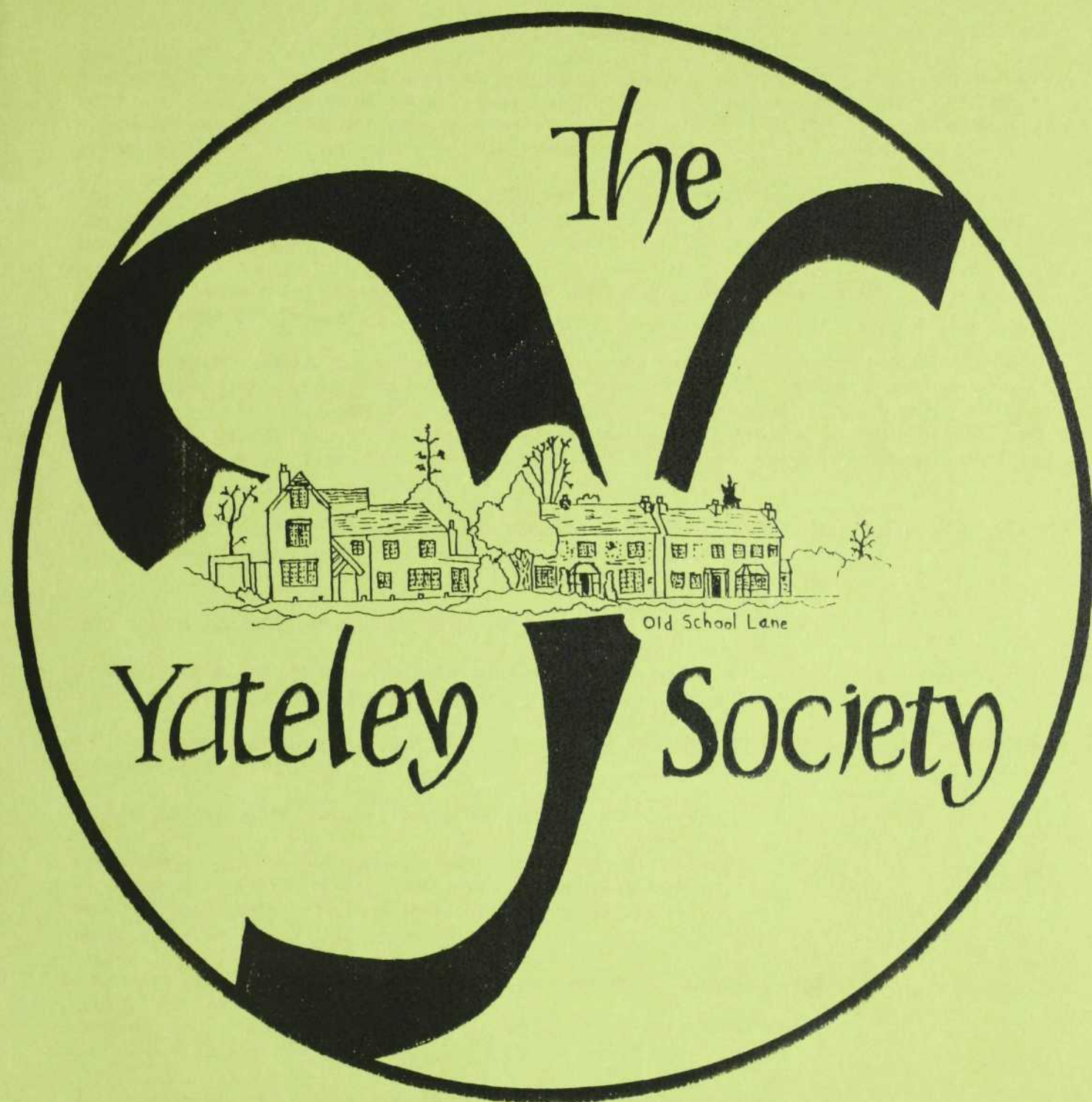


No. 48

MARCH 1992



Newsletter

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-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 48

MARCH 1992

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

The programme for 1992 is taking shape well, please be sure to have a look at the Programme Page, you will find a good assortment of talks and events for the first half of the year, and the Programme Group is working hard on the rest of the year.

The talk on Botanical Illustration failed to materialise last year because the lecturer, Christabel King, was sadly taken ill, we hope to invite her again this year.

As usual you will find appeals for help in the Newsletter - please take them seriously.

I can report that there have been two volunteers for the Executive Committee this year, allowing some long standing members to take a breather. This is excellent as, apart from providing relief for the departing members, it brings new ideas and outlooks to the committee. More details of the new Executive Committee and of our recent AGM on this page.

I also include a report on the Society Dinner held in January - a very successful event.

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THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 10th AGM and the Treasurer's Report (circulated to members before the meeting) were adopted nem con.

Richard Johnston introduced the Annual Report (circulated to members before the meeting).

The following Officers were elected:

Chairman	Richard Johnston (re-election)
Vice Chairman	Tony Hocking (re-election)
Hon. Treasurer	David Healey (re-election)
Hon. Secretary	Carolyn Seymour

The following Executive Committee Members were elected:

Roy Maryon (re-election)	Geoff Hoare (re-election)
Jim Atkinson	David Lister.

Mr John Durrant was re-appointed as Auditor.

Richard Johnston led a discussion on the future of the Society. The continuing importance of local planning matters was emphasised, as was the need for more members to come forward and take an active part in the Planning Group, particularly as some of the members who had put in a lot of work over many years were no longer available. The Planning Group was central to the activities and raison d'être of the Society, and should not be allowed to die away. It was noted that the Society's views were respected, but silence on any given matter was not necessarily a good thing as it was usually taken to indicate acceptance of whatever was happening.

One important planning matter in the near future will be the appeal in connection with ADT's desire to build a new terminal at Blackbushe (A meeting on this topic will be held on Thursday March 26th in the Yateley Centre Green Room).

It was agreed, without any expressed dissent, that the Society should become more positive on planning problems, even if this aroused some controversy or earned some unpopularity.

8. Two Resolutions were put forward and carried unanimously.

a). "This AGM of The Yateley Society BELIEVES that the centre of Yateley derives its visual attractiveness essentially from the existence of the Yateley Green Conservation Area; URGES a greater recognition of the aesthetic value of the Green for passive, quiet enjoyment; SUGGESTS a policy of progressive relocation of intrusive recreational and other structures; and CALLS UPON the Town Council to ensure that its policies lead to an enhancement of the village landscape and retention of its semi-rural character."

During the discussion it was suggested that the large scale leisure development at Chandlers Lane made relocation of the sports facilities feasible, and that in due course the Council Offices should also move to a more suitable location.

b). "This AGM of The Yateley Society is distressed by the slow rate of progress towards a resolution of the Traveller problem in North East Hampshire.

This AGM BELIEVES that the first step is to apply the Laws of the land to Travellers in the same way as they are applied to other people. It CALLS UPON Hampshire County Council to provide additional controlled sites so that the area can be designated and REQUESTS safeguarding of sensitive areas such as SSSIs and areas of local residential property by the positioning of new controlled sites remote from sensitive areas and existing built up areas."

During the discussion it was emphasised that there was no intention of putting undue restrictions on travellers, just ensuring that they were not given unofficial privileges over those who contributed to the local community. The last part of the resolution was aimed at reducing the effects of the rubbish which travellers tend to spread.

9. Under Any Other Business Peter and Elizabeth Tipton were thanked for the work they have done over the past years for the Society, particularly in the local planning field.

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

Yes - it's that time of year again!

The Society will as usual have a presence at the May Fayre, with the customary exhibition to advertise the Society, and a sales stall. We did extremely well in recruiting at the Fayre in 1991, and we hope to do well again.

The marquee which proved successful last year, and was much easier to put up than scaffolding, will be used as our shelter.

Naturally, we have to fill the marquee, and in particular we want a good quantity of things to sell in order to defray the high costs of

the site and marquee hire.

Please contribute to the sales. We have found that food, in the form of cakes, biscuits, sweets and particularly home made preserves, sells well.

(You may have seen much hoo-ha in the press recently about new regulations for the sale of food which threatened to halt such fund-raising sales as we are proposing. This has been looked into and as long as we observe two golden rules all will be well. These are:

1. Do not try to sell anything that needs to be kept under refrigeration or other special conditions to keep it safe, e.g cakes with fresh cream on or in them.

2. All items or wrappings of food must be labelled with the maker's name and address. Simple really!)

Another good line is unwanted cosmetics - a motley selection of one-off items went very quickly last year!

Plants were not so good - too many people competing for the market, and a general lack of money presumably.

If you can offer anything - please tell Stephanie Pattenden (Yateley 874994).

Effort will also be required on the day -

1. The marquee must be erected and later dismantled, at about 8am and 5pm respectively. If you can help at either or both times, please ring Tony Hocking (Yateley 875158)

2. 'Sales assistants' are needed throughout the day. If you can help for an hour or two, or even longer, please tell Stephanie.

The exhibition will probably have a variety of topics, including planning issues such as Blackbushe and areas under threat of development, trees, and the resolutions passed at the AGM.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr Hocking,

I read with interest your article on Yateley Common.

I have lived in Yateley for over 60 years, and can remember when most of the common was heather, of different types, and odd stands of trees. It is nice to see some of this heathland being restored for it seems to me one sort of habitat which was in itself unique has been taken over by another which seems to flourish anyway.

I particularly recall the area at Wyndhams Pool-across from the car park. This is now mainly trees. It was all heather with just a few odd trees the "Brandy Bottom" side. The pool itself was used for bathing and there was a nice sandy "beach" for paddling. Birch trees seem to flourish everywhere-taking over gorse and brambles or anything else that gets in the way.

Other habitats to have been destroyed - the area between the Link and Yateley Green was always marshy and "rushes" grew there and gorse, brambles and raspberry canes in front of Robins Grove.

I am for encouraging the heather - but being a simple country-woman I am not really into the scientific side of things!! - just know what I like. Yours sincerely,

Mrs Edna Butler.

Editor's note: Mrs Butler supports her views by taking an active part in the Conservation Working Parties.

See also the article on management of Yateley Common by Tony Davis, the Senior Ranger, page 5.

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THE SOCIETY 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER by Tony Hocking

The dinner to mark the first ten years of The Yateley Society, about which you have seen several notices, duly took place on Friday January 17th.

31 people came to the Chequers in Eversley, and had a most enjoyable evening.

Luath Grant Fergusson, one time Warden of the Yateley Centre and the main source of inspiration which led to the Society being formed, came with his wife Helen to be Guest of Honour. He treated us to a most entertaining speech which catalogued the greatest disasters that befell him while working in Yateley! He concluded with a toast to the Society, wishing us a second successful ten years.

Sydney Loader, Vice President and local knowledge guru of the Society, with his wife Florence were also guests of the Society.

I had the privilege of introducing the guests to the members, and Richard Johnston replied to Luath's toast.

Amongst the members we were very pleased to see Liz and John Preedy, both very active in the Society at one time, but who moved away some years ago.

At the end of the evening everyone agreed that the dinner had been a very worthwhile experiment; a good chat, good food (at a very reasonable price) and an entertaining speech. There were many demands to repeat the event, even to hold an Annual Society Dinner!

That it was such a success was due in no small part to Carolyn Seymour's excellent organisation - she has the grateful thanks of all present; thanks are also due to Bob Seymour for acting as treasurer for the night, doing accounts in the dimmest part of the building!

So, watch this space...and don't miss out next time!

-oOo-

ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

by Geoff Hoare

It has been felt for a long time that there is a need for a museum in Hart so that people can increase their knowledge of the physical and social development of the immediate area as revealed by research, whether of a documentary nature or by physical investigation such as excavation, etc.

While in the present financial climate a Hart Museum is most unlikely, a local museum is being further developed in Rushmoor, The Aldershot Military Museum in Queens Avenue, Aldershot. The term "Military Museum" conjures up visions of great battles and deeds of bravery, etc and while there are items of military hardware outside the building, inside the displays deal with the social and domestic side of army life which of course includes the civilian involvement. I joined the

RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice when I was 15 1/2 and what impressed me was the barrack room exhibit. Now I know where the RAF obtained its system of kit layout in the barracks as well as those instruments of early torture, the MacDonald beds.

However, it isn't all military as there is a room with local history exhibits, supervised by Dawn Webster, who has the full backing of the Hampshire County Museum Service. Being a Rushmoor Museum there is nothing from Hart on display but Cove, which is now in Rushmoor, was once part of Yateley Parish and products of the Cove pottery industry, which must have been the mainstay of the economy of what was otherwise a rather poor area, are well represented.

I can well recommend a visit.

-oOo-

THE MANAGEMENT OF YATELEY COMMON COUNTRY PARK

Yateley Common Country Park is managed by the Recreation department of Hampshire County Council. It is an important recreational resource for local people but is also extremely important for wildlife; much of the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the rest of the site qualifies for this designation. The reason that Yateley Common is so important for wildlife is that it still has a significant area of heathland. While residents of Hampshire might feel that heathland is a fairly common habitat, it is actually threatened on a world scale. Hampshire now has approximately 15% of the global area of lowland heath. Unfortunately the area of heathland left is rapidly declining due to the fact that grazing of the heaths is no longer carried out and this allows birch and pine scrub to invade.

In order to reverse this decline, the Rangers at Yateley Common Country Park have been clearing certain areas of trees to encourage the heathland to regenerate. This work has caused some concern among certain members of the Yateley Society so I would like to explain why the work is being carried out.

Heathland supports a community of rare and specialised plants and animals that are entirely dependant upon this habitat, for example; Sand lizard, Dartford Warbler, Silver-studded blue butterfly, etc, etc. If we allow our heathland to be lost then these species will become extinct in Britain. The woodland that we have cleared, supported almost no wildlife. The few species that were present, were the commonest, most adaptable species that will have no problem finding an alternative home.

Some people might say that man should not interfere and that the wildlife would be better off if it were left alone. Whilst this might be true in pristine habitats such as tropical rainforests or the Antarctic, it does not apply in Britain. It is generally recognised that almost all of the British Isles has at some time been managed or otherwise affected by man, the wildlife has adapted to this management and it is now essential to continue the management in order for the wildlife to survive.

It has also been claimed that the Yateley Common Rangers have no support for what they are doing. This is not true. Our management is approved by the Yateley Common Management Sub-Committee which consists of County and Town Councillors and has observers from a number of local groups including the Yateley Society. The type of work that we are doing is supported by all the major conservation organisations including English Nature, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, etc. This work is

also supported by all the local authorities that have heathland within their boundaries and it even has the backing of the European Economic Community! On a local level, in our experience there are more people in favour of what we are doing than against it.

Finally, a number of people say that they do not care about the conservation issues, they like trees and we should leave them for that reason alone. I personally feel that is a rather selfish attitude but I would assure these people that we will be leaving a number of wooded areas for them to enjoy.

If you have any queries about any aspect of the management of Yateley Common Country Park, please feel free to contact me at The Rangers House, Cricket Hill Lane, Yateley, telephone 874346.

A. M. Davis. Senior Ranger - Yateley Common Country Park.

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SPIRIT LEVEL

There have been odd goings-on at Bramshill College, Hants, the policemen's staff college, housed in a 17th century hall. Doors open by themselves, the scent of lillies pervades, silver spoons inexplicably fall from sideboards.

There is serious talk of a collection of ghosts which includes a sobbing child, a bearded man and a tennis player who has developed the knack of walking through walls.

"They have been seen by people of the utmost sobriety," says Ian Watt, a former dean of the college and its unofficial historian. The most glamorous ghoul is "The Lady in White", said to have been locked in an Italian chest on the eve of her wedding. The body was found 50 years later.

One senior civil servant beat a hasty retreat when confronted with an icy chill on the library, but no policeman has yet quit a course after unearthly encounters. "Generally, the matter is treated pretty lightly," says Watt. "There have, I understand, been a lot of high jinks with sheets over the head."

From the Daily Telegraph, 2 Jan 92.

(Spotted by Roy Maryon)

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THE YATELEY HISTORY PROJECT

by Geoff Hoare

The watching brief on Chaddisbrooke House during its renovation has now been completed and the archaeological excavation has recommenced in what was the rear garden of the house.

Last year a previously unknown ditch was partially revealed in a 2 metre square evaluation trench and the area immediately surrounding it is being opened up to further the investigation of this feature which possibly predates the present northern boundary of the churchyard which is a hedge and bank.

Work will continue at weekends and some weekdays up to approximately the end of March and while working space is limited we will try to accommodate anyone wanting to help but in any case visitors will be welcomed.

-oOo-

Members may recall my article in The Yateley Society's Newsletter last November about the meeting of Southern Comfort in Farnham. These annual meetings bring together local societies to discuss topics of mutual interest and encourage cooperation. Our keynote speaker in November was Francis Tibbalds, an architect and planner of renown, who enthralled the audience with his perceptive and penetrating views on urban living.

I have to report, with great sadness, that Francis Tibbalds died on 26 January 1992 at the age of 50. His demise is a tragic loss to the world of planning and town design. A former President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1988, he was an active Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an enthusiast for the National Trust and Friends of the Earth.

Francis Tibbalds was born on 16 October 1941 and was educated at Farnham Grammar School. He qualified in architecture, gaining a distinction, two RIBA prizes, and the Robert Mitchell medal for architecture. While later working for Westminster City Council he developed a profound respect for the British planning system and an unshakeable belief in strong, democratic and caring local government. Neither ever left him.

Francis Tibbalds' talent and greatest contribution was in the field of urban design, a cause close to the heart of the Civic Trust and, of course, The Yateley Society. Not only did he champion the ideals of good design and the conservation of the urban heritage, but he also strove to promote planning as a noble and worthwhile profession. Fine examples of his work include British Telecom's new headquarters in Croydon and designs for Wimbledon Town Centre and the King's Cross Development. In 1991 Francis Tibbalds was appointed a Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University of London, but still managed to give talks to primary schools, community groups and local societies.

All is not well with our townscapes, even when apparently protected by conservation policies. English Heritage has just reported that about one sixth of the half million or so listed buildings in England are at risk from neglect or in a vulnerable condition. Listed buildings are threatened if left empty, while Conservation Areas suffer most from unsympathetic alterations and a poor standard of repair. Either way we all have to put up with an unacceptable assault upon 'the spirit of familiar places'. When linked with so much 'context-blind' new development of the 'modern' architectural era (now mercifully ending), the effect has been to suggest that today's developers cannot be trusted to create built environments of the same human scale, decorative interest and variety as were achieved by previous generations.

One man who went to see for himself and refused to 'accept the inevitable' was Francis Tibbalds. He responded characteristically to the challenge of the Prince of Wales, laid down by his 'Vision of Britain' TV documentary by producing his own guide for good taste. He called it:

The Ten Commandments of Good Urban Design:

1. Thou shalt consider places before buildings.
2. Thou shalt have the humility to learn from the past and respect thy context.
3. Thou shalt encourage the mixing of uses in towns and cities.
4. Thou shalt design on a human scale.
5. Thou shalt encourage freedom to walk about.

6. Thou shalt cater for all sections of the community and consult with them.
7. Thou shalt build legible environments.
8. Thou shalt build to last and adapt.
9. Thou shalt avoid change on too great a scale at one time.
10. Thou shalt, with all the means available, promote intricacy, joy and visual delight in the built environment.

Everyone who met Francis Tibbalds felt inspired and influenced by him. His passing will not easily be forgotten.

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HAMPSHIRE RECORD OFFICE - BEGINNERS' AFTERNOON

The Hampshire Record Office is offering a Beginners' Afternoon, at the Office, on Saturday April 25, from 2pm to 5pm.

The intention is to show members of local societies how the Record Office can help them carry out their documentary research. The afternoon will contain talks, tours and some practical experience.

There is no charge.

If you are interested in finding out what the Hampshire Record Office has to offer, please (Yateley 872439) not later than Wednesday February 26, and let him know the general nature of your research interests.

For information, the address of the Office is:

The Hampshire Record Office
20, Southgate Street,
Winchester.
SO23 9EF. (Tel 0962 846154/856142)

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WEA Yateley Branch

One Day School

THE HISTORY OF GARDENS IN ENGLAND

on

Saturday 4th April 1992

in

The W.I. Hall, Reading Road

from

10:00am until 4:00pm

The cost will be £9.00 to include morning coffee and a light lunch.

Enrollment: direct to The Branch Secretary, Mrs I Draper, 22 Lawford Crescent, Yateley. (Tel: Yateley 870470)

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HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB MEETINGS, APRIL 1992

THE GEORGIAN AGE IN HAMPSHIRE.

Saturday 11 April 1992, 10:00am to 4:45pm,
King Alfred's College, Winchester. Fee £4.00.
Topics include Country houses, Clerical life, Landscape gardens,
Medicine, Crime.

TRANSPORT AND THE LANDSCAPE.

Saturday 25 April 1992, 10:15am to 5:00pm.
Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop near Andover. Fee £5.00.
Topics include Roman roads, Basingstoke canal, Railways, Museums,
Planning and road transport.

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CHARLES KINGSLEY'S EVERSLEY

Surrey Heath Local History Club will be making a visit to Charles
Kingsley's Eversley on

Tuesday 12th May 1992

The visit will be led by Mrs Beer, the party will meet in the car park
by Eversley Church at 7:00pm.

Yateley Society members will be welcome, but so that numbers will be
known, please ring the Club Secretary, Phil Stevens, beforehand if you
mean to come, on Camberley 65758.

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-YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME - 1992 (FROM FEBRUARY 23)

- February -

Sun	23	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
		Every little helps! Ring Tony Davis on 874346 for details.		

- March -

Mon	9	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING	Barclay House	8:00pm
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Thurs	19	TALK - METEOROLOGY FROM SPACE. by Roy Maryon. The weather is a topic that affects us all! This illustrated talk gives a "top level" view of the weather and forecasting.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Mon	23	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Barclay House	8:00pm
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Thurs	26	BLACKBUSHE - A meeting to discuss the Blackbushe Planning Appeal and the Yateley Society contribution.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Sun	29	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
		Every little helps! Ring Tony Davis on 874346 for details.		

- April -

Sat	4	THE HISTORY OF GARDENS IN ENGLAND - see page 8		
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Thurs	³⁰ 3	GENERAL MEETING - ACTIVITY UPDATE Local Inquiries, Conservation.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Continued on page 10.

Programme continued:-

Sun	26	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Every little helps! Ring Tony Davis on 874346 for details.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
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- May -

Mon	4	**** MAY FAYRE **** WE SHALL BE THERE! - COME AND JOIN US! SEE PAGE 2	Yateley Green	ALL DAY
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Tues	12	CHARLES KINGSLEY'S EVERSLEY	See Page 9	
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Thurs	21	TALK - CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT by Brian Skitton, a speaker from the chemical industry.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Sun	24	A Society Picnic has been proposed - details later.		
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Sun	31	BLUEBELL WALK - Finchampstead Ridges Led by Irene Draper.	BBONT car park on lower Sandhurst road. Map ref: SU 806 628	2:30pm
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Sun	31	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Every little helps! Ring Tony Davis on 874346 for details.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
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- June -

Thurs	11	VISIT TO FARNBOROUGH ABBEY A conducted tour of the Imperial Crypt and other areas. Please advise Roy Maryon (Yateley 875556) if you wish to come. Transport can be provided if you need it.	The Abbey	7:30pm
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Thurs	18	TALK - Subject TBA (probably FORESTRY)	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Sun	28	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Every little helps! Ring Tony Davis on 874346 for details.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
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- July -

Sun	5	A WALK IN THE ROYAL OAK VALLEY - led by Irene Draper Up the valley to the Common, and return.	Public car park behind Royal Oak PH.	2:30pm
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Sat	18	SOCIETY SUMMER BARBECUE Valerie and David Kerslake have kindly offered the use of their garden for this event. More details later.	Lime Tree Cottage	7:00pm
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COPY DATES

STOP PRESS 18 APRIL 1992, NEWSLETTER 31 MAY 1992.