

The Yateley Society



Newsletter

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School Rules – Chops Off!

Planning Policy Mandate

The Bees are Back in Town

No 65

Free to Members

May 1997

£1 to Non-Members

THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 65 May 1997

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THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

IN THIS ISSUE Peter Tipton resumes his interrupted 'Commoners' Corner' articles. Peter has also written, in his capacity as Hon. Treasurer, an account of why the Society has reintroduced the policy of charging for attendance at our formal talks.

I confess to making a pig's ear of an article in the last *Newsletter* - and I repeat a call for someone to give us a bit of help with the running of the Society.

After all the heavy stuff about changes to the constitution in recent months I decided that a few small bits of trivia could be included, hence the coaching articles, even these came to light during research for the May Fayre.

A 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 any other Executive Committee member.

CHARGING FOR TALKS

by Peter Tipton

AS YOU WILL have seen from the recent *Stop Press*, we have decided to go back to charging non-members for attending our main series of talks. When the Society started we charged non-members 60p. Now we shall charge £1, so not an exorbitant increase. What is new is that we are asking members to make a similar contribution on a voluntary basis for each talk.

The reason for this is not to try to build up reserves for planning as was suggested in the *Stop Press*. Even with these new charges, the lecture programme will continue to run at a loss, effectively subsidised by your membership fee.

To give you some figures: subscriptions yield about £650 per year. We used to swallow all this up in admin expenses, £100 for third party insurance, £100 in affiliations to other groups (eg the Civic Trust), and £275 for the *Newsletter* (including postage to out-of-town members). The AGM used to cost us about £100 to print the Annual Report and provide free food and wine. That left only £75 to cover Room Hire for eight meetings per year.

We have to provide for all our planning, history, and conservation volunteers' expenses, the finance for publication, and all major projects out of our other income, which is from publications (about £300 per year) and the variable amount of profit we manage to make on our three main events such

as May Fayre, the Summer Barbecue and the Christmas Social.

We have judiciously cut all that back, particularly the cost of the *Newsletter*. However, we have embarked on our major new themed talks and lecture series 'The Heathland on Your Doorstep'. You will see from the Society's Programme on page 13 that we have invited speakers, experts in their field. They do not charge us a fee, but understandably they do sometimes ask for expenses.

We are also trying new rooms to hold our talks - to try to get away from the classroom image we seem to have picked up. The WI Hall is proving an excellent location with its good facilities and its pleasant ambience.

The next three lectures will cost us over £105. So even if we collect £1 from every person of the 25 average attendance, we shall still be relying on the subscription to contribute £30, the same as before. Of course, if more people attend we should cover more.

The idea is not to turn away any members if they don't feel they should pay. That is why we have made it voluntary. However, if we are to continue to bring you the excellent quality of speakers we have now booked, then I am sure you will not begrudge less than a pint of beer to attend these talks. I suggest you bring a neighbour, since the whole idea is to fulfill our first charitable object clause.

COMMONERS' CORNER

by Peter Tipton

ON EASTER SUNDAY Elizabeth, Eleanor and I decided to walk the Welsh Drive westwards from Coopers Hill, something we have never done before. With pubs, coaching inns, turnpikes and cattle fairs in our minds from the preparations for the Society's May Fayre exhibition, it was easy to romanticise about the drovers arriving at our inns and pubs for the Blackwater Fair every November 8th.

It is not so easy to visualise the drovers with their herds and flocks along the Welsh Drive as it is today, lined with forestry, even if it has been granted a prestigious award. The animals needed ample free grazing from the common lands en route, not fir trees and huge gravel 'mines' which our present day economy demands. A clear case of acclaimed environmental management killing the historical evidence. Without any historical evidence we conjectured how many people in present day Yateley knew that the Blackwater Fair operated under Royal Charter, once each year – every year for some 700 years – until it was killed off as recently as 1930.

We then realised how little we knew about the Fair ourselves, even though there must be people alive today who actually attended the Blackwater Fair, to sell stock, as well as to take part in the jollifications. Obviously, the size of the Fair and the need to pasture so many animals, would cause a major disruption to the normal quiet life, as well as a major boost to the local economy. We knew for example that there were no licensing restrictions for chartered fairs, and that local householders could brew as much beer as could be consumed. Obviously too, the large number of animals arriving on Yateley and Eversley Commons, even for those few days in November, would play their part in the overall ecology of the heathlands we prize so much today. No wonder that descriptions from the turn of the century describe Yateley Common as flat for miles with only the odd clump of trees and some gorse among the heather.

Ancient Hampshire Fairs

When I got home I checked Richardson's *Local Historian's Encyclopædia* concerning the Blackwater Fair. In 1889 the Government was investigating market tolls and rights. It therefore published various reports and its own contemporary research. A volume entitled *Market Rights and Tolls* gave, county by county, the places which were named in *Owen's New Book of Fairs* first published in 1792, together with the Government's own research for 1888. In Hampshire the number of places entitled to hold a market had

dwindled to six. Around here Odiham and interestingly, Mattingley, had held markets in 1792 but were no longer doing so in 1888. The number of fairs had also fallen. Eversley, Heckfield and Mattingley had lost theirs, whereas fairs were still be held at Hartley Row, Odiham and, not surprisingly, Blackwater.

Finding a 'Dud', uh?

The Government also published a list of markets and fair charters dating from the reign of King John to the 22nd year of the reign of Edward IV (1482–3). Place names are given in original spellings from a manuscript in the Public Record Office, styled *Palmer's Index no 83*. Blackwater is apparently not named in the Hampshire section of Richardson's summary, but Dogmaresfield is. However, there is a long alphabetical list at the back where no county information was given in the original index. Not finding Blackwater, I immediately looked for Bredeford, the old name for Blackwater corrupted from Bryda's ford, as found in the boundary description of King Edgar's gift of the Manor of Crondal to the Old Monastery at Winchester. I was very pleased to find a listing for Bretford, given its charter for a market 11Hen3 (*ie* 1226–7). I postulated that Bredford was actually a corruption of the Anglo Saxon Brād (broad) and ford.

The only trouble is that I have a very sceptical wife who actually studied Anglo-Saxon. She pointed out that Bretford could merely be Bradford, as pronounced in modern usage in that northern city. So, not to be outdone, she looked through the list and found Dodebroke, a market and fair given in its charter 41Hen3 (1256–7). Dudda's brook is, according to Baigent, a corruption of the old name for Blackwater, as the river, not the place. The Old Celtic for Blackwater is Dhu dwr, pronounced according to our Celtic-speaking sister-in-law, something like Dudda.

Further research needed

If anyone out there is actually qualified in medieval Latin and palaeography, it would be interesting to purchase both charters from the Public Record Office to find out if they will give us any further clues as the origins of the Blackwater Fair.

In the meantime if there is anyone else out there who would like to research the Fair in more recent history it might throw light on yet another usage of our Commons as drove routes, without the need to pay turnpike tolls and with plenty of free grazing. A plea sent out on the Internet might not turn up many 80 year olds with reminiscences, but a trawl through the old Reading newspapers at Reading Library might produce advertisements and editorial.

BOOK REVIEW

by Norma Dowling

AT LAST! The long awaited sequel to *Today and Yesterday – A Walk in Yateley* is out. May I recommend to you Valerie Kerslake's delightful new book: *A Walk On Cricket Hill*, again illustrated with her attractive line drawings. This is not just a walk book, although it includes a map and directions for a circular walk from *The Cricketers*, taking in part of the Common. It also presents a little of the history of the area. Well-researched and an enjoyable read, at £3, it would make

an ideal stocking filler, or gift for a friend who knows Yateley a little. Ask for it at Yateley Industries, local shops or from Valerie herself. *Today and Yesterday – A Walk in Yateley* is also available if you haven't yet bought your copy. This walk is in the Yateley Green Conservation Area. Price: £2.40

Don't forget the Yateley Society's range of postcards of Yateley old and new. Price: 20p. These are also available from Valerie.

EGG ON FACE DEPARTMENT

The Editor

I CONTRIVED TO make several errors when transcribing Valerie Kerslake's reply to the 'Letter to the Editor' from Ray Bunce. The correct version, with the corrections underlined is given below, with my apologies.

'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 bloomers and a corrigendum slip is under way. I regard "fifteen years ago", 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 began when planning applications for Broken Acre 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 had conditional approval. I had not realised it had taken so long for construction to begin.

Valerie Kerslake

January 1997

'CHOPS FOR BREAKFAST ARE NOT ALLOWED'

by Norma Dowling

THREE ITEMS, RELATING to Wellington College, were passed to me from Fergus Russell recently and I was prompted to look in Yateley National School Log Book for anything similar from that period. Of course the schools cannot really be compared, but I thought the following might be of interest.

'It seems that some boys are having chops for breakfast upon Tutorial orders – This is quite against Regulation. Chops for Breakfast are not allowed except on the order of the Medical Officer. June 27 1871 E.W.B.'

This was written by the Reverend Edward White Benson, first Headmaster of Wellington College. On 18 April, 1871 the following entry appeared in Yateley National School Log Book 1:

'After an absense of Three months through illness I, Henry Broad, again take charge of this school.' [the spelling mistake is his].

I wonder if his doctor prescribed a breakfast of chops? I'm sure his pupils were never indulged in this way. They were given cake however ...

'March 1st 1872, Tuesday, being The Thanksgiving for the Recovery of the Prince of Wales, a holiday was given, & Cake, Wine & Medals were distributed amongst the children to celebrate the event.' Henry Broad.

... but wine? Perhaps it was a family occasion?

At Wellington College parents were allowed to provide cake for their sons, but not encouraged.

'WELLINGTON COLLEGE

The Master particularly requests, that if Hampers are sent to Boys (which, however, cannot be considered desirable), they may not contain anything except Cakes, Preserves, or Pickles. No Meat, cooked or uncooked, must be sent in them.'

The village school also had its rules and regulations.

'April 5 1872 Tuesday a half holiday given as the children's mothers were invited here to a tea meeting to encourage them to send their children more regularly. The Rules of the School were distributed amongst them.' Henry Broad.

It seems that discipline was important at both schools:

'The fences at Yateley and in the neighbourhood are all made up for the year and mended and boys are forbidden to trespass over them on any account. March 16. 1872 E.W.B.'

This refers to the cross country runs that Wellington boys regularly took part in, encouraged by Benson's friend, Charles Kingsley, who would himself run from Eversley to Wellington.

'July 7 1871. I caned a boy for Vulgar Discourse to a girl in school.'
and later that month:

'July 22 1871. I punished two boys for Playing Truant.' Henry Broad.

The Reverend Edward White Benson was 30 years old when he became Master at Wellington College. He resigned in 1873 and went on to become Canon at Lincoln, Bishop of Truro and Archbishop of Canterbury, a post he held for 14 years until he died. His son, A C Benson, one of six children, wrote the words of *The Land of Hope and Glory* as well as many books.

Henry Broad was born in Alresford, Hampshire and probably went to the village school before his teacher training at Winchester. Yateley was his first post. He came as Headmaster at 20 years of age and stayed for 5 years. He lived in the schoolhouse with his brother, a carpenter, his aunt who acted as housekeeper and a 15-year-old girl cousin. The 1871 census was taken during his three-month illness when Ishmael Gardener was acting head and boarding with him. Henry resigned his post on 30 December 1872. As yet we know nothing of his further career.

AN AUSTRALIAN STAGE COACH STORY

Driver Mick Dougherty is credited with this yarn

HE WAS TELLING a lady box passenger (ie seated on the driver's box) how he had trained a kangaroo to collect a mailbag thrown from the coach, open it and deliver the contents to surrounding homesteads.

The woman was less than convinced; then, on turning a bend, an old male kangaroo was visible standing by the track.

'Nothing today, Jack,' called out Dougherty, cracking his whip, where-



upon the kangaroo turned and bounded off into the bush.

Story quoted in *The Coaching Life* from Manchester University Press, referenced to *The Lights of Cobb and Co.* by K A Austin, Adelaide 1967.

A PLANNING POLICY MANDATE

by Tony Hocking

DID YOU GO to the special planning meeting called by The Yateley Society and Yateley Town Council at *The Tythings* on March 19th? – only about 35 people did; however at least 21 were Yateley Society members, which was encouraging.

You may recall that a proposal at the Yateley Society AGM concerning the future basis of planning, particularly the number of houses needed, was held over pending a specific meeting on the subject; this was that meeting, and the outcome proved most satisfactory for the Society.

Tony Spencer gave an introduction, speaking for Yateley Town Council, Adrian Collett spoke in his capacity of County Councillor and Edward Dawson spoke on behalf of both the CPRE and The Yateley Society. A lively discussion ensued.

At the end of the meeting Peter Tipton introduced two proposed resolutions derived from the original AGM proposal, they were:

1. This public meeting in Yateley considers that, in pursuing the internationally agreed objective of sustainable development, the national planning system should be reoriented away from a requirement for a Local Planning Authority to satisfy a housing numbers quota towards the provision of accommodation within the existing boundaries of cities and towns, close to employment opportunities and facilities, and before considering any further development of green field sites not currently committed.
2. This public meeting in Yateley wishes to empower Yateley Town Council and The Yateley Society to take all necessary steps to defend the proposed Special Protection Area for Wild Birds against development at Fox Farm and Cobbetts Lane, and to oppose further development beyond the settlement boundary of Yateley and likely to have an adverse effect on the Civil Parish of Yateley.

Both of these were carried unanimously and as a result the Society now has a clear mandate for the policies to pursue at future Enquiries and in other planning areas.

By chance Hart District Council sent leaflets through many doors in Yateley a day or two before the meeting, talking about 'Local Agenda 21' covering the very same topic, and several others. The policies agreed at *The Tythings* meeting provided ready-made ideal answers to some of the points raised in a questionnaire included in the leaflets – what excellent timing!

THE EXETER ROAD

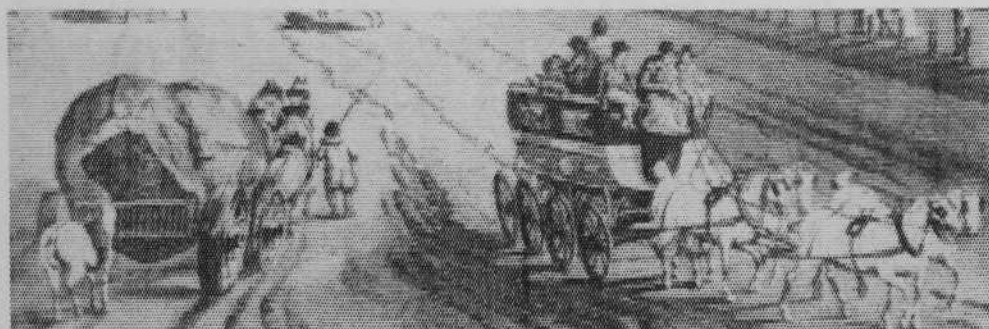
(from *Coaching Days & Coaching Ways* published 1888)

THIS EXTRACT IS part of a fictional account of a journey from London to Devon, starting at *The King's Arms* in Bagshot.

'Having duly breakfasted off tough beef-steak and memories of the past, old Mirabel sees the Regulator draw up at the door. He sees also that it is a strong, well-built drag, painted chocolate, bedaubed all over with gilt letters, a bull's head on the doors, a Saracen's head on the hind boot, and draw by four strapping horses.' ... 'He finds himself on a seat which enables him to sit back or front to the horses as he may like best, thinks himself lucky, and at the same moment the Regulator leaves the village of Bagshot at a steady pace, to the tune of "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled", and continues at that steady pace for the first five miles. Mirabel now congratulates himself; but his song of gladness is soon, unlucky man, to be turned into a dirge. For the Regulator, though a slow coach, is timed at eight miles an hour through the great extent of country, and has therefore - to borrow an illustration from poetry - to make play when she can. This occurs

when she has left *The Golden* [later *Jolly*] *Farmer* and *The White Hart* at Blackwater behind her, and entered upon a very dreary and dismal tract of country known as Hartford Bridge Flats. To the lover of scenery this place affords few attractions, but it is as a sweet smelling-savour in the nostrils of old coachmen, being known indeed as the best five miles for a coach in all England.

The ground being firm, the surface undulating, and the Regulator being timed twenty-three minutes over the five miles, the coachman proceeds to "spring his cattle" [gallop the horses]. The coach being heavily laden forward, rolls in a manner which it is quite impossible to find a simile for, and Mirabel utterly gives himself up for gone. ... "He was seated with his back to the horses, his arms extended to each extremity of the guard irons, his teeth set grim as death, his eyes cast down towards the ground, thinking the less he saw of his danger the better;" and in this state he arrived at Hartford Bridge. Here he dismounted from the Regulator with the alacrity of lightning. "I will walk into Devonshire", he cries.'



'CAWTE' OUT or LOST AND FOUND

by Maisie Hoare

MY MAIDEN NAME was 'Cawte' which is an old Hampshire name, but my knowledge of my immediate family is small. My father died when I was five years old and my father's brother (who adopted me) died in 1979. There was another brother, Charlie, who migrated to Australia in the '20s, but my knowledge of him was a commemoration programme of his elevation to 3rd degree in the RAOB at Crib Point, Victoria - found among my late father's effects.

When my youngest daughter Lynda went out to Australia last year she contacted all the Cawtes in the telephone directory, one of whom turned out to be

the wife of my cousin Sidney, and she sent me a lot of information on the 'Antipodean Cawtes'.

It needs a lot of sorting out and research into my forbears, but one extremely interesting piece of information is in a letter by a Rev. Butterfield. He states that a William Cawet (the spelling evidently changed from Cawet or Cawett to Cawte in the 17th/18thC) is named in the Crondall Manor Compositus Roll of 1248, a fact I've since verified.

It looks like I've enough to keep me busy for some time yet. Am I direct in line to the William Cawett named in the Crondall Records?

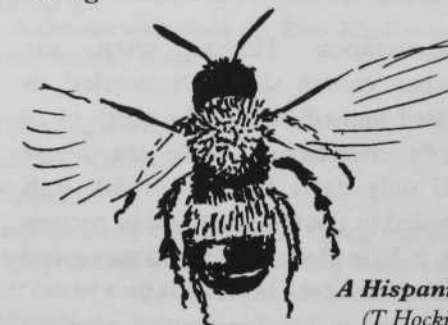
BEES IN MY B... ON THE PATIO

(PART 2)

by Tony Hocking

YOU MAY RECALL that in *Newsletter 63* I commented on bees in the garden, one of which flew very fast, made a very loud high-pitched noise and seemed too fast and active to actually manage to gather nectar.

While weeding on one of the very warm spring mornings in the second week of March, I suddenly became aware of the same whining noise and a dark speck came hurtling past from many directions in rapid succession. It was, occasionally and briefly, stopping on pulmonaria flowers, so I grabbed the



A Hispanica
(T Hocking)

insect book and lay in wait.

Eventually I got a reasonably good look at it. It was a small bee, reddish brown hairy thorax and a mainly shiny black abdomen. From the book illustra-

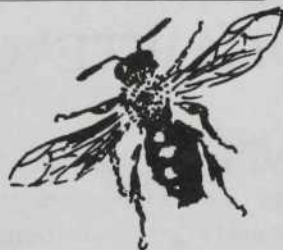
tions and quoted flying months it appeared to be *Anthofora Hispanica* – the description ‘...much quicker in flight than bumble bees, with much higher pitched flight noise...’ seemed to confirm it. The bees we noticed last summer were more likely to have been *Anthofora Plumipes* – they have the same flight characteristics but, according to the good book, their flying months are later than *A Hispanica*. The *Anthofora* are ground-nesting solitary bees.

Early March this year has, like other years, seen the emergence of large numbers of very small bees during the first warm sunny days. The particular ones in our garden always appear from the ground in a sheltered spot open to the morning sun at the bottom of a fence. They are about 12 millimetres long, have reddish hairs on the thorax which

are hard to see unless the light is just right, and otherwise dark brown to black. The most likely candidate seems to be *Andrena*

Haemorrhoa, which is quoted as ‘one of the earliest spring species’.

Unlike the noisy bee these were flying slowly around about 20 millimetres above the ground, briefly settling on warm stones from time to time, and showing no inclination to feed on anything. The *Andrena* family are solitary mining bees, which again agrees with their appearance from the ground, that there was a large group was presumably because they had only just left a hibernation chamber.



A Haemorrhoa
(T Hocking)

A NOTE ON CHADDISBROOK HOUSE

by Geoff Hoare

CHADDISBROOK HOUSE, WITH the attached church shop ‘Discoveries’, is situated immediately to the north of St Peter’s churchyard. While the house itself only dates back to c1750, it is recorded in the Crondall Manor records that a John Aslott held a cottage and garden on the site before 1565.

The house has been much changed over the years. A sketch of c1860 shows a timber-built two-storey cottage abutting the brick-built house.

This is confirmed by a map of 1870 and a sales document of 1881, but a

map of 1894 indicates that the present brick-built shop replaced the timber structure by that date.

An early 20thC photograph shows not only this but that also an extension comprising an entrance lobby with a bedroom above had been built at the northern end, the original front door blocked, and the roof line and chimney layout radically altered. Blocked doors and windows and repositioned interior walls revealed during renovations in 1992 confirmed the remodelling detailed above.

Yateley Society Programme

from May 1997

MAY

Monday 5, Yateley Green

MAY FAYRE

The Yateley Society will present its customary exhibition – this year the topic is

Inns, Ale and Beerhouses in Yateley

There will also be our usual sales table – Society members are reminded that all cakes, plants, books, etc, for sale should be given to Stephanie Pattenden by 5pm on Sunday 4 May please

Thursday 22, WI Hall, Reading Road, 8pm

Talk – INSECTS

by Arthur Jollands

An illustrated talk by Arthur Jollands on some of the dragonflies, grasshoppers and crickets that can be seen on the Common and around Yateley

Sunday 25, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers are always needed!
(Tools and free refreshments are provided)

JUNE

Sunday 1, meet at 2.30pm at Well House Lane, the turning off Ford Lane on the right before you reach the ford. Map reference GRSU 745 632

Walk – The Second in our EXPLORING THE BLACKWATER VALLEY series

This covers Bramshill to Farley Hill and back. A circular walk along the *River Blackwater* footpath, green lanes and country lanes

Thursday 26, WI Hall, Reading Road, 8pm

Talk – HEATHLAND BIRDS

by Patrick Crowley

Patrick Crowley, Chairman of the Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB Members Group will give an illustrated talk on Heathland Birds. He has spent the last three years looking at areas of local heathland, and learning about the birds that can be seen on both the heathland and in adjacent habitats

Sunday 29, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common – more volunteers are always needed!
(Tools and free refreshments are provided)

JULY

Saturday 5

*** YATELEY SOCIETY SUMMER SOCIAL ***

Details later

Sunday 13, Meet at the lay-by in Vigo Lane, Map Ref: GRSU 812 595, 2pm.

BUTTERFLY WALK

Dr Guest will lead a walk on Yateley Common, weather permitting!
 (If in doubt, ring Irene Draper on 01252 870470)

Thursday 24, WI Hall, 8pm

Talk - AIR POLLUTION, ACID RAIN & HEATHLAND

Dr Helen Ap Simon of Imperial College will describe the impact of air pollution. She is a renowned expert who advises the European Union amongst others, and she rides on Yateley Common!

Sunday 27, Wyndhams Pool, 10am

Conservation on the Common

Assisting the Rangers to manage the Common - more volunteers are always needed!
 (Tools and free refreshments are provided)

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.

Please see the note on page 3.

Copy dates*Newsletter: 1 June 1997**Stop Press: When necessary*



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Registered with the Civic Trust
Registered Charity No 282397

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