

the Yateley society



Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

May Fayre Appeal

The Tin Church

How the Society Started

Reflections on Trees

No 62

April 1996

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 62 April 1996

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

EDITORIAL

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Sydney Loader on March 27th. Sydney, a long term Vice-President of the Society, was our expert on village life and local history. He was one of the lecturers on the course which led to the formation of The Yateley Society and was a founder member. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Florrie and to the rest of Sydney's family.

Dear Member,

The May Fayre is upon us again and the usual list of requests and jobs to be done appears inside this *Newsletter*. Bearing in mind the high cost of participation in Planning Inquiries, of which several are expected within the next year, it is important that the May Fayre sales are made as successful as possible to boost our reserves – so please contribute as much as possible.

We have had the AGM since the last issue, which means that a new Executive Committee has been elected, the members are:

Officers:

Chairman David Lister
Vice-Chairman Tony Hocking
Hon Secretary Richard Johnston
Hon Treasurer Peter Tipton

Committee Members:

Ted Brooks
Graham Brown (*Membership Secretary*)
Stephanie Butcher
Irene Draper
Colin Webster

Our thanks go to Carolyn Seymour,

David Healey and Geoff Hoare who retired after long service to the Society.

The return to the EC of Peter Tipton and Richard Johnston is most welcome – their hard work for the Society will become, justifiably, more obvious. Confirmation as Membership Secretary of Graham Brown is equally welcome.

Edward Dawson was confirmed as President for another year, to make a round 10 years. After that the title of President will probably lapse and another means of marking exceptional service to the Society will be found. This is but one feature of a planned shake-up of the Society constitution, of which you will be kept informed.

THE SIMMONDS GRAVES

Restored at last! The wooden grave marker was assembled and installed on Sunday 31 March. Gail and Ron Patten-den, with a band of Society labourers, put the big jigsaw together with considerable effort and lots of screws and glue. Go and see it in the churchyard – and pray that the local yobs keep away from it!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

If we are to have a new membership drive, we should start by making the name of the Society visible. I would guess that many local people have never heard of The Yateley Society, let alone its aims. In the presumed absence of a delinquent member with a can of spray paint, I suggest the following:

1. Let the *Newsletter* be displayed in the library.
2. Let copies be on sale there, if possible, or elsewhere in the town.
3. Have membership leaflets available in the library.
4. From time to time put on small, well-designed exhibitions (plastered with our logo) in the library, possibly elsewhere as well. (As this is, of course, a lot of work it may be impracticable even though we have heaps of material.)
5. Make sure our permanent poster outside the library is replaced from time to time. I believe there is none there at present.
(*Editor's Note:* This matter is in hand, a draft poster awaits agreement of its content.)
6. Submit regular articles from the *Newsletter*, or elsewhere, to the parish magazine whose editor cries out for contributions. In the days when we had something in almost every month they had a special Society logo to head the page. Do readers of the parish magazine know about the Simmonds Graves, for example, and our part in preserving them?
7. Occasional articles are suitable for neighbouring magazines. The editor of the Sandhurst church magazine is one who is also desperate for material.

CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Letter to the Editor	3
Commoners' Corner	4
May Fayre Appeal	6
The Tin Church & the Forest of Eversley	6
How the Society Started – 15th Anniversary... ..	9
Reflections on Trees	11
Villeins and Villains	13
The Chairman's Report	15
Town Twinning – The Dungarvan Experiment	18
The Yateley Society Programme	18

8. Advertise our sparsely attended talks:
 - a) with posters – we have blank posters with logo, all ready to be filled in, and I dare say we have calligraphers amongst our members.
 - b) In local papers, with an outline of the talk as well as the brief announcement.
9. Ask someone to write up some of our talks for local papers, parish magazines, *Newsletter* – and not always the same person.
10. We have a reputation for unfriendliness, so delegate a couple of people in advance for each meeting (committee and others) to welcome new faces – even if they do sometimes turn out to be founder members! – who may anyway like someone to talk to them.
11. Appoint a publicity team to shoulder all these burdens and think up more.

Valerie Kerslake.

COMMONERS' CORNER

by Peter Tipton

I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE that our Common rights go back to the time of Alfred the Great, who was Lord of the Manor of Crondall which then contained the small settlement from which modern Yateley has developed. Strictly speaking I should say that our rights go back to 'time immemorial' which in law is 1189. You will by now understand that common land originated in the time of thanes and serfs and obtained its current legal status in the time of barons and villeins. No wonder modern lawyers and planners think the whole thing is anachronistic.

Common land has its roots in the feudal manorial system which was the basis of the English economy. Each manor was supposed to be self sufficient. The Statute of Merton of 1236 placed a basic obligation on lords of the manor to provide land for the ordinary people to graze their animals, collect their firewood, cut their beanpoles, dig the gravel for their yards, and dig peat for their own fires. The land so provided was of course the worst in the manor and is still called 'waste of the manor'. Following so closely behind Magna Carta, the Statute of Merton was a democratic way of providing subsistence for every householder in the land *through his or her own efforts*. Far from scoffing at this system like modern lawyers and planners, I think we could well learn something very fundamental about our own society from studying the way the manorial system aided the poor, whether you favour the welfare state or Thatcherism.

Yateley people were very lucky that their manor was quickly added (in 976) to the portfolio of manors supporting the old monastery at Winchester. Crondall was specifically designated to support the Prior and monks, rather than the Bishop. Crondall Manor existed for a millennium until the feudal system stopped on

1 January 1926. The manor survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries and was redesignated to support the Dean and Chapter. Eventually the holdings of the church were reorganised and the Lords of the Manor became the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Their successors, the Church Commissioners, virtually gave (with two exceptions) most of the common land in Yateley to Yateley Parish Council in 1954. The Parish Council kept Yateley Green but passed on 470 acres of common to Hampshire County Council. Yateley Common is a single tract of land but by the 1950s the Church Commissioners did not own the Common to the west of old Vigo Lane, which then ran through the middle of what is now Blackbushe Airport terminal building. That western part was sold to Lord Calthorpe in 1912. In 1942 this land was requisitioned under wartime emergency powers. Blackbushe was derequisitioned and returned to common in 1960. To the south of the A30 the Crown Estate Commissioners purchased the common land from the Church Commissioners for MOD use. It is all common land registered under the 1965 Commons Registration Act. The same Act registered the Common rights of twenty three commoners.

Famous Commoners

This quarter I should like to mention two famous military Yateley Commoners. Air Chief Marshall Sir William MacDonald was appropriately enough one of the wartime commanders of RAF Hartford Bridge Flats (Blackbushe to us). Despite this, he was a staunch supporter of his Common rights and the registration of Yateley Common, including Blackbushe. A near neighbour of Sir William's on Cricket Hill was General R Llewellyn Brown. General Brown was latterly Director General of the Ordnance Survey. His sister started Yateley Industries, and he did the Yateley Society great honour by becoming one of our first Vice-Presidents. It was a great pleasure to attend Commoners' meetings with such gentlemen, and to have their support.

16 May, 8pm, C.1.4, Yateley Centre

Tree and Woodland Projects in Hampshire

An illustrated talk by Susannah Peckham, Woodland Conservation Officer for Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Susannah will discuss her work with the HWT, with reference to some of the woodland projects she has been involved with and will explain the Tree Warden scheme.

!HELP! MAY FAYRE

(Monday 6 May)

We need:

Volunteers to help erect the marquee at about 8.15am,
and to help dismantle it at 5pm.

There will be a Sales Stall, and we ask for your valuable assistance in providing
sales items:

**Preserves, Biscuits, Cakes, Plants
and Knick-knacks in good condition**

Given the above we also need staff to run the stall and to man the exhibition.

Will volunteers please contact Tony or Mary Hocking on 875158
(at 30 Connaught Close, Yateley)

Items for sale should be brought to 30 Connaught Close on Sunday 5 May for
pricing

ST BARNABUS TIN CHURCH AND THE FOREST OF EVERSLEY

*An account of the public meeting convened by The Yateley Society Meeting on 21 March 1996
by Tony Hocking & David Lister*

THE ORIGINAL INTENTION was to devote the meeting to ideas for the future use of the old St Barnabus tin church. The urgent need to comment on Hampshire County Council's application for a Millennium Fund grant for the Forest of Eversley led to this topic also being considered.

1. The future of St Barnabus Tin Church

David Lister reminded the meeting that The Yateley Society was concerned about the

vandalism in and around the tin church and had had the windows boarded up as protection. It was now necessary to decide if there was a future for this unusual building. Perhaps the Society could use it as a headquarters and it might be useful as an Information Centre for the Forest of Eversley.

The Rev John Tyrrell commented that the old church was very popular with its former congregation, and they would like to see it put to a good use. Attempts by the Church Commissioners to sell the building had

failed, although planning permission for several uses including a Chapel of Rest for Parkers Funeral Directors and a soft furnishing workshop had been granted, including the construction of outbuildings such as garages. Retail uses were not allowable. The stumbling point had been the refusal by the Commoners to allow vehicles to cross a 'ransom strip' of Common Land to reach the building. He confirmed that the ownership is with the Diocese of Winchester, although he and the PCC were trustees for the building.

Richard Johnston pointed out that the building of the church itself had only been allowed by the Commoners because it was 'of public benefit', so it was likely that using the church for a public purpose would be acceptable.

John Tyrrell agreed with this and explained that, at present, while the church was no longer consecrated, its use for any religious purpose was limited to the Church of England only. Its use as a 'schoolteacher's house' was also sanctioned! Ideally the church would like to sell the building for the benefit of Diocesan funds. Purchase was the obvious means of making it available to other people. The price was likely to be in excess of £35,000 as this was the value given to it seven years ago. It would cost at least £15,000 to refurbish the building.

It was agreed that for many purposes vehicular access was not important, and there was a car park at the nearby pond.

Funds necessary for a purchase would undoubtedly exceed anything affordable by local societies, but might be obtainable from local councils; Richard Johnston suggested Hampshire County Council. Alternatively the Diocese could be asked for a lease.

Councillor Adrian Collett commented

that there was a positive interest in the church in Hampshire CC. An Interpretation Centre was needed for Yateley Common and while the tin church was remote from the Common it would be a cheaper option than a new building, which had been considered. The use of the church for a community purpose might snowball and demonstrate the demand for such facilities so that a new building for Yateley Common could be justified in the future. HCC had little capital funding available, but might be able to do something given help. He warned that HCC would not be able to afford staff for the building, volunteers would be needed for that.

David Lister pointed out that HCC were interested in the church for the Forest of Eversley and that they were applying for a Millennium Fund grant for FOE purposes.

Adrian Collett agreed that restoring and fitting out the church for public use would be a very suitable subject for a Millennium proposal. He advised approaching Yateley Town Council for management assistance, even if not financial assistance.

Elizabeth Tipton suggested that local residents were the best people to initiate negotiations with the Diocese as they would not be expected to have large funds available.

Richard Johnston tabled a resolution which he had drafted, partly as a means of defining the next step, and partly to provide a mandate for negotiations.

Following a short debate the final agreed form of the resolution was:

'This public meeting of Yateley inhabitants sponsored by The Yateley Society, recognising that the former church of St Barnabus occupies a prominent position

on Darby Green, at the centre of the Darby Green Conservation Area, a location allowed by the Commoners in 1901 on the grounds of public benefit, and recognising that this mission church of unusual construction was historically significant for the social development of Yateley; is dismayed that it has been allowed to deteriorate; is pleased that The Yateley Society recently took steps to secure the building against vandalism; and calls upon Hampshire County Council and Yateley Town Council to help in the negotiations with the Church Authorities to secure the building for continued public benefit as a visitor centre for Yateley Common and other educational and community purposes.'

The resolution was carried unanimously.

2. The Forest of Eversley Millennium Application

After hearing about the proposals and possibilities for the Tin Church the meeting then went on to consider the Hampshire County Council proposals for establishing two new 'forests' in Hampshire, the Forest of Eversley and the Forest of Bere. The Forest of Eversley being the one which concerns us in Yateley.

The geographical outlines and indeed the existence of the forest itself are still misty. Hampshire County Council (HCC) has produced a booklet with some key topics, extremely skeletal in substance, but in a glossy and colourful format. In fact most of the topics are in the form of questions. At first people attending the meeting could be forgiven for wondering why so much ado about so little. Hampshire County Council-

lor Adrian Collett was on hand to outline HCC's thoughts behind these questions.

HCC are applying to the Millennium Commission for money to speed up the process of making the Forest of Eversley a reality. At present progress on establishing the Forest is slow because of a lack of funding. A Millennium Fund grant could solve the difficulty, but one of the key problems HCC has to overcome is that the Millennium Commission will only give money to projects which have broad public support. It would like flesh put on the skeleton, but that flesh must be seen to come from the public and not from the HCC in the form of a dictat.

The population of the UK has been exploding for the last 300 years, but until recently our countryside has been considered an inexhaustible resource of land for housing and other development. It is becoming gradually clearer that this is no longer the case, but its protection is still a long way from a vote catcher from a Government point of view, nor can HCC impose a Forest of Eversley on NE Hampshire without consent from the majority of the affected population.

The ecology of the New Forest is being overwhelmed by people-pressure, and other resources for leisure and country space are needed, this is another reason why HCC is looking at the Forest for Eversley.

Peter Tipton, the Treasurer of the Society, has written a letter commenting on this so-called Millennium Forest to the HCC, expanding on the resolution passed at the Yateley Society AGM in February 1996, to meet HCC's need for a response within 20 days of 14 March. He outlines the Society's desire to see the area as a giant public open space for sports and recreation, but demands

that this be informal, bearing in mind the EU and national designations for its heathland. Commercial development, such as a theme park or a Centre Parc-like structure are considered highly undesirable, (being yet more enemies of the rabbit leading to the story in the extract below from the poem *We are going to see the Rabbit* by Alan Brownjohn:

'We are going to see the rabbit
We are going to see the rabbit
Which rabbit people say?
Which rabbit ask the children?
Which rabbit?
The only rabbit in England,
Sitting behind a barbed wire fence,
Under the floodlights, neon lights,
Sodium lights,
Nibbling grass
On the only patch of grass
In England, in England
(Except the grass by the hoardings
Which doesn't count.)'

Thursday 15th January 1981 saw the formation of the Yateley Society, so we have reached our 15th Anniversary!!

To celebrate this event we are reprinting the lead article from the Yateley Centre magazine *The Mag* of January 1981, which gave notice of the Yateley Society inaugural meeting, and contained a concise account of how and why the Society came into being.

SOCIETY READY FOR LAUNCH...

by Peter & Elizabeth Tipton

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the Yateley Society is planned for Thursday 15 January 1981 in the Drama Hall at The Yateley Centre. The Promoters are the Yateley Study Group, who are proposing that the Society should be constituted as a local amenity body along the lines advocated by the Civic Trust. Since Duncan Sandys started the Civic Trust in 1957 the number of registered amenity societies has risen from

The Society has a strong Local History section and a suggestion is made that HCC could obtain input from this and other local history groups to justify the title of Forest of Eversley by reference to historical documents. The forest as originally conceived coincided with the old Holdshot Hundred, but now includes areas from the Crondall, Odiham and Basingstoke Hundreds. Unless HCC gets its historical facts right the name could be ridiculous.

The consensus of the meeting was that the Forest of Eversley was a vital concept for preserving what remains of the countryside in the area, and HCC should be encouraged in every way to continue to develop the concept, as long as it is the countryside which is being preserved and not some developer.

200 to over 1200 with 330 000 members. The Yateley Society will remain independent of the Civic Trust but on registration will receive valuable guidance.

Who are the Yateley Study Group?

In September 1979 a unique adult education class was started, *A Study of Yateley* with a team of lecturers each giving two-three talks on Yateley from its Geology and

Archaeology to its recent history and ecology of its gravel pits and commonland. Thirty one participants listened for example to Jean McIlwaine, the Church Archivist; Gordon Peake, the chairman of the North-East Hants Archaeological Society; and that doyen of Yateley's history Sidney Loader. But the course was not all sitting and listening in the classroom. Susan Dawson was arranging 'fungal forays' over the Common and trapping moths each weekend. Class members were out knocking on doors to survey the present-day residents, assessing how long people have been here, where they were from and what their reasons for coming.

The very last lecture was rather different. Richard Warmington an acknowledged expert on timber-frame houses, was invited from Andover to talk about Monteagle House, one of our five Yateley buildings listed by the DOE as 'of historic and architectural interest'. The whole class followed Richard as he gave his judgement as to when each part of the house had been built, why, and by what sort of person, all by 'reading' the timbers of the house. He had been deliberately kept in the dark about the documentary evidence which Peter Tipton, not himself then a member of the class, was then asked to discuss. The correlation between the two was remarkable.

This was the turning point for the group. If this could be done for one house, why not for all the old houses in Yateley? The ecologists could study old field patterns, look at the changing patterns of wildlife as food plants changed with increasing housing; the topics for study seemed limitless. But if you study old houses, fields, hedges and habitats, you start to care about them. A planning

application for five houses in Blakes Pond on the Green started the Conservation Group, who are now engaged in enumerating all houses built before 1840 and still existing so that they may be 'listed' and so protected to a certain extent.

Over the summer months the Yateley Study Group was formed by the tutors and students. They then joined with the Yateley Centre to run a five-week condensed course. All fourteen members of this group have stayed on to join with the original members to promote the Yateley Society. Meanwhile five houses were being studied by the Old Houses group using the manorial court rolls at Winchester. The influx of new members has meant that a study of Yateley for the years 1841-1881 can be started, using all available sources from the census returns to the parish archives. The Conservation group is in full swing, drawing overlay maps for the 1846 Tithe Map. The Ecology group has had a second fungal foray, with results going to Kew, while the moth data is being collated for the computer of the Biological Records Centre at Monkswood, and hedge-dating has begun.

An Amenity Society for Yateley? Winston Churchill said that a nation without a memory is a nation without a soul. With a population leap from 4647 in 1971 to the present 26 000, most of us now in Yateley are outsiders. To understand the present we must understand the past. Why has Yateley no centralised shopping? Is it a whim of modern planning or does it in some way reflect a thousand years of history? Recently Sidney Loader was asked to contribute his knowledge of the ancient ponds of Yateley to the Town Council's battle with one of our Number One problems: Flooding.

Discovering the facts of Yateley's past and present is fascinating and enjoyable. But the most exciting aspect of the Society will be its intent, and ability, to contribute to the present and the future of Yateley. The dictionary defines amenity as being 'pleasant,

agreeable'. As an amenity group, the Yateley Society will try in every possible way to use its growing knowledge of Yateley for the enhancement and the benefit of the community, so that Yateley may become a more pleasant and agreeable place in which to live.



REFLECTIONS ON TREES

by Irene Draper

WHEN DR. LOUISE Sutherland gave her excellent talk on Tree Diseases to the Yateley Society she concentrated on three in particular. Honey fungus, Dutch Elm, and a fairly recent disease that was badly affecting Alder trees. Her colour slides of Elms made me realise I had almost forgotten what magnificent trees they were. In fact, the more I thought about them the more difficult I found it to recall them as a tree I was familiar with in my youth. Other tree species quickly came to mind. The apple in our back garden, the cherry in a neighbours. The lovely row of limes that grew in the field opposite our house. There also the conference pear, walnut, horse chestnut, oak and sycamore, and just down the road beech, poplar and may. All trees which in some way provided my friends and I with a source of food or material for play.

Our own apple trees bore bumper crops every other year. Delicious to eat or cook as well as being good keepers, they were carefully picked and stored on top of the wardrobes. The pears were jealously guarded by us local children and woe betide any outsiders who tried to scrump them! Walnuts were knocked off green, stored in a tin box and buried to ripen. Later, when those from the higher branches fell down naturally they were hunted from amongst the autumn leaves. I can still recall the joy of scuffling through the leaves to reveal the brown nuts, the kernels now ripe and sweet to eat.

Conkers were collected by my brothers to 'do battle with' but I loved them for their rich shiny appearance and was always sad that they dried and dulled so quickly. The tiny beech nuts were gathered and painstakingly peeled, delicious to eat when dipped in salt. By the time I was old enough to climb trees safely our elderly neighbour was not, so I was given the job of picking his cherries. I can still see him watching from the window to make sure that more went into the basket

than into my stomach. I would always select two pairs of rich ripe fruits to hang over my ears like earrings while I picked.

Scent from limes and poplars brings a rush of childhood memories. The wood pigeons nested high in the limes and it took great courage to climb up to see the two white eggs or the newly hatched squabs. The poplar, old with hollow trunk, still flowered each year. The catkins produced a mass of white seed heads which filled the air and then settled over gardens, paths and road. When playing houses with our dolls the oak provided us with tiny 'cups', the may with tiny 'apples' and the bright red leaf petioles of sycamore became 'rhubarb'. Elms must have grown in the local countryside but not close enough to home to be recalled.

Through my teenage years and early twenties other interests and activities took over from simple childhood games. On moving to Yateley to live I went to WEA natural history classes and joined the Yateley Society where I became involved in a tree survey of the Conservation Area. Here many trees were familiar to me, others quite new. Alders would have grown along the River Thames at Maidenhead but I do not remember them. Now, living in another river valley, I cannot understand how I missed them. They are not particularly noticeable in early summer when the leaves open, nor do they produce a magnificent show of autumn colour. They are at their best now, in winter and early spring. The rich brown colour of their male catkins, the purple bloom on twigs and buds and the tiny delicate cone-like fruits formed from last year's female catkins makes them easy to recognise. They like to grow along river and stream edges and by ponds and lakes. Pushing their roots down into the wet soil they help to hold the banks together thus preventing erosion. Once I had 'got my eye in' I saw Alders everywhere. Surprisingly there is one by Barclays Bank, but many by Blakes Pond, around the edges of the lakes along the river path and up through the Royal Oak Valley.

As winter moves into spring the male catkins will elongate, turning purple brown then open to release a mass of yellow pollen. This, carried by the wind, will be caught by the small female catkins which, during the summer, will turn green and expand to form the 'cones'. Winter sunshine seems to accentuate the lovely colour of buds, twigs and catkins and makes the alder stand out from other trees.

Somehow I did not notice the going of the elms but Dr Sutherland's aerial photographs of a landscape rich with these hedgerow trees makes me realise how much I missed. To think that alders may go the same way and that one day our local river, ponds and streams will be bare of these trees fills me with a great sadness.

(Editor's comment: Old photographs show an open stream near the Barclays Bank site, it is now culverted, but the alder possibly marks its course)

YATELEY VILLEINS & VILLAINS

Peter Tipton continues his series by introducing one of the first villeins to be documented in Yateley's historical records

JULIANA DE AULA is listed as having the largest holding of land in Yateley in the Rental, dated 1287, of the Priory of St Swithin at Winchester. This Rental contains the returns, services and customs of the Manor of Crondal of which the Prior and monks were Lords of the Manor. Juliana heads the list of those landholders in Yateley owing duties to the Lords of the Manor and lists all those duties which must be performed, many at specific times of the year.

Her principal landholding is stated as one hide of land containing 106 acres. There is only one other tenant holding one hide of land in the whole of Crondal Manor, and that was Robert de 'Brambesshate'. Bramshot was then also within the ecclesiastical chaplaincy of Yateley, and was near the present location of Junction 4A of the M3 motorway. The Crondal manor estate was the second largest owned by the Priory. In contemporary taxation returns, Yateley was taxed far higher than other villages of the manor. Juliana was thus very important, although technically only a 'villein'. In fact there were no freeholders of land in Yateley until late in the nineteenth century.

Her importance can be supported from her surname: 'Aula' can be translated from Latin as 'church nave' or 'Court Baron.' Although Juliana is described as having three acres of encroachment 'before Yateley church' the meaning here is that she was permitted to hold her own Court Baron. In fact the books recording the courts baron of her successors in title in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries still exist in the Hampshire Record Office. Manorial landholdings were regulated by two types of court: Courts Baron and Courts Leet. The Court Leet was the main court of the manorial system. It generally met twice a year and dealt with all matters pertaining to the manor including petty offences, highway and ditch repairs and breaking the Assize of Bread. The View of Frankpledge was almost always held at the Court Leet. A survival from Saxon days, the View of Frankpledge was essentially the main way that England was policed until the development of police forces in the last century. The Manor of Crondal held a Court Leet and View of Frankpledge regularly and the court rolls and court books exist, almost in complete succession, from 1281 until they were abolished by law in 1926. The importance of this for the historical research of Yateley is that the Court Leet also dealt with the transfer of title of the tenants' land-holdings, by 'copy of court roll.' The mediaeval villeins were thus later termed 'copyholders.'

However Juliana de Aula was one rank above the normal copyholder since she was permitted to hold a Court Baron. Although she was herself a tenant of the Prior and monks of St Swithin's as Lords of the Manor of Crondal, she had sub-tenants

of her own. Originally the term Court Baron had applied to Courts held for freeholders rather than villeins or 'copyholders.' However in this case where a villein was holding her own Court it appears that the name of Court Baron was used and retained down the centuries, maybe since only land tenure was dealt with. On the other hand the Court Baron in Yateley could have been authorised by the Prior and monks to enforce and regulate the customs of the manor with respect to all their tenants in Yateley, and not only those sub-tenants of Juliana and her successors. Yateley had its own common fields, run under the strip farming system, as well as the 'waste of the manor,' which we now call Yateley Common and Yateley Green. Certainly the Lord had a hayward in Yateley. From this information we can be sure that Juliana lived on the site of what is now Yateley Manor School. The name Yateley Manor is a Victorian affectation and the present house had its foundation about 1828. The previous house was always known by its 'customary' name of Hall Place. In the manorial 'customary' of 1567 we can read all the customary names of fields belonging to Richard Allen, Juliana's 16th century successor in title, and read the names of his halymote or sub-tenants.

It is interesting to speculate whether Hall Place, spelled 'le Haule Place' in the 1567 customary is derived from Juliana's latin surname meaning 'the Court Baron place' or is from the more obvious derivation of the Middle English word Halle meaning a large house which, from Richard Allen's will and inventory, we can certainly say it was. I would opt for Juliana's surname since I believe that any Anglo Saxon 'halla' hereabouts was in Hawley from which, I believe, it derived its name. We know very little about Juliana except her landholding and her customary duties. She may have been married and widowed since one of the 'customs' she owed the Lord was that she could not 'give her daughter in marriage without ransom'. However that may be just stated in the Rental as a 'custom' for completeness, without any daughter being in existence. She herself may thus have been the eldest daughter and heir of the previous tenant.

In the 1287 Rental there is mentioned a Warren de Aula holding a half hide of land in Aldershot. Warren may have been a close relative of Juliana, even her husband, but it is unlikely. It is more likely Warren was so named since he held a copyholding with subtenants in Aldershot, and was no relation to Juliana.

We can be reasonably sure that Juliana actually lived in Yateley at Hall Place since one of her duties was to 'find six men for two days for harvest service at (Long) Sutton, and she shall personally superintend the reapers, and shall find one man from her own house and one man from any tenant of hers for one day for harvest service at Crondal'.

The first two court rolls for Crondal Manor found by Baigent are translated from the Latin by him in the Crondal Records 1891. Although these rolls are dated 1281 and 1282, there is no mention of Juliana de Aula. There are however five other Julianas, perhaps named after one of the most important females in the district.

Yateley Society Annual Report 1996

This is a shortened version of the Chairman's Report made at the AGM and summarises the detailed reports which you will find written out in full in the *Newsletter* under the sections into which the Yateley Society Activities for 1995 are divided: Natural History, Conservation, Planning, and Local History.

Natural History

Under Irene Draper. There have been three delightful country walks organised by her for interested Society members both within and outside Yateley. She hopes to organise further walks in the Blackwater Valley and I do recommend them as a good way of seeing Yateley's country, as well as getting to know other Society members.

Conservation

Mike Mann's group continues to be very successful and I hope you will read his report and realise the bearing it has on the work of the rest of the Society. As he mentions, the largest number of hours worked since records began in 1989 were performed in January 1994. In August hay-making took place on the fields behind Moorside at that time owned by Daphne Kirkpatrick who died recently. Mike Mann mentions that a video and still photos of Daphne Kirkpatrick's fields were taken in anticipation of applying for SINC status for the site in the future. He ends his report by asking: How can we maximise the present interest and generate even more support? He suggests that the answer is more communication. The future of the Tin Church might provide a focus for this and I will come back to this later.

Planning

Ted Brooks, Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee notes that 1995 was a relatively quiet year, but perhaps represents a lull before a storm. Charles Church lost on Cobbetts Lane but as usual the developers refuse to take no for an answer, in spite of the Nightjars and Dartford Warbler – to whom grateful thanks – and this and many others sites round Yateley are being promulgated as potential development sites. The plan for the area behind the *Royal Oak* has been approved by Hart District Council and this should now become the subject of a Development Brief, before detailed planning permission is given.

Development for Broome Close has again been rejected, and seems to support the Society's view that realigning the settlement boundary during the life cycle of an adopted local plan would open the floodgates for similar applications.

Local History

Richard Johnston has produced a report on the Local History activity in the last year. As he says in his report the most prominent activity of the year has been the distribution of a second, vastly expanded edition of the Yateley History Project Database, now compressed into 8 high density floppy discs. Richard has achieved an immense task and we can but admire his persistence and the work he has put into it. It would be good if interested members of the Society could meet and explore this database perhaps under the guidance of Richard himself.

Richard mentions also in his report that members of the history group continued

their work on a number of individual projects, which are outlined fully in his report in the *Newsletter*. Richard ends by saying that there has been little in the way of talks for the Society in the year, the researchers have been too busy. Perhaps that can be remedied, and we can rely less on outside speakers in the future.

The Programme Sub-Committee

Tony Hocking is the Acting Secretary, Vice Chairman and member of the Programme Sub-Committee, and in his report reminds us of the very varied and interesting selections of meetings the Society has organised over the year. For me the best were Philip Colebourne's on Britain's Countryside Heritage, and the HCC Structure Plan Review, Chaired by Peter Tipton.

Publication Sub-Committee

I would like to remind society members of Elizabeth Tipton's invitation for contributions to a Yateley Anthology. Please contact her for further details.

The Simmonds's Grave

The Simmonds Grave is now all painted and ready to put up again, and Gale and Ron Pattenden hope to be able to direct a work party to actually assemble it. Volunteers are required for this and a date for its inauguration will need arranging.

Farewells and Welcomes

We said farewell to Geoff Hoare as Membership Secretary, and again thank him for his work. Graham Brown has taken over this responsibility. Carolyn Seymour who has been Secretary for many years has been forced by family commitments to give up her Secretaryship. We would like to thank her for her help and wish her well.

David Healey and Diana, our Treasurer and his wife have moved from Yateley. We would like to record our thanks for his Treasurership and for the hospitality at his 'dashing Italianate villa', where the Executive Committee of the Society used to often counsel take and always coffee.

Miss Kirkpatrick's Death

An important event has been the death of Miss Daphne Kirkpatrick of Moorside. She was a Vice-President of the Society and a Commoner. We hope to publish more details of her life in the *Newsletter*. She has left a truly beautiful piece of land, and a start has been made with the new owner David Fuller and Chris Hall (Botanist) in drafting a Management Plan for this and a programme of work which the Yateley Society are happy to support. We are very grateful for the gift of £1000 she has left to the Society from her estate.

The Tin Church

Mike Mann in his report describes the different types of people in contact with the Yateley Society, the Regulars and the Transient, those who attend every work party on the Common and those who only come when it fits into their special interest, and I would like to end my report by considering what perhaps could be a way of catering for and encouraging both these types of people as well as educating Yateley people as to what treasures lie unnoticed under their noses. Mike asks in his report 'Do people understand the International importance of the habitat of Yateley Common?' The majority view it as wasteland with minimal importance beyond a convenience for their dogs. The Society needs to consider how this can be remedied, and I would like to suggest

that the Tin Church could provide a focus, as well for Regulars as for Transients. I wonder if it could provide an information centre for the Common and for the work of the Forest of Eversley; perhaps a headquarters and/or a museum for the Society? I have had contacts with the Scouts who might be interested in painting it in return for suitable publicity. Students from Yateley School might be interested in painting the boards which the Society have put up to keep the vandals and the weather out, and which would make elegant shutters to the repaired windows as well as providing an advertisement for the Society.

There were deep disagreements in the Society last year, although I must say with the best of motives on both sides, about Sidney Loader's 'History of Yateley' and I for one would like to avoid similar schisms in the future, so any use we make of the Tin Church must as far as possible be done by consensus. Irene Draper has suggested that we should hold a meeting of interested members to discuss what we can do together.

I end by saying thank you to fellow Committee Members, for their help and company over the last year and hope 1996 will see further expansion of our activities.

ADVERTISEMENT

FROYLE GARDENERS' FAIR **31 May & 1 June 1996**

A Treasure-Trove for Gardeners at Lord Mayor Treloar School
Find nurseries selling rare and unusual plants. Stalls selling pots, prints, benches, baskets, bird-baths, games, floral fabrics, silk flowers, compost, fencing, machinery and much much more . . . !

Learn the secrets of a herbaceous border, how to grow and use unusual herbs and how to create brilliant hanging baskets and summer containers.

**Pippa Greenwood, Caroline Pakenham, Brian Kidd,
John Negus and John Waterer will all be giving talks**

Discover the hidden treasures of Froyle – Our rare 17th & 18th century Italian and Spanish vestments and silver will be on display in St. Mary's, our 14th century church.

Explore our glorious gardens! A dozen gardens will be opening their gates from cottage gardens to wild gardens and walled gardens.

All proceeds will go towards the new boarding house for Lord Mayor Treloar School and to St. Mary's Church. For more information, tickets for lectures or donations please send a s.a.e. to:

Froyle Gardeners' Fair, Copse Hill Farm, Lower Froyle, Alton, Hants. GU34 4LW.

Lord Mayor Treloar School, founded in 1908, is a boarding school for children with very severe physical disabilities. Nowadays 80 per cent of the pupils are in wheelchairs.

Lower Froyle is a few miles north-east of Alton and south-west of Crondall
Valerie Kerslake 872240

TOWN TWINNING

by Tony Hocking

Those of you who attended the AGM may remember that, at the very end, I said that the twinning of Yateley with Dungarvan in County Waterford had been proposed by Dungarvan and was supported by Yateley Town Council and the Yateley Morris Men; I also said that I would go to the initial exploratory meeting.

To summarise, about 30 local organisations showed interest and this response was taken to Dungarvan by David and Jane Henderson who have acted as informal ambassadors on behalf of both the Morris Men and Yateley as a whole.

Dungarvan Council recently provided a list of organisations in the town with which corresponding Yateley groups could try to make contact. The list of organisations, with names and addresses was the subject of a second meeting.

The three 'likely' contacts offered to us were: The Historical Society, The Museum Society and the Walkers/Ramblers.

I dismissed the Walkers/Ramblers – our local Ramblers are no doubt more suitable. I also rejected the Museum Society, at least temporarily, as we have no museum!

The Historical Society sounded a lot nearer the mark, and as an experiment I have written to a Mr Jim Stacey with a resumé of Society activities, emphasising the historical side. We will see what happens!

Yateley Society Programme 1995

From April 1996

APRIL

Thursday 18, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 8.00pm

Talk – Abbreviations and Acronyms

by Edward Dawson

The natural history and local government world is full of obscure abbreviations and impenetrable acronyms. Edward Dawson will attempt to shed some light in this dark jungle!

Sunday 28, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

Tony Davis says it will NOT be bracken pulling!

(So it is safe to come and help!)

MAY

Thursday 16, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 8pm

Tree and Woodland Projects in Hampshire

by Susannah Peckham

An illustrated talk by Susannah Peckham, Woodland Conservation Officer for Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Susannah will discuss her work with the HWT, with reference to some of the woodland projects she has been involved with and will explain the Tree Warden scheme

Sunday 26, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

JUNE

Thursday 20, Yateley Centre C.1.4, 8.00pm

Talk – yet to be finalised

Sunday 30, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

JULY

Saturday 6

Yateley Society Summer Social – yet to be finalised

Sunday 14, details to be finalised

Canal Walk, west of Greywell

Sunday 28, Wyndhams Pool, 10.00am

Conservation on the Common

Our monthly working party supporting the Country Park Rangers

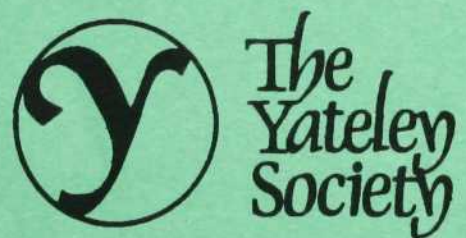


Copy dates:*Newsletter*

8 June 1996

Stop Press

When necessary

**The Yateley Society**

Registered with the Civic Trust

Registered Charity No 282397

Membership Secretary:

Graham Brown