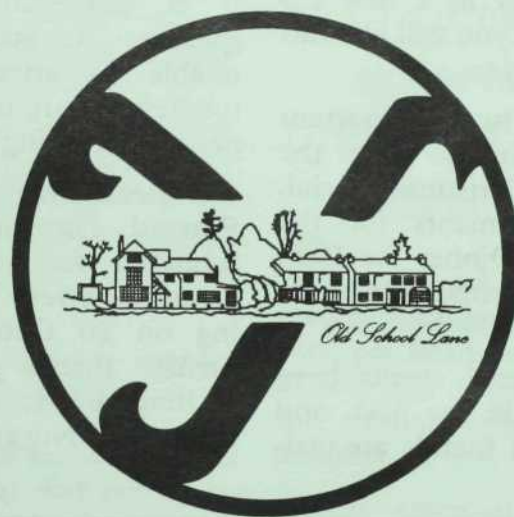


the Yateley society



Newsletter

No 57

November 1994

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 57 November 1994

Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close, Yateley (01252) 875158

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

A member, Tony Spencer of 'Words & Spaces Etc . . .', has come to our rescue and is printing the *Newsletter* in a new A5 format. We hope you will like this form of presentation.

There are two important announcements in this issue: the details of the Christmas Social, and the arrangements for the Society Annual Dinner for 1995 including the all-important booking form.

Both these social events have proved popular in the past, and all members and friends are wel-

come (as long as notice of numbers is given in advance!).

The Programme Committee apologises for the changes in the talks for October and November. It is unprecedented for two speakers in succession to be unable to attend, but unfortunately we are unable to prevent people becoming ill.

Grateful thanks are offered to Edward Dawson and Richard Johnston for stepping in and giving us a very interesting evening on 20 October 1994, and further thanks to Edward for inviting the Society to the CPRE AGM on 17 November.

YATELEY SOCIETY AGM

This important event in the Society year will be held on

Thursday 2 February 1995

**in Room C.1.4
of the Yateley Centre
at 8.00pm**

Please come and support the Society by helping to elect Officers and Committee Members, and by airing your views.

Two social occasions for you

The Yateley Society Christmas Social

This will be held on

**Thursday 8 December
at 8.00pm**

in the refurbished

Yateley Centre Green Room

The format will be as last year. Wine and soft drinks will be provided, the first glass of wine will be free and subsequent glasses will be charged for at 50p per glass.

Any contributions of nibbles will be gratefully received.

The intention is for everyone to have a good chat and get up to date with the Society's activities during the year. To keep you on your toes there will be the traditional quiz in which you have to guess place names from a list of cryptic clues.

Unlike other years there will be prizes for the highest scores! (Perhaps you ought to bring a gazetteer of the UK?) Tony Hocking has put this quiz together - but there is only one mention of railways, honestly!

The 1995 YATELEY SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

This will be held at

*The Chef & Brewer
(Chequers)
in Eversley*

**at 7.00 for 7.30pm
on Friday 20 January**

The charge will be £15 per head.

This will include a three course carvery meal with half a bottle of wine per head or soft drinks, and coffee. Any other drinks will be the responsibility of the individual.

It is essential that adequate notice of numbers is given and that the charges are paid in advance, this is because the restaurant requires early notice for reserving the necessary space and pre-payment avoids complicated mathematics (and possible argument!) on the night.

An application form is to be found at the back of this *Newsletter*.

Fill it in and be sure of joining in a jolly evening!

THE HAMPSHIRE LANDSCAPE

by Edward Dawson

Editor's note: The last minute lack of a speaker for 20 October left little time to find a substitute, however Edward Dawson and Richard Johnston volunteered to speak on The Hampshire Landscape and the Historical Background of the disputed Cobbetts Lane proposed building site. Some notes on Edward's talk are given below.

EDWARD INTRODUCED HIS talk with the following description of 'The New Countryman', abridged from an article by Clive Aslet.

'The New Countryman lives in double-glazed, double-garaged houses which have elbowed their way past church and cottages and eased their bulk on to little infill sites that might once have been a garden or a paddock. Half of a village may have taken more than five centuries to evolve, but the other half will have sprung out, like a pop-up book, in less time than it takes to read a Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance note.

'Verges are trimmed to look like Astroturf, hedgerows are torn up to make way for parking areas equipped with picnic tables. Our roads have undergone a sort of pedicure at the hands of the highway departments. Roundabouts, curb stones, pavements, rumble strips, raspberry-coloured tarmac – these things are the painted toenails of the countryside.'

For the purposes of landscape classification Hampshire can be divided into two main types: the Chalk Downlands and the Lowland Mosaic.

1. The chalk downlands can themselves be sub-divided into three types.

1.1 The Downlands have rich habitat value, with their own characteristic species, and because of the steep slopes they are generally unsuitable for arable cultivation, but can be used for livestock. The good views give a strong sense of place.

1.2 The Open Arable Areas are characterised by intensive production, they have a very low Nature Conservation value because many hedgerows have been destroyed and/or there is very limited public access. These areas are nevertheless a landscape of 'strong identity', being the 'factory floor' of the agricultural industry.

1.3 The Clay Plateau consists of chalk areas overlain with clay and flints, it is mainly farmland and woodland. There is much relic common land, and there are many unmanaged hedgerows which encourage a diversity of species. Unfortunately much ancient woodland has been converted to forestry plantations.

2. The lowland mosaic can also be subdivided, into five types.

2.1 The Hangers, woodlands of beech, oak and ash are found in East

Hampshire, such as at Selbourne. They are on upper greensand escarpments and are characterised by sunken lanes, sandstone walls and ancient trackways. The greensand also supports arable and livestock farming, and has many springs and watercourses.

2.2 Heathland and Forest landscapes contain broad, open, extensive heaths mixed with woodland, grass, bogs and ponds. Hampshire has more lowland heath than any other county, most being in the New Forest where the traditional management of grazing is a link with the past. In the north the fragmented heaths are often used for MOD ranges and training areas. The vegetation is gorse, heathers, beech and birch. These heaths suffer from mineral extraction, the demise of commoning and recreational pressures. Woolmer Forest, Yateley Common and Bramshill Forest are typical.

2.3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland exists throughout Hampshire, typical areas are Silchester and the land beside the Rivers Hamble, Test and Avon, and the flat region around Bramley and Sherbourne St John. This landscape has been eroded by prominent urban development and ancient field systems have been lost.

2.4 The Coastline has a wide variety of landscapes and pressures: farmland and mineral workings, landfill sites, urbanisation and recreation. These are typical of the Southampton area. There are enclosed plains such as Hayling Island, also subject to these pressures. The coastline is nevertheless rich in wildlife with mud-flats, saltmarshes and shingle beds, estuaries and sand dunes. There are natural harbours in the east and retreating cliffs to the west. These areas are under pressure from car parks, sea defences holidaymaking and pollution.

2.5 River Valleys are concentrated in two basins, the Hampshire Basin with the south flowing Avon, Meon, Itchen and Test and the Thames Basin with the north flowing Whitewater, Blackwater, Lyde and Loddon. The landscape is characterised by mineral extraction, aquifers, recreational pressures, scrub vegetation. The landscape of Hampshire has undergone many changes and has suffered from many influences. Historically things were much simpler, the land was protected for the benefit of agriculture, now it is protected for its own sake. The countryside was 'white land' in 1968, not available for development, but recent pressures have forced a rethink. The modern pressures come from industry, from the European Community and from our own nation and are typified by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the EC Common Agricultural Policy, UK Planning Policy Guidance, tourism. etc, etc.

What does the future hold? This is uncertain but it will be influenced by the Rural Development Strategy, the Hampshire Landscape Strategy and the County Structure Plan.

Edward ended the talk by adapting another quotation, this time by Thomas Hobbs.

'The life of man is nasty, short and brutish' should be re-written as 'The life of the New Countryman is nasty, shortish and Brut'.

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

by Tony Hocking

MOST MEMBERS MISSED a very amusing evening on Yateley Common on Saturday 29 October when the Country Park Rangers held their second Halloween Spectacular. The Society members who take part in conservation work were recruited into the band of seventy or so volunteers who acted in and ran the entertainment.

The scheme was that groups of about 30 people were led on a 45-minute walk from the Gravel Pit Pond to Stroods Pool and back. Some very strange people and creatures were met on the way. To cut a long story short each party was 'cursed' by an aggressive 'traveller' camping on the Common and they then had to gather various objects from other unsavoury groups before the curse could be lifted by a magician. Mary and I had the job of assembling the groups of walkers, making sure they had a guide and sending them off.

When the last of the public were ready to start off the volunteers had their turn to see what was going on. At this point it poured with rain of course, having been almost fine until then. What did we see? There was a monk

burying bodies in a graveyard – and one body crawled out again! There was a Devils' Disco, a huge savage dog called Igor that liked eating people, two very scary ghosts leaping about in Stroods Pool, a very unlikely midnight wedding, a talking head on a plate, a magician who made people vanish in a cloud of smoke and much more.

As we walked round, each group of actors we met joined the party. This meant that if you turned round you were likely to be face-to-face with a wolf's head with flashing red eyes or some terribly disfigured ghoul! The children in the party – far from being scared, joined in with great delight – three of them actually volunteered to marry the huge hairy bride in the wedding party!

One unfortunate man had to drag a pushchair all round the walk, through thick mud and over tree roots. He was soaked to the skin but so enjoyed himself that he was laughing non-stop!

As well as the walk there were various activities such as face painting and story telling and the inevitable burger stall – a jolly time was had by all.

117th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 2 AUGUST 1994

1. Matters arising from the 116th meeting

- 1.1 Publications. The next Newsletter will be in the old format. The use of a commercial printer and the possible use of advertising to offset the cost was suggested.
- 1.2 Planning.
 - (a) SSI extension at Heathlands. English Nature were expected to designate the area in spite of objections.
 - (b) Hampshire County Council were to be urged to buy the narrow strip of land between the Common and the A30 above Stroods Pool to reduce the risk of the Common becoming fragmented.
 - (c) Go-Karting. The complaint by Richard Johnston concerning the lack of attention paid to evidence from local organisations had been rejected by the Inspectorate.
- 1.3 Town Centre Plan. Edward had written an article in the *Yateley News* giving the Society view. These views would be given formally to Yateley Town Council.
- 1.4 Simmonds Graves. The lowest estimate for the restoration so far was about £700. Tony Hocking would seek an estimate from a Society member.
- 1.5 Conservation.
 - (a) Conservation Certificates, paid for by the Society, had been printed on high quality paper, these would be distributed by Mike Mann. The response to the Certificates by the schools was disappointing.
 - (b) Funds (from a HCC grant) had been authorised for new loppers.
- 1.6 Sepia Postcards of Old Yateley Views. Three designs had been chosen and 2500 of each ordered. Edward Dawson had applied for a Yateley Town Council grant.

2. Sub-committees

- 2.1 **Publications.** Richard Field would host a meeting on 8 September.
- 2.2 **Programme.**
 - (a) The programme was firm to the end of February 1995.
 - (b) ve Day was suggested as the May Fayre theme for 1995.
 - (c) A skittles evening was suggested as a new social event.
- 2.3 **Planning.**
 - (a) David Lister now receives copies of Planning Applications.
 - (b) The inclusion of part of the Gayton House property in the garage next door would be queried.
 - (c) The White Lion car park extension was agreed to be visually acceptable.
 - (d) The revised Draft County Structure Plan is due in November.

3. Subscriptions to other organisations. The Ramblers Association subscription had been renewed, all such subscriptions would be reviewed at the next meeting. Literature from other organisations may be passed to Yateley library.

4. Annual Return. The Annual Financial Return for Charities had been completed.

5. Any other business.

- (a) The Local Government review reports for Hampshire and Berkshire were tabled by Edward Dawson. The Society would express its desire for the status quo.
- (b) Litter. Richard Field noted the extra litter due to the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, and praised the subsequent clean-up work done by the company.
- (c) Conservation. Edward suggested that members could help with conservation in Forest of Eversley areas outside Yateley.
- (d) Pond clearing. Richard Field would investigate outside help for this activity.

118th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 26 SEPTEMBER 1994

1. Matters arising from the 117th meeting

- 1.1 sssi. English Nature to be asked why Castle Bottom and its surroundings had been de-designated.
- 1.2 Town Centre Plan. Edward Dawson had submitted the Society's views.
- 1.3 Simmonds Graves. Tony Hocking had discussed the restoration with a member (Ron Pattenden), and was awaiting a more detailed inspection.
- 1.4 Conservation Certificates. These were now being issued.
- 1.5 Yateley Town Council grant. £240 had been received towards the postcards.

2. Sub-committees

- 2.1 **Publications.** An estimate for publishing the *Newsletter* had been received from a member (Tony Spencer), this was unlikely to be bettered and would be accepted.
- 2.2 **Programme.** The talk on Stratfield Saye by Heather Edge had been well received.
- 2.3 **Planning.**
 - (a) The Society views on the Local Government Review had been submitted to the Local Government Commission.
 - (b) The Gayton House car parking was legal, as long as the cars do not have 'For Sale' signs. This would be watched.

3. Subscriptions to other organisations.

A total of £113.50 was spent on subscriptions. It was agreed that the list would not be changed, but would be reviewed annually. The organisations were:

Hampshire Field Trust,
Civic Trust,
Forest of Eversley Trust,
Ramblers Association,
Open Spaces Society,
CPRE,
Environmental Conservation.

4. Any other business.

- (a) Approval of un-audited accounts – to be discussed at the next meeting.
- (b) Subscriptions. Geoff Hoare will introduce a less burdensome reminder system.
- (c) Planning policy publications. The Society will request Hart District Council to review and strengthen the Yateley Conservation Areas in the light of new documents recently received.
- (d) 'Three Counties Radio' was suggested for the new Surrey & NE Hants station.
- (e) A 'Yateley 2000' project would be suggested to Yateley Town Council.
- (f) Cobbetts Lane, a proposed new development going to appeal.
 - (i) This would be strongly opposed as it risked large scale development.
 - (ii) A Public Inquiry had been set for 8 September, to last three days.
 - (iii) Mike Mann suggested setting up a support fund for a campaign. £500, with a possible further £1000 was approved.
 - (iv) A local action group (not headed by the Society) would be encouraged.
 - (v) Philip Colebourn would be asked to appear on behalf of the local group.

EXCERPTS

[with notes]

FROM

SYDNEY LOADER'S DIARY

January 20th, 1930

The new Giant Airship R100 cruised around this neighbourhood for about an hour this morning. It came from London and circled around Aldershot, going right round us three times. The third time going away over Basingstoke way. We heard on the wireless tonight that it came from Cardington about 9.30am, over London, cruised around Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, returning to Cardington. (Note: Sir Denistoun Burney who was concerned with its design was living in the mansion of Frogmore Park.)

June 27th, 1930

The R101 came over today and visited Farnborough on the way to Hendon. (Note: Just before the last war the Graf Zeppelin came and circled Blackwater. Mrs Smeaton was living in Blackwater House, now the site of Greig's food store, her daughter was the wife of the young Count Zeppelin.)

January 13th, 1930

The Great Storm of 12th January 1930

Fine, after the storm. Terrific damage. Gone – a large oak and a fir blown down at Heathcroft; and our fine old poplar at the back of our garden was brought down. We stepped out the length of it as it lay, 84ft. We are very sorry to lose it. It fell across Prier's field. At the French Gardens we had 25 garden lights broken. One was blown into Club Lane (Willow Lane), another cartwheeled across the yardful of frames, we were till 9.30 picking up broken glass.

Hawley church spire is bent at the top. I don't remember if it had N.E.S.W. [it had], anyway they are not on it now.

The Aldershot buses had to go through Blackwater and Hawley, and trees blocked the railway at Sandhurst. There are two trees down by Childs shop [Pond Croft], more at Potley Hill and Darby Green. Several at Cobbetts lane, and the fields are strewn with them. One of Girdler's poplars came down bringing with it the telephone wires. Parants lost some slates, Crouchers had their parapet blown into the yard. Mr North lost many tiles from the houses he has just built in Green Lane.

Yateley Society Programme 1994/1995

From 1 December 1994

DECEMBER

Thursday 8, Yateley Centre Green Room, 8.00pm

Yateley Society Christmas Social

See special announcements in this issue

Tuesday 27, Cricket Hill (could be some mince pies about!), 10.00am

Conservation - clearing gorse and birch near Wyndhams Pool

1995

JANUARY

Friday 20, Chequers 7.00 for 7.30pm

Annual Dinner

See special announcements in this issue.

Sunday 29, Wyndhams Pool 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Making bare sand banks for invertebrates, at Brandy Bottom.
(or 'scrub bashing' if the ground is frozen hard)

FEBRUARY

Thursday 2, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 8.00pm

Yateley Society AGM

Your opportunity to elect officers and Committee Members and to air your views

Thursday 16, Yateley Centre Green Room, 8.00pm

Talk - Fleet Pond Society

Mr Colin Gray

will describe the work of the Fleet Pond Society,
a very active local conservation organisation.

Sunday 26, Wyndhams Pool 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Creating dragonfly pools near Hospital/School pond

MARCH

Thursday 16, Yateley Centre Green Room, 8.00pm

Talk - Trees In The Landscape - how to protect

by Nigel Rogers

Old trees, and what new ones to plant

Sunday 26, Wyndhams Pool 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

APRIL

Thursday 20, venue and time To Be Advised

Talk - Subject TBA

Sunday 30, Wyndhams Pool 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

THE 1995 YATELEY SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

at Chef & Brewer (Chequers) Eversley

20 January 7.00 for 7.30pm

To: Mrs C Seymour, 7 Wren Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 7NZ

Tel: (01252) 871294

I wish to attend the Annual Dinner, the total number in my party will be

Name:

Address:

Tel:

I understand that the charge is £15.00 per head, I enclose payment to the total of £..... (Please make cheques payable to 'Chef & Brewer Group Ltd.')

This form and payment must be returned to Mrs Seymour by Monday 12 December 1994

Regrettably no refunds are possible after this date

Copy dates:

Newsletter
2 January 1995

Stop Press
When necessary