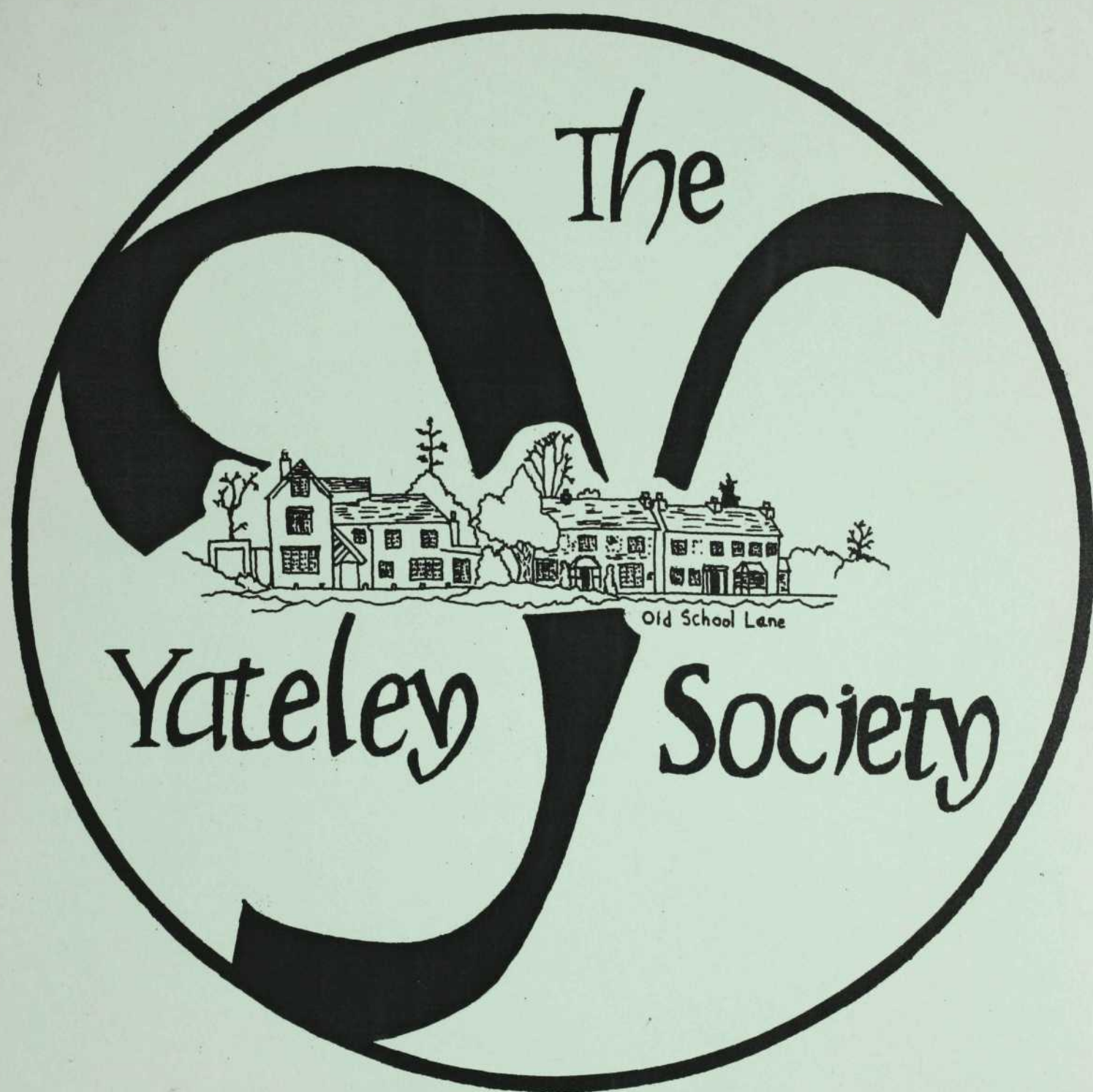


No. 44

FEBRUARY 1991



Newsletter



- 1 -  
-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 44  
FEBRUARY 1991

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

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THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

We've had the 10th AGM, and the Society is looking forward to the next 10 years of doing its best for Yateley.

You should all have received the Annual Report, in which the 1990 activities are reviewed, and our President and Chairman Edward Dawson is optimistic that the Society will continue to prove its worth.

- oOo -

One important duty of the AGM is to elect the Officers and Executive Committee for the following year.

In spite of the usual appeals no new names were put forward for Officers, consequently the following were elected:

Chairman	Edward Dawson
Vice Chairman	Tony Hocking
Hon Secretary	Valerie Kerslake
Treasurer	David Healey

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary pointed out that they agreed to election with reluctance because they had all served for many years and would prefer to see new people in these posts. Replacements would continue to be sought, and if anyone was found an Extraordinary General Meeting would be called for formal elections to be held.

An advertisement in the local press for a Secretary had born fruit and two people had shown interest. (One attended the AGM) They would soon be shown what duties would be required of them.

The other elected Executive Committee members were:

Ann Harris  
Geoff Hoare  
Roy Maryon  
Elizabeth Tipton

This satisfied the constitution in terms of elections to the Committee, but no doubt others will be coopted as required.

There was one other election. To nobody's surprise Sydney Loader was unanimously re-elected as Vice-President.

John Durrent was formally accepted as Auditor for 1991 in the belief that he was willing to continue.

- oOo -

For the first time you will find notes on Executive Committee Meeting minutes in the Newsletter. This is a bit of Society "perestroika" - aimed at giving members a better idea of what is going on in the Society, and what our current main interests are.



Another idea for communication within the Society is to have a "Readers' Letters" section in the Newsletter.

Is there anything which you feel strongly about that you would like to tell to the rest of us?

Have you any grumbles about the Society? - should we be doing something different, or in a different way? - have we done something right?

Have you a pet hate in Yateley (nothing libellous please), or something you approve of or wish to be encouraged?

Whatever it is - WRITE TO THE EDITOR!

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Geoff Hoare

#### NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following members who have recently joined, or rejoined, the Society.

Mrs Simons                      Greenway Cottage, Old School Lane, Yateley.

Rev. Fuller                      The Rectory, Eversley.

Mrs Duckett                      13, Bridge Walk, Yateley.

#### OBITUARIES.

With regret we announce the deaths of two members since the last Newsletter was issued. Our sympathy goes to their relatives and friends.

Mr Chappell. (The expert on herons)

Mrs Consuelo Hews.

#### \*\*\*\*\* A VISIT TO BRAMSHILL HOUSE \*\*\*\*\*

Arrangements are being made to visit BRAMSHILL HOUSE and garden on the evening of THURSDAY 16TH MAY next.

Bramshill, now used as a Police College, is one of the largest Jacobean houses in the country.

The Police Authority require a LIST OF NAMES and CAR NUMBER PLATES before the visit, and have LIMITED THE NUMBER OF VISITORS to 20.

If you would like to take this rare opportunity to visit one of the most important historic houses in the area, please telephone ROY MARYON (Yateley 875556) as soon as possible.

- oOo -

COPY DATES      STOP PRESS:      31st March 91

NEWSLETTER:      12th May 91



MONDAY MAY 6th

MONDAY MAY 6th

MONDAY MAY 6th

\*\*\*\*\* THE MAY FAYRE \*\*\*\*\*

The Society will have a stand at the 1991 May Fayre

Exhibition: Local Historical Building Materials  
(concentrating mainly on Yateley Hall and St Peter's Church)

Sales: Cakes, biscuits, preserves, publications, etc.

This year we will have a marquee- no scaffolding to trip over!  
- no smelly air compressor! - green in thought if not green in colour!

To make this a success WE NEED YOUR HELP

For the sales: can you bake a cake? or make some biscuits?  
or make some sweets? or some jam or marmalade  
(preserves are always very popular and we sell out very quickly!)

If you can help in this way  
please contact Stephanie Pattenden (874 994)

For the exhibition: Have you got any ancient bricks, tiles, spare  
thatch, lumps of cobb (oops - that comes from Devon!), wattle and  
daub, shingles, nails, saxon windows, etc that we could exhibit?

(Anything borrowed will of course be returned)

If you have anything even remotely suitable,  
please contact Irene Draper (870 470).

Help is also needed on the day, the sales stall has to be manned.

If plenty of people volunteer  
it means short working shifts for everybody!  
It is easy work, and you will see lots of your friends!

Please contact Stephanie (874 994) if you can come for an hour or two.

EXCERPTS FROM A DIARY - an occasional series.

No.2 - TOWN WALK, 13 August 1981

At 7-30 on a very sunny evening twelve members gathered at the church  
to follow the route from Harpden House (now the site of Monteagle  
Motors) to the old hospital, which in the early years of this century  
was the village school on Cricket Hill.

This was the route followed by Paul Nash, the 1914-18 official war  
artist, when he stayed in Yateley as a boy and later referred to in  
his biography.

After making a quick check on the progress of the church rebuilding  
and noting that the newly-erected weather vane had developed a sharp  
list to starboard, we set off down Hall Lane for about a hundred yards  
and then, where the Red House used to stand, plunged into a range of  
footpaths that many of us car-bound warriors never knew existed.

Sydney Loader told us something of the past inhabitants of the Red  
House, one of whom sat down one afternoon and composed the song "I'll  
Walk Beside You" in the summer house there.



The paths we followed doubtless lack much of the aesthetic character and have been re-routed in places since Paul Nash's day, since diversions are readily apparent around latter day housing developments. Nonetheless, even though a copse of chestnut trees, which was offered to the Town Council in trust - and refused, has given way to a group of bungalows, the route between Yateley Manor and St Peter's School fields still has a definite charm.

Crossing Manor Park Drive and passing through Old Welmore, we observed where the path of an older trackway crossed the Pottle stream, and wandered through this pleasant area to some well received sustenance in "The Cricketers".

Having thus refreshed ourselves we then just had sufficient time before dusk for Sydney Loader to lead us around the fish pond through the grounds of Mr Stilwell's house on Stevens Hill.

This for me was something of a high spot in the evening, having often wished for the opportunity to wander through these quiet woods, which are such a mass of rhododendrons in the early summer, and to steal a closer look at that ancient and picturesque pool.

Our sincere thanks must go to Mr Stilwell for giving us access, through Sydney, to his grounds and I for one would like to request that a further visit may be possible when the shrubs are in bloom.

By now it was rapidly becoming dark and various members departed on their separate routes home to be closely followed by the rest of us after we had retraced the route to our transport waiting at the church.

Thanks to Sydney Loader, a mine of information as ever, and to Peter Tipton for an entertaining and informative evening.

Ted Brooks.

#### NATURAL HISTORY UPDATE

by Mike Mann

In November 1989 I agreed to represent the Yateley Society on the "Forest of Eversley Countryside Heritage Area Natural History Working Group" (sub-committee). During the past year the group has concentrated efforts on gathering data on species of flora and fauna, etc, within the "Forest of Eversley C. H. Area" which will be used to complete an overall "picture" of the Natural History present, thereby guiding future surveys and conservation efforts. The Yateley Society wrote and telephoned over a dozen potential sources to supplement the considerable contributions from Valerie Kerslake, which were appreciatively received. The most notable and generous responses were received from Mr Mike Waterman of Blackwater (fungi and tree surveys), and from the M.O.D. Conservation Officers at Chessington, Surrey, to whom we expressed the gratitude of the Committee for a wealth of information.

Locally, it has been a mixture of good and bad news. The violent storm(s) in the early months of 1990 caused many trees around the area to fall, and these mysteriously found their way onto the Common, in vast quantities, coming to rest adjacent to a gypsy encampment in Vigo Lane!

Regretably, our Assistant Manager of the Countryside Park, Paul Rutter, left the area in August after only a couple of years in



Yateley. I am optimistic that the excellent conservation efforts started by Paul will be continued by his successors.

On the positive side, in spite of a prolonged summer drought, the heathland escaped with relatively few fires, and these were of small areas. Doubtless the winds will have helped, but it is opportune to pay tribute to the vigilance of our Country Park Rangers and the local residents who raised prompt early alarms, and to the sheer speed and efficiency of our local Fire Brigade, who are outstanding.

It may be true that occasional, controlled, winter burning of some areas of highland heath can be beneficial, but it is a different story with frequent, uncontrolled, summer fires that not only destroy nesting birds, animals, invertebrates, etc, but may burn deep into the peat killing the heather roots completely! A couple of years ago a charred baby fox cub was found in the blackened area after a fire. Most heath fires are, I believe, avoidable.

Readers may be interested to learn that Hampshire can lay claim to about 13% of the GLOBAL Lowland Heath (distinct from moors and highlands), much of that being located in the New Forest. Yateley Common has some of the finest surviving tracts of this internationally rare habitat in N.E. Hampshire. One of the most insidious forms of heathland degradation occurs by doing nothing! This allows birch and pine trees to spread and grow, eventually forming dense scrub or woods which shade out the sun and kill the heather. Since the common birch or pine woods are relatively poor habitats compared to the heath, conservation efforts are often directed at removing these trees, and their "seed banks", from open areas of heath. Another way that we can protect the heath is to avoid damage by trampling and keep to established footpaths and tracks.

An exciting recent development is the appointment of Mr Paul Edgar as North East Hampshire Heathlands Project Officer. Paul has already organised clearance of scrub and trees from 3 acres of heath at Castle Bottom. The Yateley Society has been requested to assist with a series of pine sapling removals to finish off the clearance. It is proposed to hold work parties on the last Sunday of every month, each will be led and directed by a Ranger. Tools will be provided, as will coffee and chocolate biscuits!

Anyone interested should call Tony Davis on Yateley 874 345 for more information and details of when and where to meet.

Come along for an hour or two, make some new friends, and contribute to conserving some of our special, local environment.

#### DOG-WALKER INTO TREE WARDEN?

by Valerie Kerslake

Devotees of the Archers will know about Tree Wardens; Tom Forrest was appointed one several months ago.

A voluntary Tree Warden (or several) is now being sought for Yateley. In a letter to the Society, Lawrence Smith, Deputy Town Clerk, says "The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust is promoting a Parish Tree Warden Scheme, and the Town Council, through Hart District Council, have been approached to suggest suitable individuals in this area."

Tree Wardens have no special powers but are expected to co-operate with and be accountable to their Town or Parish Council. They need to genuinely care for their environment though they do not have to be tree experts as training and information is given by the HIOWNT.

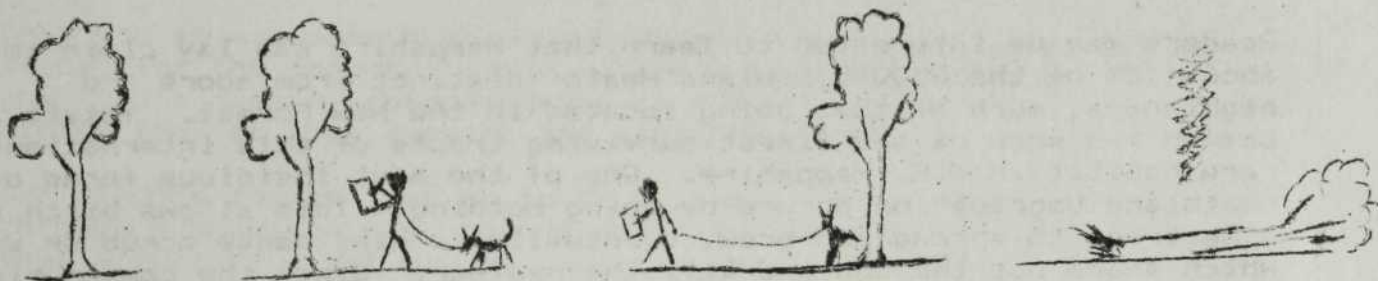


Duties could include - according to their capabilities and circumstances -

- 1 Gathering information about trees in their area;
- 2 Undertaking practical projects such as tree planting;
- 3 Giving basic advice to locals;
- 4 Protecting trees by watching out for damage to protected trees (e.g. TPOs).

More details were provided by the Trust which I will gladly pass on, though any members or their friends who are interested should contact Lawrence Smith (872198).

It sounds an ideal occupation for a regular dog-walker. (Does Tom Forrest have a dog? If so, it must be so well-trained that it doesn't make the cast list.



#### SPISE NEWS

The latest SPISE newsletter contains many items of interest to the Yateley Society.

1. County Councils have long been a helpful force in protecting the countryside and environment. Unfortunately they are under threat of disbandment, and replacement by "Unitary Authorities" which cannot be guaranteed to carry on the good work.
2. Berkshire, including the local Wokingham District, appears to be under threat of yet more large scale development, with consequent effects on our own roads, services and environment.
3. The Hampshire Structure Plan goes to its Examination in Public in November. This Plan has been commented on by the Yateley Society and its proposals are endorsed by us.
4. The spectre of large "new settlements" has not been exorcised. Consortium Developments may have gone into limbo, but others are quick to pursue the same ideas in other parts of Hampshire. One such is in Palestine - not a tented camp in the Middle East, but a village near Andover! Nearer home there is the proposal for Micheldever.
5. One startling statistic in the newsletter is the fact that the campaigns run by SPISE cost approximately £10,000 each year!

For more details of these matters, and others, I recommend that you read SPISE NEWS No. 3, enclosed with this Newsletter.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

by Tony Hocking

Recently, at one of the Executive Committee meetings, it was suggested that it would be good to publish some notes on the meetings in the Newsletter. This was greeted with general approval.

There is no point in publishing the detailed minutes, because administrative items such as notes of approval of minutes of the last



meeting, and so on are not particularly exciting. A list of topics under consideration, with a note of any decisions or actions taken should suffice to keep the membership up to date on what is going on.

With all this in mind I will make a start with the minutes of the 87th meeting, held at Barclay House on Monday 3rd December 1990, and those of the 88th meeting on 10th January 1991.

#### NOTES ON THE 87TH EXECUTIVE MEETING, 3 DEC 90

1. Blank posters were to be ordered, to be used for advertising events.

2. There would be no objection raised to building a skateboard ramp on The Green, but the Town Council would be urged to limit future structures which affect the Conservation Area.

#### 3. Financial Matters.

3.1 The new auditor, John Durrant had audited the 1989 and 1990 accounts.

3.2 Money earmarked for conservation tools in support of the Yateley Common Conservation Volunteers had not been spent as the Common Ranger (Paul Rutter) had left.

3.3 The History Project will need a considerable amount of funds as document costs are rising rapidly.

3.4 Editing the 138 Acres Ecological Survey at Blackbushe for publication would cost about £100.

3.5 Increased membership fees would begin in January 91.

#### 4. History Group Report.

4.1 Geoff Hoare said that dowsing had produced very good results at the Chaddisbrook House site. This should indicate a point to start digging. It was expected that a period of about 4 years would be allowed for the site work.

4.2 Richard Johnston reported progress on the documentary survey, papers had been dispersed amongst members for them to work on.

#### 5. Planning Group Report.

5.1 Monteagle Lane closure. The poor lorry access to Waitrose had been commented on to Hampshire C.C.

5.2 County Structure Plan. A response to Hampshire has been drafted. The Chairman recommended supporting Hampshire's Strategic Housing policies.

5.3 Michael Holroyd has written on behalf of the Society in support of a footpath creation order beside the Blackwater, north of the A30.

5.4 Green Lane reclassification. The lane has to be a Byway open to All Traffic since it appeared on the Tithe Map, but there is no evidence for vehicular rights on the branch across the Green. The meeting agreed to accept this.

5.5 Forest of Eversley. Michael Holroyd represented the Society at the 25 October meeting. The Welsh Drive was mentioned, and the 138 acres at Blackbushe will be on the next meeting's agenda.

#### 6. Programme Group report.

6.1 Talks have been fixed for the next few months. Roy Maryon is to organise a visit to Bramshill House in May or June 91.

6.2 Programme Group meetings will be advertised to attract more members with new ideas.

6.3 An organiser for the May Fayre exhibition on building materials is needed; Tony Hocking expects to be away at the time.

7. Yateley Hall Publication. The Committee agreed to support a publication on Yateley Hall. Richard Johnston suggested three



sections, a description of the building, its history, and the history of its people. He will submit a costed proposal.

8. It was agreed that the Society would join the Hampshire Gardens Trust for at least a year.

9. AGM. 14 February 1991

9.1 The Green Room had been booked.

9.2 Catering arrangements were in hand.

9.3 Contributions for the Annual Report were requested from the Committee members, by 21st December 1990.

10. 1991 Committee.

New officers are needed. The need to publicise the Committee's work, in order to encourage more members to join it, was agreed.

11. Next Meeting. Thursday 10th January 91, at Barclay House.

12. Any Other Business.

12.1 The Society will provide a speaker for the Yateley W.I. in February 92.

12.2 It was agreed that the Society support the Rural Development Strategy for Hampshire.

12.3 Richard Johnston will represent the Society at the Yateley Green Conservation Area Enhancement Monitoring Group meeting on 5th December 1990.

12.4 A vote of thanks was agreed for Peter and Elizabeth Tipton for the Guy Fawkes party held at their house on 5th November 1990.

12.5 A book token was presented to Diana Healey in appreciation of her hospitality to the Committee throughout the year.

NOTES ON THE 88TH EXECUTIVE MEETING, 10TH JANUARY 1991.

1. The 138 Acres Survey reports should be lodged with the Biological Records Centre. Editing of the Survey was still being discussed.

2. Financial Matters.

2.1 1990 expenditure had exceeded the subscription income. The higher 1991 subscription rates should offset this in 91.

2.2 The Treasurer will ensure that tax is not paid on bank interest (charities are exempt).

3. Planning Group Report.

3.1 The response to the Hampshire County Structure Plan had been completed and despatched.

3.2 Another application had appeared for development next to Broome Close, the Society had submitted an objection.

3.3 The Yateley Green Conservation Area Enhancement Monitoring Group was concerned more with planting and screening than with enforcing Conservation Area rules.

4. Countryside Items - Forest of Eversley.

4.1 Steetly Gravel Co. had set up a consultative group, primarily concerned with the Welsh Drive diversion. Michael Holroyd is a member.

4.2 Mike Mann had organised a conservation working party at Castle Bottom, regular working parties are envisaged.

4.3 The new Country Park Ranger is Tony Davis, assisted by Bruce Gwynn.

4.4 Wind-blown Sunday Market rubbish and increased fly tipping were marring the western Common. The Society will write to Hart D.C. suggesting action to counter this, such as labels with the Springwell Lane dump address stuck on the wheely-bins.



5. History Project Report.

5.1 Geoff Hoare will organise digging behind Chaddisbrook House when the weather improves.

5.2 Jean McIlwaine reported that 36 headstones had been pushed over in the churchyard in an outbreak of vandalism. The Society will ask Hart D.C. what their policy is on this as the churchyard is now their responsibility.

6. Programme Group Report.

6.1 Edward Dawson will ask Ian Avery of Hampshire C.C. to speak on "Waste Management in Hampshire", in March 1991

6.2 The next Programme Group meeting would be on 31st January 1991, main topics would be the May Fayre and a possible exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's church.

6.3 Two extra members would be invited to the group meeting as they had expressed interest.

6.4 It was suggested that other societies be invited to Yateley Society meetings.

7. AGM and 1991 Committee.

7.1 Accounts and the Annual Report will be circulated to members before the AGM.

7.2 Committee members will have name badges, other members will be offered name labels when they arrive at the AGM

7.3 Nominations for officers were considered.

7.4 An appeal will be made in the local papers for a Secretary.

8. Date of Next Meeting. (1st meeting of the new Executive Committee.)  
Tuesday 26th February 1991, 8 pm at Barclay House.

9. Any Other Business.

The Membership Secretary announced the death of a member, Mrs Consuelo Hews.



YES - WE DO WANT OLD BUILDING  
MATERIALS FROM ST PETER'S -  
BUT WE'VE ONLY RENTED A SMALL PITCH!



YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1991 (FROM FEBRUARY 26)

- February -

Tues 26 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (The first meeting of the new committee.) Barclay House 8:00pm

- March -

Thurs 14 MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Monteagle House 8:00pm

Thurs 21 TALK - "Managing Waste in the 1990s - What Cost for Hampshire". Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm  
An illustrated talk by Ian Avery, Hampshire County Surveyor's Department. All aspects, including environmental impact, fly tipping, use of land fill sites, etc. Topics which affect us all.

Sun 24 CHARITY SPONSORED WALK - A 12 mile walk from Yateley School to Sandhurst, Finchampstead, Eversley Forest, Yateley Common and back to Yateley School.  
Organised by YATELEY LIONS for the charities they support.  
For details send a SAE to Councillor Tom Hide, 20 School Lane, Yateley GU17 7NL.  
Note: There is a £3 administrative entry fee.  
(Any organising assistance on the day would be very welcome)

Sun 31 CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY Ring Tony Davis (Yateley 874346) for details. Castle Bottom

- April -

Mon 8 PROGRAMME GROUP MEETING Barclay House 8:00pm

Thurs 11 TALK - Camberley Museum. Y.C. Drama Hall 8:00pm  
An illustrated talk by the curator, Sharon Cross, who will describe the work and contents of the museum.

Thurs 18 MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Lime Tree Cottage 8:00pm

Sun 21 WALK - Finchampstead Ridges and Simons Wood. Road at top 2:15pm  
A stroll in these National Trust woods led by Irene Draper.  
(Bring binoculars for seeing birds)  
Map Ref SU 808 635

Sun 28 CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY Ring Tony Davis (Yateley 874346) for details. Yateley Common

- May -

Mon 6 \*\*\* MAY FAYRE \*\*\* The Green All day  
The Society will have a stand as usual, with an exhibition and sales.  
See the advertisement in this newsletter!

Thurs 16 VISIT TO BRAMSHILL HOUSE Bramshill Hse T80  
A very rare opportunity to see this historic house (sometimes called Bramshill Palace) - see the notice on page 2 of this Newsletter -  
you must book your places with Roy Maryon first.  
Map Ref SU 759 597  
Entrance off B3011

Thurs 23 MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Monteagle House 8:00pm

Sun 26 CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY Ring Tony Davis (Yateley 874346) for details. Yateley Common

- June -

Sat 29 GARDEN VISIT - KILN COPSE Kiln Copse 2:15pm  
Mrs O'Donohoe has kindly agreed to open her very attractive garden to the Society. Those who have seen the garden on one of the National Gardens Scheme public open days will know what a treat is in store.  
off Coopers Hill (B3016)  
Eversley  
Map ref: SU 792 601

Advance Notice (very)

February 20 1992 "A HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE"

An audio-visual presentation covering a year in the life of a village (Sherfield-on-Loddon).