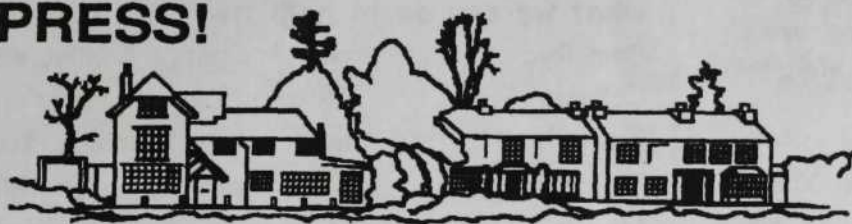


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STOP PRESS!



Issue 49 May 2001



The
Yateley
Society

Latest News on the Local Interest Issues currently being worked on by members:

Mushroom Farm - Obviously a trickier one than the Inspector first thought. Although the Public Inquiry was held over 6 days in February, there is still no decision to report.

Forty Winks - application for a 5 bedroom house - another repeat application in a sensitive location - this one was approved by the Development Control Committee of Councillors against the advice of the planning officers and English Nature. Officers have referred it to the Secretary of State for final approval (as a departure from the Local Plan). If this one is approved, it could affect the outcome of a lot of applications around the Special Protection and Conservation Areas.

Robins Grove Park - A revised application has been made and although objections have been sent, this application seems likely to secure approval.

The revised Local Plan is still being considered, but it does include a provision for the land on Sandhurst Road, between the Tri-lakes and Reading Road, for a commercial sports hall, driving range, office buildings and car parking for around 250 cars. Some of this site is within a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)!

I am very pleased to announce that one of our new members, Margaret Talbot, has volunteered to help with the planning workload. Thanks very much Margaret and welcome aboard!

Colin Medley, on behalf of the Exec Committee, has written to Mr Tickle at Hampshire County Council with suggestions for

better controlling horse-riding and rights of way on the Common. I'll keep you informed of progress on this one.

Philip Todd is requesting assistance from anyone interested in helping to research the history of Firgrove Manor. If you are able to help, or know someone that can, please let me know and I will pass your interest on.

Elizabeth Tipton organised a Yateley history walk for the schoolchildren of Potley Hill Primary School last month. It was very well received by both the children and the staff. As a result of the event, work is now beginning in liaison with the school on a Teacher's Pack which will be offered to all schools in Yateley to teach about local history.

A Word from Tony Hocking

It is with regret that I have to report two very sad events which have happened since the last Stop Press.

Jack Edwards, a long term member of the Yateley Society, died suddenly of a heart attack in his garden on February 15th. Jack a former employee at the Royal Aircraft Establishment included many years service at the Ambarrow Court outstation, now a local nature and leisure reserve. He was a keen naturalist, gardener, stalwart of the WEA and an enthusiastic wood-turner, who took part in 'bodging' displays at Yateley May Fayre and elsewhere. We offer our deepest sympathies to Helen Edwards and family.

We would also like to extend heartfelt sympathies to an old and dear friend Irene Draper on the sad and sudden loss of her husband David.

Membership changes:

At the AGM it was agreed to standardise on September as the annual renewal date for all subscriptions. With around 230 members now, hopefully this will make Graham Brown's life a bit easier too!

So, between March 2001 and February 2002 as their subscriptions fall due, members will be asked to subscribe for the period up to end September 2002. From March 2001 we will issue membership cards both to record receipt of payment and to remind members of the expiry date of their membership.

We will continue to record the expiry date for each member's subscription, but after March 2002 these dates will be end-September. If you have any queries, please contact Graham Brown, Membership Secretary, on 871934.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

THURSDAY MAY 17 -

"Yateley Fire Service 25 years"

8pm at the Fire Station, (behind the Royal Oak) Reading Road, Yateley

Our very own Local Hero, Colin Ive, will give us an insight into the running of the Fire Station and how it has fared over the last 25 years. If you're very lucky, you might even be allowed to try on a helmet!

SUNDAY MAY 27 -

"The Feel Good Factor"

10am to 1pm, meeting at Wyndhams Pool, Yateley Common (off Cricket Hill)

Much needed volunteers required at this time of year to help the regulars 'do their bit' for the conservation of Yateley Common under the guidance and supervision of the Country Park Rangers. No previous experience needed. Tools and free refreshments provided - we meet the last Sunday of every month.

THURSDAY JUNE 17 -

"How English Heritage works for us and what we can do to help them"

8pm Ryder Social Area, Frogmore Community College.

English Nature has 3 inspectors for Hampshire. By comparison, English Heritage has 3 inspectors for the whole of the UK!

SUNDAY JUNE 24 -

"The Feel Good Factor"

10am to 1pm, meeting at Wyndhams Pool, Yateley Common (off Cricket Hill)

Now the weather is warmer and, hopefully, a bit drier, how about joining the regulars as they 'do their bit' for the conservation of Yateley Common under the guidance and supervision of the Country Park Rangers. No previous experience needed. Tools and free refreshments provided - we meet the last Sunday of every month.

Planned for 2001: (subject to confirmation)

June/July - Hoping to persuade Elizabeth Tipton to lead a Local Heritage walk

July - Annual Summer Social, venue tba

September 20 - MOD local conservation

Please note that the Venue for the Meetings will be the Ryder Social Area, Frogmore Community College, Frogmore Campus (unless otherwise stated).

Directions - Take the walkway to the right of the Reception under the canopy. Take the next walkway on the right and The Ryder Social Area entrance is at the end of that walkway on the left.

If you would just like to know any more about any or these issues, just contact me and I will do my best to help.

(Please note new phone number)

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