

The Yateley Society



Newsletter

No. 56

August 1994

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-THE YATELEY SOCIETY-

Newsletter No. 56
AUGUST 1994

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

THE EDITORIAL.

Dear Member,

It was too good to last!

One issue of the Newsletter in a new, more attractive format and then - back to square one!

Unfortunately the benefactor who allowed us to photocopy and bind the better version at very little cost had to change his job and the facility was lost. Such is life.

---oOo---

Did you come to the barbecue? - if not you missed a very enjoyable evening, thanks to the cooperation and generosity of all who took part.

---oOo---

Another successful activity was the May Fayre - more on that inside.

---oOo---

I hope you have had a good summer holiday, or if you have yet to have one I hope you get a good break with good weather!

MAY FAYRE 1994

It must be significant, I suppose, that when the weather for the May Fayre is at its best, the takings should also be at their best. We not only covered the day's expenses, but made a healthy profit.

This would not have happened without the help of a relatively small number of willing volunteers, both on the day of the Fayre, and on the preceding days. This includes all the cooks, gardeners, collectors of saleable bits and pieces, printers of booklets, etc, marquee collectors and erectors, sales people and the generally useful people who just happen to be around at the right time.

Thank you all for your help and co-operation - but think what we could have achieved if even more of the Society members had contributed in some way. Next time you see a request for help in the Newsletter, don't just ignore it or forget it, come and join us.

Mary Hocking.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN YATELEY

An Account of the Society March Lecture

On the evening of 17th March 1994 a lecture was given by Geoff Hoare on the archaeology of the land behind Chaddisbrook House (between St Peter's Churchyard and Pipson's Lane).

The archaeological dig was done in the summers and autumns of 1991, 1992 and 1993, and was rather hindered by very wet weather. On one occasion Geoff removed 70 gallons of water with bucket and wheel-barrow from one of his trenches.

In Tudor times this land belonged to the Aslop family, one of the

wealthiest in Yateley, according to the Crondall Customary of 1567.

Chaddisbrook House was called Duddasbrook House formerly, after the Anglo-Saxon name for the Blackwater River, and changed to Chaddisbrook to avoid confusion with Duddasbrook Cottages in the Reading Road. It was built in about 1750 and the outward appearance was carefully preserved in its recent renovation for St Peter's Church. The chimney on top now has no flue or fire under it, and is only a sentimental appendage.

Several exploratory trenches were dug. One revealed an old ditch running between the Churchyard and Pipson's Lane. Its *raison d'être*, date and the whereabouts of the spoil from its construction are unknown. Amongst the rubbish found in it was a whetstone made of Norwegian rock with a hole at one end for hanging round the neck, perhaps a Viking neck from which it dropped as he made off with some Yateley maid. Other finds were a bit of broken tile, and some shards from medieval cooking vessels.

Near the Pipson's Lane end of the ditch was an old land drain, still functioning; and Geoff told us a little about land drains and their manufacture. They used to be made by wrapping clay around a wooden mould to form a U shape and then installed inverted. During the period of the brick tax (1784-1850) people made walls from these land drain segments to avoid paying the tax; so a tax was imposed on land drains as well!

At another trench a lot of burnt flint was found. Flint is found in chalk, and is a residue when chalk is burnt for lime. Under the flint was a lot of ash, and under this the natural sand, which has been partially fused indicating a temperature of about 900 C. For what building work the lime was made is unknown.

In the discussion afterwards the uncertainty of carbon 14 dating was emphasised. Geoff also mentioned the sad fact that no archaeological evidence of a medieval or earlier settlement has as yet been found in Yateley, although it is known to have been a village of about 400 people in those days, from documentary evidence.

David Lister

114TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 29TH MARCH 1994

The following matters were discussed at the meeting.

1. Matters Arising from the 113th Meeting.

- 1.1 The Simmonds Graves. Dr Lister had received an estimate of £1,800 for the restoration work. The labour cost, excluding sign writing was about £700. Jean McIlwaine would be contacted regarding a possible donation of wood by an organisation.

Carolyn Seymour would seek a grant from the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust.

- 1.2 Richard Field and Geoff Hoare would arrange reproduction of the Tithe Map for sale at the May Fayre.
- 1.3 Edward Dawson had amended the AGM resolution on Local Government Reorganisation.
- 1.4 Hampshire County Council had provided information on authorities who can help with pond reclamation.

2. Sub-committees.

2.1 Publications.

The Committee was impressed with the new Newsletter format, and agreed to the approximate cost of £100 for 4 issues per year.

2.2 Planning.

a) The Sub-committee would be studying the draft plan for Yateley produced by Louise Birch.

b) An objection to the plan to pave over part of the garden outside the White Lyon PH was recommended by the Committee as it was in the Conservation Area.

2.3 Programme.

The talk arranged for 21st April had been cancelled, it was hoped that Janet Martin of NADFAS would give her talk instead.

3. May Fayre.

It was hoped that the Tithe Map and Anglo Saxon Map of the area could be reproduced for sale at the May Fayre, together with the usual exhibition, sales of cakes, etc.

4. Any Other Business.

The Society had been asked by Yateley School to be represented at their open day. It was hoped that the May Fayre display would be kept intact for this, and that someone from the Society would man it.

115TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 10TH MAY 1994

The following matters were discussed at the meeting.

1. Matters Arising from the 114th Meeting.

1.1 The Simmonds Graves. Dr Lister had found a recommendation for Douglas Fir in Jean McIlwaine's file. He will contact his carpenter for a quote for this material.

1.2 AGM Resolution on Local Government Reorganisation. This had been actioned by Edward Dawson.

1.3 Yateley Town Plan. The Society have copies for study. Copies are on sale from Yateley town council.

1.4 Yateley School Fete. Weather permitting the Society will be represented.

2. Sub-committees.

2.1 Publications. Richard Field exhibited a booklet style sample Newsletter which would save money. Tony Hocking commented by memo that he liked the style, but thought the type too small for some members to read. Joy Savastano will experiment with different fonts. The next Newsletter will be in booklet style, comments will be invited.

The publication sales at the May Fayre were very good. The possibility of the Society having its own publishing equipment was rejected as not justified at present.

Joy Savastano suggested issuing new postcards. There are 9000 still in

stock and it was decided to run this stock down first. Geoff Hoare will investigate a possible set of sepia cards of old views.

2.2 Planning. Edward Dawson will allow the Society to see the copies of planning applications which he already receives.

White Lyon. An application has been submitted to pave the rear of the Public House. Edward Dawson is looking into this.

Yateley Town Centre Plan. Suggestions were:

a. All shops should have flats above, not offices; ensuring a local population and discouraging vandalism and loitering.

b. Given a., residents car parking would be available for shoppers, assuming the residents worked elsewhere.

(To be discussed more fully at the next meeting.)

2.3 Programme. Valerie Kerslake had volunteered to host the BBQ on June 25th.

The May Fayre theme of "Yateley Then and Now" was thought good for a display. Tony Hocking to book the marquee. The sale of potted herbs was suggested. Norm Dowling to be asked to produce a short history of each herb.

3. Any Other Business.

3.1 Mike Mann had requested more help for Sunday morning Conservation Parties. His suggestion of a Certificate to be awarded to young people for their work was approved. A sample certificate was agreed to be most satisfactory.

3.2 Mr and Mrs Atkinson had donated £20 towards the restoration of the Simmonds Graves.

116TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 21ST JUNE 1994

The following matters were discussed at the meeting.

1. Matters Arising from the 115th Meeting.

Due to the indisposition of the Secretary the minutes had not been circulated, this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

2. Sub-committees.

2.1 Publications. Richard Field was no longer able to print the Society's publications. An alternative means was to be sought.

2.2 Programme. Nothing to report.

2.3 Planning. Daphne Kirkpatrick had drawn attention to a letter from English Nature to Yateley Town Council re Council land adjacent to Heathlands Cemetery. English Nature recommended this to be in the SSSI. The Executive Committee will write to the Town Council supporting this view.

Go-Karting at Castle Bottom. The EC wished to express their disappointment with the lack of notice the Inspector took of comments made on behalf of the Society by Richard Johnston. A letter will say that we fail to understand why local groups are encouraged to state their views at such meetings if these comments appear to have no

notice taken of them.

3. Any Other Business.

3.1 Simmonds Graves. Douglas fir would be nearly as expensive as oak, costing £1400 for the wood alone. The next stage was to obtain a quote for softwood construction, plus paint and lettering, to see if the Society could afford that.

3.2 Yateley Town Centre Plan. A meeting was held in the Green Room on 16th June when the Director of Planning for Hart District Council outlined the current situation. There had been little progress after some 12 years, mainly because commercial developments outside Yateley had captured local custom, and developers could see little opportunity in Yateley.

There seemed little possibility of rebuilding to give the desired village atmosphere which had attracted many attendees to Yateley originally. The Executive Committee would like to see a refurbishment of Pembroke Parade, Rosebank Parade and the garage, to be done by a good architect, providing for example pitched instead of flat roofs, more attractive cladding to the buildings and possibly an arcade along the front of the shops. This might be considered mere "titivation", but it may be the only way forward as large scale redevelopment appears out of the question.

YET MORE ANCIENT RIBS FROM YATELEY

by David Lister

A continuation of the "Old Bones" listed in Issue 55.

Fox Drive was said to be the lair of a huge old dog fox at the end of the road.

Gibbs Way was named after the village schoolmaster Albert Gibbs who retired in the 1960's. In his early days as headmaster he was disapproved of by the local gentry for being seen in the pub in the evenings, but, if some of his poorer pupils had no shoes he would fit them out, and his pupils were well schooled. He was Chairman of the Parish Council in 1934 and until the first meeting after the start of the Second World War. Why, as Valerie Kerslake asks, is his name amongst the poets of Wordsworth Avenue, etc.?

Gordon Walk. Lady Gordon was one of the last residents of Yateley Place before it was demolished for redevelopment.

Harpton Close and Harpton Parade are on the site of the garden of Harpton House which was demolished to make way for Village Way and the garage beside it. Harpton was the village in Radnorshire from which the owner of the land came in the late 18th century.

Ives Close was named after George Ives (1894-1970) for many years a Parish Councillor.

Kelsey Grove. The Kelsey family owned a great deal of land in Yateley, Eversley and Darby Green in the 19th century, including Westend Farm (now Westfields School) and Pond Farm, Darby Green. Westend Farmhouse was towards the south end of School Lane on the east. Richard Kelsey owned Brookfield House, next to Blakes Pond, from 1854 to 1878 when he died and left the house to his son, also Richard.

Lawford Crescent is on land owned by Colonel Lawford in the first half of this century. He was Chairman of the Parish Council in 1919.

Little Croft is on the site of a house of that name, occupied by Colonel Gulland and his mother. The Colonel was a great supporter of Yateley Football Club and his mother taught smocking to village girls.

Lucas Close was built by Tom Lucas (in 1965?), the local developer, notorious in various fields and now retired to Ireland.

Macrae Road. The Macrae family lived at Kerala, Yateley.

Kerala is a state in the SW corner of India. The Macrae scout hut was built in the 70's on the corner of Macrae Road in memory of their son, who was killed in the 1914-18 War. His sister ran the scout troop for many years.

North and West Fryerne are on the site of a farm built in the 19th century. This was called Clarks Farm in the early 20th century, but for a very short time in the 1940's two ladies had it and called it Fryerne Farm - according to the admittedly hazy memory of someone who lived next to it at the time.

Plough Road was named after the Plough Inn that stood at the corner of Fry's Lane, roughly between Little Holt and Gateways. This is quite a recent name as it was part of the Reading Road until the new section was built in the 1960's.

Pond Croft. Valerie Kerslake has been told that there used to be a pond there, but she has not found it on any map. Perhaps a temporary one was made by damming the stream that runs down through the Royal Oak Valley.

Nutley Close is on the site of a house of that name.

Priors Lane should be Prier's Lane after a farmer who owned land on both sides of the Reading Road.

Newlands Close is on the site of a house with a large orchard called Newlands.

Robins Grove Crescent is on the site of a house called Robins Grove, a house standing up a gloomy drive off Firgrove Road, according to Mrs Edna Butler of Manor Park Drive, who remembers it as a child. The owner, a Mrs Shute, tricycled around Yateley.

Somerville Crescent was named after Mrs May Somerville, very active in the village in the 1950's and 60's, a Councillor and also an organiser of Meals on Wheels for which she also recruited Valerie Kerslake.

(Do not forget, David Lister is always keen to get to more information on the origins of our road names.)

BUNTY (CHARLES) HARNETT - Our Speaker for October 20th

His family had farms at Sherfield, Lasham and Home Farm, Heckfield where Bundy was born.

The farm started with milk production, then became a seed raising and testing farm for Suttons Seeds; eventually this faded out and the farm is now mainly milk, with some cereals.

Bundy is able to describe the changes that have faced farmers from the 1920's onwards. It should be a very good talk!

NADFAS

On Thursday 21st April 1994 quite a respectable turnout of Yateley Society members had the pleasure of learning what NADFAS stands for in a lecture by Mrs Jean Martin, the Chairman of the Hart Society of NADFAS. Yes, S stands for Societies, and NADFAS stands for "National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies.

NADFAS was formed 25 years ago in Chalfont St. Peters. 10 years ago there were 10 affiliated societies and now there are 217. The Societies seem to grow like bacteria; the Hart Society, number 11, grew and grew and then the Camberley Society budded off from it. The Basingstoke Society is the daughter of the Newbury Society. There are now affiliated Societies in Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain and Australia. Their main function is to form groups of people to whom

experts, vetted carefully by a National Committee, can come and lecture on, or give a hands-on demonstration of, any subject in the field of Art, Architecture, Furniture, Decoration, Maps, Musical Instruments, etc, - anything in fact it seems which adds to the beauty of the visual milieu in which we live.

The Hart Society meets in the Princes Hall in Aldershot, and this is filled to capacity for most of their meetings.

The Society plans its programme well in advance; as an example the members were prepared for the recent Holbein exhibition in London, by a lecture to coincide with it, given by an expert who was booked 2 years in advance to beat other societies who would also want him. There are study days for those who wish to paint for themselves, followed by a description of the techniques of the Masters, and innumerable other pleasures which Mrs Martin touched upon.

The Society also provides people for three main activities:

- 1) Volunteer Groups for Stately Homes and Museums.
- 2) Church, and more recently, Cathedral Recorders, whose duty it is to make a detailed inventory of an entire church. This is much appreciated by the church itself and by the Police.
- 3) Young NADFAS. For example they put on an Elizabethan Masque at Hatfield House. At another event a young lady was sponsored by NADFAS to put on a theatrical display of the story of Ulysses.

To finish the evening Mrs Martin showed us some exhibits from the Royal Logistical Corps Museum at Deepcut, which, created following the recent amalgamation of several regimental museums, a result of Army cutbacks. Mrs Martin, as a NADFAS volunteer, is helping to display the thousands of artifacts which must now find a new home to remind us of the regimental splendours, and small but touching trivia, upon which the British Army, once the bastion of an enormous empire, depended. That, as well as many other beautiful past things, is being well remembered by NADFAS.

David Lister

100 YEARS AGO: HARRY TYLER'S DIARY 1894

by Valerie Kerslake

Harry Tyler was a baker for his father George, who had a grocery and baker's shop in Fry's Lane, at the house now called Little Halt. Harry lived with his wife Ellen (Nell) and four-year-old son George two or three houses further towards Blackwater, with the Plough Inn between him and the shop.

Jim (Bunch) was married to Harry's sister Mary. Sue was Harry's youngest sister, aged seventeen. Nurse Myhill was a district nurse. Apparently she, and sometimes other district nurses, lodged with the Tylers when not staying with their patients. Between the shop, the nurses and the bread delivery round which Harry shared, the Tylers' house must have been a great centre for local gossip.

In this extract I have omitted descriptions of the weather which begin each entry.

February 1894

8 Thursday Mr Oades bought 2 freehold houses and shops in Queens Road Farnboro for me today price £430. Nell and I put down the linoleum tonight, it looks very well. Jim put our window right tonight, the weight had slipped the cord.

9 Friday Lent Mr Oades 30£ deposit on the two houses,

remainder to be paid March 1st. Wrote to Mr D Sparvell Camberley applying for appropriation. & signed the contract.

10 Saturday The old Sow laid on 2 more pigs on Thursday, 9 left now. Mary's baby is very fretful, cries about every halfhour. Bill Skeats is slowly on the mend.

11 Sunday Mr Stooks has a boil on his neck. Elsie Bunch came to tea with Sue.

12 Monday Two Misses Tindall called to see nurse, this morning. Miss mason returned today. Heard from Mr Dades this morn.

13 Tuesday Heard from Mr Sparvell, who wrote to say that I can not have my Apprs on the 1st march. Mrs Bird called on Nell today.

14 Wednesday Nell was confined at 1P.M. today, Dr Russell & Nurse Myhill was with her & she is going on nicely. Another son. Milly Davis came to stay with May for a week or two. [May = Mary?

15 Thursday I met Mary Mathews at Blackwater & gave her & her box a ride home to the shop. (Mothers new maid.)

16 Friday I went to see the 2 shops at Farnboro, went to Farnboro Station, instead of North Camp, so had to walk a long way and came back from North Camp Station. Nell & baby going on well.

17 Saturday Albert Yates & Emily Cook married at Eversley today.

18 Sunday I did not attend church tonight, stayed home with Nellie.

19 Monday Mrs Girdler & Lane's coachmans wife called this afternoon. The son of the former is a fine lad about 6 months old. I attended practice at the school tonight for Easter.

20 Tuesday Mrs Stilwell & Miss Forman called to see Nell today. I am 30 years old today. Wrote to the HOGBS claiming lying-in allowance last night & sent it today.

21 Wednesday Bill Skeat's nurse is gone today & Mrs Filmore & Sophia Hammond is to look after him for a little while. Nell wrote to her aunt, Mrs Palmer & Fanny. I made Nells Gruel tonight, a pretty fist I made at it.

22 Thursday Nell had a bad headache all last night & was sick this morning, but feels better tonight. Father had a big sow killed yesterday. Weighed her today, scaled 26 score all but 1lb. A concert at Miss Newburys, seats 10/6 each.

23 Friday Bought a suit of clothes & 3 ties at Bessels 25/9 the lot, their sale now on. Miss Stooks & Mrs Frazer from Firgrove called to see Nell today. Mrs Rainbow & family came home today, she came home without the key & Jim had to get in the bedroom window.

24 Saturday Did not bake enough bread, bought 2 Galls at Mr Sparvells. Mrs George Wheeler confined last night. Received P.O.Order for £1.9.8 from the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society.

25 Sunday Charley Plaice has left the choir, because Mr Stooks went on at him for sticking a pin in a boy last Sunday in church.

26 Monday Father called Bill before 4 AM this morn & he came up to call me but I was downstairs. Mrs Yates came & washed for Nell today & did some cleaning.

27 Tuesday Mother gone to Normandy. Nurse went to see Mrs Bird this morning as she has got the bronchitis. Mr Girdler called to see nurse as his wife is very ill.

28 Wednesday Nurse Myhill gone to nurse Mrs Bird. Mrs Yates came to do for Nell today & for a week or two to come. Mother returned from Normandy this evening.

SCAFFOLDING

by Tony Hocking

Many Society members will remember the scaffolding structures covered with plastic sheeting which we used to put up to shelter our May Fayre exhibitions and sales stall.

Work used to begin shortly after 7am on the day, with the construction team working under the expert leadership of Ted Dowling who also provided the scaffolding components. After a few years the regular team members became all too familiar with the aluminium and steel poles (the latter being the longest and by far the heaviest), and such items as putlog clips which were used to clamp the poles together securely.

Even a simple one-storey edifice was quite a job for a largely amateur group. That we got away with it for many years with nothing worse than the occasional scratch was miraculous, and due in no small way to Ted Dowling's tuition.

Luckily we now have the use of a hired marquee and the job is much simpler and quicker.

On our building sites there are of course strict regulations regarding the stability of scaffolding, and the safety provisions for the workmen.

Mary and I were reminded of all this when we visited our son (who helped at the May Fayre several times) in Hong Kong at Easter.

John lives on the 22nd floor of a 24 storey block of flats, a modest building, most around are 30 to 40 storeys high. When we arrived we noticed that the building was covered with scaffolding, ready for exterior redecoration, as was the new 40 storey block next door which was being fitted with windows.

It was not until we had unpacked and sorted ourselves out that we realised the nature of all this scaffolding.

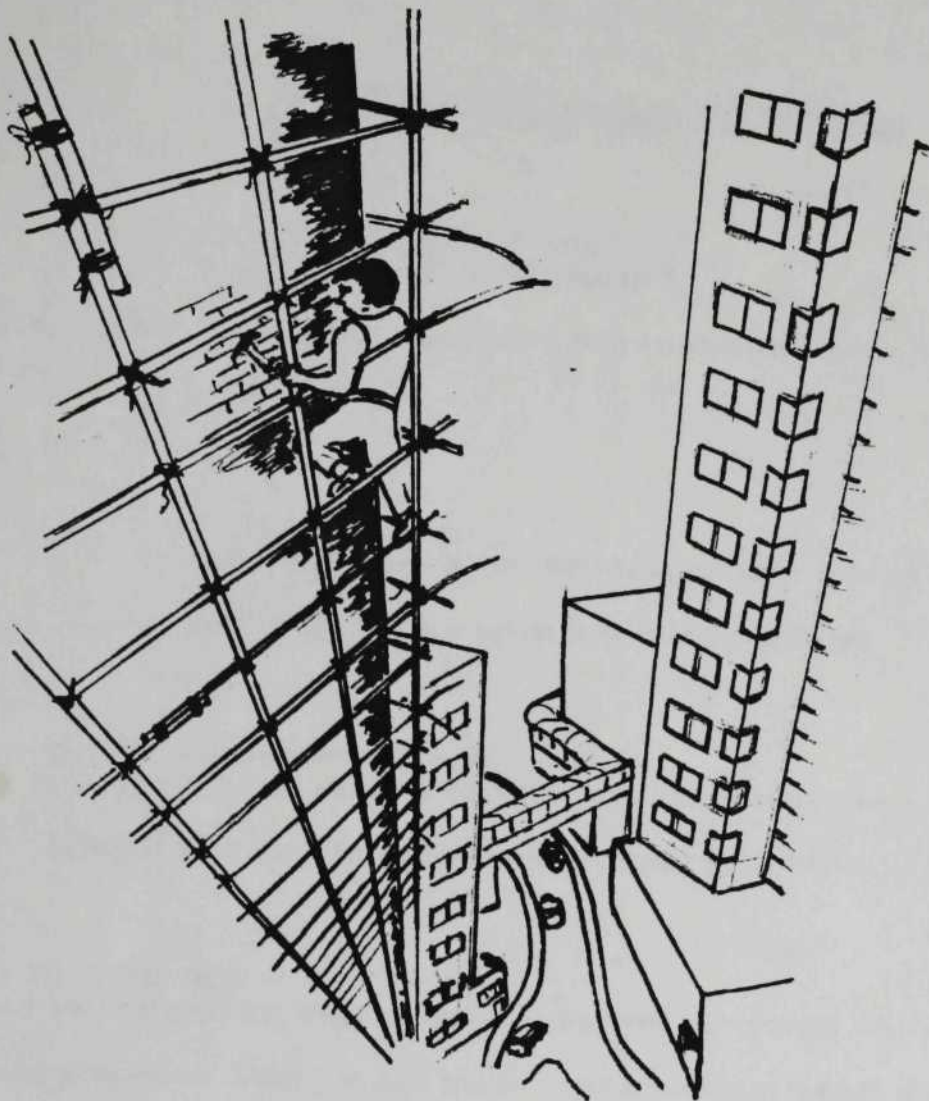
Metal scaffold poles? - No! - bamboo, 2 to 3 inches diameter and up to about 25ft long tied together with lengths of fibreglass tape - not a clamp in sight. The bamboo formed a grid of about 3ft squares. Careful scrutiny revealed an occasional diagonal brace, but they took some finding. The whole thing was tied to the building wherever there was a convenient hole or excrecence with the same tape. (We later saw that scaffolding on a complete building often did not touch the ground, it just hung on the building.)

We then heard voices outside and saw two workmen on the scaffolding next door touching up the window frames. Did they have the usual planked platform with handrails and toe boards? - of course not, they just clung to the bamboo grid and worked with one free hand! To get about they simply climbed around on the bamboos with no ropes, hoists or anything. This was at the 22nd storey level, the same went on at the 40 storey level, or higher on bigger buildings. (John admitted that he could not watch them working - especially when the bamboo was slippery with rain and the men had gumboots and rubber gloves on.)

A few, very few, men had hard hats; the majority just used neatly folded copies of the South China Times (Chinese language version) to keep the rain off.

In addition to any precipitation there was a constant "rain" of lumps of mortar being chipped from higher up the building, ignored by the workers, but disconcerting to pedestrians far below.

Apparently a few workmen fall and get killed every week in Hong Kong, but there are hundreds of immigrant workers clammering for every unskilled job, so nobody worries. The government half-heartedly tries to introduce safety regulations and practices, but these are shrugged off as too expensive and ignored.



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VIEW FROM 22C GARBLE GARDEN

See page 9 ...

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1994/5 (FROM SEPTEMBER 94)

- SEPTEMBER -

Thurs 8	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING	Barclay Hse	8:00pm
Thurs 15	TALK: Stratfield Saye and the Dukes of Wellington By Mrs Heather Edge, who is on the Stratfield Saye staff.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sun 25	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am
Mon 26	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Barclay Hse	8:00pm

- OCTOBER -

Thurs 20	TALK, Farming Techniques, Then and Now. A review of farming over many years by Bunty Harnett, a local farmer since the 1920's.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sun 30	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

- NOVEMBER -

Thurs 17	TALK, The Practice of Modern Architecture. By John Heywood, a local practicing architect with, we believe, strong views.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Sun 27	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

- DECEMBER -

Thurs 8	PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL The usual chin-wag with drinks and nibbles, plus a crafty quiz to tickle the grey cells. More details later!	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
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Will we have a Conservation Sunday? - we don't know yet - but it won't be on the last Sunday - it's Christmas Day!!!

1995 1995 1995 1995 1995 1995 1995 1995

- JANUARY -

Fri 20	YATELEY SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER The details are yet to be decided - you will be kept informed!		
Sun 29	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

- FEBRUARY -

Thurs 2	THE YATELEY SOCIETY AGM This is the most important meeting of the year - your help is needed to elect the Officers and Executive Committee Members; and it is your opportunity to air your views on the Society.	Y.C. Green Room	8:00pm
Thurs 16	TALK (Provisional) - by the Fleet Pond Society.		
Sun 26	CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers.	Wyndhams Pool	10:00am

COPY DATES: STOP PRESS - ANY TIME IF SOMETHING URGENT MUST BE PUBLICISED

NEWSLETTER - 16 OCTOBER