



The
Yateley
Society

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 82 December 2006

Registered Charity: 282397
Registered with the Civic Trust

Thursday 14 December 2006

at the newly refurbished "Tythings", Reading Road, Yateley at 8.00pm

**This Year's Yateley Society Christmas Event presents
THE STORY OF HOLLY**

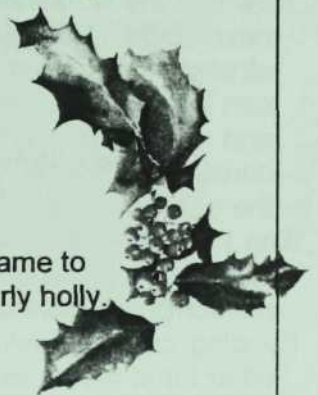
by

Chris Howkins

(renowned UK Ethnobotanist, Writer, Publisher and Illustrator)

Tracing the history of the great Midwinter Festival before St. Augustine came to Canterbury, and then the story of the plants we use at Christmas, particularly holly.

You will be amazed just how pagan your Christmases can be.
Prince Albert did not invent the Christmas tree either!



Everyone Welcome - Admission Free

**Friday February 2nd 2007
THE CHAIRMAN'S DINNER
at the Casa de Cesari, Handford Lane
at 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm**

Our new Chairman, Trudy Boothby, would like to invite you all to attend her first Chairman's Dinner.

As last year, we will secure a fixed price menu for 3 courses including coffee of approx £20 per head

Booking beforehand is ESSENTIAL
Numbers will be limited to 30 to keep things informal and manageable

Please book by Friday January 26th at the latest

Ring Trudy on (01252) 409262 to book.

*New Venue for our
Monthly Meetings!
The newly refurbished
"Tythings"*

**Thursday February 15th 2007
THE YATELEY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8pm at The Tythings, Reading Road,
Yateley

You will shortly receive a copy of the Annual Report, together with notices of resolutions to be discussed at the AGM. These resolutions are topical and relevant to what is going on in Yateley – the outcome of the discussions and vote will be recorded as the formal position of the Yateley Society.

Please submit any Executive Committee nomination suggestions to Richard Johnston – we need at least 2 new members!

This is the most important meeting of the year. We must have a quorum and hopefully some new nominations for the Exec Committee!

Come along, have a glass of wine and exercise your Member's right to vote.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ISSUES



YATELEY PARISH PLAN

Make your comments on the Website

The Yateley Parish Plan Steering Group has almost completed the first stage of the Yateley Market Town Health Check, and invite comment on the draft answers from anyone who lives or works in Yateley.

The Health Check consists of about 260 questions divided in four worksheets about social, economic, transport and environmental issues.

Now that the worksheets are nearing completion the next stage is to identify, from the answers, the strengths and weaknesses of the town, and what can be changed for the better, what is possible and what will not be possible because of the constraints identified in the process of answering the questionnaires.

The last stage is to write an Action Plan to identify specific projects to improve the town for its residents and businesses.

Funding can be available for these projects; on the other hand the action plan might just lead to a new direction for spending money in the normal course of events, or encouraging redirection in voluntary effort.

Preparing Parish Plans is a consultative process governed by new laws, so cannot be adopted

formally without the full participation of the majority of the community.

Community participation is easy for a small community of 200, who might all attend a meeting in the village hall. For a town of 20,000 like Yateley it is much more difficult to let everyone know what is happening, and to get a substantial number of people to participate.

The Steering Group has therefore set up a wiki website <http://yateleyparishplan.pbwiki.com> so that everyone in Yateley can participate.

1. To comment you need to click the 'log-in' button. The password is mayfayre2006.
2. Please then click the 'comment' button at the top of any page and type your comment into the box.

The Town Council asks for your help in making this a comprehensive and consultative document, and looks forward to the active participation of all who live in Yateley.

So please take this opportunity to let us know your thoughts, and create a formal document which will have a defining influence on the future of Yateley.



Hampshire Traveller Project

The topic of November's meeting was changed at short notice due to illness and Diana Stevens from Hart Voluntary Action, and a Romany Gypsy herself, explained the background and aims of the Hampshire Traveller Project. Run by Hart Voluntary Action and the Hampshire Traveller Education Service, its aims are to increase school and further education attendance, to develop a gypsy voice in matters that affect them, to promote intercommunity involvement including access to healthcare and also reduce suspicion/increase communication.

Several activities are in place, including ICT training to improve literacy and numeracy skills, music tuition, adult literacy classes and a breakfast club at St Peters for help parents and children with homework. A Forest Bus has been in place for 3 years which is somewhere for the gypsies to meet with external agencies for advice.



The arrival of Romany Gypsies was first recorded in 1505 in Scotland having come from India via Egypt (hence the name "gypsy").

Self employment is central to a gypsy man's identity, and gypsy children have always been initiated into the trades or taught how to keep house from a very early age – in most cases instead of attending school.

Apparently, Gypsies only use the kitchen sink to wash cooking utensils, not dirty hands. Pets are not allowed in the home and if an animal touches a plate, it is thrown away – the plate that is!

The Living Album, recently on exhibition at Yateley Library, is a project, accessible via

www.hants.gov.uk/rh/gypsy which shows the history of Gypsy culture and lifestyle in Hampshire.

A Story of Welmore



In October, Richard Johnston gave a presentation of his architectural assessment of Welmore, the large white house, half way up Cricket Hill Lane on the right.

He discussed the history and architecture of the house, and the refurbishment made in 2002. The house probably dates back to the Elizabethan period, when Cricket Hill was a newly developing area to provide for the poor of the parish, providing them with 4 acre plots according to the statute. The northern half of Welmore is timber framed, visible on the north wall, but the front was refaced in brick in the eighteenth century. Given their known connections and

occupations, some owners of the house may have used the building as a shop or possibly even a pub, though there is no certain evidence for this.

During the C19 and early C20, the house was owned by the Stevens and Stilwell families of Hilfield estate, and occupied by the gardener. In 1928 the house was sold to the Rev H Ellison, who was involved with ToCH, an organisation which helped shell-shocked WW1 soldiers. The emblem of the organisation is on Ellison's tombstone in Yateley Churchyard.

Ellison came from an illustrious family - he was for example the uncle of the Bishop of London. Ellison doubled the size of the house and converted it from a cottage into a Gentleman's residence which was more in keeping with the Yateley of the time - very much a place for the upper middle classes to retire.



Family History Corner – Henry Broad

(from the family history narrative compiled by Godfrey H. Broad November 2006 about Henry Broad, schoolmaster of Yateley School 30 December 1867 to about 15 November 1872.)

Part One - Henry Broad, born 11 July 1847 at New Alresford, was the second son of Henry and Martha Broad; baptised on 8 Aug 1847 at New Alresford. He was brought up in the Anglican tradition by religious parents. Indeed his father became a pillar of the church, St Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford. When old enough Henry junior probably attended the new village school in Old Alresford, provided by the Misses Arabella and Matilda Onslow of Upton House and opened as a National School in 1846, together with the Industrial Home for Girls (an orphanage), Well Cottages and the Alms Houses.



Henry appears in the 1861 census for Hale, near Farnham, Surrey, aged 13, 'Schoolmaster 1 month'. Remarkably, we have his photo dated abt. 1865 when he was 'either a pupil teacher at Hale, near Farnham, Surrey, or at Winchester. Physically he looks weedy with droopy shoulders. However, he survived 5 years apprenticeship to a teacher there. A government grant may have been given to the pupil and the teacher at the end of each year if progress was satisfactory. At the end of the apprenticeship Henry would have been eligible to present himself for the Queen's Scholarship examination, which allowed the most able to attend training college. Henry attended Winchester Training College, presumably for 3 years. Prospective teachers were trained in the three Rs and Religion. They were reminded of their working class roots by some physical work, keeping the premises up together and by gardening. The approach to education was proscribed by the emphasis on copying and rote learning, with little initiative from the children. In some circles it was believed better for teachers to have a working class background like their charges. Henry was training at a time when

the Government was also cutting back on money for education, including grants to colleges. At the time school managers would pay staff by results, especially in the 3 Rs.

to be continued in the next issue.....

**New Venue for our
Monthly Meetings!
The newly refurbished
"Tythings"**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2006

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at **The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley**, 8.00 pm start unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to receive email reminders about meetings, please email me jo.hill.45@ntlworld.com

All events are open to non-members and there is no admission charge.

Thursday 14 December 2006	The Story of Holly - Chris Howkins Tracing the history of the great Midwinter Festival and the story of the plants we use at Christmas.
Thursday 18 January 2007	Loddon and Eversley Heritage Group - Alison Cross This joint initiative was established to meet the challenge of protecting and enhancing all that is special about the area whilst promoting a healthy and sustainable rural economy. http://www.loddon-eversley.org.uk/
Thursday 15 February 2007	AGM This is the most important meeting of the year and we must have a quorum. Come along, have a glass of wine and exercise your Member's right to vote.
Thursday 15 March 2007	Local Trees Fact and Folklore - Chris Howkins Introducing the fun and surprises and practical issues of using trees in everyday life - from food and medicines, timber and mortgages, ritual and religion. Hopefully you will never see a tree in quite the same way again!
Thursday 20 April 2007	Yateley Parish Plans - update http://yateleyparishplan.pbwiki.com
Thursday 18 May 2007	Border Ware - see September newsletter Investigate the wiki website: http://heathhist.pbwiki.com/ArchaeologyBorderware
Thursday 15 June 2007	Yateley Common SSI Archaeological Investigations - Carol White More interesting finds on Yateley Common in the 2006 summer dig.
Thursday 19 July 2007	Yateley's Fire Stations - Colin Ive Regaling us with excerpts from his recently completed book, about many of the people and situations he met during his 25 years as Officer in Charge of Yateley Firestation.



The Conservation Working Party:

We normally meet at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill at 10.00 am on the last Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! It was found that the tap-dancing cows grazing at Castle Bottom proved too much for the rickety boardwalks, so the August Conservation Working Party were challenged with building new boardwalks which would withstand the bovine boogie.

The aim is to help the Yateley Rangers in all sorts of tasks in the upkeep of Yateley Common. To find out more, please call Mike Mann on 01252 877741.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

With the last issue of the Newsletter, you received a Membership Renewal Notice because all memberships are due for renewal in September. If you have not already done so, please remember to complete and return the form in order to keep receiving your Newsletter and maintaining your membership. Thanks!

DARBY GREEN POND

Yateley Town Council is currently investigating how to renovate the Darby Green Pond, which is being taken over by vegetation.

If you are interested in helping with this project in any way, please call 01252 872198