

# the Yateley society



## *Newsletter*

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## THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 61 December 1995

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## EDITORIAL

*Dear Member,*

The History Project Database and the Commoners themes receive further treatment and explanation in this issue.

There is also a large input on the Planning front, with comments on the recent Government proposals for the countryside and on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. These two sets of proposals could have a considerable impact on our surrounding countryside – which is one of the best features of Yateley!

I would like to remind you of the Christmas Social on 14 December in Room C.1.4 of the Yateley Centre at 7.30pm – a very informal affair (for which I have already written my devilish

quiz!) – but worth going to for a convivial chat, drink and mincepie or two with fellow members.

PLEASE LET MARY OR ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING – ring 875158. (Full details in the last Stop Press No. 28 and in the Programme in this Newsletter.)

But, whether you come to the Social or not,

HAVE A VERY GOOD CHRISTMAS!

**New Member**

We extend a warm welcome to Mr Michael Bonfield of 6a Kingsway, Blackwater, who has recently joined the Society.

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## HAS RURAL ENGLAND A FUTURE?

The Government's White Paper *Rural England*, published in October has been welcomed as the most important contribution to the debate in fifty years. The Scott Report, *Land Utilisation in Rural Areas* of 1942 had, in turn, been the pivot since Cobbett's *Rural Rides* over a century before. On the eve of the White Paper, the President of the Yateley Society, Edward Dawson, made a speech to a national conference on Rural Policy. This is an abridged version of his text.

THE COUNTRYSIDE IS changing at an unprecedented rate. Historically, it was all much simpler, Farming was the main occupation and people left the land to find a better life in the towns. Mobility has changed all that. People are now departing the Victorian cities they created and returning to medieval towns and villages. Many who arrive want to preserve the countryside just as they find it.

Farming is still the main rural land use. The biggest influence on it is the Common Agricultural Policy. Almost 80% of all public expenditure in the countryside is via the CAP. It must be further reformed, but we must avoid replacing the CAP with some sort of intrusive European Rural Policy which sets out to control the countryside from Brussels. We must maintain a vigorous and competitive agriculture, closer to the market, with some balancing of supply and demand.

Development in the countryside is as controversial as ever. The large housing numbers predicted do not come from population growth, but from the splitting of families and households. If we do not want our landscapes to be suburbanised, we must tackle this issue. While expanding the market, we should also be aware of the uncertainty felt by many new market entrants. The hesitation of lower income households may well alter the trend of future projections, casting doubt on county structure plan figures.

There should be better access to affordable and rented housing for younger people who may be driven out by affluent newcomers. There should also be a move away from rigid zoning and inflexible plans, to mixed uses which would revitalise rural communities. Mixed employment and housing schemes could also discourage crime and indifferent construction styles.

There has to be more than an urban campaign. Design in the countryside is important as well. Hostility to house building would not be as strong if existing developments were of higher quality and designed to meet local needs. The status of parish councils in all this should be enhanced.



Sustainable development does not mean no development. We must really strive for sustainable prosperity. The countryside will only thrive if people are allowed to live in it and work in it. Rural values and instincts of stewardship, diversity, and inheritance should be upheld.

The Government listens to informed opinion, whether it be from the Council for the Protection of Rural England or the Country Landowners Association. It should, however, resist the shrill demands of single issue pressure groups. There can be no automatic 'right to roam' over private property, and there is a place for field sports in the open countryside. It is over such issues as these that urban and rural values clash, the challenge is to find a viable framework for our rural areas. The country is different from the town, and the Government must respond to the problems of rural areas.

## COMMONERS' CORNER

by Peter Tipton

### Common land and public access

I SHOULD immediately deal with a common misconception (pardon the pun!) Many people, indeed most people, think that if land is common land it is owned by everyone and is 'public'. This is not true. All common land has an owner, and often must really be considered private land since it is only absolutely clear in law that the owner and the Commoners have a right to enter the common. Most commons are criss-crossed by public paths so, some claim, the public should legally keep to the public footpaths. In practice common land cannot be fenced from public highways, bridleways and footpaths so the 'right to roam' protagonists claim that there therefore exists a *de facto* legal right for the public to walk wherever they want on common land. Tell that to the owners of Blackbushe Airport or the operators of the Sunday Market!

Other commons are owned by a public authority. The Yateley Country Park is owned and managed by Hampshire County Council. Yateley Green is owned by Yateley Town Council. These commons have special covenants covering them to provide public access under section 193 of the Law of Property Act 1925. That gives them the same standing as metropolitan commons which are all covered by section 193. Much of Yateley Common south of the A30 is owned by the Crown and used by the MOD. This land has its own bylaws which you can see on boards dotted around. Yateley

Common has a fourth 'owner of the soil' who is Lord Calthorpe. He previously owned the land on which the runways now stand and still owns the southwest corner of the common, but he has never granted public access.

### News items

I often have people come up to me at May Day who say 'I've got common rights'. However some people may be in for a rude awakening who do not reply to letters or who have failed to go through the correct legal procedures to apportion rights if, say, one house is replaced by three. Half the grazing rights in Yateley were attached to land owned by the Dickinson family. I hear that the County Council have applied to the Commons Commissioner to have these rights extinguished since these fields are now the Heron Homes estates off Vigo Lane and the Bryant Homes estate off Upper Canes. I hear also that properties being deregistered include those originally registered by John Cobbett, himself a direct heir of the William Cobbett of *Rural Rides* fame, and of course, of the family which gave its name to Cobbetts Lane, lately of 'action group' fame. Another small piece of Yateley's history is being lost.

So if your solicitor smiled at you when you bought your house and said, 'By the way, you have common rights', he probably did not amend the register, and he probably did not get the rights properly apportioned if the house is a subdivision of a larger property. So you may already have lost those rights. If you are an established Commoner with rights over several properties and you have sold any of the subitems in the register you should have arranged with your solicitor to apportion the rights correctly so that the buyer of the property ends up with that proportion of your rights which now apply to his land. If you have any doubts please telephone Elizabeth or myself on 873378.

### Famous Commoners

Three months ago I mentioned Society Commoner members Daphne Kirkpatrick and Tom and Doreen Dodd. This month I should like to mention Mike and Ester Chappell and Jack and Alice Gregory. Mike was our tenacious 'leader' through the '60s and '70s and perhaps did more than anyone to ensure that the commons and their rights became 'finally registered'. As a Yateley Parish Councillor Mike saw the County Council give magnificent support during the '60s but turn against us after the local government reorganisation in 1974. Mike steered the Commoners through the registration process, with generous financial backing from Sir Emmanuel Kaye. The culmination of Mike Chappell's achievement was winning the



appeal in the High Court by Douglas Arnold against the Commons Commissioner's decision to register the rights of some 23 Commoners. I am sure he is happy if he is looking down from up there that the County are firmly back with us now, but I am sure he is not be surprised at how long it's taking to prize the 138 acres of public open space out of the airport.

Mike was a 'salty' Lieutenant Commander bred in the Navy, but Jack Gregory was salt of the earth. His registered property was built in Little Vigo in 1912 by his father. You will find the name Gregory in the parish registers for 350 years. I've just clicked on the marriage database in my computer and found eleven male Gregorys getting married since 1636, and four of them are Johns. Latterly Jack worked for Midland Aggregates at Bramshill but he told me that he had built the well in our front garden. Many of us have fond memories of Alice behind the counter in the old Post Office next to the *D&P*. Ester Chappell and Alice Gregory are still living in their homes which they and their husbands played such an important role to ensure still have registered common rights. I'm proud to have known them all!

## THE FOREST OF EVERSLEY TRUST

*A synopsis by David Lister of the talk on 21 September 1995*

ON THURSDAY 21 September Philip Todd, Chairman of the Forest of Eversley Trust, entertained a Society meeting with a talk to introduce us to the concept of the Forest of Eversley. It is still only a concept – though most of the audience had at least heard of it – but as it contains some of the last remaining patches of lowland heathland in Europe, and is potentially a green lung for this ever more crowded island, it is very well worth supporting and turning into a living reality.

For thousands of years, as Philip explained, this part of the world has been cultivated by small populations of people who, until comparatively recently, burnt off the forest to cultivate or graze, or cut down the trees for firewood, in much the same way as the rain forests of the Amazon basin are

being cleared today. The poor topsoil was then either washed or blown away leaving the present heathland, which is thus an artificial but very ancient feature of our landscape, having its own unique flora and fauna.

In Norman times the Kings took to themselves the right to hunt, leaving the freeholders and their villeins the right to gather wood, feed animals, fish and gather building materials, but not to damage the deer and wild pigs which belonged to the King, as did technically the whole country, portions of which could be given to or taken from his vassals as his royal policy suited. Freehold was in this sense a bit of a euphemism, but the forest was kept and the heathland was 'managed' as a consequence.

But then came the need to grow corn

for Britain's burgeoning population, and great tracts of common land were enclosed for cultivation, stimulated specially by the Great Enclosures Act of 1845. This movement was finally stopped by the expansion of the middle classes who objected to their holiday spots being enclosed. Yateley escaped this altogether, but Eversley and Bramshill were enclosed, and old rights of way were removed 150 years ago. Philip illustrated the lack of these rights of way in Eversley and Bramshill, and their rich network round Yateley on a

modern map showing the footpaths in the area covered by the Forest of Eversley.

The Forest of Eversley concept is to restore the public rights of way in the area it covers, to preserve it from building and road development, and to recreate and preserve a unique European landscape, as well as to preserve as far as possible the rights and income of the present landowners. What is needed is money to turn this concept into a reality. Contributions to the Forest of Eversley Trust are welcome.

## MORE COMMENTS ON THE HISTORY DATABASE

*by Tony Hocking*

I HAVE RECEIVED several comments on the History Database since the last *Newsletter*. These can be reduced to three questions:

### 1. Why is the Database incomplete?

There are two answers to this. Firstly there is a mountain of data to be included and it takes a VERY LARGE amount of time and effort to collect/type/scan this data for inclusion. Secondly the amount of historical information available is always increasing as more comes to light from research and even then many facts about Yateley were never recorded. Of course, modern information is being generated by the passage of time! The database can never be complete.

The policy is to give people access to

whatever information has been recorded in the database so far. Since the first 'public' issue there have already been two updates.

### 2. What is in the Database?

The articles by Richard Johnston in this Newsletter seek to answer this question. Two lists are given, one is a broad-brush index, the second is a much more detailed contents list which gives a good insight into the enormous amount of data already available.

### 3. Why is the Database computerised and what can I do if I am not familiar with computers?

The reason that the Database is in computer format is a matter of sheer size. The choice is either eight small



floppy discs or a roomful of paper. The problems of reproducing the Database in paper form are enormous, apart from the volume of paper required, the time taken to print it all or photocopy the originals would be prohibitive. In addition the cost in terms of paper, ink, etc would also be prohibitive!

This obviously makes life difficult for those who are not *au fait* with compu-

ters. All I can suggest is that you befriend someone who is happy with these machines (such as sons, daughters, nephews or nieces, who are usually dab hands at this sort of thing and could probably be bribed to help!) and get him/her to allow you browse through those items of greatest interest to you and then to print out the important bits for you.

## YATELEY HISTORY PROJECT DATABASE (RELEASE 2.3) – WHAT IS IN IT?

by Richard Johnston

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE has asked me to say what material is included in the Yateley History Project Database. Clearly the best way to find out is to browse through the material since interesting items may be found in the most obscure corners and unlikely places. The database is continually being expanded, and two batches of further additions to the database have been made since my article in the last *Newsletter*.

However the following gives a broad view of the material:

Published books, and unpublished papers and articles.

Miscellaneous Items – often very interesting snippets.

Crondall Manor Court Rolls – 'Land Registry'.

Hall Place (Yateley Manor) Court Rolls – another 'Land Registry'.

Parish Records.

Wills (about 250 of these).

Tithe Apportionment 1844 (starting point for many history researches).

Census 1841–1891 (all of these for Yateley

and Darby Green).

Yateley Hall – Guidebooks, History of house and families, Survey 1986–1992.

Yateley Society Planning Letters, Public Inquiries etc.

Yateley Society Administration.

The largest items in the database are the Crondall Manor Court Rolls, Yateley Hall, John Mills' Diary, Yateley Wills, C19 Censuses.

For Release 2.3, the material normally required by users is on five compressed floppy disks (text) plus a further three compressed floppy disks of illustrations. About 20mb of hard disk space is required for the full installation – material not needed can be selectively removed and recovered as needed (but searches will then be incomplete). A further twelve compressed floppy disks contain further data referenced by the Database, but which is only required by users for special purposes.

Those who want to know more detail about the material can examine the second list which follows.

## LIST OF DATA IN THE YATELEY HISTORY PROJECT DATABASE – RELEASE 2.3

by Richard Johnston

This goes down the database menus just far enough to make clear what is there.

**Read Me** – how to use database and what is in it.

**Seek Text** – data in files (used to search database).

**Publications and Papers:** not a complete list of all papers in database.

Victoria County History: Yateley (illustrated).

Yateley in 1991 Census, *R Johnston*.

History of Crondall and Yateley, *C D Stooks* (illustrated).

Understanding Yateley (incomplete), *R Johnston*.

Yateley – A Medieval Village, *D Docharty* (illustrated).

Papers on Potteries etc by *Don Ridgers*.

Yateley Through Six Centuries, YHP, WEA 1984 (illustrated).

Today & Yesterday by *Valerie Kerslake*.

Impact of Black death on Yateley – paper by *Derek Docharty*.

Impact of Housing in Yateley by *E John Tipton*.

Yateley in the Interregnum, *S Foster* (illustrated).

St Barnabas Church by *Sydney Loader*.

Why the Common is important, *R Johnston*.

Will of Thomas Hancock by *P J Tipton*.

History of Cobbetts Lane fields, *R Johnston*.

The Crystal Cup Mystery revisited by *Peter Tipton*.

Yateley Shops survey 1994, *R Johnston*.

Stilwell Family Papers.

### Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Medieval Period (976 – C15).  
Grant by the King of Manor of Crondall AD976.

Yateley items: Register of Common Seal, St Swithun's Priory.

Interpretation of Crondall boundaries 973 and 1190s.

1287 Manor of Crondall Rental – Yateley.  
Extracts from Domesday Book (1086): Yateley.

1351 Manorial Rental for Yateley and Hawley.

Letter from P J Tipton to HRO about Domesday Book.

Yateley Place Names.

### Miscellaneous C16 and C17

Bounds of Minley.

Deed between Solme and Harmer (1630–1).

Hants Lay Subsidy 1586, 1621.

Muster Roll for Crondall and Odiham 1632.

Indenture for Molsham 1593.

Crondall Manor Court 1672 to fix fees for transfers.

Indenture: Lanes: 1594 Nicholas Geale and Richard Geale of Yly.

Indenture 1623 – unlikely to be Yateley Tithing.

Hearth tax returns for C17 (needs checking).

### Miscellaneous C18 and C19

Glebe Terrier 1728.

Indenture concerning Lawrence Watts (1734).

Advert: sale of Hall Place 1809.

Schedule: 1871 25" to 1911 25".

Text: 1810 Map: Hilfield Estate.

Church Vestry minutes 1878/9, Civil Vestry mtgs 1878.

Stevens Hill Divn 1821 text and map (illustrated).

Churchwardens accounts 1877/8, 1878/9.

Schedule: pre Tithe Map map.

Persons in Vestry Minutes 1890s.

1840 Poll List.

Schedule 1896 25" os Map.

Valuation: Yateley Tithing 1840.

Notes: John Mills.

Land Tax Returns.



Survey: Yateley Hill House (John Mills' house).  
Post Office Directory 1867.  
John Mills' Diary.  
Schedule: 1871 25" os Map annotated and linked to Tithe Map.  
Baptist Church: Membership and Burials.

### Miscellaneous C20

Inhabitants of Yateley September 1900.  
Schedule for 1911 os Map connected to 1871.  
St Barnabas Church (by *Sidney Loader*).  
Schedule for 1931 os Map (sheet XII.7 only).  
1905 Court Case: rights to abstract gravel from Yateley Common.  
Land Duty c1910 Modern Yateley parish.  
Schedule for 1939 os Map (as far as available).  
7 Houses.  
*Camberley News*: Contents, 1920s, 1930s, letters, index.  
List of Houses related to Tithe Map etc.  
The Birches (now called Coachhouse).

### Family Histories

LIMBREY Family History Items.  
MILES Jonathan and Ann Bassnett, marriage (1821) – refs only.  
NORTON John of Rotherfield.  
PARKER Henry 8th Baron Morley.  
PARKER Henry 9th Baron Morley.  
RIGBY Tipping Thomas Family History Items.  
STILWELL Family from material provided by *Lindsay Stilwell*.  
History of the Stilwells Vol 1 and 2.  
Description of Yateley Church for newspaper c1903.  
Stilwell Pedigree.  
Part of Stilwell's Holiday Book 1879.  
Text of Clooty by *Norah Stilwell*, story of a dog.  
Stilwell Oral History Tapes.  
Major Events in Henry Stilwell's life.  
Stilwell Miscellaneous Items.  
Stilwell Family Letters.  
Stilwell Pictures (illustrations).  
TRIMMERS family (from *Don Ridgers*).  
WYNDHAM Family Pedigree.

ZOUCHE Lord Edward.

### Potteries

Lecture *Don Ridgers* on potteries in wills.  
Talk on WILLS & POTTERIES research.  
Pottery sites: Cove.  
Further talk by *Don Ridgers* in 1984.  
Text of publication by *Don Ridgers* on potteries.  
Start of a paper by *Don Ridgers* (incomplete).  
Published data on local pottery kiln investigations.

**View examples:** Post-medieval handwriting.

### Miscellaneous – History Administration

Yateley History Projects that could be published (1985).  
List of Documents at HRO relevant to Yateley (RJH 1995).  
Parish Mag article c1991 about Yateley History Project.  
List of Documents at Winchester Cath Lib for Crondall (1990).  
List of History Documents Held by Yateley Soc in 1986.  
Oddments transcribed by *S Foster*.

### Crondall manor

Crondall Gift AD976.  
Court Rolls – some pre-1729  
Rental 1287 and 1351.  
Court Rolls – Court List, Book Index, Extinguishments.  
Customary 1567 Indenture and Yateley Schedule.  
Court Rolls – Index of entries early A and B only.  
Court Rolls – 1729–1945 “The Land Registry” for Yateley, with index.  
Court Roll Books 23–27 with extra cross refs (four files).  
View Court Roll Maps (illustrations).

### Hall Place Manor

Hall Place Court Rolls (1750 – c1930).  
View Court Roll Maps (illustrations) – part of ‘Yateley’s Land Registry’.  
Hall Place 1809 Advertisement.  
Hall Place Title – abstract of title papers (with a map) (illustration).

### Yateley Parish Records

Registers: burials (incomplete).  
Poor Rates C17 and C19 and Church Rates (all).  
Grave Survey (incomplete).

### Yateley Wills and Inventories

Wills in PRO:  
Will of Edward Solme 1657, George Solme 1645, Richard Solme 1657.  
Will of William Cave 1630, Elizabeth Conyers 1628.  
Will of Sarah Solme 1690.  
Hants Record Office C16 – about 80 wills and inventories with translation.  
Hants Record Office Wills C17 (about 200 wills and inventories).

### Yateley Tithe Apportionment etc

Yateley Tithe Case 1605 – Baigent and C18 versions – entertaining!  
1844 Tithe Apportionment.  
1853 Alterations to Tithe Apportionment.  
1844 Tithe Schedule – starting point for who lived where.  
Text on Tithe Apportionment by *Alison Winter*.  
View Tithe Map (illustration).  
Yateley Farms by *R H Johnston*.

### Maps (all illustrations)

View 1759 Map (Taylor).  
View Frogmore Estate: 1755 Map and text.  
View 1817 Real 1st Edition os Map.  
View Frogmore Estate: Undated Map.  
View 1st Edition os 1in map (D&C version mid C19).

**Census 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891**  
Impressions from 1851/91 Censuses.  
1991 Census.

### Yateley Hall

Guide Books.  
Yateley Hall Documentary History.  
Chronology: Yateley Hall.

Guggisberg family.  
Crondal CR for Yateley Hall.  
Visit of Sir Offori Atta c1928.  
Advert Particulars c1680.  
*Camberley News* description 1933.  
Foxcroft Family.  
Miss de Winton Corry Obituary 1.1944.  
Extracts from ‘Townroe’.  
Sundry unclassified information.  
Foxcroft's Letter 1722.  
Teresa Bourne Vanneck Interview.  
The Diggle Family.  
Yateley Hall Planning Appeal 1952–1987.  
Rumney Diggle Will 1754.  
Yateley Hall 1922–1954 by *Mrs Lovell*.  
Halhed Family.  
Teresa Bourne Vanneck Thesis (1950s).  
Hall Lane Diversion 1797.  
Yat Hall Auction 1985.  
Extracts of deeds.  
Court Roll abstract of covenant 1836.  
Extracts from A C Benson books.  
Analysis of land holdings (unfinished).  
Extracts from John Mills' Diary.  
Yateley Hall Survey 1986–92.  
External and Internal and Outbuildings.  
Underpinning: by *G Hoare*.  
Trial Holes, Resistivity Survey.  
Photographs, Old photos.

### Yateley Society Planning

1983 District Plan Inquiry.  
Cobbetts Lane Public Inquiry.  
Fox Farm 1 Public Inquiry.  
Karts Public Inquiry.  
Fox Farm 2 Public Inquiry.  
NE Hants Struct Plan 2nd Alteration.  
Gayton House Public Inquiry.  
1988 – 1995 Planning Letters.  
Hart Dist Local Plan 2nd Alteration.

### Yateley Society Administrative Papers 1986–1995

Yateley Society Newsletters.  
Yateley Society Miscellaneous.





## YATELEY VILLEINS & VILLAINS

*Number one in a new series by Peter Tipton*

**J**ESSE JAMES, THE American Wild West outlaw, has been in the news lately as a consequence of his body being exhumed for testing to find out whether it really is his. There has long been a controversy as to whether it really was Jesse James, who was shot in 1882 by his accomplice, Bob Ford, or whether it was a put-up job to enable Jesse James to escape once more and live out the rest of his life free from pursuit by the authorities. As a result there are many who claim to be descended from his children born after his apparent assassination.

It is with great trepidation that I repeat here a local legend: that Jesse James and his notorious brother Frank were born in a 'soddy' on Yateley Common. Of course the encyclopaedias will inform you that Jesse James was born in Missouri in 1847, and not in Yateley. Many years ago, as a consequence of having our firewood delivered from the sawmill in Windsor Great Park, Elizabeth and I were introduced to Gilbert Searle, who told us about the Jesse James connection with Yateley. In fact Jesse James was Gilbert's relative since the Searles and the Jameses had intermarried. Gilbert Searle's James relatives now live in the USA and they could tell me all about the connection . . .

Of course there is absolutely no doubt about Gilbert Searle's connection with Yateley. His father was Arthur Searle who was born in Cricket Hill. The Searle family stretches back in Yateley to the 17th century. Gilbert's father was Arthur Searle who moved in 1925 from Cricket Hill to Bagshot, where Gilbert was born.

The full story, as told to me by Gilbert some 15 years ago, is that 'a local squire's son did wrong by a village maiden'. I am not sure then how it happened, but the locals then pushed over a barn on top of the squire's son, killing him. These locals were said to be Jameses 'who then fled to America' and became the legend we know. Of course, since Gilbert's James relatives now live in the USA, the barn toppling episode could well be true. I have not looked through the death registers to list all the deaths of young males of well-to-do families, nor spent any Society funds buying death certificates to find if the cause of death of one of them is 'murdered by being crushed by falling barn'.

What has proved more productive, now we have all the Census Records on the Yateley History Project Database, is to do a search for Jesse James. And sure enough there he is, listed in Cricket Hill, hawk pedlar, son of Victoria James, head of household. No father is listed so either he was

dead or had left home. There are more James families listed in the database as well: one family living in a 'Gipsy tent' in 'Andford Lane' and other families in Caravans and Gipsy tents on the common. So Jesse James did grow up in Yateley, and may well have pushed over a barn and then fled to America, where his descendants now live.

There is one big problem though in claiming our Jesse James of Yateley to be THE Jesse James. I found him in the 1891 census aged 14. So our Jesse was recorded in the census as living some nine years after he was assassinated, and he would only have been five years old when he was supposed to have been shot by Bob Ford. Disappointed?

THE Jesse James first gained notoriety, as a very young man, in the American Civil War of 1861-1865 so he was obviously in the USA then. Our Jesse was not sired until about 1877 and his brother Walter in about 1882. In fact their mother Victoria also appears in the 1871 census living in a caravan on the common, with a large family including Louie (aged 14) and Jobbie (aged 3). Gilbert Searle told us he had a relative named Louie James, who was married to a Justice boy in Eversley by Charles Kingsley. This must have been before she was 18 years old since Kingsley died in 1875. It is very interesting that Gilbert mentioned Jobbie and also that his grandmother was born in 1838. Victoria James, the mother of Jesse, Louise and Jobbie, was 33 in 1871 so she was born in 1838, confirming Gilbert's information.

I know someone is now going to say, 'Ah, but Jesse's mother Victoria was born in 1838, so she is about the right age to have been married to THE Jesse (born 1847). Perhaps THE Jesse was born in Yateley, married Victoria, had a son Jesse, pushed over the barn, fled to the States, and left his fatherless family in Yateley to be found by sceptics like you, Peter, in the 1891 census.'

Prepare for further disappointment; Victoria was married to William James, living in the caravan on Yateley Common in 1871, aged 38, born in Mortimer. So have I done a my usual hatchet job on the Jesse James legend? Well no! The real Jesse James could well have been a younger brother of William. We shall just have to hope some more information turns up. There is only one James in Yateley in 1841, another William aged between 25 and 30. In the 1851 census, where we might have expected to have found the 4-year-old Jesse, there are only two Jameses, both female servants. There are no Jameses in Yateley on census day in 1861. I suppose we could always believe the encyclopaedias . . .

But what of William James? Gilbert says he was the 'Billie James the poacher' whom Charles Kingsley wrote about. Now, that's another story . . .



# FINDING MINERALS IN EVERSLEY FOREST

**F**OR MONTHS A local public inquiry has been going on in Winchester into the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. Recently it was the turn of the Forest of Eversley Trust, which is concerned with areas surrounding Yateley and Bramshill, to make its comments known. Our President, Edward Dawson, as a Director of the Trust, gave oral evidence and this is a summary of the case he presented.

## 1. A vision for the forest

As with other Countryside Heritage Areas, the Forest of Eversley is designed to conserve a cohesive historic landscape. Much of the earliest Bronze Age, or even Neolithic, clearance existed in the form of heathland until the 1900s and beyond.

Similarly, many later features and boundaries – Roman, Saxon and Norman, – are still distinguishable, as are later field enclosures.

Indeed, due to the lack of demand for poor heathland both Yateley and Bramshill Common were never subject to Enclosure Acts.

Despite the comparatively recent afforestation there remains an almost unique opportunity to re-introduce similar land management to that exercised for centuries.

Lowland heath is not a climax vegetation type, and therefore requires active management. This does not imply that such management can be neither cost-effective nor profitable.

The Countryside Heritage Area, as an integrated working unit, has the potential to incorporate, in an historic landscape, traditional grazed heath, pasture woodlands and forestry, with public access, informal recreation, tourism and environmental educational opportunities.

Hampshire County Council has recently engaged a full time Project Officer to research the potential of the Forests of Bere and Eversley for restoration and recreation. An application for Millennium Commission funding is in preparation.

The emerging Hampshire County Structure Plan review proposes a new policy, G4, dealing specifically with the Forests of Bere and Eversley, highlighting their strategic importance. The Forest of Eversley could be the equal of the New Forest as an international resource.

## 2. Challenges and opportunities

Despite the importance of the area, it is also expected to accommodate development in the form of housing, employment opportunities, highways and minerals extraction.

The challenge is to accommodate this development without irreparable damage to heritage features, habitats, and the historic landscape.

Through development there may also be opportunities to enhance these elements, improve management techniques and regain rights of access to uncultivated land lost last century through enclosure.

At Manor Farm in Finchampstead, Berkshire County Council is securing a Country Park and the dedication of new public rights of way through and across the site and circular walking and riding routes linking rights of way.

The Hampshire County Structure Plan Review refers specifically in policy MW1 to the encouragement of public benefits through mineral and waste development.

## 3. Development details

The Development Brief for Area 2 at Bramshill Plateau will be prepared with full public participation at a later date, prior to any further permission for extraction. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, however, must make certain requirements of the brief as listed in the criteria for working, and these criteria need to be extended.

First, the restoration should maximise the re-creation of heathland as required on other preferred areas in the Plan.

Secondly, the provision for public access/recreation referred to needs to be separated from the criteria for restoration. The requirement for walking and riding routes round and across the area and the dedication of rights of way to be stipulated.

Third, the retention of historic features on the site should be noted, such as the barrow at SU 795584 and any other such sites discovered.

Fourthly, important landscape features such as the Great Butt and ridge should be protected in such a way that views of, and from, them are protected in an entirely natural manner.

Fifth, the suitability of infilling with any foreign waste material must be questionable. Where there is no proof that the highest standard of restoration can be guaranteed in perpetuity, the future of this habitat should not be put in jeopardy.



## WHAT IS THE FOREST OF EVERSLEY HERITAGE AREA?

**T**HE FOREST OF Eversley Countryside Heritage Area was the first Area designated by Hampshire County Council under its Countryside Heritage Policy, in 1988.

It comprises twenty three square miles of varied historic landscape centred on a relict lowland heath, including pasture and ancient woodland.

It is in multiple ownership with many houses and farms in private hands. Major landowners and managers include Hampshire County Council, Hart District Council, Ministry of Defence, the Corbin Estate, the Calthorpe Estate and Forest Enterprise.

It is designated in the current Hart District Local Plan and shown on the Proposals Map.

It includes a number of sites protected as:

- Ancient Monuments,
- Listed Buildings,
- Historic Parks and Gardens,
- SSSIs, Countryside and other Conservation Areas,
- Areas of Particular Landscape Interest, and Tree Preservation Orders.

Many of the Countryside Heritage Sites it contains have been designated as Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCS).

Much of the area has been proposed as part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area under the European Union Wild Birds Directive.

There are extensive rights of way with the notable exception of the enclosed plateau commons.



## Yateley Society Programme 1995

*From December 1995*

DECEMBER

Thursday 14, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 7.30pm

### **Christmas Social**

This will be the usual very informal gathering for a chat over a glass or two of wine or soft drink, with a moderately diabolical quiz thrown in to give some mental exercise.

If you could bring a plate of mince pies or some other sweet or savoury bits to nibble it would help things along.

A donation of £1 per head to cover the cost of drinks is requested.

Please advise the Hockings (875158), by the 5th December, if you will be attending.

Sunday 31, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

### **Conservation on the Common**

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

Come along and work up a thirst for:

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1996

JANUARY

Thursday 18, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 8.00pm

### **Talk - Aspects of Tree Research**

*by Dr Louise Sutherland*

Dr Sutherland is engaged on tree research at the Forest Enterprise Alice Holt Research Station. She will be describing some of the work going on there, particularly that concerning tree diseases. This is topical in view of the 'new' diseases which seem to keep appearing to threaten different species.

Sunday 28, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

### **Conservation on the Common**

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers



## FEBRUARY

Thursday 15, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 7.30pm  
**Yateley Society AGM**

Once again it is time to examine the workings of the Society over the past year, to elect the Executive Committee and to

**MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN  
ON WHAT YOU WANT  
THE SOCIETY TO DO IN THE FUTURE.**

Come along and have your say.

As usual we will bribe you to attend with a glass of wine!

**Copy dates:**

*Newsletter*  
15 January 1996

*Stop Press*  
When necessary

**The Yateley Society**  
Registered with the Civic Trust  
Registered Charity No 282397



