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The  
Yateley  
Society

## STOP PRESS !

Issue 55 May 2002

### MORE SPRING DIARY DATES:

**Tuesday May 7th 2002**

**This was Yateley... Yateley Library Lecture 2002**

7.15 pm The Drama Hall, Yateley Centre, School Lane, Yateley

Tickets £1 from Yateley Library, Yateley Society or at the door.



In order to feature Chris Bunch as the main speaker of the evening, we have condensed and changed the emphasis of the two supporting talks. Chris will tell the story of his father and the 4th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment as they were sent to defend that part of the Raj we now know as Pakistan on the Afghanistan border. Being based in Quetta, Chris' father's war is sure to evoke parallels with today's. Meticulously researched from the battalion magazine published in Quetta, picture postcards sent back to his family, and his father's own photographs, Chris's slides and story will bring to life the part played by Yateley men in the Great War -- not the least, revealing for the first time the real people behind some of those names read out each November from the Yateley War Memorial.

Chris will be introduced by Peter Tipton who will explain how the Cave family were involved in the formation of the 15th (Yateley) Rifle Volunteers, how Sir Thomas Sturmy Cave rose through the ranks to command the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, and how this became the 4th Battalion in World War 1.

Dr Richard Johnston will introduce the evening by sketching in the long traditions of voluntary service in the British Army, with particular reference to the FitzRoy family of Frogmore Park

**Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**Yateley Baptist Church – 175 years old!**

8pm Yateley Baptist Church, Cricket Hill, Yateley

The members of the Society are kindly invited to a special presentation and exhibition about the 175 year history of Yateley Baptist Church.

**Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002**

**Yateley Village Design Framework Workshop**

With 2 other events this month, there will be no 3rd Thursday evening meeting as such. However, this evening there will be a special event - See overleaf for details.

**Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**"On the Trail of Flora Thompson" - John Owen Smith**

8pm Ryder Social Area, Frogmore Community College, Potley Hill Road, Yateley

In the trilogy 'Larkrise to Candleford' Flora Thompson wrote of her early career working in an Oxfordshire Post Office. Although written in a fictional style, using pseudonyms for real people, Flora's books have always been considered major works of local history. Her fourth book, 'Heatherley',



remained unpublished in her lifetime, and tells of her time as a telegraph operator in Grayshott. Our speaker, John Owen Smith is the publisher of a new expanded edition of 'Heatherley'. He has also written and published 'On the Trail of Flora Thompson' in which he reveals the true identities of the real people behind Flora's pseudonyms.

Flora Thompson is especially interesting to us in Yateley since she has just been discovered in the 1901 census working at Yateley Post Office, in a period known as her 'lost years', just before her marriage to John Thompson.

### **Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2002**

#### **Summer Social**

7pm Aberley House, Mill Lane, Yateley

Wilma and David Jordan have graciously volunteered their garden as the venue for this year's Summer Social. Everyone is welcome, friends and family too! More details will follow.

### **Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2002**

#### **A Walk on the Wild Side**

7.30 pm Meeting at the Saxony Way entrance to Blackbushe Business Park which is off Vigo Lane. Grid ref SU 814 595.

Hoping for a balmy Summers evening, Tony Hocking is going to guide us along this 3 mile walk covering Yateley Common west of Cricket Hill, visiting Blackbushe airfield, Castle Bottom National Nature Reserve and Silver Fox Farm. More details will follow.

Please note, as usual, there will not be a meeting during August.

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The **This was Yateley...** Library Lecture in May forms part of National Local History Week. The Society's exhibition is already installed at Yateley Library which we would like to encourage all members (and non-members, of course) to visit.

**Yateley Village Design Framework Workshop**- Two invited groups of members, using Countryside Agency guidelines, will assess the features of the Town Centre which create its character and ascribe values to the buildings and green spaces. This is an important process in developing the Yateley Town Centre Management Plan. If you would particularly like to take part please telephone Peter Tipton on 873378 before 9th May. NB This is not a general meeting since it is conducted to a very rigid framework.

And as I have run out of space for the Local Planning issues, I will just say that the Executive Committee has been active in the matters of the deterioration of Castle Bottom, the major commercial/leisure development on land east of Sandhurst Road, the Darby Green Conservation Area Statement, Hill Farm Barn and 76 Potley Hill Road.

If you have any specific questions, input or desire to pursue any of these issues, please contact the me or any other member of the Executive Committee.

This is also an appeal if you would like meeting reminders to be sent to you by email, please drop me an email with your address (updated if you've change it!) and I'll add you to my list.

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Yateley Society website: [www.hants.org.uk/yateley/](http://www.hants.org.uk/yateley/)