



The  
Yateley  
Society

July 2/13/56  
**STOP PRESS !**

Issue 56 June 2002

**SUMMER DIARY DATES:**

**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 Her fourth book, 'Heatherley', remained unpublished in her lifetime, and tells of her time as a telegraph operator in Grayshott.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.

**Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> 2002**

**The Feel Good Factor**

**Meeting 10 am Wyndhams Pool, off Cricket Hill**

Join 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 - the Conservation Working Party meets the last Sunday of every month.

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

**Summer Social**

**7pm Abberley 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 - see separate invitation! If you would like to come, please let Tony and Mary Hocking know by June 29<sup>th</sup> at 30 Connaught Close (01252) 875158 or email Jo Hill on jo.hill@bigfoot.com - advance notice is essential for ensuring that there is adequate food (and drink!)

**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.**



**Yateley Village Design Framework Workshop (organised by Hampshire County Council)** - Two groups of members, using Countryside Agency guidelines, took a walk from Cricket Hill Roundabout to Hall Lane roundabout, taking photographs of buildings, trees, views - good and bad - the opinions voiced were largely unanimous! This information will be used in the next phase to ascribe values to the buildings and green spaces. This is an important process in developing the Yateley Town Centre Management Plan.

**Deterioration of Castle Bottom** - Tony Hocking is having success with his persistence and it appears that English Nature and the Environment Agency have been liaising about the alkaline quality of the water at Castle Bottom. The Conservation Working Party had a lesson from the Rangers in how to build boardwalks at Castle Bottom last month. They will be continuing with this project next month, so if you are interested, feel free to join them. They meet at Wyndhams Pool at 10am the last Sunday of each month - next one is Sunday 30 June!

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**Clarks Farm** - I have been asked by several confused people (including more than one councillor) "what is the current position with Clarks Farm?". Here it is in layman's (my) terms:

👉 October 2000 - Planning Application submitted to Development Control Committee - application granted

👉 January 2001 - Because this application was a departure from the local plan, the full council had to ratify the decision of the Development Control Committee. Full council refused the application on the grounds of public concern about traffic, bulk & volume of development within the strategic gap, possibility of overheating the labour market and possible housing requirements, setting and character of listed buildings and the conservation area

👉 February 2001 - The Developers appealed and a Public Inquiry was held over 4 days which, resulted in the Inspector dismissing the appeal, thus agreeing with the decision of the full council.

👉 January 2002 - Developers successfully applied for Judicial Review in the High Court to overturn the Public Inquiry decision on the grounds that the Inspector's decision process was legally faulty.

*The Government appealed against the High Court decision and the hearing is due in November 2002!!!*

So there is no final decision yet. If the Government fails on appeal, the situation will revert to what it was in Feb 2001 and, if the Developer still wants to proceed with this plan, a new Public Inquiry would have to be held.

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The **This was Yateley...** Library Lecture and exhibition for Local History Week was very successful and well attended. Thanks to Chris Bunch, Peter Tipton and Richard Johnston for all their hard work.

If you have any specific questions, input or desire to pursue any of these issues, please contact 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.

Jo Hill, tel: (01252) 640909, email [jo.hill@bigfoot.com](mailto:jo.hill@bigfoot.com)  
Yateley Society website: [www.hants.org.uk/yateley/](http://www.hants.org.uk/yateley/)





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## SUMMER SOCIAL



Saturday July 6th 2002 at 7 pm,  
Abberley House, Mill Lane, Yateley

Wilma and David Jordan have kindly offered their garden as the venue, for which we are most grateful.

A splendid opportunity to meet up with other 'locals', you will be welcomed with a glass of wine or soft drink 'on the house' (donations are encouraged for further glasses), and there will be a buffet meal provided 'by the staff', but the **sweet course will be left to you, the visitors to bring!** - past experience shows that an amazing array of delicious offerings (many dreadfully bad for the figure) will appear.

If you want to come, but providing a sweet is not convenient - please do not be put off, if you could donate a raffle prize it would be equally valuable for keeping things interesting; of course if you are exceptionally generous and can bring both we would be even more delighted!

Entertainment will be friendly chat; and there is always the chance that someone will produce a devilish puzzle to keep the brain cells busy!

**All members, their families and visiting friends are welcome**

If you would like to come, **please let Tony and Mary Hocking know by June 28th** at 30 Connaught Close (01252) 875158 or email Jo Hill on [jo.hill@bigfoot.com](mailto:jo.hill@bigfoot.com) - advance notice is essential for ensuring that there is adequate food (and drink!)

And here's how to get there:

**Admission £4.00 (Children under 12 free).**

If you would like to pay in advance,  
we will gladly take your money  
as it makes life easier on  
the night.

