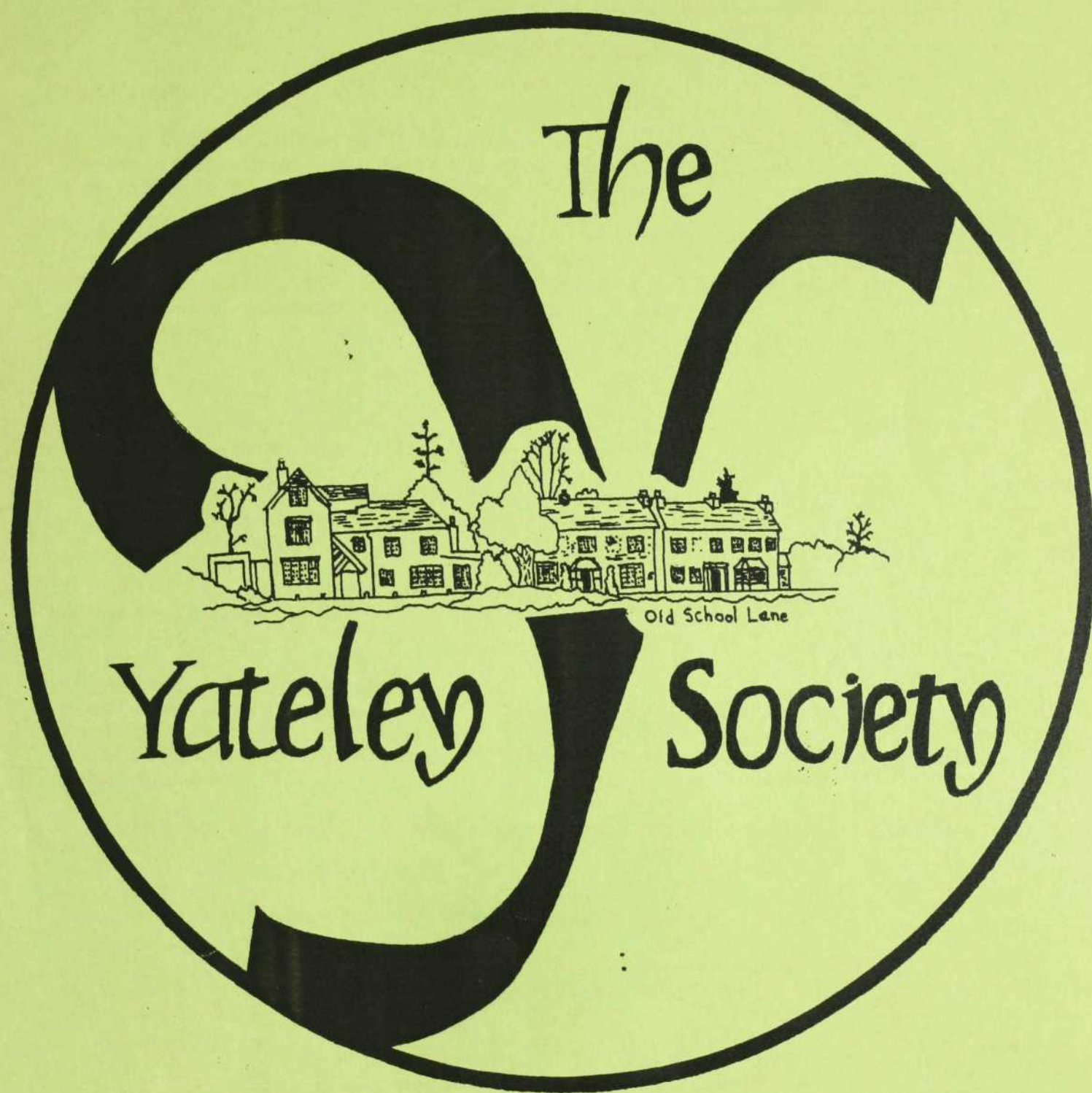


No. 46

SEPTEMBER 1991



Newsletter



- 1 -  
-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 46

SEPTEMBER 1991

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

In the last STOP PRESS I said that efforts would be made to repeat the Yateley Hall Open Day, because the one on June 22nd was so popular, and so many people only saw part of the Hall.

To our delight the owner, John Behan, has agreed to a second day and this will be SEPTEMBER 14TH. More details are given on page 2 (A different method for controlling the flow of people will be used, we hope it will be smoother and faster).

The May Fayre Competition.

The list of new members on page 7 includes the prize winners from the May Fayre Competition, they are:

Mrs Broomfield of Long Mickle, Sandhurst.

Mrs Faulkner of Holbeche Close, Yateley.

Mr Bennet of Mayflower Drive, Yateley.

Mr Hammond of Brambling Avenue, Yateley.

Mr Needham of Oldcorne Hollow, Yateley.

Congratulations! I know it was not easy!

Newlands School PTA Summer Fair

A belated thank you to the small band of volunteers who helped man the Society exhibition at Newlands School on June 29th. Thanks also to Valerie and David Kerslake for transporting the exhibition in the "goatmobile".

I'm glad to say that one new member was recruited that afternoon.

FOUND IN THE STILWELL "HISTORY OF YATELEY"

I recently looked in the Stilwell "History of Yateley" to find why the lych-gate of St Peter's had two dates on it. While doing so I noticed this quotation from Dean Swift's "Baucis and Philemon".

"A bedstead of the antique mode  
Compact of timber many a load  
Such as our ancestors did use  
Was metamorphosed into pews  
Which still their ancient nature keep  
By lodging folks disposed to sleep."

In view of the church's need for the proposed Worship Centre to keep up with the demands of the congregation I doubt this poem applies to Yateley today!

Two dates on the lych-gate? Yes; 1625 for the erection of the oldest known gate, 1884 for a later replacement gate which we have now. (There was another gate put up in 1800.)



# NEW MEMBERS

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

|          |            |                                    |
|----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr & Mrs | Atkinson   | Benwood, Firgrove Road.            |
| Mr       | Bennet     | 22, Mayflower Drive.               |
| Mrs      | Broomfield | 77, Long Mickle, Sandhurst.        |
| Mrs      | Butler     | 35, Manor Park Drive.              |
| Mr & Mrs | Cheetham   | 8, Honeysuckle Close.              |
| Mrs      | Embleton   | Hollybush Lodge, Firgrove Road.    |
| Mrs      | Faulkner   | 11, Holbeche Close.                |
| Mr       | Hammond    | 16, Brambling Avenue               |
| Mr       | Needham    | 15, Oldcorne Hollow.               |
| Dr & Mrs | Lister     | Holleywell, Copes Lane, Bramshill. |
| Mr & Mrs | Scerri     | "Dari", 8 Burley Way, Blackwater.  |
| Mr & Mrs | Siggery    | 29, Dickens Way.                   |
| Mr & Mrs | Spencer    | 10, Dumas Close.                   |

IMPORTANT!      IMPORTANT!      IMPORTANT!      IMPORTANT!      IMPORTANT!

## YATELEY HALL OPEN DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH

10 AM TO 4 PM

As before this is a marvellous opportunity to show one of Yateley's treasures to the public, and also to "sell" the Yateley Society.

On this occasion the public will be allowed to tour the house at their own pace, with no organised parties. This should greatly reduce the time spent in queueing, and there will only be a hold up if the house becomes too crowded at any time.

There will be barriers and signs to keep people from those parts of the building that should not be entered.

Information on particular rooms and other points of interest will be displayed on notices at the relevant places.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Society will still need STEWARDS who will be on hand to protect the property, ensure that people do not go astray and to answer questions.

Also there need to be car parking attendants and members to sell/distribute literature.

\*\*\*\*\* Volunteers are needed \*\*\*\*\*

For a variety of reasons some of the people who helped last time will not be available on September 14th - so PLEASE HELP - we can find jobs for as many people as we can get!

If you can come for a couple of hours it will be very much appreciated, if you can come for longer we will be absolutely delighted!

PLEASE RING CAROLYN SEYMOUR ON YATELEY 871294 WITH YOUR OFFERS OF HELP.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS 1990/91

As always at this time of the year, I request that any outstanding subscriptions are paid at members' earliest convenience, to enable the accounts to be finalised at the end of September, which is of course the end of the Society's financial year.

The memory jogging system in present use is for reminders to be sent out in the first half of the month in which subscriptions fall due, and thereafter at two monthly intervals as necessary. Members' subscriptions are of course our only source of regular income and need to be received as near as possible to the due date for obvious reasons.

So please, if you realise that your subscription is overdue, pay as soon as possible. If you are not sure, check with me on Yateley 872948, but I would emphasise that if you have not received a reminder recently your subscription is not yet due.

Geoff Hoare (Membership Secretary).

## Yateley Society advertisements.

### ABANDONED AFTER THE BARBECUE

One cherry and two Snoopy plastic tablecloths. Owner please claim before they are absorbed into the Lime Tree Cottage infrastructure. Ring Yateley 872240.

### A NEW POSTCARD

We have a new postcard showing the east front of Yateley Hall. This is our fifth Yateley Society postcard. They can be bought by members for 10 pence at our various meetings, or for rather more at local shops including Yateley Industries.

----- ooDoo -----

### THE BERKSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW

This article was written by our President, at the request of The Reading Chronicle. The Royal County lies on Yateley's northern boundary and we are affected by its planning policies. Earlier this year the County Council decided to update its county structure plan and has proposed building 45,100 houses over a period from 1990 to 2006. They also suggested a new settlement south of the M4 at Reading. This risks breaching the county boundary with over development. The County Council seems uncertain as to what to do.

### PITY BERKSHIRE

They say Berkshire's in a pickle, a pickle over planning. It doesn't know which way to turn. Its countryside is threatened, its people deeply unhappy. And some are very angry. Should we feel pity, as Alice did on first meeting a tearful Mock Turtle? Or, should we heed the Gryphon, who said, "it's all his fancy, that: he hasn't got no sorrow, you know".

Has Berkshire perhaps brought the misery upon itself? Continued growth of housing and industry may be seen as a threat now, but in the 1950s and 1960s the County was glad to expand. Growth meant prosperity, and the M4, accessibility. In the last 30 years the number of residents increased by over 70%, the stock of houses doubling to some 300,000. The movement of people and firms into



Berkshire was relentless. More than half the county's growth was due to the inflow of outsiders.

The coming of the computer age resulted in clean jobs for bright people. They could flourish regardless, and while car ownership and road building soared, so the houses went up. But, the growing pains had started. They began in the mid 1970s. As the roads became crowded, clarion voices were heard calling for the "drawbridge to be raised". Outsiders didn't see it that way and demanded their share of the fruits.

#### Myopia at an early age

Berkshire's error was its shortsightedness and its inability to resist government intervention in its planning. It preferred not to think ahead. It was doing well, and the future could take care of itself. The past 30 years changed the face of the Thames Valley county. It pawned its future, and mislaid the ticket.

Geography hasn't assisted sane planning. One end of the county is Green Belt. The "green noose" as former Times editor, Lord Rees-Mogg calls it. Or, more agreeably, as G K Chesterton described it, "the place where London ends and England begins". The other end is designated as of "outstanding natural beauty". So, with two-thirds of the county immune from development, it is the middle bit, around Reading and Wokingham, that has been crammed.

#### "...I wouldn't start from here"

For Berkshire to solve the crisis, it has to know where it is going. Without clear objectives the muddle will continue. The Structure Plan fails to do this. It is a mishmash of good intentions and forlorn hopes. That is why so many developers have responded to the public consultation, with major schemes at Newbury, Bracknell, and even south of the motorway, with the risk of decanting urban sprawl through to Basingstoke.

What's to be done? First, the County Council should conduct an audit of resources, a survey of genuine housing needs and the plans of local firms. Then, it should support a stronger regional policy, stop the loss of green field sites, say no to new settlements or growth areas, reuse and improve urban sites, and adopt an "environmental capacity" approach. The Structure Plan must set out an effective strategy to be endorsed by the public.

We may pity Berkshire today, but if it tried some of these ideas it could become the "sustainable" Royal County. A ten-year drive to achieve sane planning could turn sorrow to joy.

Edward Dawson, July 1991

#### WHAT A SUMMER IN 1879!

by Valerie Kerslake

Instead of staring out at the ceaseless rain last June, I spent a little time with the diary of John Mills discovering what sort of summer it had been 112 years ago. Dr Mills, who came to live in Yateley in 1876, was a careful diarist who generally noted the weather every day.

In June 1879 he records six fine days, one dull one and sixteen with rain, most of which had "heavy rain", "incessant rain" or were simply



"very wet". He comments that the damp weather was affecting the health of his brother-in-law. June 30th, though, was a "lovely day ... which was very fortunate as the choir treat and a party of about 40 [had] gone to Portsmouth to see the Dockyard and Victory".

Summer got under way in July for us in 1991 but July 1st 1879 was "one of the worst days we have had, raining and blowing very hard", and there followed two similar days, with severe storms on the 2nd. It then improved a little and on the 8th Dr Mills dared put out the croquet things although rain prevented them finishing the game. The 10th and 11th were beautiful; John Mills took friends to look at the bog (off Cricket Hill Lane) where "they were delighted with the botanical feast. The droseras [sundews] were in millions and the moss more beautiful than [he had] ever seen it". After that respite came more days of heavy showers. On the 14th "Mrs Rumance and her little girl were to have come to dinner but it was too wet. They came about 5. At 6 it set in again with violent rain so that M. [Mrs Mills] offered them a bed but about half past 7 they were able to start and got home without rain." July 23rd was "a really summer day" and during the mainly fine week that followed Dr Mills managed to do most of his haymaking. It rained heavily on the last day of July making seventeen days with rain that month.

The third day of August produced a spectacular storm with hail that wrecked acres of glass around Richmond and Twickenham, but the second week was very fine, apart from one storm with "tremendous hail and rain". By mid-month heavy rain had set in again, so much so that when Dr Mills drove to Sandhurst on the 20th the step of the carriage was under water, and it was still rising when he returned at midday. There were light showers all the next morning but it cleared after dinner, and, astonishingly, the Millises, who had cleared, mown and marked a second court two days earlier, had a most successful tennis party in the afternoon - unlike the Stilwells a week later whose tennis ground was "very sloppy".

The weather improved at the extreme end of the month and the 31st was "a lovely day from morning till evening", but there had been altogether twenty rainy days in August. The entry for the first day of autumn reads "Splendid weather, but very cold nights, a regular white frost this morning".

(Advertisement)

#### CRAFTS IN ACTION

Saturday 12th October 1991 - 10.30AM - 4.40PM.

TWELFTH TIME ROUND - Crafts in Action will again take place in Swallowfield Village Hall and a wide range of crafts will be on show throughout the day.

Demonstrations will include Picture Restoring, Lace and Bobbins, Stained Glass, Violin Making and Needlework Techniques.

Some work will be on sale - all workers will be demonstrating.

There will be home-made light lunches available at very reasonable prices, with tea and coffee on sale all day.

Entrance: Adults 30p.

Children 15p.

DO MAKE A DATE TO COME AND SEE US

Phone Margaret Murton - Reading 733367 - for further information.



## HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR PLAN

by Edward Dawson

County structure plans are in the news with fresh policies emerging in Hampshire, Berkshire and West Sussex. The forthright and welcome remarks of Michael Heseltine on planning and the countryside made in March 1991 add to this interest. The current review of local government combines to make the mixture powerful and irresistible.

In recent articles I have looked at major countryside and planning issues, essentially from a local perspective. These have covered the campaigns against new settlements, notably Foxley Wood; the common land question based upon the saga of Hazeley Heath; and the challenge of regional policy, on the publication of the SERPLAN strategy for the South East. The time has come to focus on county structure planning and consider where it may be taking us.

### WHAT ON EARTH IS A STRUCTURE PLAN?

The administration of land use planning in Britain has two legally and spatially separate components. These are the policy dimension and the control element. Policy, for the use or development of land, is contained in development plans. Since 1970 there have been two tiers, structure plans and local plans. The top tier, the province of county councils, sets out strategic objectives and guidelines whilst the lower tier, inhabited by district and borough councils, identifies land for development. The original aim was to make the system more flexible and thus overcome the public dissolution and scepticism which had grown during the 1950s and 60s when "the planners" were blamed for almost everything. The Plan is subjected to a hearing, akin to a local inquiry, called an Examination in Public. This takes the form of a probing discussion with a panel consisting of a chairman and two assessors. The panel reports to the Secretary of State who may propose modifications and approves the plan. Modern structure plans are supposed to look ahead 10 or 15 years. They are a continuum and often inherit significant commitments of policy, such as office space or a by-pass scheme. They are usually subject to a quinquennial review or roll-forward. Whereas plans were once heavy indigestible documents they now tend to be more readable. They concentrate on key issues such as the scale and overall distribution of housing, industrial and commercial development. They also consider the rural economy, highways and other transportation matters. Finally, they cover mineral working, green belt, countryside management, nature conservation and the cultural heritage as well as recreation and tourism, shopping, waste disposal and recycling.

### FOUR INTO ONE WON'T GO, AS THEY SAY

One of the first of a new generation of plans is the Hampshire County Structure Plan, of which the submitted draft was due for adoption in May 1991. The county plan aims to combine four existing plans, for north east, mid, south and south west Hampshire, taking them into a new era of policy making. The four would be repealed and replaced, but there is a problem. It centres, as might be expected, around housing growth and about different attitudes to selective restraint policies.

The districts and the County take a contrary line over house numbers, though it is hoped to avoid polarised views with a creative amalgam before the EIP. Dissent broke out between the Hampshire Association of District Councils and county planners over an attempt to fall below SERPLAN's figure of 66,500 for 1991 to 2001. The Plan is said to be driven by a vision for Hampshire in the 1990s. This sees a prosperous county "where the quality of life is enhanced by an attractive environment...where the pursuit of economic growth is replaced by the



desire to sustain what already exists...where the pace of change is slower than at present...and where the identity of individual settlements is maintained."

Though the County Council seems to have made a good first step towards a transition from four plans to one, there is still a long way to go before it can be judged a success. There may be some head-banging required before the Secretary of State is convinced. One thing is certain: it is crucial for everyone in the county that the Plan clears its hurdles safely. All must be alive to this imperative.

#### A DILEMMA, OR THREE?

To the north of Hampshire lies the royal county, whose former old boot outline now resembles a lozenge. In 1988, Berkshire County Council received the approval of Nicholas Ridley for its Replacement Structure Plan or RSPB. It combined the three old plans for the east, west and central areas into one. That Plan runs out in 1996, which makes Berkshire the only one of twelve counties in the region, apart from the Isle of Wight, which had not yet planned to 2001. Mindful of this, the County Council produced in March 1991 a draft review, this time to 2006.

Berkshire's problems stem from its geography. Its proximity to west London has led to development growth pressures even beyond those in Hampshire. Whereas Hampshire grew by 12 per cent during the 1980s Berkshire reached 15 per cent. Worse still, much of this was squeezed into central Berkshire. The reason is that the eastern end, around Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead is mainly Green Belt while the west, most of the Newbury district, is AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Together these designations account for some 60 percent of the County.

The Plan forecasts the need for up to 45,100 dwellings in its review period, being 1989-2006. The dilemma, as enunciated by Philip Houldsworth, Chairman of the County Environment Committee, at the first public meeting, was where to put the houses: at existing towns like Bracknell and Newbury or at a new location south of the M4 motorway at Reading. With the east and west effectively out of bounds the County Council is in a quandary with both options equally unpalatable.

So, which way will the Plan go if it is to climb out of its cleft stick? The Plan needs a firm strategy to contain growth. One element of this could be for the County Council to look for an overall reduction in housing growth to reflect its geographical structure and recognise the limits imposed by its two designated areas. An overall reduction of some 60 per cent might lead to only 1,000 houses being required each year after 2001. The result might be no more green field losses or new settlements.

#### SLIM LINE TONIC NOW ON TAP

While counties fret over their structure plans the world moves on. The Government in its White Paper on the Environment, issued last September, is calling for slimmer, more concise plans which cut through the verbiage of the past. Strong medicine to stimulate public interest in a bracing and invigorating fashion. We shall see.

To implement its White Paper, the Government has introduced a Planning and Compensation Bill; first into the Lords. The Bill, when it becomes an Act, will require all districts to prepare local plans and will replace the current planning gain system of section 106 agreements with "planning obligations" which could be offered



unilaterally by developers. The Bill also contains particularly welcome sections on enforcement of planning control. This is in order to plug gaps and round on developers who flout the system and get away with it.

What other tonics does Mr Heseltine have in store? What started last November as a review of local authority finance has become a review of local government itself. And he has made it clear that "this does not mean the wholesale abolition of either county councils or district councils, nor even unitary authorities everywhere". Perhaps the unitary bandwagon has been slowed down, but an important and fundamental element must surely be the ability of authorities to protect the environment and foster sustainable development. This must now be the benchmark and priority of any reorganisation.  
30 March 1991.

N.B. Edward is Vice Chairman of Hampshire CPRE  
Vice President of SPISE  
Member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law  
Former Chief Executive of the Environment Council

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#### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HONOUR

Geoff Hoare, our well known archaeologist (how does he find time to be our Membership Secretary as well???), has been asked to take part in an archaeological dig at St Albans Abbey throughout September of this year. The dig will make use of an unprecedented opportunity to excavate below the 14th century shrine of St Alban while the shrine is being renovated.

The dig is being led by Professor Biddle and the team of 6 or 7 will have 3 amateur members including Geoff. It is obviously a great honour for an amateur archaeologist to be asked to join in such a prestigious dig, and it shows that Geoff has acquired an enviable reputation and must have impressed Professor Biddle, with whom he has worked before.

Geoff foresees one problem, the shrine only covers a small area and there may not be room for everybody in the hole!

-- oOo --

P.S. Another new member has joined.

We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Crossman of 18 Lawford Crescent.



-YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME - 1991 (FROM SEPTEMBER 5)

- September -

|          |   |   |            |
|----------|---|---|------------|
| Thurs 5  | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING   | Barclay House   | 8:00pm     |
| Sat 7    | (BMV) WALK - Heathlands. A 3 mile walk to learn about this special habitat.<br>Led by Hampshire Countryside Rangers.  | Wyndhams Pool<br>Map ref: 821 597                             | 10:30am    |
| Mon 16   | PROGRAMME GROUP MEETING   | Barclay House   | 8:00pm     |
| Thurs 19 | MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING  | Monteagle House   | 8:00pm     |
| Thurs 12 | GENERAL MEETING - Short talks and discussion.<br>A chance to get up to date with Society activities such<br>as the History Project and Yateley Hall   | Yateley Centre<br>Green Room                                  | 8:00pm     |
| Sat 14   | ***** YATELEY HALL OPEN DAY *****   | Yateley Hall  | 10am - 4pm |
| Sun 29   | (BMV) WALK - Lakes, River and Finchampstead Ridges. A 5 mile circular<br>walk led by Irene Draper, round the BBONT Nature Reserve, along the<br>Blackwater, up to Ambarrow and the Ridges, with views back down the<br>Blackwater Valley. | BBONT car park<br>off Lower Sandhurst Rd.<br>Map ref: 806 628 | 10:15am    |

- October -

|          |   |                                   |        |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Sun 6    | (BMV) Fungi on Yateley Common.<br>A 3 mile walk led by Hampshire Countryside Rangers.   | Wyndhams Pool<br>Map ref: 821 597 | 2:00pm |
| Thurs 17 | MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING  | Lime Tree Cottage                 | 8:00pm |
| Thurs 24 | TALK - The Work of a Heathlands Officer<br>An illustrated talk by Paul Edgar, the Hampshire Heathlands Officer.<br>This should be of great relevance to the Yateley Society because of our<br>interest in the Common. | Y.C. Green Room                   | 8:00pm |

- November -

|          |  |                 |        |
|----------|--|-----------------|--------|
| Tues 5   | BONFIRE NIGHT! The Society will have a Bonfire Social! Details later - keep the date free! |                 |        |
| Thurs 14 | MONTHLY REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING   | Monteagle House | 8:00pm |

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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).

COPY DATES: STOP PRESS - 30TH SEPT, NEWSLETTER - 5TH NOVEMBER (!)

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