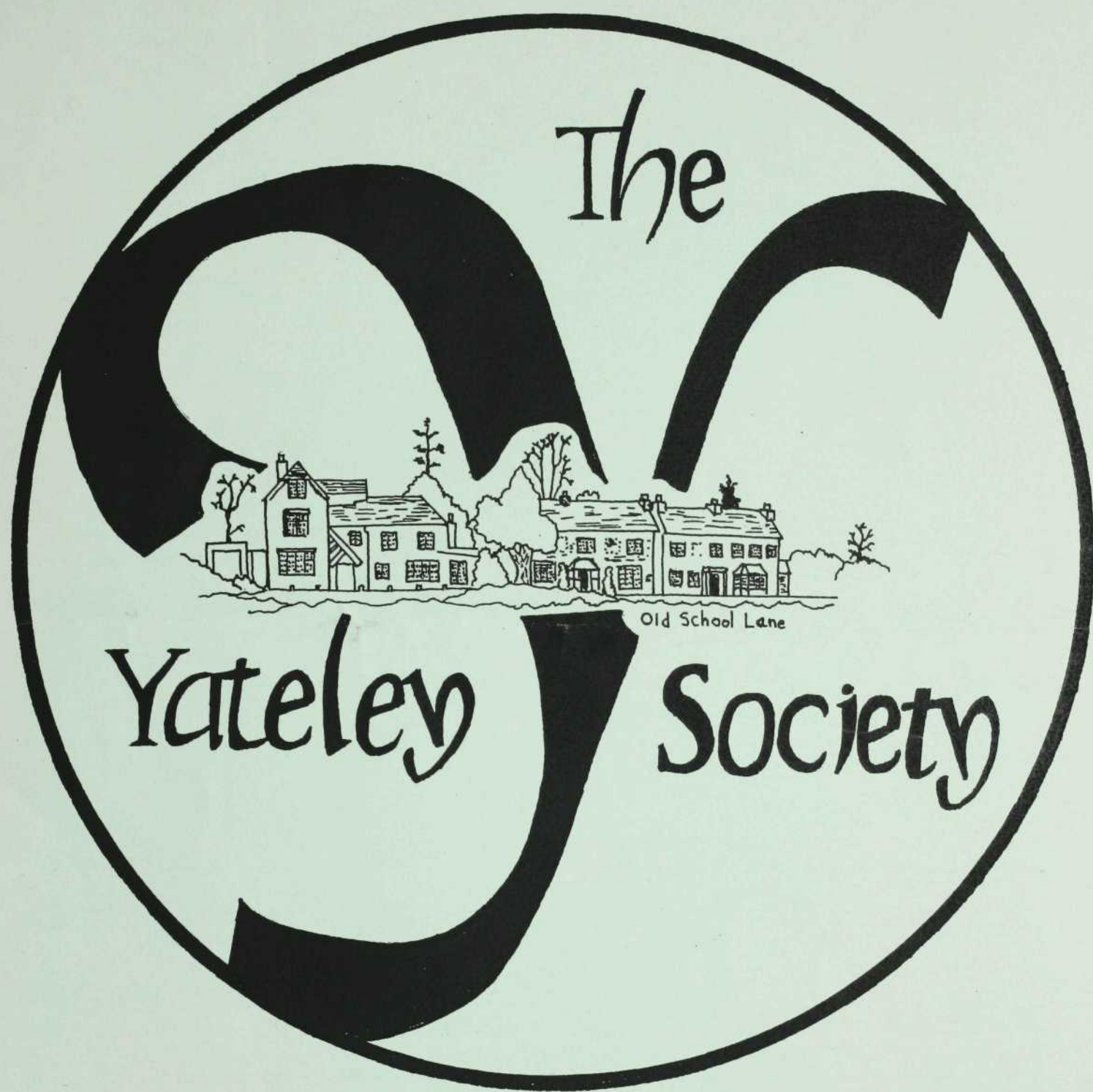


No. 41

MARCH 1990



Newsletter

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-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

The AGM is now well out of the way, and those who attended know that the Society has a new Committee, but is not really "Under New Management"; several of the usual faces are on the Executive Committee even if some jobs have been shuffled.

The new Executive Committee is:-

Officers: Chairman:	Edward Dawson	(Edward also retains his title of President)
Vice-Chairman:	Tony Hocking	
Secretary:	Valerie Kerslake	
Treasurer:	David Healey	
Elected Ordinary Members:	Jean McIlwaine	
	Elaine Crisp	
	Geoff Hoare	
	Michael Holroyd	

The Executive Committee is due to meet near the end of March and will, as always at the start of its year of office, review what was said and decided at the AGM and take this into account when drawing up its policy.

Inevitably some people who were not elected to the Committee will be co-opted by virtue of the jobs which they do or the specific experience and expertise which they can offer.

One Committee activity has already been started without waiting for the first formal meeting. The "Programme Sub-Committee" has had its first meeting so that talks and activities for your participation can be planned and booked as soon as possible. One regular activity we shall take part in will be the Maye Fayre - more of that and how you can join in on a later page.

Having let myself in for another year as Newsletter Editor I will repeat my regular appeal for copy. Copy dates appear at the foot of the Programme page - but don't give up if you just miss a date, most articles will keep for a while and I never waste usable material!

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following members who recently joined the Society:-

Mr and Mrs Hovey 55 Farm View, Yateley

Mr and Mrs Crisp 1 Beechwood Avenue, Yateley

THE MAY FAYRE

by Tony Hocking

Once again we will be advertising the Society, displaying something of interest to the public and selling things to defray expenses.

The display will concentrate on trees in the Yateley area. This will be our contribution to the Civic Trust Environment Week - for good measure it will be on show for two weeks in the library with an interruption to come to the May Fayre. For the May Fayre we hope to have a "Forest of Eversley" display as well.

At this stage I have to ask for volunteers to help with preparations for the Fayre, and on the day.

First, the preparations.

If we are to sell goods, someone has to supply them in the first place!

What we need are PLANTS, CAKES, SWEETS, JAMS AND OTHER PRESERVES. These always sell well and we always run out, so if you can make, grow, or otherwise obtain such things for us PLEASE HELP!



One surprising item which seemed popular last time was surplus cosmetics! - unused of course. So this is a possibility.

Other years we have sold home made toys; unfortunately, for us, new safety rules governing toys have come into force and we could become liable for any injuries arising from non-approved items. With this in mind Stephanie Pattenden is taking advice and before anyone makes any kind of toy please discuss it with her, it would be preferable if toys were avoided. (You can always turn your energy to making something edible instead!)

Second, on the day (May 7th).

We shall need help when setting up. We shall be without the valuable assistance of Ted Dowling this year, this combined with the lack of our younger helpers (they have left home!) persuaded us to chicken out of erecting our traditional scaffolding, but we still need help to erect THE ALTERNATIVE SHELTER. We need half a dozen people on the Green at 7:30 on May day morning - and again at 5 pm to dismantle it.

Lastly we need help to man the stall during the day - we can keep 2 or 3 people busy at most times and plenty of volunteers means short shifts for individuals.

If you can make or provide things to sell, please ring Stephanie Pattenden on Yateley 874994, or just take your items to her DURING THE WEEKEND 5 AND 6 MAY at 26 Home Park Road (off Hall Lane, Yateley).

If you can help man the sales stall, please ring Stephanie BEFORE THE DAY.

If you can help erect and/or dismantle the shelter, please ring me on Yateley 875158, again, before the day.

Thank you.

WEEKENDS WITH BTCV

by Valerie Kerslake

I have been looking at the most inviting holiday brochure for weekend training courses in conservation. It is issued by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and lists scores of different courses available in the South east, one or more to choose from for almost every weekend in the year, plus some one-day events too. Still more are available in the BTCV's national training programme.

A random selection from the titles includes ancient woodland identification, tree felling, small mammal surveys in woodland, chainsaw (several progressive courses available in this valuable but perilous skill), working with greenwood (which means making traditional hand tools like hay rakes and hurdles), coppicing, pond restoration, heathland management, grasses, footpath construction, gates and stiles, hedge laying, becoming a project leader, and farming and wildlife. Some of these skills would be handy in our own storm swept gardens as well as in the wider countryside.

The cost, the brochure says, "will vary according to the type and length of the course. As a rough guide, however, the standard fee ranges from £10 to £35 a day, with up to 50% reductions for BTCV members and volunteers." Usually you will be collected from the nearest railway station and "might stay in an old farmhouse, a village hall - or even a boat!"

Do tell non-members who may be interested - and even those who you would never expect to be; people taking part in conservation projects are often amazed to find how enjoyable it is and how satisfying to see what has been achieved by the end of the day. A group of enthusiasts acquiring a few basic skills could be the nucleus of the Yateley Society Conservation Volunteers envisaged at the AGM.

The brochure is circulating amongst members now and might be hard to trace, but another copy and more information can be obtained by ringing the BTCV Area Offices: Winchester (0962) 846027, or Maidenhead (0628) 771189.

CALLING ALL ART EXPERTS

by Geoff Hoare

The room at Yateley Hall containing the "Tudor Fireplace" was lined with wood panels that had portraits painted on them, but this panelling was removed post war and cannot now be located.

There is a postcard in existence dating from the 20's or 30's showing primarily the "Tudor Fireplace" but also showing very short sections of the side walls where they meet the fireplace wall and paintings are discernable, particularly on the right hand wall, although it is of course an oblique view.

I have photographed that small section of the postcard containing the painting and have had it enlarged. As one might expect the result is rather grainy and somewhat indistinct but it is of a young lady seated at what could be a spinning wheel.

It certainly will not photocopy but other opinions would be welcome and if any members think they can help with any further identification of any part of the picture - please call round.

(1 Blakes Ride, Yateley. Phone 872 948)

EXCERPTS FROM A DIARY - an occasional series.

No. 1. "Wellington" Walk, March 15th 1981.

(Editor's note: Founder members of the Society may remember that we kept a diary of events and activities during our first full year of 1981. Unfortunately so much happened so quickly that keeping up to date proved impossible and the diary lapsed. Even so within that year many members were persuaded to write articles and I am going to reprint some of them in the Newsletter for interest, and I admit nostalgia.)

"A walk from Darby Green to Yateley Common and back ... one part is very muddy and wellingtons are essential." fortunately everyone had taken the advice in the newsletter and some 30 pairs of wellington boots congregated outside St. Barnabas's Church. Michael Holroyd and Sydney Loader led the party. Everyone was certainly eager to explore the lanes so little used since Sydney's youth. Was it memories of their own youth spent paddling around in muddy places spurring the party on?

It was a chilling start to learn of the demise of the Eversley highwayman who had been hung for his misdeeds where now a modern landmark stands, the footbridge over the A327. But no more of that, quickly over the bridge, along the track passing the school, over a stile into the field north of Leafy Oak Farm, over a second and very rickety stile to leave the field and we arrived in Cobbett's Lane.

We turned left and entered the first section of the old lanes which had fallen into disuse. Much of the vegetation which had overgrown the lane had been cleared previously by members of the Society. We made our way along the lane. Sue Dawson helped us to identify several interesting natural features including giant puffballs and "Judas's ears", a tree fungus. Michael pointed out an old pipe used to discharge slurry from the farm onto the field and also the timber posts which marked the boundary to the common land. Sydney told us of the traffic which used the lane in the past as we battled past the fallen branches and through the mud, doubting that ever a horse and cart could have passed that way.

Finally we emerged at a "crossroads" where the right fork would take us to the region of Stroude Pool and familiar places. But first Sydney had a tale to tell. This track was known as Loamers Lane and in days gone by led to an old loam pit close to the A30. Once two cows had become stuck in the mud and could not be rescued. He then kindly offered to lead the less foolhardy by an alternative route to the common but some of us were undeterred and continued. Our worst mishaps were the temporary loss of wellington boots and the whole party did meet up again. We continued across the common and down to the new pool close by the A30, past the site of the old pest house where a solitary property still stands on common land and then back to Darby Green via Sydney's earlier home, the "Old Cottage", over four centuries old.

As we made our way across more common land back to St Barnabas's we made our last stop to wonder at the incredible insensitivity of Planning Authorities and developers as we looked at the old property surrounded and swamped by the new estate at Globe Farm. A sombre note to end an otherwise most enjoyable walk. Thank you, Michael and Sydney.

ARTHUR YOUNG AND THE CAT

by Michael Holroyd

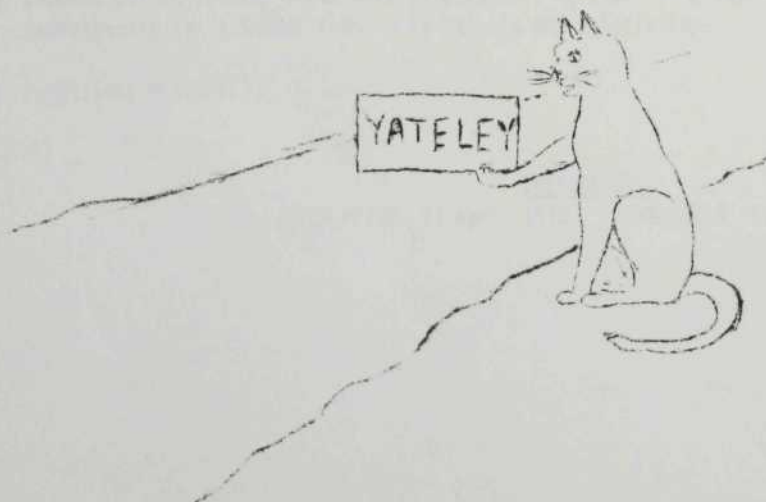
Arthur Young (1741-1820) was one of the foremost writers on agriculture of his time, and became the first Secretary of the Board of Agriculture when it was set up by the Government in 1793. As a young man in 1767 Arthur Young rented a farm called Samford Hall near Thaxted in Essex. His journal for that time includes the following anecdote, containing what he called "a singular instance of animal sagacity".

"The gentleman who gave up the house [Samford Hall] to me was a Mr Farquharson. His wife had a favourite cat which, upon their removal, was put into a sack and carried away with the furniture from Essex to Yatesby Bridge in Hampshire. I was surprised in about five or six days to see poor puss again at Samford Hall; nearly at the same time a letter was received from Mrs Farquharson lamenting her loss, but doubting the possibility of the cat having returned to its original home. The circumstance is astonishing, for the animal must have travelled seventy miles and threaded the Metropolis."

There appears to be nowhere called Yatesby Bridge in Hampshire. Seventy miles from Samford indicates north-east Hampshire, so it seems quite likely that Yateley was intended. This could be a mistake either by Arthur Young or by the editor of his journal, which was published in 1898. "Yateley Bridge" is still rather puzzling, but could perhaps refer to Blackwater Bridge.

So did a Mr. Farquharson arrive in Yateley in 1767? Apparently he did! The Yateley poor rates for 1768 show William Farquharson Esq. paying 8s 10d for land which seems to have been rented from Mrs. Diggle of Yateley Hall. The rates lists are then missing until 1779, by which date the Farquharsons had apparently departed. It is not clear where their house was. If they lived near Blackwater Bridge it might have been in Hawley, or even in Berkshire or Surrey.

As for the cat, we are not told whether it was sent back again to Yateley or whether Arthur Young kept it at Samford Hall. Young was a little off-beam when he said the cat "must have threaded the Metropolis". A straight line from Yateley to Samford would have taken it across the Thames somewhere between Windsor and Staines, then via Harrow, Potter's Bar, and Bishop's Stortford - all still quite rural in the eighteenth century, but a remarkable journey nevertheless.



TREES

by Tony Hocking

The article on the May Fayre says that an exhibition devoted to trees will form our Environment Week contribution. Trees have been much in the news lately, mainly because of the enormous numbers lost in recent gales and the destruction caused by the fall of some of them.

To help with the exhibition we would like to borrow any pictures of good specimens of trees around Yateley, any of trees since lost because of development, and any showing the effects of the gales on our trees. Any pictures used will have their sources acknowledged and will of course be returned to their owners. CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? If you have pictures you are willing to lend for the exhibition please contact Mrs Irene Draper (Yateley 870470) as soon as possible.

While on the subject of trees, there was a resolution passed at the AGM deploring the loss of and damage to trees resulting from development and the use of heavy machines.

I can quote one example of the careful use of machines avoiding damage. One result of the gales was the need for me to hire a skip from Collards of Farnborough to remove the debris of a collapsed greenhouse. When the full skip was collected from our narrow back lane the lorry driver noticed an overhanging oak tree branch lower than the lifting gear of the loaded lorry. He stopped just before hitting the branch, climbed on to the top of the lorry and carefully lifted the branch over the lifting gear; he then drove away without even scratching the tree. Why can't all people show such consideration?

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1990 (FROM APRIL 1)

- April -

- Thurs 5 MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Y.C. C.1.4 7:30pm
- Thurs 19 PRACTICAL HISTORY 2 Firglen Drive 8:15pm
Learn about local history, and at the same time Jean McIlwaine to Yateley
to make sense of the many records which she
has been collecting for St Peter's Church and for Yateley as a whole.

If you are coming, please give Jean a ring on Yateley 872768 first.

- May -

- Sat 5 A GARDEN VISIT Little Coopers 2:30pm
Mr and Mrs Oldale have kindly offered Society members a private viewing Coopers Hill
of their extensive garden which they open for the National Garden Scheme. Eversley
The garden is partly wooded, has many rhododendrons and has recently gained a lake. Map ref: SU 792602
- Mon 7 *** THE MAY FAYRE ***
Come and see us, or even better come and help!
- Thurs 10 MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Y.C. C.1.4 7:30pm
- Sat 12 BLUEBELL WALK Up Green/Eversley
Details to be announced.
- Thurs 24 PRACTICAL HISTORY 2 Firglen Drive 8:15pm
31 Another look at the records and curios kept by Jean McIlwaine. Yateley
Please ring Jean on 872768 if you wish to come.

-Future events (full details to be announced later)-

- June -

- Fri 15 EVENING VISIT to Box Hill to see orchids, etc. Leader Dr John Word-Smith
- Thurs 28 PRACTICAL HISTORY.

- July -

- Fri 13 EVENING OUTING to hear Night Jars in Bramshill Forest. Leader Carol Winder.
Refreshments for a Summer Evening by Malcolm and Valerie Pope.
- Thurs 26 PRACTICAL HISTORY.

COPY DATES:

STOP PRESS 23 April 1990 NEWSLETTER 1st July 1990