

# The Yateley Society



## *Newsletter*

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**Dragons, Frogs, Worts and all  
Commoners' Corner – Yateley Green  
Flying on Sunday – near Blackbushe  
Ode to Autumn**

**No 66**

Free to Members

**August 1997**

£1 to Non-Members

# THE YATELEY SOCIETY

Newsletter No 66 Autumn 1997

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## THE EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

I USUALLY SEEM to be pleading for help with various activities, but it is my pleasant task this time to offer the thanks of the Society to many of our members.

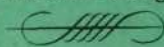
Since the last Newsletter we have had the May Fayre. This was a great success in terms of spreading the word about our activities and aims to the public. The exhibition about the brewing industry proved very popular, for which we must thank Elizabeth and Peter Tipton who did virtually all the hard work of research and material preparation (and still kept their business going!) The day was also a success financially; extremely grateful thanks are due to all the people who supported the Society by supplying goods for sale, manning the marquee and of course putting it up and taking it down. The Treasurer was delighted at the outcome, as the sales more than paid for the high expenses.

Thanks must also be given to the Round Table who were willing to reduce the pitch charges to give us a boost.

At the beginning of July we had the Summer Social. Once again many members rallied round in splendid fashion, contributing sweets and raffle prizes in profusion –

and buying plenty of raffle tickets! The turnout was very good, and this boosted the income from donations towards additional drinks. Thank you very much to all who took part and contributed in any way – once again the Treasurer was smiling from ear to ear!

A few friends of members were persuaded to join us – this is good for increasing numbers at our events, and could lead to an increase in Society membership. It was also nice to see some of our members who, understandably, are usually too tied up with other activities to come along.



### Special meeting 25 September

You may recall that in *Newsletter 65* there was a request for someone to help organise the Society publications. On reflection this was too vague an invitation – more information on what we hope to publish and how, needs to be given to members, indeed the way ahead needs to be decided by the membership, before jumping in with both feet.

To overcome the lack of information, and to take soundings of members' ideas on publications, there will be an extra meeting for this purpose on 25 September in which you are all invited to take part.

## Have You Seen?

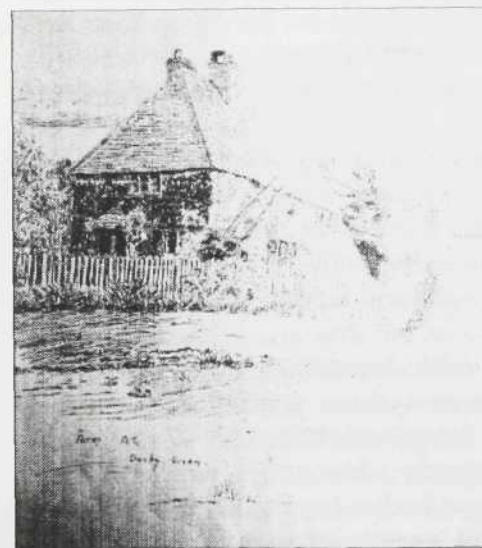
by The Executive Committee

SOME WHILE AGO the Executive Committee requested information on members' holdings of Society property and archive material to ensure that the whereabouts of all such material were known. The responses pinned down most of the doubtful items, but one important group of pictures is not accounted for.

The Society owns a small collection of original watercolour paintings and sketches of Yateley scenes. These have been displayed on various occasions at meetings and in May Fayre exhibitions. These pictures have mysteriously disappeared from view within the last two years and the Executive Committee has issued an appeal for any information regarding their present whereabouts.



Pond Cottage, August 1924



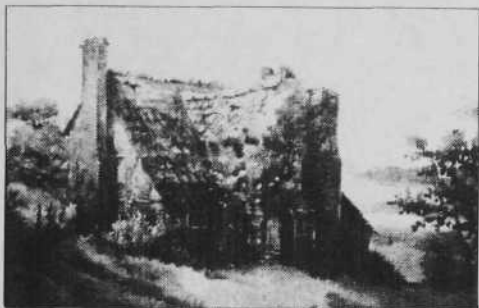
Globe Farm, Darby Green

To jog your memories some of the pictures are reproduced here. The majority of the originals are fully coloured – unfortunately we cannot afford colour printing in the *Newsletter*. These reproductions are from photographs of the originals taken some years ago.

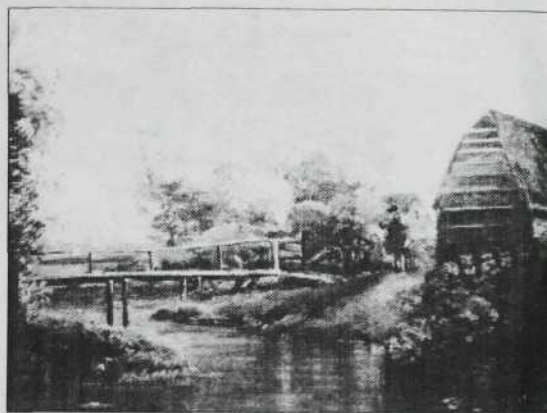
The sample pictures are a sketch of Globe Farm and a watercolour of Pond Cottage by our late vice-president Sydney Loader, a watercolour of the cottage on Cricket Hill which forms the core of

the Casa de Cesare building and a watercolour of the long-vanished Yateley Mill. When last seen the pictures were contained in a large card folder.

If you have any idea where the pictures are now – please tell Tony



*Cricket Hill Cottage*



*Watercolour of Yateley Mill and the Ford over the Blackwater River*

Hocking (Yateley 875158), Richard Johnston (Yateley 872832) or Peter Tipton (Yateley 873378).

## Dragons, Frogs, Worts and all

*by Norma Dowling*

THOSE OF US who have been attending lectures and joining walks over recent months will be quite knowledgeable now on the subject of insects that can be seen locally. After Arthur Jollands' excellent slides and the walk on Sunday 1 June we may even be able to identify some dragonflies!

The second walk in the 'Exploring the Blackwater Valley' series was a circular walk from Bramshill to Farley Hill and back, along the river footpath, green lanes and country lanes. Those who participated were surprised at the peace and rural atmosphere to be found so close to home. It was a windy day for butterflies. Some of us did see a Small Tortoiseshell, a Speckled Wood and a tatty Peacock.

However, at times the air seemed filled with damselflies and dragonflies, but in fact most of these belonged to just three species. Two were damselflies and the one that was sadly not flying, as it had landed in front of a stile as we were crossing, was a dragonfly. Along the path we saw Common Blue Damselflies with their narrow bodies banded with vivid blue and black, but in great abundance, dancing over the river, was the Banded Demoiselle or Banded Agrion which likes fast flowing water. There were

clouds of them, easily distinguished by the 'thumb print' on their wings and blue/green bodies. The dragonfly we saw was a Black-tailed Skimmer with a short flattened pale blue body, with a black tip to the abdomen. For those in doubt, a resting damselfly holds its wings over its body vertically, whilst the dragonfly always rests with wings outspread. Both have large compound eyes; those of the dragonfly usually meeting in the middle, whilst the damselfly has a gap between giving it a hammer-head appearance.

The day's mystery object was an insect with red and black wingcases. I think this was the frog hopper, *Cercopsis vulnerata*. Frog hoppers, which get their name from their ability to jump, are usually known from their nymphs which hide in a mass of 'cuckoo spit', though in fact this particular frog hopper's nymph lives underground. Incidentally, I learned while making this identification, that insects are divided into two groups from the way their wings develop. In the first group the wings develop gradually outside the body, as in grasshoppers and dragonflies and frog hoppers etc, and the young are called nymphs. Whilst in the second group of insects, which experience a dramatic development, the young are known as larvae and are very unlike the adults. Moths, beetles and flies are in this group. There were larger creatures on view too, such as the bull watching us as we approached a stile but he was really more interested in his attendant females, some of them Park cattle – white, with horns and black noses. To complete the rural scene we passed sheep, lambs and horses.

Although the spring flowers were over and summer not yet in full bloom, we did see quite a bit to interest us including Common Vetch, identified by tiny black marks on the stipules below the pea flowers; Poppies looking very attractive growing in the Wheat; White Campion with soft hairy leaves growing by a stile and Greater Stitchwort which is in the same family but has smaller flowers and begins flowering earlier. By the river we saw the highly poisonous Hemlock with purple splashes on the stems and Hemlock Water-dropwort, also poisonous. Another wort, Hedge Woundwort, was at one time used for dressing wounds. Growing along the paths were Herb Robert and Water Avens, the latter with small yellow flowers.

Returning along the river we saw Bulrushes, with their tassels of flowers. The water-side plants with the brown poker-like flowers that are often called bulrushes are really Reed Mace. Shrubs and trees of interest were the Spindle; Elder, with creamy panicles of flower; Guelder Rose, in the viburnum family and White Poplar.

The group of eighteen that completed the circumnavigation agreed that it had been most enjoyable: it was good to see 'old faithfuls', new 'walking' members and several non-members. July's walk is again insect-orientated; Dr Guest is leading us on a Butterfly Walk on the common.

## COMMONERS' CORNER

by Peter Tipton

I HAVE BEEN REMINDED by a commoner having rights over Yateley Green that I have so far totally neglected them in this series of articles. The last time any of them was called to a meeting was in 1983 when the new Hall Lane roundabout was to be constructed near the White Lion. The County Council arranged land at Cottage Farm to be exchanged so that the Highway Authority could take some of the common land. The new roundabout was urgently required following a tragic death.

Yateley Green (CL27) is a separate registration from Yateley Common (CL24) and therefore the list of commoners is much different. An application for registration of Yateley Green was made by Mr James Sidney Campbell, Chairman of Yateley Parish Council (as it then was) on 28 June 1967. Since the Parish Council was the owner of 'about 64.044 acres called Yateley Green', there was no long drawn out legal battle with the 'owners of the soils' as was the case with CL24 and the owners of Blackbushe Airport. Nevertheless there was an objection by Lt Col R Leyland, then the owner of Brookfield House. He objected that 'land comprising 0.555 acres' was shown on the deeds of his property and should therefore be excluded from the registration. The registration of Yateley Green was therefore provisional until a final decision of the Commons Commissioner excluded the half acre of Blake's Pond. Elizabeth and I received confirmation of our registration in a letter from the County Council dated 26 March 1979, some twelve years after Jim Campbell made the Parish Council's original application. Of course the original registration of our rights had not been made by us, since we were then living in Canada. When we bought Monteagle House in December 1976 we were handed a carefully-annotated pack of three applications (also including commons unit CL28) made by Col and Mrs A A N Tuck pursuant to the 1965 Commons Registration Act and carefully handed down through two other previous owners.

Being a separate registration from Yateley Common, there was no wholesale 'weeding out' of applicants for rights over Yateley Green. So I believe there were 58 properties registered, but since I only saw these people once, and I have not seen the register in Winchester, I do not really know who they are. It is now 30 years since the original application so many houses will have changed hands several times. So if you know you have common rights, please phone me on 873378 and I will start to make a list.

I have been asked why Yateley Green was registered as common land with common rights and not as a Village Green – which does not have any rights

attached. I am told that the Parish Council felt that having commoners to protect it would be a better guarantee of its continuing to be conserved as an open space than if they registered it as Village Green, and just left to the good offices of the Town Council. Since there was substantial evidence of grazing on the Green, houses which had been copyholdings were encouraged to register their rights. I do remember that the Vicar is a commoner, having registered the Vicarage. Elizabeth and I, as joint owners, have the right to graze 5 horses and 10 sheep. We also have the right of estovers (collecting firewood) and the right to 'take and dig gravel'. We should not be popular if we dug up the cricket square!

Founder members of the Yateley Society will remember that Yateley Green has played a key role in establishing the sort of Society we have today. It was an application for housing on Blake's Pond which prompted a letter of objection to Hart from the Yateley Study Group, whilst it was still an Adult Education Class. Another letter of objection on behalf of the Yateley Study Group, was regarding housing in the garden of Close Cottage. We were very surprised when Hart planners snapped up our suggestion that the existing small Conservation Area around Forge Court and the *Dog & Partridge* should be extended to include all of Yateley Green. As a Civic Trust one of the key terms of reference of the Planning Subcommittee is to comment on all applications likely to affect Yateley's Conservation Areas. That drew us into the planning appeals for Glebe House and, a few years later, for Gayton House. It was the newly-established Yateley Green Conservation Area which provided our support for the restoration of Yateley Village Hall.

The latest threat to the Green comes from a developer objector to the Hart Local Plan wanting to cover the Urnfield in yet another housing estate. The character of the Green has already been changed by the new Town Council complex which replaced the traditional cricket pavilion. I am told that some Yateley people are now calling the Green, 'Yateley Park'. That is a very good indication that development and 'enhancement' have gone too far. It seems to me high time to call a halt. We should therefore support Yateley Town Council in defining two new management plans. One plan will cover wildlife management on the Green with Hampshire Wildlife Trust as advisors. The other is a proper management plan for all Yateley's Conservation Areas.

**WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
Yateley Branch**

**PATRONAGE IN VICTORIAN  
ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

*Tutor: JOHN ELLIOT*

Yateley Centre, School Lane Room A.1.9  
Tuesdays 7.30 to 9.00pm

9 meetings (plus one outing)  
Starting 6<sup>th</sup> September

Fee: £24.00

This course considers the Victorian period, its art, architecture and design. We will examine each of these elements, consider the changes which affected Victorian society, and see how a number of people created and spent their wealth.

*Enquiries and Enrolment:*

Irene Draper, 22 Lawford Crescent, Yateley GU46 6JU (Tel. 01252 870470)

**FLYING ON SUNDAY,  
NEAR BLACKBUSHE**

*by Norma Dowling*

AFTER AN UNPROMISING start Sunday 13 July turned out to be a reasonable day for a Butterfly Walk on the common after all. The warmer, drier afternoon provided good flying conditions for both butterflies and planes. We set off (I think we numbered sixteen plus one dog) from the lay-by in Vigo Lane and meandered pleasantly from habitat to habitat searching out the butterflies that Dr Guest had found on his preliminary visit the previous weekend.

Some butterflies live in colonies associated with specific plants, such as

the Silver-studded Blues that are found in open glades where heather of a certain age grows. The management of areas of heather is of particular importance to these delightful little butterflies. Eggs are laid on heather stems and overwinter, hatching in late March. The young caterpillars feed on the heather flowers and seeds. They then move down the plant to pupate, the butterfly emerging in July. They spend the rest of their short lives in the vicinity. We dropped to our knees for a close look at the underside of the hind wings which are

edged with silver-centred black spots which give the butterfly its name. Males are blue, whilst females are brown. There were plenty flying over the heather or sunning themselves.

Other species are less restricted to areas but usually require specific groups of plants as food for their caterpillars. Many lay their eggs on grasses; of these we saw Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Heath and three Skippers: Large, Small and Essex. The latter brought out our hand lenses, as they are identified by black tips to the underside of their antennae!

The Common Blue, also flying on Sunday, lays eggs on Bird's-foot Trefoil and other members of the pea family. Nettles are favoured by the Comma and Small Tortoiseshell that we saw. Butterflies usually sip nectar produced by flowers different from those of the caterpillar food plant.

The eleventh butterfly we identified was a Brimstone usually thought of as the first butterfly of the year. The one we saw was not a late starter but one of this year's brood; the spring Brimstones are those that have hibernated from last year. We also saw Whites flying but not close enough to identify. The bramble-covered bank behind the old car park was popular with various butterflies. Ragwort was providing food for the black and orange striped caterpillars of the Cinnabar moth. These caterpillars were at various stages of growth and had completely stripped the leaves from some plants. We also saw the beautiful deep pinky-red and black adults. The Small Heath Moth was flying too.

We returned to our cars ready for a sip of something ourselves, but all agreed it had been well worth the visit. Our thanks to Dr Guest for showing us the quieter Sunday fliers.

**ODE TO AUTUMN**

*by Irene Draper*

22 August 1996

TODAY AS I helped Doreen Dodd pick egg-shaped plums I realised that Autumn was rapidly approaching. As we gathered the fruit I was already planning, in my mind, to make jam, chutney and pies. Blackberries are already ripening, the rowan berries turning orange, cherry plums golden and the blue-black sloes are swelling. I feel a strong urge to gather, bottle, bake and store.

The plum crop in Doreen's garden at Moulsham House is especially good. In

the case of the golden plum too good! The weight of the ripening fruit caused the large central branch to break. Sadly the trees are old. They were there when Tom Dodd inherited the cottage from his cousin Esther Harris. Jim Baxter, who lives in Blackwater, remembers that an aunt and uncle of his kept their pony in a field behind Moulsham House and picked plums from the garden.

Most of the plum trees bear small dark fruit. These are good for jam and pies but need a lot of sugar. Doreen

puts a tray of over-ripe ones on the gravel path by the house wall, these attract the butterflies. Peacocks, Red Admirals and occasionally Commas feed on the juice. Then they sun themselves on the warm wall, allowing us good views of them while we pick and sort the good fruit.

There are other signs that Autumn is approaching. As August slides into September there will be a subtle change in the light, it will become softer, more golden. There will be a different scent in the air – my daughter describes it as ‘a going back to school smell’. Yateley Common will be, in places, bright with flowering Ling. On misty golden morn-

ings the gorse and heather will be decorated with hundreds of spiders’ webs. Covered with tiny drops of dew and stirred by the breeze, they will sparkle in the early sunlight. Soon the bracken will change from green to pale cream, yellow, gold and finally brown. Once that happens Winter will be here.

As can be seen by the date, I wrote this last year. This year the plum crop has failed. A late frost killed off the blossom on Doreen’s plum trees and on my cooking apple. However, all is not lost, the blackberries flowered well and while we might not have plums and cooking apples, we should have plenty of blackberries!!

## WILD WALKERS

by Tony Hocking

SOME OF OUR Society members, with a number of non-members, belong to an informal group called the ‘Wild Walkers’.

You might infer from the name that we indulge in a form of ‘footpath rage’, or that we habitually tramp round the higher and rougher parts of the UK; nothing could be farther from the truth.

The group is the brain-child of Bruce Gwynn, Senior HCC Ranger and extremely knowledgeable naturalist, who is more than willing to share his expertise and enthusiasm.

Activities mostly take place on Wednesday evenings from mid-April to mid-September. Bruce leads the group on rambles around places of great natural history interest; typical sites being Greywell Fen, selected parts of Yateley

Common, Frensham, Shortheath Pond and Bog, any wood with rare plants, and so on. The object is to reveal the diversity of flora and fauna, to help people to learn to recognise the various species, and to allow them to see the real rarities that exist in the area. Notes are usually compared in a nearby hostelry at the end of the evening.

Occasionally we venture farther afield, going as far as Kingsclere or Stockbridge if there are good things to see at these places when the evenings are at their longest.

Many excellent sites are, of course, far too far away for evening visits and a couple of times a year there are one-day minibuses trips at weekends. This year there was a splendid trip to Bristol, Cheddar Gorge and Brean Down; the

highlight being the very rare and extremely local Cheddar Pink, viewed on the cliff tops while Peregrines swooped along the Gorge. The second minibus trip will be a bird-watching/plant spotting visit to Hayling Island in September.

As an experiment there was also a highly successful week-long minibus trip to Scotland this year: a high speed tour of the country with a vast itinerary of places and things to see. 97 species of wild bird and 11 orchids, plus deer and mountain hare at close quarters, were well worth seeing.

Not surprisingly this does not come free – Bruce spends a large amount of his time planning the outings, organising permission to visit special sites, etc, and of course it is again his spare time that is used up while he is leading us, these activities are not part of his official duties. He charges a very reasonable £3 per head for the local evening rambles,

and naturally has to include vehicle hire charges for the minibus trips plus accommodation costs when relevant.

The people who come along vary from the truly dedicated who thrive on Latin names, and who know many of the obscure plants anyway, to those who have a general interest in their environment and who are content to view the beauty of the species seen and that of the surrounding countryside (I count myself in the latter group – though you can get hooked on the fine details very easily!)

The group is usually small, less than a dozen, and more people would be very welcome to come and see what happens. The Wednesday evenings in particular are not strenuous, indeed signs of motion are often lacking for long periods while everybody peers at microscopic bits of green that we are assured are most rare and important! No formalities – just turn up at the meeting place.

The remaining programme from mid August is:

### August

- 13. 19:15 Basingstoke Canal near Odiham. Meet at the canal-side car park beyond the *Waterwitch* PH at SU 747 517, best reached from the north east end of Odiham High Street.
- 20. 19:15 Farnham Park. Meet at the end of Hampton Road SU 837 485.
- 27. 18:50 Butterwood, near Greywell. Meet at the *Fox & Goose* PH, SU 718 514.

### September

- 9. 18:45 Virginia Water. Meet in the long lay-by on the A30 opposite the main car park past the *Wheatsheaf* PH, SU 980 686 (-ish).
- 10. 18:30 Yateley Common fungal foray. Meet at Wyndhams Pool car park, SU 822 596.

Sat 13. Hayling Island minibus trip. All details from Bruce Gwynn.

**October**

Sun 12. Drive yourself to see the birds. Meet at Selsey Bill sz 850 923 at 07.00hrs, or at Pagham Harbour visitor centre sz 856 964 at 09.30hrs.

If you want to contact Bruce – try 'phoning him at home on 01252 513473 between 18.00 and 21.00hrs, but avoid Wednesday and Saturday evenings. If you want a highly positively biased opinion of what goes on, you can 'phone me, Tony Hocking, on 01252 875158.

## Yateley Society Programme

**AUGUST**

There will be no meetings this month apart from:

Sunday 31, 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)

**SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 18, Yateley Centre Room D.1.6 at 8pm

**Talk****REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

Paul Edgar will give an illustrated talk on the interesting reptiles and amphibians that can be found in this area. Some years ago he gave a similar talk to the Society which proved extremely popular – his talks are well recommended!

Sunday 2, Hartley Wintney at 2pm

**A BREWING WALK**

Meet in Hartley Wintney Public Car Park, map reference su 768 571, at 2pm.

This will be a wander round the village looking at evidence of the once extensive brewing industry which was unearthed while researching for the May Fair exhibition.

Thursday 25, Yateley w1 Hall at 8pm

**Special Meeting****YATELEY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

The Society has published a variety of leaflets, books and other information, but in a rather *ad hoc* and uncoordinated manner. We need to review what is being done, ask people what they believe should be published, and organise ourselves to get it all done!

Come along and see what happens!

Sunday 28, 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)

**OCTOBER**

Thursday 23, Yateley w1 Hall at 8pm

**Talk****OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM MINERAL EXTRACTION**

*by Ron Foster*

Ron Foster, Divisional Restoration Manager for Redlands Aggregates Ltd, will give a talk on the restoration of gravel pits. He will discuss the opportunities arising out of mineral extraction and, concentrating on conservation, leisure and wildlife aspects, show what can be achieved by careful initial planning.

Sunday 26, 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)

**NOVEMBER**

Sunday 2, Simons Wood, 10.30am

**Walk****AUTUMN WOODLANDS**

Meet in the National Trust Simons Wood car park at 10.30am. su 814 636 (halfway up the Wellingtonia Ride between Crowthorne and Finchampstead Ridges).

A circular walk through National Trust woodland past Crowthorne station to Ambarrow Woods and Finchampstead Ridges. Approximately 2 hours.

Autumn colours should be good. Some tracks can be very muddy after heavy rain, stout boots or wellingtons are recommended. This walk could be followed by a pub lunch – if you are interested ring Irene Draper on 01252 870470, as we will need to book ahead.

Thursday 27, Yateley w1 Hall at 8pm

**Talk****THE HISTORY OF BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT**

**– The Civil Period 1945–1960**

This talk is still being negotiated at the time of going to press.

Sunday 30, 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)

DECEMBER

Thursday 11, Yateley Centre, Room D.1.6. at 8pm

**MEMBERS EVENING**

Members are invited to give short talks describing the activities that they are carrying out on behalf of the Yateley Society. The idea is to make members more aware of the diversity of Society interests, and to help them find kindred spirits for mutual cooperation and assistance. If you are willing to take part please tell Tony Hocking on 01252 875 158 as soon as possible.

Sunday 28, 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)

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**Advanced Warning**

The Christmas Social will be delayed until late January 1998 this year; this removes it from the hectic pre-Christmas period and allows the possibility of a theme such as an 'Olde English St Agnes Feast'

**Copy dates**

*Newsletter: 30 September 1997*

*Stop Press: When necessary*



**The Yateley Society**

Registered with the Civic Trust

Registered Charity No 282397

*Membership Secretary:*

Graham Brown

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