



The Yateley Society

NEWSLETTER



Issue 104 September 2011

[Registered Charity: 282397](#)

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

One of the problems often encountered by volunteer organisations is that of identifying times when those volunteers can meet to conduct the administrative affairs of the club, society, group or whatever.

As you will be aware, the Executive Committee (EC) of the Society is elected annually at the AGM. This year we have a larger team, which has ensured a good turnout at our meetings. These are held every six weeks or so, on dates agreed at the first meeting following the AGM. As stated at the AGM and in the Annual Report, we are keen to re-establish sub-committees. The new PR sub-committee is working well under the chairmanship of Roger Durdle. I believe that sub-committees have value in devolving much of the work of the Society from the EC and in involving members whose specific interests and skills can be better fulfilled and utilised in this way. We have set up an Events sub-committee (to plan talks and visits and to organise basic things such as setting out the chairs, arranging refreshments and welcoming visitors) but it is so far comprised of just three people who have managed to hold just one meeting (in March) which two of them were able to attend.

What is pleasing, however, is that these two sub-committees include Society members who are not on the EC. Similarly, we now have non-EC members writing some of the reports of the Society's monthly meetings for the newsletter. This is how it should be. Since I became Chairman in February 2010 I have encouraged more members to participate in the Society, in whatever way they can. If there is anything you think we should be doing, or doing better, and you can help – please let us know. Call Jo Hill (Ed) on 01252 640909 or contact@yateleysociety.org.uk.



YATELEY COMMON CONSULTATION

The May meeting was devoted to a discussion on the future of Yateley Common. Ian Stoneman, who is Senior Ranger and Acting Site Manager of the Common, addressed the meeting for ten minutes, explaining the consultation currently being carried out with the residents of Yateley over the future of the management of the Common. He referred to the information documents and public questionnaire and then answered members' questions for another hour and twenty minutes. Further individual points and issues were raised during the refreshments.

The consultation period is due to have ended by the time this newsletter goes to press.

Since the meeting, members have expressed a range of conflicting views on the issues of conservation, grazing, fencing, horse riding and dog walking to the EC making it very difficult to formulate a consensus "Society view".

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE !

We have been working hard during the summer on developing a new website and we are planning to launch this new version during September.

www.yateleysociety.org.uk



WW1 Mesopotamia Campaign 1914 - 1917

At the Yateley Society monthly meeting in the Tythings on the 16th June, Graham Fleuty presented a fascinating insight into the lives of Yateley soldiers in the WW1 Mesopotamia campaign. His talk was based on the book he is currently writing on chronicling the lives of all those named on the Yateley war memorial and St Peters Role of Honour. Of the 204 volunteers, 20 joined the 1st/4th Hampshire Regiment and served in Mesopotamia. We were shown old photographs of some of the men parading in front of the old drill hall in Yateley before they left for war.

Initially the 1st/4th Hampshires embarked for India in 1914, before transferring to Basra to guard the oil refinery at Abadan. A small force, including the 1/4th Hampshires, was sent up the River Tigris to establish British control of Mesopotamia to guard against Turkish attacks. It was a difficult journey which lacked logistical support and after fighting their way to the outskirts of Baghdad the British force eventually retreated back to Kut-al-Amara. The Turkish forces laid siege to Kut and despite a number of attempts by the British to relieve the town and raise the siege, it was finally over in April 1916 with the ignominious surrender of the 13,000 strong British force.

Of those 20 Yateley men serving in the Mesopotamia campaign, 6 died during the battles up to and including Kut and the remainder became prisoners of war. Graham's book, which will include maps and photographs, concentrates more on the lives of the men who served, rather than battle statistics, and should be available later this year. Watch this space.....



The Basra Memorial on which 5 of the 40,500 names are Yateley men

FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINES and POSTCARDS

Just wanted to let you know that we have a library of Family History magazines which are available for members to borrow, and also have a selection of Yateley (old and recent) postcards for sale, 20p each. They are available at the monthly meetings.
- Mary Roaf

CLARKS FARM PROPOSAL

The Society has been contacted by Ashill Developments, who has recently exchanged contracts to purchase the former mushroom-composting site at Clarks Farm, Reading Road, on a 'subject to planning' basis. Ashill has appointed Remarkable Engagement to assist with a public consultation process. They say: "As you may be aware, this is a brownfield site which is earmarked for development in the Council's adopted plan. Despite the site being identified as suitable for employment purposes in the Local Plan and subsequently in the Alterations, an Employment Land Review carried out for the Council in November 2009 identifies that it has a low employment potential and it is not identified in the emerging Core Strategy as a key employment site.

The site has been subject to a number of redevelopment proposals over the years since the mushroom composting farm closed. You may be aware of the most recent proposals for the waste materials recycling facility. This is still under consideration by the County Council, and has been held in abeyance pending the outcome of the Ashill proposals. Ashill believes that the site would be better suited to a sensitive residential development and has been working closely with local Councillors alongside planning officers to discuss the best approach for its redevelopment. As a result, Ashill is proposing to transform the industrial site with a high-quality, relatively low density residential scheme featuring a mix of 70 two, three, four and five bedroom houses, comprising both open-market and affordable housing.

This is a unique and special development which would not only dramatically enhance the appearance of the existing site with attractive new housing and landscaping, but would deliver a number of exciting wider benefits for the local community, such as:

- New riverside path for walking and cycling to improve accessibility for the community to the Blackwater River which will link into existing public footpaths
- Transferring ownership of land around the lakes to Yateley Town Council to be provided as mitigation land for the Special Protection Area. This would provide public open space for the community to enjoy in perpetuity.
- Creation of a circular walk around the lakes
- Provision of picnic benches, wildlife notice boards and other user facilities
- New Allotments to be provided and transferred to Yateley Town Council in response to requests from the local community
- New car park for use by visitors to the lakes, open space and allotments

Ashill is committed to public consultation and ensuring that the community is involved in shaping its schemes. It is Ashill's intention to hold a public exhibition for the wider community in the coming weeks to allow residents to find out more about the proposals."

The Society EC has been invited to attend a meeting prior to public exhibition.

- Jo Hill

THE OLD POST OFFICE SAVED (LLOYDS PHARMACY)

The Lib Dem group of Hart Councillors has been able to reverse the decision re the demolition of the Old Post Office. It is now a 'positive' building in the adopted document.

An ancient inn, The Swan, once stood on this site, but it was pulled down in the 18th century. This fact was only discovered when I did the research for the planning application. The big question now is why did Yateley have three inns around Church End Green at a time when there were perhaps only 100-150 houses in that part of the ancient parish of Yateley which now forms the modern Civil Parish?

In the mid 1920s the Postmaster (Bettesworth) moved the Post Office across the main road from what is now Forge Court to a newly built building (now Lloyds Pharmacy). He built a bungalow as his own residence, and this is now Parkers the Undertakers. The Telephone Exchange followed, and this is now Yateley Motor Spares.

Forge Court was created in 1965 by joining together several separate houses which dated well before 1840, so were then eligible as Listed Buildings. The Post Office was in a building called Trythes, then owned by Nora Stilwell. Trythes goes back well before 1700, and was for centuries the residence of Yateley's Blacksmith. Nowadays Trythes would qualify for automatic listing. The Forge was where the Vet is now. Previously Bettesworth had moved Yateley's Post Office from what had been Gadd's Stores (now Discoveries). Flora Thompson is recorded as Yateley's telegraph operator in the 1901 census. So she worked for Bettesworth when the Post Office was in the building now Discoveries. The telegraph machine may indeed have been in a room in the building now called Chaddesbrooke, since that is where Flora Thompson lived with the Bettesworths. So Yateley's Postmaster moved the Post Office from what is now Discoveries, to what is now Forge Court, and then moved it a second time to what is now Lloyds Pharmacy. It remained there until well after I moved to Yateley in 1976 so, like me, many people still living in Yateley will remember with affection the Post Office operating in this wooden building.

It is particularly remembered by many of the unmarried mothers who came to Yateley briefly from 1945-1970 to give birth to their babies at the "Haven" (a Baptist home for unmarried mothers) -- since the Post Office in the wooden building was where they went to buy their stamps and post their letters.

- Peter Tipton

Planning Seminars for Yateley Society members

It is vitally important that we attract more people to join our Planning Group if we are to be able to continue to provide the same level of influence on local planning and development matters as we have done so successfully in the past. This is particularly important now that the government's recently published draft National Planning Policy Framework could put the local area in danger of unnecessary development.

Despite many appeals we have been strikingly unsuccessful in finding volunteers to help because many are not aware of the difference they can make with the backing and expertise of the Society. Many potential volunteers are also reluctant to become involved in planning issues because they lack confidence in their own capabilities in this area.

To address this issue and in conjunction with Fleet & Church Crookham Society and Farnborough Society we are putting on three Planning and Development seminars in November to enable interested and motivated members to acquire the knowledge and skills to allow them to get more fully involved in planning matters.

All details are contained on the flyer included with this newsletter and can be found on our website.

www.yateleysociety.org.uk

- Roger Durdle

New Hart Core Strategy

Following my article "Understanding Hart Local Development Framework" in May, I wanted to update you with the latest information. In July, Hart District Council published its Draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document Preferred Approach for public consultation. This Core Strategy sets out the vision and spatial objectives for the way Hart will be developed over the next 15 years. This Core Strategy will be the most important document in the new Local Development Framework and will set out the strategies that will drive future planning applications in Hart.

For those of you on email, I circulated details of public consultations to be heard in early September. The public consultation period will end on the 7th October, but further details can be obtained by following this link:

<http://www.hart.gov.uk/index/top-planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-ldf-consultation-summer-2011.htm>

- Barry Moody

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at **The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley**, 8.00 pm start unless otherwise stated. *Events are open to non-members - no admission charge.*

Thursday 15 September 2011	Chris Howkins - we have invited Chris, one of the Society's favourites, to give us another of his entertaining talks.
Saturday 1 October 2pm - 6pm Sunday 2 October 11am - 5pm	Historical Exhibition at Eversley Village Hall - including video footage of Eversley and Yateley, 3.30 Saturday Yateley Morris Men, Folk Dance Club, WI, British Legion, Scouts and Guides, Charles Kingsley school, Fleet History Society. Refreshments available.
Tuesday 11 October 2011 as members of the Campaign for Rural England, we have been invited to this event -	Visit to Bowman's Ales Brewery, Droxford, Meon Valley, 7pm "Understanding Rural Business", followed by optional supper You will be given a short talk on the history of the business, followed by a guide of the operations and explanation of the brewing process. There will then be an opportunity to sample (and purchase) some of the wonderful ales produced at the brewery. £5 for members. There is also the opportunity to have supper at the local White Lion Pub in Soberton. If you intend to eat please let me know so that we can inform the pub of numbers.
Thursday 20 October 2011	Phil Stevens - Surrey Archaeological Trust will tell us about the threat to the Archaeological Centre (the old police station) in Bagshot.
Thursday 17 November 2011	Colin Gray - Fleet Pond Society. It has been a few years since we caught up with the progress at Fleet Pond.
Thursday 15 December 2011	Christmas Social - join friends for a glass of festive cheer, mince pies and some heartwarming entertainment.

The Conservation Group normally meets at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill at 10.00 am on the last Sunday of every month.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. 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 Subscriptions

An early reminder that next year's subscriptions are due on 1st October.

Please note that following the AGM it was resolved to increase subscription fees to the following:

Individual membership	£10
Household (2+ adults)	£15

Membership renewal forms will be distributed with the next newsletter but in the meantime you can always download these forms from our website.

www.yateleysociety.org.uk

REMINISCENCES

This is a plea for additions to our collection of oral history recordings which I have been working on.

I need candidates who would be willing to share their reminiscences of Yateley eg did you or someone you know, live in the Yateley area during World War 2?

Our oral history recordings have proved to be popular when we have featured them in our monthly meetings as they give a real insight into the way our community has developed over the years. I'm keen to expand our collection, so if you would like to help, please give me a call on 01252 409719

- Mary Roaf

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