

**STOP PRESS!**

*Events update*

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The  
Yateley  
Society

## 1. YATELEY SOCIETY SUMMER SOCIAL

Saturday July 6th

7:00 pm

Valerie and David Kerslake have again agreed to open their garden for this event

- we are extremely grateful to them.

*There we will have an AL-FRESCO BUFFET as in 1995*

The date will be: Saturday July 6th

The venue: Lime Tree Cottage, Chandlers Lane

The time: 7:00 pm

The price: Adults £2-50, Children £2-00

(Please pay on the night)

Admission covers a main course of something savoury with salad

and a glass of wine, or soft drink.

(More drink will be available, for which a voluntary donation would be welcome.)

For sweets we rely on your offerings as in other years (the selection of delightful confections that you all usually bring could not be bettered!)

A raffle prize would also be most welcome.

Finally, some able-bodied helpers are needed to set things up, from about 6-30pm.

Note: It would be wise to bring a garden chair as they tend to be in short supply!

PLEASE TELL MARY OR TONY HOCKING (Yateley 875158)

IF YOU ARE COMING - BY MONDAY JULY 1st

*The Summer Social is one of our major fund raising events of the year. We hope this year to raise a substantial contribution to a further half day survey in mid-July by entomologist Mike Edwards. So if you have never been to an event before, please come along to support the Society's efforts -- and to make some new friends!*

## 2. GUIDED WALK:

### **WEST OF GREYWELL, THE CANAL AT UP NATELY**

Sunday July 14th.

2:15 pm.

Leader: Tony Hocking

A stroll to look at the canal and towpath beyond the western 'portal' of Greywell Tunnel, including the 'Brickworks Arm', and a selection of hidden footpaths. Stout footwear is recommended, and wellingtons if there has been recent rain.

Meet on the lane from the A30 and Nately Scures to Up Nately, south of the motorway bridge at: SU 699 523.

There is ample parking space on the verges.



## News Update

**THE FOX FARM PUBLIC INQUIRY** has been adjourned till 30th and 31st July. ADT has completed its case, but Hart still has to present all the environmental evidence from English Nature and the RSPB. The Society has presented our evidence to the Inspector but still has the right to hand in written evidence on highway matters and to make a "closing statement". To support the District Council's refusal of the planning application we have presented evidence regarding the effect of the site on the amenity of existing residents, together with two surveys supporting English Nature's case.

We commissioned the first survey, an entomological survey of wasps, bees and ants. Mike Edwards had previously surveyed Castle Bottom National Nature Reserve and the Country Park for Hampshire County Council. So our survey of the north of the airport has completed the jigsaw from Coopers Hill to Blackwater. It also updates our survey done by Matthew Oates in 1989.

The £500 cost of this latest survey was paid out of our Campaign Fund, as was the £1,500 which we paid to the Cobbetts Lane Action Group for the professional witness, Philip Colebourn, in 1994. So our Campaign Fund now stands at zero.

### Walkers Survey

We carried out the second survey ourselves. We surveyed six blocks of roughly 40 houses adjacent to the common, or separated from the common by a buffer zone. The results of the walking patterns obtained are therefore directly comparable with the likely pattern of dog-walking by the new residents of the proposed development.

We found that dog-walkers in these areas spend on average 40 minutes, twice a day, walking their dogs. Households at the west end of Yateley own twice the number of dogs compared with the national average. English Nature's evidence is based on national average figures of 0.30 dogs per household making one dogwalk per day. We show that residents of Fox Farm have a four times greater impact on the Special Protection Area for wild birds, than that calculated using national figures. We also show that dog-walkers from the present estates are unlikely to be making a significant impact on the National Nature Reserve since the average duration of their two daily walks is not long enough. However if new housing is permitted much closer to Castle Bottom, residents of the appeal site are likely to have a very significant impact.

### When the Inquiry resumes ...

The Solicitor from Hart District Council has remarked that there have been very few members of the public attending the Inquiry. The few who have turned up have found the proceedings largely incomprehensible. However the evidence from English Nature and the RSPB should be very interesting in its own right, so if you can get to the Council Chamber in Fleet, our Inquiry team of Peter Tipton (873378) and Richard Johnston will be pleased to have your support. Edward Dawson is advocate for the Town Council. Lawrence Smith the Deputy Town Clerk did sterling work presenting the case for the people of Yateley.



### St Barnabas

Your Chairman, David Lister, is battling on almost single handedly trying to find a solution for the tin church on Darby Green. He now has splendid architect's drawings prepared by his brother who gave us the talk on church architecture last year. David is still negotiating with the Diocesan Secretary, but in the meantime has arranged for a Scout Troop to help paint the church to help preserve it from weather and vandals. If you think you can help then drop a line to David at the Monteagle Surgery.

### Vacant Posts

The Executive is still looking for two keen members, one to manage the Publications Subcommittee and a second as a Publicity Officer for the Society.

It is no secret that Valerie Kerslake is writing a sequel to *Today and Yesterday*, this time to be a walk around our second Conservation Area at Cricket Hill. Elizabeth Tipton is battling on with her *Anthology* of members' recollections commemorating our 15th anniversary this year, and Tony Hocking is writing a *Heathland Leaflet* (and more?) based on our very successful May Fayre Exhibition celebrating the designation of Castle Bottom as a National Nature Reserve. With no money in the kitty, we need a chairman of the dormant Publications Subcommittee, primarily to act as a manager to organise funding of the publication costs and production.

The Society has an excellent reputation with local government bodies for sane, reasoned and, we think, helpful support in planning. We carry out a full programme of education, according to the object clauses of our charitable constitution, by holding exhibitions, publishing books, researching local history, giving talks, and organising guided walks. The "Grime Squad," up on the common helping the Rangers, or clearing out ponds or making hay when the sun shines, are doing an excellent job of practical conservation.

But we have a very low membership for a town of our size. Everyone relies on us but few join us. And membership subscriptions are an immediate source of finance. So we need a Publicity Officer, or perhaps a publicity team to make us better known, and to raise new members. CLAG had an excellent team during the time of the Cobbetts Lane Inquiry. Residents' action groups tend to be ephemeral, but the Yateley Society is celebrating its 15th birthday. If the person to do this job is not you, but you do know the right persons, twist their arms hard and whisper their name to Richard Johnston, our Hon Sec (872832).

### Planning again

The Replacement Hart Local Plan is now "on deposit". This is the plan which has no new housing development for Yateley, but objecting developers want to build up to 800 new houses in Yateley. If Fox Farm is lost then Cobbetts Lane will be under strong attack again. [Incidentally there were no letters of objection from Cobbetts Lane members in the Fox Farm file.] So the Society must review all policies in the Local Plan to make sure that they are as water-tight as possible. Hart officers are now very good at this, but we did manage to make some good changes to the County Structure Plan. Any member who wishes to join the Planning Subcommittee ring Peter Tipton (873378).