

The Yateley Society



Newsletter

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Wings Over Yateley

Rural England • Eversley & Yateley

Birds in the Cold

Down Under Birds

No 64

Free to Members

January 1997

£1 to Non-Members

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 64 January 1997

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

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JOB VACANCY

The Society urgently needs a

PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

We have several willing authors with plenty of ideas; what is needed is someone who will help progress their writings and organise printing and sales. Various people in the Society have had limited experience of this, and could advise on getting started, but they are heavily involved in other aspects of the Society's activities and cannot take this job on in addition.

If you can help – please contact the Editor, or the Executive Committee

THE YATELEY SOCIETY HISTORY DATABASE

Richard Johnston's new updated and enlarged version of the History Database

Version 2.5 is now available

Queries to Richard on Yateley 872832.

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

AGM/SGM 20 February, Yateley Centre Room D.1.6

As already announced in *Stop Press* 33, the AGM is upon us, combined with the continuation of the Special General Meeting to update the Society Constitution to meet changing official requirements and circumstances.

The Constitution changes are vital to the future of the Society, therefore it is essential that, at the very minimum, a quorum of 20 members attend the meeting. I implore you to come along on 20 February, to ensure that we have a quorum for the important business and for you to hear first-hand what is happening.

The AGM papers accompany this *Newsletter*.

It is unfortunate that pressures of work have resulted in no less than four members of the Executive Committee not seeking re-election at this AGM. We offer our grateful thanks to Irene Draper, Stephanie Butcher, Ted Brooks and Colin Webster for the very valuable contributions which they have made to the running of the Society. It is worth noting that some, if not all, of them will continue to help from time to time in an informal way.

Any volunteers to take their places on the Executive Committee? 'New blood' would be especially welcome.

Are You Wild About Woodlands?

For the many of you interested in natural history I would like to draw your attention to the WEA 'Wild About Woodlands' advertised in this issue. Those who know Bruce Gwynn can vouch for his exceptionally wide knowledge and experience; this is guaranteed to be a first-class course.

Peter Tipton has contributed an article, 'Eversley & Yateley', demonstrating that the Society should consider the mutual ties with our neighbouring village and that we should not be too parochial. 'Commoners' Corner' will resume in the next issue.

As happens in most years 1996 saw the departure of a number of members – and of course we lost two long-standing stalwarts: Sydney Loader and Audrey Taylor.

New Members

However, it was nice to enrol a large number of new members during the year. We offer a warm welcome to the following who joined after the last *Newsletter* was issued:

Mrs Needes, 3 Hall Farm Crescent.

Mr Samuels, 33 Mistletoe Rd.

Mr Stevens, 22 The Avenue, Camberley.

Mr & Mrs Tuevo, Ms Ronkainen, 6 Woodbourne Close.

Mr, Mrs & Miss Wates, *Gardeners*, Old School Lane.

WINGS OVER YATELEY

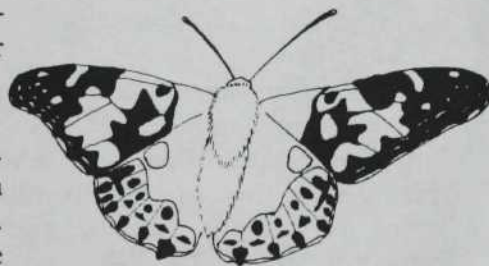
by Norma Dowling

THIS SUMMER, WITH the coldest May for 50 years, butterflies were slow to appear in our garden, but they certainly made up for lost time as the weather warmed up. By mid-August they had surpassed all previous records. We had two new visiting butterflies: a Common Blue female and a Clouded Yellow that I was lucky to spot as it passed over hurriedly with only the briefest glance at what was on offer. This latter only reaches England during warm summers.

But for me the highlight was the super-abundance of Painted Ladies. What a year it has been for them! Some days I just had to drop whatever I was doing and go outdoors among the fluttering throng. Nearly always upwards of a dozen of them varying in size and intensity of colour. Some sipping nectar, others resting on the ground with wings wide but many dashing about the garden for the sheer joy of flying, it seemed to me. And what a beautiful design on those wings! Could any other arrangement of black, white and orange be more perfect?

The buddleias were, of course, the favourite flowers for these beauties. Some days, when I was drawn out for a close-up look, there were also Red Admirals, Commas, Peacocks, Meadow Browns and Small Tortoiseshells on the 'Butterfly' bushes. Other butterflies to visit the garden were Orange Tip, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue, Large Skipper and Large and Small Whites. Early on it was the Sweet Rocket that attracted the Painted Ladies but other well-visited plants were Lavender, Marjorum, Valerian, Greater Knapweed and Wall Germander. It was the Valerian that encouraged frequent visits from another newcomer – the Humming-bird Hawk moth, a day-flyer. It was a delight to watch this moth, with an incredibly long proboscis, sipping from flower after flower. The Valerian also attracted clouds of day-flying Silver-Y moths.

I've read that of 56 species of butterfly in Britain, 25 have suffered a major decline recently because of loss of habitat due to intensive farming, uprooted hedgerows and increased road and house building. We can all help by planting the above-named nectar-rich plants in our gardens and a small nettle patch will provide food for the caterpillars of Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells. I can assure you that the resulting aerial displays are well worth the effort.



WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION – YATELEY BRANCH

WILD ABOUT WOODLANDS

Tutor: Bruce Gwynn

Fee: £35-00

Starting April 8th 1997 - Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30

12 meetings, 5 indoor – 7 outdoor

Venue: Yateley Centre, School Lane
and areas of woodland in North East Hampshire

The aims of the course are to generate an understanding of how British woodlands have evolved, been managed through history and how they function ecologically. Practical ecological mapping and surveying skills will be developed, enabling participants to gather objective ecological information on specific woodlands, to be used towards future protection and management.

Numbers are limited for this course

Enrolment in advance to

Mrs Irene Draper

22 Lawford Crescent, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6JU

Tel: 01252 870 470

Cheques made payable to WEA Yateley Branch

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

THE 1996 CHRISTMAS holiday has just given me the first chance to read and walk *A Walk On Cricket Hill* written by Valerie Kerslake and supported by the Yateley Society.

Being a resident of Cricket Hill I noted with some dismay, sitting in my armchair, that the booklet contained some obvious 'bloomers' – errors which

anybody, with no knowledge of Cricket Hill, would spot once they set out on the described walk.

The first error can be found on page 4 – paragraph titled '*Chestnut Cottage and Lea Cottage*'. It states that 'Numbers 2 and 1 *Chestnut Cottages* have been made into one house and recently extended to the right'. Not correct! 1 and 2 *Chestnut Cottages* remain as 1 and 2, each with a

front door and added garage. For the record Number 1, the right-hand cottage as you face the pair, was extended over fifteen years ago and number 2 was extended in recent years (around seven as a guess). Coincidentally, another obvious error concerns *Chestnut Cottage* on Sunnyside. Page 30 paragraph three reads as follows 'Further along, *Chestnut Cottage*, built in 1897 and now rendered white, represents ...' The implication that *Chestnut Cottage* is rendered white is quite untrue, as it stands for all the world to see, as a glorious red brick structure with a slate roof.

I point out the two errors because they are so obvious that people might well question other facts, which then reflects on The Yateley Society's credibility. There are also a couple of other points worth a mention, I feel.

The text in relation to *The Nest*, paragraph two on page 11, is slightly misleading. From a casual gaze *The Nest* appears to be two cottages linked by a glazed passage. In fact the building to the left is an extension and both the old and new buildings are but one dwelling. The other point is about *Stoneycroft* on page 14. The author writes 'Until the 1980s it was one of a pair, but the owner of the right-hand side wished to detach his part and eventually succeeded in doing so, rebuilding it not dissimilar but a few feet to the right.' The pair of cottages were, up to the 1990s and not the 1980s, joined under one roof. The right-hand property was and still is, called *Broken Acre* and the left-hand property is, as stated, called *Stoneycroft*. In *Broken Acre*, before it was

demolished, lived an older gentleman. He appeared to have lived upstairs, using the downstairs as a workshop. The access to upstairs was via an outside covered staircase. After the old gentleman died, work started on renovating the property. At this stage the end wall fell out and it was after this catastrophe that *Broken Acre* was demolished and rebuilt as a detached property, hence *Stoneycroft* also became detached. While I would not like to comment on the owner's original wish to demolish, as stated, certainly the way in which work started did not suggest demolition.

I do not wish to find fault with this excellent historical booklet because I am a great believer in such works which leave a historical trail for others to follow. Our local history would be lost if it were not for the dedication of Valerie Kerslake and the members of The Yateley Society in piecing together the facts and recording residents' recollections. My motives are only to set the record straight and ensure that the true facts are handed down.

Your fellow member,

Ray Bunce

Bayleys, Cricket Hill Lane, Yateley

Reply from Valerie Kerslake:

I am grateful to Ray Bunce for his comments; most people don't trouble – or are too polite! The errors he points out on pages 4 and 30 are certainly unforgivable blunders and a corrigendum slip is under way. I regard 'fifteen years', however, as fairly recent when compared with the original buildings.

With regard to *Stoneycroft*, Ray Bunce

as a close neighbour is likely to be better informed than I am, and I was interested to read his account. We appear to know different aspects of the same events, which I believe when planning applications were submitted in January and May 1987 for 'demolition of the existing semi-detached dwelling and erection of a 4 bedroomed house'. Both applications were refused. Conditional approval was given in June 1993 for

'demolition of the existing side and rear extensions and refurbishment of the cottage to form a 4 bedroomed house'. Presumably this is when the end wall fell out, causing a new application to be made in March 1994 for 'demolition of cottage and erection of detached house', which also has conditional approval. I had not realised it had taken so long for construction to begin.

Valerie Kerslake January 1997

RURAL ENGLAND – A VISION FOR THE MILLENNIUM

by Edward Dawson

MORE THAN A year has gone by since the publication of *Rural England*, the Rural White Paper on 17 October 1995. This was to be the most ambitious treatise on rural policy since the Scott Report on Land Utilisation in Rural Areas of 1942. In presenting it to Parliament the Secretary of State for the Environment called it 'a landmark statement in rural policy'. Thus, for 50 years the Government has tried to create rural policy, but it has proved an illusive goal. In the 1940s, the priorities for rural England were seen as: accommodation, employment, leisure and finally conservation. Would the priorities now be reversed?

There is no doubt that the Rural White Paper is an important document. It was generally welcomed and the process, involving a year of prior consultation, received widespread praise. Among the expressions of approval, however, there were inevitable criticisms. One year later it may be right to ask whether this really was 'the first big statement about the countryside in our lifetime'?

The scope of Rural England

The Rural White Paper has four broad headings: 'Government and people', 'Working in the countryside', 'Living in the countryside' and 'A green and pleasant land'. Under them it draws together the various strands of policy which affect rural England. It assesses the value of the countryside, and the importance of rural communities for England's future. It also looks at the many changes, problems and the successes taking place in the

countryside, and suggests ways in which Government and local inhabitants can work together to ensure the sustainability of future developments.

A key issue for the Rural White Paper was the need for targets. One commitment was to report a year later on progress. Targets were of value, for example, in producing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Another example is the DoE's annual environment White Papers, called *This Common Inheritance*. Despite these precedents, the Rural White Paper contains few targets. The Secretary of State defended this by saying that 'it is the beginning of the process and not the end of it'. The next report, *Indicators of Sustainable Development in the UK* would focus on targets.

A definition of rurality

How do we define 'Rurality'? The Rural White Paper avoids any such entrapment. Instead it emphasises the great diversity of landscapes and the varied lifestyles of its inhabitants. The lack of any definition may be sensible, given the vast scope of the White Paper. It is the case that urban and rural dwellers have very different perceptions of the countryside. This can cause problems for policymakers and even within communities. In-comers to rural areas often bring with them urban patterns of behaviour and may have an unsettling effect.

The rural idyll can frequently be a misconception of rural life. Many people in country areas face poverty and deprivation, in contrast to the popular TV series *The Darling Buds of May*. A recent survey by the Rural Development Commission suggested that up to half the households in some rural areas had an income of less than £8000 a year. Self-help and traditional independence is a strength of rural communities, but can also be part of the problem. The Secretary of State said of rural poverty: 'It is a very much understated fact, because it comes thatched.'

Enhancing the whole countryside

Tucked away on page 107 of the White Paper is a mighty new concept. This expresses a priority to 'enhance the wider countryside'. Many have argued this before, pointing out the value of local areas to local people. This was applauded by CPRE, because it believes there is a need to respect the distinctiveness of countryside, as well as its quality. The professional planning body, the RTPI, greeted the new idea by saying: 'The recognition that the wider countryside can no longer be viewed in isolation from designated areas in terms of conservation is a welcome statement.'

Looking after farmland

The Rural White Paper describes grade 3a farmland, together with grades

1 and 2 as the 'best and most versatile agricultural land', and as 'a national resource for future generations'. But should land of lower productive quality be seen as ripe for development? A more flexible approach may be needed in a world which moves from food surpluses to shortages. The recycling of development land, to avoid losses of countryside, is an important aim for the planning system. Another factor is that land of poorer quality may have a higher ecological or amenity value. The national Countryside Character Map, now being produced by the Countryside Commission and English Nature, may help to identify such countryside characteristics, though it may not contain precise boundary definition at the field scale.

Hampshire's Planning Problem

The issues of the rural White Paper will be played out at the forthcoming Examination in public into the Hampshire County Structure Plan. Forty-four thousand houses are said to be required up to 2011. Thirty thousand could go in and around existing built up areas, while 12 000 are proposed to go into four Major Development Areas (MDAs) at Eastleigh, Waterlooville, Andover and Basingstoke.

No new settlement is proposed in the Plan, but Eagle Star are still trying to break into the scene. Their scheme for 5000 houses at Micheldever Station would be a monumental decision in a tranquil area of mid-Hampshire. They have even suggested that the county figure is too low and that it should be raised to 56 000. One difficulty is that 90% of the so-called requirement is for single person households, most of which arises in built-up areas. Is it not better that these needs or demands should be catered for in the urban areas rather than out in the countryside?

Hampshire will be the test-bed for some of the policies of the Rural White Paper. It is where the knotty problem of how to accommodate future development will be given its biggest airing. The future of rural England could well be decided in Hampshire as the largest of the shire counties. We can only hope that the Secretary of State is sympathetic.

The Year of the White Paper

On the anniversary of the Rural White Paper it is clear that the commitment to the wider countryside is yet to be felt in terms of real policy priorities. This commitment itself seems unequivocal:

'While it is important not to weaken the protection of designated area, the approaches pioneered in them can now be applied throughout the countryside. We need to build on the achievements of the past 50 years by finding new ways to enrich the quality of the wider countryside.'

One test is the revised draft PPG7 guidance note on *The Countryside - Environmental Quality and Economic Activity* of July 1996. It refers to the Countryside Character Programme, but this may take 15 years to be incorporated into local plan policies. It is not clear what is to happen in the meantime. The Heritage Green Paper issued last spring recognised the principle of protecting the wider historic environment beyond designated areas, sites and buildings, but contained no details of how it would be put into practice. The key issue of 'special' places versus the rest is yet to be resolved in planning terms, and we can only hope that in 1997 there is more progress towards an effective rural policy.

BIRDS IN THE COLD

by Graham Brown

THE ARCTIC WINTER weather is a bad time for the birds, but it's a good time for birdwatchers, provided they keep warm, dry and don't slip on the ice!

In the garden the peanuts and bread-crumbs have rarely been so popular. Whilst the blue tits, great tits and coal tits queue up to take their turn, giving way to greedy starlings and the upside down nuthatch as required, the long tail tits just get stuck in. I wouldn't have thought it possible but there were six sharing the feeder at the same time. The small birds have little protection now, with the undergrowth frozen up and trees stripped bare of their green leaves. They move around in large flocks to guard against and to confuse their predators.

On the Moor Green lakes the water birds have been deprived of nearly all the open water by a covering of at least six inches of ice, so the islands are easily accessible to foxes. There are three swimming holes kept free of ice by the activities of the birds. Two of them are

in shallow water and are populated by the dabblers - the mute swans, geese and dabbling ducks. This is the only time when you can see a grebe standing up. The deeper water hole has the goosanders, cormorants and diving ducks.

The herons will suffer as the shallows are not available. They look pitiful standing on the ice waiting for the thaw. I found a dead one that had come to grief in the electricity lines a few years ago. Although it stands nearly three feet high and has a five foot wing span you would find more meat on a wood pigeon.

There are many more snipe, easily recognised by their sharp cry and rapid zigzag flight. I saw one land on the river bank less than fifty feet away but it was impossible to distinguish from the background until it decided to move. I must have been looking directly at it through 8x binoculars for a good twenty seconds. When it realised that I was not going to move it set off jerkily down the bank, in and out of the water, probing

mud and stones with its long beak.

There are water rails busy on the river bank too. I suppose they are there in the reeds for most of the year but it takes the freeze to drive them out of their cover and make them work the river bank. They are so shy that they hardly ever come out completely from behind anything.

Redwing are regular visitors and are now here in large flocks. They are usually to be seen on the golf course and playing fields but when these are frozen they are making the best of the berries in the hedges. The redwing is the smallest of the thrushes, with a white stripe



Snipe

through the eye and a tinge of chestnut beneath the wings. Some nest in Scotland but most are visitors from Scandinavia, where they will return in the spring to nest.

EVERSLEY & YATELEY

by Peter Tipton

IN 1665 YATELEY and Eversley were about the same size. I am of course only referring to the villages of Eversley and Yateley, more or less as presently understood. Blackwater, Cove, Hawley, Minley, Southwood and parts of Fleet were then included in the parish of Yateley, whereas Bramshill was part of Eversley. Yateley had 197 hearths chargeable to tax in 56 households, and Eversley had 188 taxable hearths in 64 households. The Hearth Tax Returns also show that Yateley had more untaxed households: 53 against Eversley's 19. Whereas Yateley had three houses with ten or more hearths, the largest house in Eversley only had eight hearths. In 1665 there was not the great discrepancy in size between the two villages that there is today.

To get things into historical perspective we can compare the amounts paid by householders in local communities in the Lay Subsidy of 1586:

Odiham	£7 14s 4d
Hartley Wintney	£6 14s 8d
Rotherwick	£4 7s 4d
Aldershot	£4 13s 4d
Yateley	£3 19s 8d
Eversley	£3 4s 4d
Farnborough	£1 8s 8d

Were a subject of the first Queen Elizabeth to return in a time machine, he or she would find now that the economic importance of the different communities in Hart and Rushmoor has changed out of all recognition. When concentrating on our 'area of benefit' we in the Yateley Society should not forget the impact that neighbouring villages had in the past on the lives of those living in Yateley. We should also not forget that we live next door to ancient settlements in Berkshire and Surrey.

Now that Yateley has already encroached slightly into Eversley along the Reading Road, and is in grave danger of leaping across the parish boundary along Firgrove Road, I think we should give some time and effort to helping our Eversley members to research their historic settlement patterns, famous people and listed buildings. In so doing we shall find ourselves researching many of the same families who lived in Yateley. I have a hypothesis, based on a cursory inspection of the parish registers and tithe maps, that as Yateley expanded many of our families escaped to the more rural surroundings in Eversley – something that could happen again if more new housing estates are allowed in Eversley. We could also see developers wanting to fill the rural 'gap' between Yateley and Eversley, now downgraded from 'strategic' to 'local'.

In researching Monteagle House I have long had an interest in Eversley people. Matilda May, who owned Dungells Farm in 1567, including some of the land which later formed Monteagle Farm, had many relatives in Eversley. The Milwards who owned the other part of Monteagle Farm also had relatives in Eversley. Four hundred years later, with the help of Jean McIlwaine, I tracked down in Eversley the earliest surviving picture of Monteagle House, painted 100 years ago when the White family farmed here as bailiffs for the Chute family of Robins Grove. However, when I started to research the reasons why Lord Monteagle might have spent some time at Monteagle House some interesting possible Eversley connections started to emerge. I am particularly interested in Catholic connections, since Lord Monteagle is alleged to have lived here spying on his co-religionists.

There were several notable Catholic families in this area: for example the Blounts of Mapledurham, the Englefields and the Stonors who have well-known houses nearby which are open to the public. The Gifford family of Cove and Crondall produced William Gifford, an English Archbishop of Rheims; and John Gifford, one of Sir Walter Raleigh's sea captains on his Eldorado expedition, was jailed in the Tower for his faith. Another prominent family of Catholics are the Mores descended from Saint Thomas More, the executed Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII. I found in the Heralds' Visitations that the brother-in-law of Saint Thomas Moore was Richard Staverton (often written Stafferton). The Stafferton family were Lords of one of the four Manors of Eversley. I do not yet know whether Saint Thomas' brother-in-law is the same Richard Stafferton we find in the Eversley records; certainly his father had property in Bray and Wingfield nearby. It will be an easy matter to check this in the wills at the Public Record Office.

Like Elizabeth, I am unhappy that the County Council have erected signs on the Bridge between Finchampstead and Eversley welcoming us to 'Jane Austin Country'. What about welcoming us to 'Charles Kingsley Country' for goodness sake? Perhaps it is our fault the County Council pay scant regard to our heritage, rather than that of Chawton and Steventon. Nobody is going to research our local connections with famous people if we don't. Maybe Saint Thomas More wrote his *Utopia* in the quiet of his sister's house in Eversley, right next door to the house Charles Kingsley wrote *The Water Babies*. We shall never know if we don't do the research. Maybe I shall eventually prove that Lord Monteagle did 'lie perdue' in Monteagle House spying on local Catholic families such as the Tattersalls of Finchampstead, who eventually begat the Dukes of Norfolk. Maybe the BBC will make a costume drama about historic events which happened in and around Yateley!

The Yateley Society is affiliated to the Forest of Eversley Trust, so we have an obligation to support our neighbours in researching the historical basis of the ancient forest. I think we should extend our help to supporting research into famous people, particularly those who probably had an impact on Yateley. In fact in our parish registers, we have a (later) Richard Stafferton, gent, buried 31 March 1639 and a Mary Stafferton, gent, widow, buried 10 December 1651 who left a PCC will (PRO ref. 247 Grey). Did they move from Eversley to Yateley, or just prefer to be buried by our curate during the exigencies of the Civil War? The best way we can encourage historical research in Eversley is either to set up a group, within the Society, of Eversley-based members, or encourage the formation of an independent group. I should be interested to know what our Eversley members think.

Comments on Down Under Birds

by Tony Hocking

Mary and I had a long holiday in Australia in 1996 staying with our son who is working in Sydney, and also touring around extensively. A few of the local birds caught our eye.

The first morning in Sydney we were awakened by a melodious, but very loud, 'tchaloop - tchaloop - tchaleeooop!' This call was repeated at frequent intervals, and echoed by another bird down the road. The loud call came from a bush in the front garden; when we

looked out there was nothing in sight but a large black bird with a few white spots and a bright yellow eye, very crow-like and we expected to hear 'Aaark' or some such noise at any moment. To our surprise this proved to be the melodious, if repetitious, caller; it was a Currawong – very common in the area.

We soon discovered that there were wagtails, the same size as ours but generally very dark grey in colour, and with the same general habits. The first few

times we saw then they produced a most unpleasant sensation – something was definitely very wrong with them, or somehow our brains were not registering them properly! Then we spotted the reason – they wagged their tails *SIDEWAYS!!!* Once we realised what was happening we could happily accept them! At this stage we bought a pocket bird book, this commented that the 'Willie Wagtail' always wagged sideways, and that the Aborigines thought they brought bad luck!

On a visit to the Great Barrier Reef we were pleased to see some Frigate Birds, and they were not even in the bird book.

If you eat outdoors in a town you can expect a flock of sparrows to appear – one of several introduced species. If however you have a country picnic you are likely to attract a flock of Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, very pretty but the row is appalling!

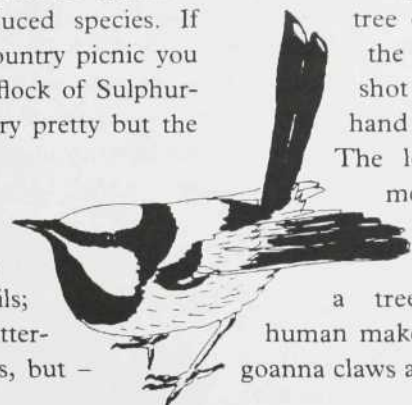
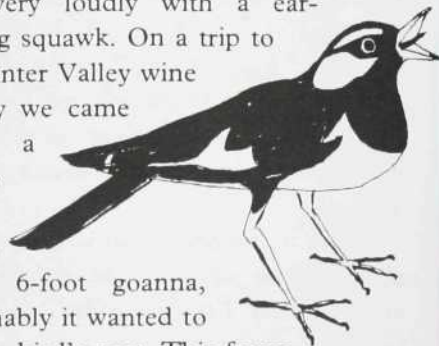
There are wrens, three species all the same size as ours, apart from longer tails; gregarious, noisy, twittering song, just like ours, but –

the males are a marvellous iridescent blue.

Another bird that tries to cadge food is the Magpie Lark, not surprisingly it is lark-sized and coloured like a magpie. They were very bold and demanded food very loudly with a ear-splitting squawk. On a trip to the Hunter Valley wine country we came across a magpie lark attacking a 6-foot goanna, presumably it wanted to raid the bird's nest. This fracas

took place in the middle of a road, and as we drove up the lark went up into a tree on the left hand side of the road while the goanna shot up a tree on the right hand side with amazing speed.

The locals warn that if you meet an agitated goanna you should lie down – they instinctively run up a tree when frightened, a human makes a good substitute and goanna claws are very sharp!



Yateley Society Programme

from January 1997

JANUARY

Sunday 26, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers needed!

Thursday 30, Room D.1.6, Yateley Centre, 8pm

Talk – Visions of Australia

An illustrated talk by Tony Hocking

FEBRUARY

Sunday 9, Finchampstead Church, Map ref: SU 793 638, 10.30am

Walk – Finchampstead Church to California, and return

This walk will be led by Christine Hecksher – it is the first of the 'Members' Favourite Walks'. (The walk ends at a pub – so you can get such refreshment as you need!)

Thursday 20, Room D.1.6, Yateley Centre, 8pm

SGM/AGM

This is an unusually important meeting as changes to the Yateley Society Constitution will be discussed.

Sunday 23, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers needed!

MARCH

Sunday 21, Yateley Red Cross car park (off Monteagle Lane), Map ref: SU 806 601, 2pm

Walk – Natural History on Yateley Common

Chris Hall will lead us around the fringes of the airport and give us the benefit of his extensive knowledge of things natural.

Thursday 20, Yateley Centre Room D.1.6, 8pm

Talk – A Year of Surprises Round Fleet Pond

Bernard Potter will show us some of his many slides of the pond, illustrating the wildlife in all seasons.

Sunday 30, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers needed!

APRIL

Saturday 19, Rowhill Visitor Centre, Cranmore Lane, Aldershot, Map ref: SU 849 499, 2.30pm

Walk – Rowhill

Irene Draper will lead the first 'Exploring the Blackwater Valley' walk, visiting the source of the river and looking at local woodland, etc.

Thursday 24, Yateley W.I. Hall, 8pm

Talk – Light Among the Trees

Peter Beale will describe the colonisation of woodland clearings by butterflies and other species when a wood is properly managed.

Sunday 27, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers needed!

MAY

Bank Holiday Monday 5, Yateley Green, 8am

MAY FAYRE

Our theme this year will be: 'The History of Public Houses in Yateley'

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It has become apparent that more and more visiting speakers require payment, a burden on the Society when there is much expenditure on planning matters, etc. In view of this it is intended that non-members attending talks will be asked to contribute towards the costs (up to £1) and members will be invited to contribute something if they so wish.

Copy dates

Newsletter: 14 February

Stop Press: When necessary



The Yateley Society

Registered with the Civic Trust

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