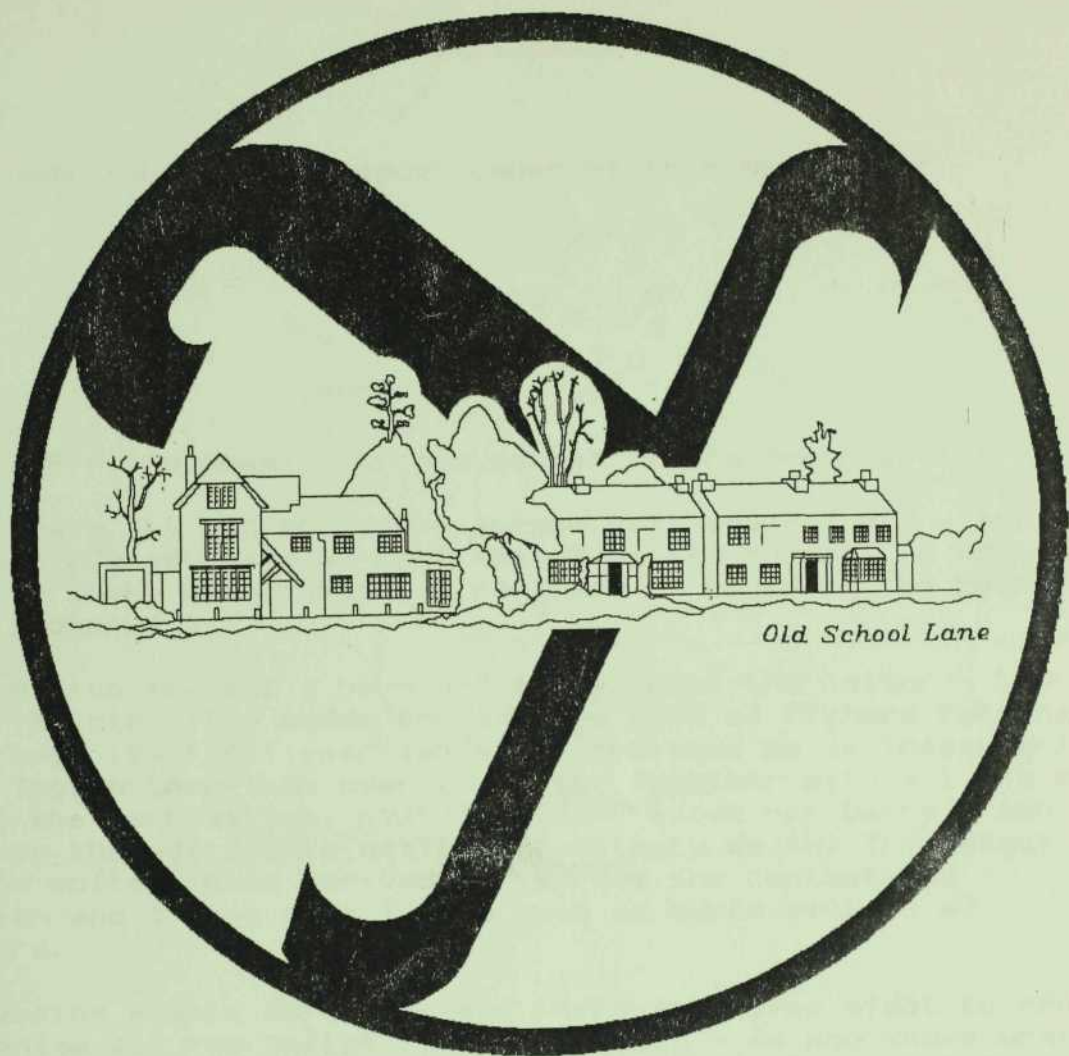


No. 50

October 1992



*The
Yateley Society
Newsletter*

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- THE YATELEY SOCIETY -

Newsletter No. 50
OCTOBER 1992

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

Just look at the issue number of this Newsletter -

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YES - the Newsletter has scored its half-century!

I hope you have all had enjoyable summer holidays - I did - and I came back in such a good frame of mind that I looked forward to editing the Newsletter! Then, even better, I realised it would be the 50th issue - a real landmark!

It may seem like it, but I have not always been the Editor - the Newsletter started life under the skilled hand of Richard Earnshaw who saw it through its first year (and then replaced me as Treasurer); Elizabeth Tipton then took over as editor together with all the other vital jobs she carries out, next Jean Kerr added her Darby Green viewpoint to the editorship until her untimely death. Throughout their tenures the editors have strived to improve the content and presentation and I hope that I have been as successful as my predecessors.

Nothing remains static for long, and there are moves afoot to reassess and reorganise all the Society's publications - so who knows what the future will bring? - Whatever happens you need to be kept informed of what is going on in the Society, so I am sure that a Newsletter of some sort will be around for a long time to come. One thing will change, the editor - surely there is someone who has a yen to run a magazine - this is your chance! - give me a call on 875158.

-----ooOoo-----

Now that the autumn is here, can the AGM be far away? - it's amazing how quickly the new year comes around, and AGM planning starts well before then.

One important feature of the AGM is the election of the Officers and the Executive Committee. These people run the Society, and try to do so according to the wishes of the whole membership. One way to find out more about what goes on in detail is to join the Committee as an ordinary member or as an Officer. It is interesting, informative and everyone can air their ideas on the many topics discussed - why not give it a try?

-----ooOoo-----

Please remember that the Conservation Working Party meets on the last Sunday morning of each month at Wyndhams Pool at 10-00am, to assist the Rangers on the Common.

The work is not too strenuous, jobs can be found to suit all abilities, and we rarely work past 1-00pm. Tea or coffee and biscuits are provided, and there is a social aspect to the meetings as well as performing useful tasks.

More volunteers are always in demand - come along and give a hand, or just see what we get up to.

Tony Hocking

YATELEY AND THE FOREST OF EVERSLEY

The Forest of Eversley is very important for Yateley, mainly because we are right in the middle of it. It is one of the eleven Royal Forests which existed in Hampshire in medieval times. The Royal Forests evolved their own distinctive forest laws, like the Charta de Foresta of 1217. The legal framework allowed the enclosure and cultivation of private lands in Royal Forests, under licence from the Crown, which had hitherto been illegal.

Of all the royal preserves, only the New Forest and Woolmer Forest have retained significant areas of heathland. However, creative countryside conservation is now a feature in many parts of the country. Planting completely new "Community Forests" is for example, an idea being promoted by the Countryside Commission. So the idea of restoring the Forest of Eversley came about with the designation of a Countryside Heritage Area for the Forest.

The Forest of Eversley was the first CHA to be defined by the County Council and it covers an area of some 30 square miles. There are seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), including Castle Bottom and Yateley Common. The main aim of the Heritage Area designation is to improve and restore the heathlands, which may include acid grasslands, valley bogs and old woodlands. Conserving the habitat essentially means:-

- * Prevention of the destruction of heathland;
- * Management of heathland i.e. removal of scrub and/or grazing;
- * Restoration of heathland on former heathland areas i.e. heathland recreation.

To help achieve the conservation objectives of the Heritage Area both a Steering Committee and a Consultative Group have been meeting since 1989. These have now been superseded by the establishment of a Forest of Eversley Trust as a limited company with a board of directors. The company has now been registered as a charity with Lord Tenby as Chairman. Other directors of the Trust include Vernon Hazel, Rachel Fuller, Sir Evan Calthorpe, Philip Todd and myself. Servicing is provided by Hampshire County Council and Hart District Council, but we are anxious to appoint a company secretary.

A number of groups have been appointed, a Conservation Advisory Group and a Local History Group. In addition a major event is planned for June 1993, to coincide with the Hampshire Landscape Fair in Winchester. Ideas are being canvassed for a public event and the Yateley Society clearly has a key role to play as a local body in the area. Mike Mann is our representative and any suggestions should go to him or me.

Edward Dawson (tel: 877458)

THE FIRST EDITION

In view of the "Half Century" I thought it would be appropriate to quote from the first Yateley Society Newsletter which was dated February 1981. When I opened my copy the first thing I found was an article by me! (does nothing change?) - so I quickly turned the page to something else.

I found an article by Ted Brooks, then leader of the Conservation Group, and later Chairman of the Society. This article deals with the setting up of the Yateley Conservation Area, a success story, and with planning proposals and difficulties with Tree Preservation Orders which of course still bedevil us.

Conservation Group Report.

Those of our members who were present at the first-class lecture and slide show on "Timber Frame Buildings" given by Richard Warmington earlier this month, will have seen the plan which Hart District Council have published proposing to encompass the whole of Yateley Green within a Conservation Area.

The Society's proposals to Hart D.C. that this area, which still retains the essential village character of Yateley, should be afforded some protection were acted upon with commendable speed by the Council.

The published plan covers a slightly larger area than our original proposals and includes several buildings for local listing which have previously had no form of protection. A letter endorsing the Hart D.C. proposals has now been sent and a minor modification to the perimeter has been suggested. We have also advocated that four houses proposed by Hart for local listing should be raised to Grade II status on the grounds of their age and social significance and a reply is now awaited. Further historical research is still required on many of the older houses in this and other areas of Yateley to substantiate our proposals for those buildings worthy of either local or Grade II listing and if you feel interested in this work, we will be delighted to hear from you.

Two planning applications have recently been submitted to Hart District Council for large scale residential developments on white belt land in Yateley and some members have enquired as to what response the Society will make. It is the Society's view that any development should be thought out properly and carefully controlled. In this particular instance the Conservation group is carefully considering the merits and demerits of the applications and the stance the Society should take. In any case, within our membership there will be opinions for and against these proposals and each individual should act according to his/her own dictates if strong views are held.

The first application will have already been considered by the Council by the time this newsletter reaches you but the application affecting Hill Farm (Baggs Farm) off Stevens Hill will be published under the Public Notices section of "The Yateley News" probably on Friday 27 [of February] or the week after. If you have any opinion regarding this development proposal, whether in favour or against, then please let your views be known to: The Director of Planning, Hart District Council, High St., Hartley Wintney.

One aspect of the Stevens Hill proposal which does concern us as a Society is that a number of mature oak trees are likely to suffer in the event of the plan being approved. Contact has been made with Hart D.C. Tree Preservation Officer on this point but it seems likely that no T.P.O's will be issued since a) the trees affected are in roadside banks and are thus a Council consideration anyway, and b) any road

widening scheme which is likely to be a necessary adjunct of the development has prior concern over preservation of trees.

Lets hope that someone somewhere realises that it is not always necessary to go "through" but sometimes possible to go "round".

[Editor's note: Objections to the Stevens Hill/Hill Farm development prevailed, there are still open fields, and the mature oaks still stand proud.] Tony Hocking

GYPSIES AT THE CROSSROADS

Travellers are very much in the news these days. Whether romanes, tinkers or hippies (the so-called New Age Travellers), we are all painfully aware of the problem. Gypsies, which originate in northern India, have been known for about 500 years. They are spread around the world.

Yateley has long suffered from illegal encampments and complained that the law must be strengthened. Now, the government has decided that the time has come to reform the Caravan Sites Act of 1968. The Act places a duty on local authorities to accommodate all those of "nomadic habit", "residing in or resorting to their areas". When all the sites are provided the authority can apply for designated status.

The problem has grown faster than the remedy. In 1965 there were less than 4,000 gypsy caravans; by 1992 there were 10,000. Nearly half of these were on unauthorised sites. The sites are paid for by a 100% grant from the DOE, and in the past 20 years the Exchequer has paid out some £56 million. Once occupied the gypsies pay rent for each pitch.

With less of the traditional occupations available, such as horse dealing and fruit picking, gypsies have turned to scrap metal and laying tarmac. Using section 39 of the Public Order Act to move them on can be effective but the police are loathe to act.

The Government has now published a consultation paper on the way forward. There is a 3-fold strategy:

- 1) Henceforth it will be a criminal offence to station a caravan on land without the consent of the owner or tenant.
- 2) A magistrate may, under expedited powers, issue a warrant authorising the removal from land of illegally parked caravans.
- 3) A magistrates' court may prohibit the return of offenders within two years.

In addition, the 1968 duty to provide sites would be repealed and replaced by a discretionary power. The Secretary of State's powers to designate areas would also be repealed together with encouragement to gypsies to settle in private or public sector housing.

In conclusion, the aim is to end illegal camping by: swifter action; encouraging travellers to provide their own sites; a shift to permanent housing and better access to educational opportunities for travellers and their children. Edward Dawson

GO-KARTING FOR ALWAYS?

While the Appeal Inquiry into ADT's proposed new car park and diversion of the Welsh Drive was going on in August, and then September, (and why was almost nobody taking up free entry to a show that was enlightening, baffling, surprising, tedious, amusing, informative - all the entertainment value of a law court with less personal anguish and very much more immediate local significance)...

While this was going on and the Society was putting forward its evidence, the other Blackbushe matter was coming up: Camberley Kart Club's application for renewal of permission for go-karting. The Club normally receives temporary permission annually, though in 1989 it was for three years. This time they are asking for permanent permission for the kart racing circuit, and will later apply for unspecified outbuildings and portakabins. They also hope for an increase in the number of days allowed for karting each year, at present it is 46.

Their grounds for applying are, first, the great success they have had with controlling noise emission from karting over the past three years, reducing it by 8dBA, (more than the goal previously named by Hart); secondly, their continued proper management of the SSSI within and around the circuit, according to the management plan set by the Club and approved by Hart; and lastly the fact that it is not only such fun for their members but they have raised a lot of money for charity as well - which I am sure is true, but is it relevant???

The noise reduction is puzzling. One does not know when or where it is measured, nor what steps have been taken to reduce it although a large bank has been made at one end of the circuit. But many people in Yateley and Eversley say it sounds much as it has for years, and that it is an intolerable nuisance whether they are at home or wishing to enjoy a peaceful Sunday walk on Yateley or Eversley Commons.

Since we do not know the scope of the Club's management programme, it is hard to judge the success of that either. One would feel more confident if it had been agreed with English Nature, and just looking at the site does not reassure. Inevitably Castle Bottom SSSI is endangered when the stream running into it has passed through the centre of the go-kart circuit, with likely contamination by oil, petrol and assorted rubbish. Inevitably the hard surfacing laid for the Club must force rainwater to drain into the stream, gathering impurities and also calcium on its way, rather than soak into the soil to emerge as acidic seepage in the wet habitat of Castle Bottom.

The threat of indefinite and increased go-karting has brought letters of objection from councillors and numerous private individuals in Yateley, Eversley and Bramshill, and naturally the Yateley Society wrote too. Among further grounds of objection we mentioned were the illegality of any work on registered common land that impedes access (and this includes the track and fences that are already there), and the fact that motor sports on this site conflict with the aim of the Forest of Eversley Heritage Trust, the Yateley Common management scheme, the proposed public open space for quiet recreation north of the airport, and Hart's own policies. We pointed out how things had changed since 1964 when basic, even home-made, go-karts first began occasional racing at Blackbushe; how instead of half a dozen houses there are now several estates with hundreds of houses within half a mile of the circuit; and how the ecological value of heathland, and in particular the wet heath of Castle Bottom, had not then been formally recognised.

We ended by emphatically opposing any long-term or permanent

permission, and suggesting, without too much expectation, that the time had come for go-karting to cease on this site.

PS Hart will not now be dealing with this application until October 21st, so there may still be time to send in your objection, emphasising the noise and environmental damage (and - get your neighbours to protest as well).

Valerie Kerslake

FILLING HOLES IN THE ROUND, WITH WHAT?

We dig minerals out of the ground and the resulting holes become either waste tips or lakes. Unless this relationship can be altered little progress is likely in the field of minerals and waste disposal.

This is a central issue in the preparation of our policy for Hampshire.

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was published as a draft for public consultation on 15 September 1992. The sheer scale of the problem is staggering. The people of Hampshire consume some 6.5 million tonnes of aggregate a year, mainly used for road construction and buildings. We also produce about 2.5 million tonnes of waste and 30,000,000,000 gallons of sewage each year which must be treated and disposed of.

The Plan acknowledges that this is a controversial and emotive subject. Waste is offensive to most people and an abuse of natural resources. But, in Hampshire only about 5% of domestic waste is recovered and reused. 90% is tipped into landfill sites. The rest is incinerated. The Plan sets out a very clear philosophy, which is to conserve the environment. It says "The countryside is seen as too valuable to dig up for minerals, or to fill with waste, unless it cannot be avoided".

Of course it is the degree of avoidance or inevitability which is manifest that will seal the fate of the county.

The minerals policy covers the period to 2001, but also provides a land bank of sand and gravel for a further ten years' extraction. It is based on the tenet that minerals can only be worked where they occur naturally. Using government and SERPLAN regional policy, Hampshire is planning to produce around 60 million tonnes of gravel over the next 20 years. There are some existing planning permissions for sand and gravel in Hampshire providing for 26 million tonnes, leaving some 34 million tonnes to be found - from new sites.

The Plan sets out to meet the remaining requirement by identifying 21 so-called "Preferred Areas" for extraction. In total these exceed the actual requirement by 50%. This is because some sites may prove to be unworkable. In north east Hampshire there are two such areas, at Bush Farm, Eversley and at Bramshill Plateau, astride the A30, east of Hartley Wintney.

Everyone has until 16 November 1992 to submit their comments to the County Planning Officer. Following these consultations revisions will be made to the Plan before it is placed on deposit next summer. Early in 1994 a Public Local Inquiry will be held with the Independent Inspector reporting to the County Council.

Edward Dawson.

YATELEY HISTORY PROJECT

As reported in previous newsletters, during the initial part of the archaeological investigation carried out in the garden behind Chaddisbrooke/Ramon's in 1991 it was found that one of the 2m square evaluation trenches had cut into a suspected ditch running east-west with a quantity of medieval cooking pots of 12th/13th century date

being recovered from the fill. The trench had exposed a 2m length of what was thought to be the north shoulder and part of the the ditch bottom, and so it was decided that the main effort in 1992 would be further investigation of this feature.

Work re-commenced at the end of January this year and carried on until April, and for the time of the year we were fairly lucky with the weather although we did need the shelter of a tarpaulin at times.

The original trench was extended both east and west with a 6m length of ditch being exposed which had been cut into the underlying sand/gravel with more medieval pottery being contained in its fill. The actual cut into the subsoil was some 1m deep and 1.5m wide at the shoulders, obviously more than just a simple drain. Earlier surveys had indicated that it continued eastwards and across Pipson Lane, but a trench cut across its projected line in an attempt to verify this proved the previous indications to be incorrect, and that the ditch must have either changed direction sharply or terminated.

Extending the trench to the east showed that the ditch did in fact terminate, gradually shelving up over 2m rather than abruptly. It was in the fill of this final section to be excavated that a small honestone perforated at one end for suspension by a leather thong from a belt, or to be worn round the neck possibly, was found. This has been identified as being made from schist, probably from the Eidsborg quarries in Norway. Similar objects have been found at various sites elsewhere in the country in both Saxon and Medieval contexts with one body of opinion considering them all to be of Saxon origin.

Two of the many questions yet to be answered are as follows:

1. It was found that along the length of the ditch, just above the level of its shoulders and spanning it was a succession of shallow linear depressions. They were not positioned regularly and nothing was found in their fill to indicate their use, but one possibility is the use of timbers to form a temporary firm surface after the ditch was backfilled.
2. Normally the excavated material from a ditch is used to form an associated bank or possibly spread around the adjacent ground surface, but neither of these options were apparent. As described above the ditch was cut through sand/gravel or hoggin, so was it used in building work? The church, built in the late Saxon period, was extended in the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

The investigation of the site is to continue by: extending the ditch trench to the west as far as possible although it will run into the churchyard boundary hedge after a short distance; a further look at the burnt flint deposits also found in another part of the site in 1991; and a look at an area in the centre of the site, previously not excavated.

CHADDISBROOKE HOUSE.

The watching brief carried out during the renovation of Chaddisbrooke has been briefly referred to in an earlier newsletter and will be the subject of an illustrated talk to the Society in the future, but the main points are as follows. The house was considered to be no earlier than c1750 and its original appearance must have been very similar to that detailed in the sketch of it by Georgina Stillwell that has been dated to c1860. The renovation included removal of walls at the rear and subsequent rebuilding to a different plan, removal of floors and internal partition walls with identification and dating of the late

19C extensions, etc, being aided by the widespread use of wire cut bricks in their construction. The foundations were also underpinned, revealing one very interesting detail not apparent at Yateley Hall, where some of the building work was of comparable date, which was the amount of large Sarsen stone used in the house foundations.

Geoff Hoare

RECYCLING HART

There is a lot of talk about recycling these days. People increasingly hate the waste of the earth's resources and would like to see it ended. Recycling is the answer. But, the truth is not generally matched by action.

So, it is good to see that Hart District Council published a "Waste Recycling Plan" as a draft for public comment. Actually, they had no choice. Section 49 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on Waste Collection Authorities to prepare and publish a WRP by 1st August 1992 and to submit the draft to the Secretary of State. The government, in its White Paper on the Environment "This Common Inheritance", published in September 1990, sets a target of recycling 25% of household waste by the year 2000. That represents about half of the potentially recyclable domestic waste and they expect the target to be met.

Hart has a population of 82,650, with two centres, Fleet (28,790) and Yateley (21,558). There are 1600 businesses and 44 schools and colleges. All this human activity produces over 33,000 tonnes per year. Most of the 32,000 houses in the district have wheeled bin collections which is all taken to the Bramshill tip. In Hart recycling facilities are located at Springwell Lane in Hartley Wintney. As well as glass, paper, metals and oil, CFCs and car batteries can be safely disposed of. [Ed. Textiles are also accepted there for recycling.]

Achieving more reclamation is problematic. Should the wheeled bins be abandoned in favour of separate collections? How many glass and can banks can we afford? Do the markets for reclaimed materials exist? Does the public have sufficient commitment? The report concludes that the target will be very difficult to meet but that an attempt should be made. By mid 1995 there will be 16 further recycling locations each year, providing 54 more glass banks and 13 paper banks.

These and other initiatives would increase recycling by 900 tonnes each year so that by March 1995 around 4,000 tonnes (12%) would be recycled. The period beyond is less certain. Education and the role of the voluntary sector will be vital. Everyone will have to play their part if we are to succeed.

Edward Dawson

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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 also 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 when subscriptions fall due and thereafter at 2-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 due yet.

Geoff Hoare

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1992 (FROM OCTOBER)

- October -

Thurs 15	TALK - PAINTING PLANTS, the art of Botanical Illustration. A talk by Christabel King, one of the top botanical illustrators. This talk was originally planned for December 1991, but postponed because of illness.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Thurs 22	REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sun 25	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
Mon 26	Executive Committee Meeting	Barclay House	8:00pm

- November -

(BONFIRE NIGHT - unfortunately, business commitments prevent the Tiptons from hosting a celebration this year - sorry, maybe better luck another year?)

Mon 9	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING	Barclay House	8:00pm
Thurs 19	TALK - Yateley Lost and Found by Geoff Hoare. An illustrated account of some of Yateley's historical buildings and remains. As an extra there may be a discussion of planning for the 1993 May Fayre; which could be about "Yateley in 1878".	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm

Thurs 26	REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sun 29	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

- December -

Thurs 10	SOCIAL - a simple evening with wine provided - please bring some mince pies, an opportunity for friendly chat!	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Thurs 17	REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sat 26	BOXING DAY WALK	Details TBD	

**** 1993 ****

- January -

Thurs 14	TALK - Chaddisbrooke House Restoration An illustrated talk by Geoff Hoare, the latest on the History Project.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Thurs 28	The AGM This is your chance to hear what is going on in the Society at first hand, <u>and to make your views felt!</u> It is your RIGHT to take part.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm

Sun 31	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON
Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

- February -

Fri 12	SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER - yes we are going to try making it an annual event!	Details To Be Decided
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You may notice a lack of WALKS in the programme - if you have any bright ideas for a walk, let the Editor know - you do not have to lead it yourself if you do not wish to.

COPY DATES: STOP PRESS - 1st NOVEMBER, NEWSLETTER - 29 NOVEMBER