley Manor School and the school authorities kindly allowed me to carry out a watching brief for any archaeological evidence that may have been uncovered during work on the foundations.

The site is behind the school on what appears to be the only available area not yet developed and as it is low lying and wet it had been decided to sink piles for the foundations instead of cutting trenches.

An initial inspection was understandably unfruitful, but I was advised a few days later by Peter Tipton that a length of wooden drain had been found during work on the edge of the site using a JCB. On inspection I found that this was a 5 metre length of tree trunk approximately 33cms diameter with an open trough cut into it for 4.7 metres of its length and evidence of a vertical component, possibly a down pipe, having been fitted at its blocked end, but no sign of any associated building was found.

I have seen wooden guttering used on medieval houses but I think in this case its weight and evidence of a possible down pipe preclude this; I will check with the Open Air Museum at Singleton to see if they have anything similar. I saw a report that a similar artifact, 6 metres in length, was found at the ROSE Theatre site in London recently and considered to have been used to supply water to a fountain on stage, but I don't think Yateley was ever home to an Elizabethan theatre!

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## THE MAY FAYRE

by Stephanie Pattenden & Tony Hocking

May the 1st saw another successful May Fayre for the Society. The annual plea for members to help by providing goods and helping to man the sales stall met with a marvellous response. A lot of work was put into cooking edible delights and into making craft items for sale. The number of people volunteering to man the stall exceeded all past years. The best thing of all was the help given by new members, we are most grateful to them all, and of course to the stalwarts who have always come up trumps.

The day started unpromisingly with clouds and drizzle, but a band of stout souls gathered at 7am to load Ted Dowling's smart new truck and head for the Green. More people met us there, including the young people who, while not members, organise a very welcome team each year. Again, there were new members swelling the ranks.

In the end the weather proved kind and many people came to see the displays and to buy, we took £131, which is good going, we have not sorted out the final profit yet, but we are certainly in the black!

To all who took part, thank you very much for your help which contributed so much to the event.

(Memo for 1990: we shall need more jams and jelly to sell - it's very popular and we always sell out very quickly.)



## THE DEER WATCH

by Tony Hocking

On the evening of Friday 26th May we took part in a Deer Watch led by Malcolm Pope. We met at Rorke's Drift, his stables and paddock, at 7:45. We must have been dressed in suitably dark clothing, as instructed, because a rabbit who was grazing in the paddock gave us a cursory inspection with one eye and one ear, pronounced us "harmless" and continued eating regardless of cars and chatter.

We walked through Finchampstead Ridges, pausing to look at a woodpeckers' hole. Unfortunately the birds were very nervous and kept just out of sight, while shouting abuse. The question of Greater or Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was not resolved. We ended up, at dusk, lining the hedge of Dell Road, on the western boundary of the Ridges, the deer we were told frequently feed in the fields there.

There was soon some excitement as several people spotted three deer lying by a small hedge. (Mary and I are convinced that they were just heaps of dried grass!) Then, about twenty minutes later a real, live, moving roe deer was seen to wander into one of the fields and start grazing. By now the light was very dim and it took a few minutes to decide that it was a hind. That it was a roe was not in doubt because of its size. The hind did not help observation because it kept disappearing into a ditch or crouching down and hiding itself. Eventually it was decided that we had seen enough, and some people were being eaten alive by mosquitos, so we wandered back through the Ridges. A very pleasant evening, thank you Malcolm.

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## YET ANOTHER NEW ESTATE FOR YATELEY?

Some months ago British Car Auctions applied for planning permission for residential development at Fox Farm. The application was refused by Hart District Council so BCA are appealing to the Secretary of State.

The land concerned is 14.5 acres on the edge of Yateley Common, west of "Badgers Holt", south of Monteagle Park and outside the Settlement Boundary of the Local Plan. It is used mostly for horse shows, grazing and other horsey activities, while one section is a small piece of woodland. At present it is a valuable buffer between the built-up areas and the Common, protecting the easily damaged heathland from the wear and tear that inevitably occurs alongside housing - children playing ball games, walking, cycling, short cuts and so on.

Access would be by the narrow lane leading to the Common from Monteagle Lane. The junction - between Lane's Pub and Wordsworth Avenue - would have to be enlarged and upgraded, and the small lane which is now enjoyed by walkers and horse riders would be widened to form a proper road for the considerable traffic from perhaps more than a hundred houses. (Details and numbers are not required for outline planning permission.) The hedges and trees alongside would be lost, and the road would come very close to the walls of the new scout HQ. A second access road through Monteagle Park might be necessary.

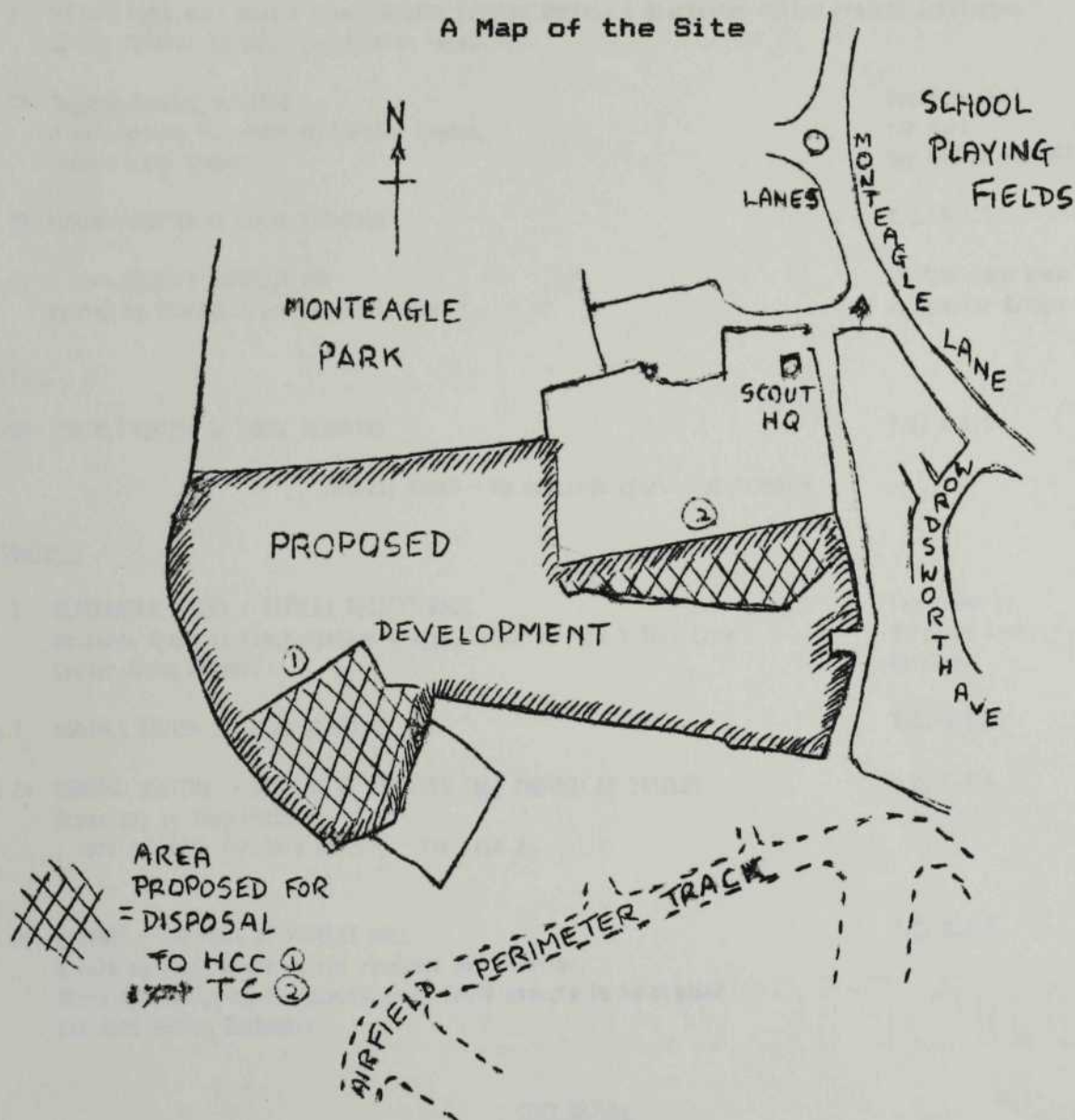
The pressure of additional traffic would spread throughout the town as drivers sought less densely crowded routes, and the development would destroy for ever the "green finger" of open countryside that still reaches into the heart of Yateley and links the Common to the Blackwater Valley.



If you oppose the application, there is still time for a letter saying why to ARRIVE BY 21st JUNE, write to The Secretary, Department of the Environment, Room 1314, Tollgate House, Houldton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ, quoting reference APP/N1730/A/89/116944. The Society will be presenting a detailed statement at the Inquiry, but each individual letter counts, and the total number carries weight with the Inspector.

(The Appellants' grounds of appeal may be seen in Hart's Planning Department at Fleet. Their grounds include the claim that the development would be "infilling", and that no reason has been shown why land which at present has "little or no use" should not make a contribution towards satisfying housing demand.

A Map of the Site



YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1989 (FROM JUNE 14)

- JUNE -

Wed	14	LOCAL HISTORY - History of Local Families by Jean McIlwaine	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Thurs	15	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sun	25	BLACKWATER VALLEY/YATELEY SOCIETY WALK Royal Oak Valley Ramble Leader Irene Draper.	RDV car park Behind the Royal Oak	2:30pm

- July -

Sat	8	Malcolm Pope will have a stand showing Yateley Society & Blackwater Valley Project activities at the Yateley Schools' Association Fete.		
Thurs	13	<u>OUTDOOR GENERAL MEETING</u> A walk around the ponds on Yateley Common. Leader Irene Draper	Wyndhams Pool car park. Map Ref:SU 822 597	7:15pm
Thurs	20	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Sat	22	*** SOCIETY BARBECUE *** Hosted by Stephanie and Ron Pattenden	26 Home Park Road 7:30pm for 8:00pm	

- August -

Thurs	10	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Holiday Month - No meetings apart from Planning				

- September -

Sun	3	BLACKWATER VALLEY / YATELEY SOCIETY WALK Moulsham Green to Finchampstead Ridges, Ambarrow Farm & Mill Lane Leader Irene Draper.	The green by Barclays Bank, Yateley	2:30pm
Thurs	7	MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. A.1.5	7:30pm
Thurs	14	GENERAL MEETING - DISPLAY OF PICTURES ( <u>NOT</u> PHOTOS) OF YATELEY Organised by Tony Hocking I need exhibits for this meeting - see page 2.	Y.C. C.1.4	7:30pm
Wed	20	HISTORY - THE MOAT AT YATELEY HALL A talk by Geoff Hoare on the findings and theories. There will be up-to-the-minute news, Geoff expects to be digging the moat during September	Y.C. C.1.4	7:30pm

COPY DATES:

STOP PRESS 24th July 1989      NEWSLETTER 1st September 1989