

The Yateley Society

Newsletter

Issue 107 May 2012

www.yateleysociety.org.uk

There was a good turnout for our AGM in February. Well, the usual number and the "usual suspects" were there. As with most clubs and societies, the active and vocal minority is outnumbered by the silent majority. This can cause difficulties when, for example, the elected management committee (in our case the Executive Committee (EC) and Trustees) is expected to present the Society's views on a public issue. There will always be some members who disagree with the stance taken by the EC. This is often the case when matters concerning Yateley Common arise. They are invariably controversial and the differing opinions within the Society's membership probably reflect the range of views across the residents of Yateley as a whole.

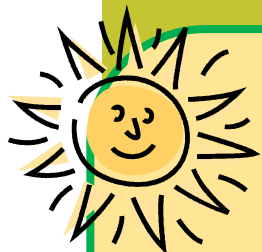
Because of this, and of some concerns expressed at our January meeting on the issue of filming at Blackbushe, the EC took the opportunity at the AGM to explain how its decisions and actions relate to the constitutional aims and objectives on which the Society is based, and to ask members whether they continue to be valid, thirty years on from the founding of the Society. The members present decided that they are still relevant.

This does not mean that the EC should not inform and consult with the members, and we recognise that communication should be improved, but this is not easy when a lot of our members do not have computers, or use them rarely, and prefer to be kept in touch through this newsletter rather than by email. Also, experience has shown us that not all members for whom we have email addresses respond when contacted by this means. So any attempt at a "referendum" on a key issue by email is as unlikely to obtain a fully representative and majority result as one conducted by paper or at a special general meeting. As one member stated at the January meeting, the EC is elected to manage and shouldn't need to return to the members every time a vital issue crops up. In any case, there usually isn't time to do so, because of invariably short deadlines and a shortage of manpower. Nine of last year's EC were re-elected and no new volunteers came forward.

If, as you are reading this, you are thinking "**He's talking rubbish Why don't they ...**" then please step forward with your ideas and at the very least join the PR sub-committee to air your views and also help recruit new members.

Ok, I've thrown out the challenge and my rant is over. See you at the next meeting?

Roger Coombes



Everyone is cordially invited to attend

Yateley Society Summer Social

At

The Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane

On

Saturday 7th July 2012 at 7pm

*A great opportunity for members to meet
each other!*

This is how it works:

A delicious buffet supper will be provided.

*Bring along a dessert for the table or a raffle prize and
your own drinks.*

*One of Tony's brilliant brain teaser quizzes will run
throughout the evening for our entertainment.*

Tickets £5, Children under 16 £3

Please let me know if you would like to attend

contact@yateleysociety.org.uk

or telephone

01252 879103

Surrey Heath Archaeology & Heritage Trust



Numbers 4-10 London Road, Bagshot is the home of the Archaeological and Heritage Trust and stands opposite 'The Cricketers' pub and the residence of the Duke of Wessex. It was built originally as a Police Station in 1915 and had accommodation for Police staff as well as cells and an exercise yard for prisoners at the rear. Some of the original features still survive today. It remained a Police Station until 1981 when, after being empty for some years, John Jillings and Geoff Cole, an archaeologist, took the building on as a branch of Surrey Archaeological Society. On 23rd December 1989 a lease for 20 years was taken out for the premises to be used for Police or County use. Since then, much renovation work has been done to meet the needs of the Archaeological work performed there whilst protecting some of the original features of the building. The renovations include a wet room for washing finds, a gallery, an audio visual room used for lectures, practical exercises and demonstrations, a library containing over

2,000 books and a conservation room. On the upper floor further educational and academic work is carried out using databases.

A vast range of activities using varied methods are carried out for the education of archaeologists including surveys, research, reconstructions, publishing reports, and metal detecting. Work has been done on many major local sites as well as outside the local area and they have discovered some unique finds including items not found anywhere else in the country and the first examples of English Venetian glass. One of the earliest and most successful digs was in Lightwater where they found industrial Roman occupation on top of an Iron Age site. They also run a Young Archaeological Club, encouraging young people to become involved in Archaeology and providing them with valuable education to sustain their interest in the subject.

The Archaeological Centre has earned many awards for their work and been awarded a plaque by the Surrey Industrial History Group in recognition for saving the 'Old Police Station' by turning it into an Archaeological Centre.

Sadly, now an increase in rent to £10,500 is putting the useful and educational work being done at risk as they rely on donations.

For your information: Annual membership £20 joint/family, £12.50 individual, £10 senior/students.

Phone: 07870447810

To Tweet or not to Tweet.....

For all you Twitter fans out there, we highly recommend that you add @yateley_history and @yateleysociety to your followings.



@yateleysociety is the Society's own Twitter page. @Yateley_history is maintained by Peter Tipton and contains numerous little tidbits about Yateley history research, discoveries and questions.

If you are not already using Twitter, simply sign up at www.twitter.com, add the two addresses to your followings list and you will be able to read easily all the tasty 'tweets' that may interest you.

If you are interested in technology and have skills which may help the Yateley Society, please tweet us or email. We are on the look out for ways to improve our communications—can you help?

For those of you non-tweeters, we will, of course, endeavour to provide much of the information in this newsletter or at our monthly meetings.

YATELEY SOCIETY RESOLUTIONS—AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

At our AGM, we normally propose resolution(s) which can come in many forms, eg to clarify the position of the Society, or agreeing to lobby certain entities regarding something about which we all feel strongly.

Over the years, our resolutions have been very useful to help bodies like the Town Council, District Council or County Council understand the depth of feeling of the residents and they have in some cases, used our resolutions to back up their own standing.

The database shows all the resolutions passed by the AGMs from the 1st in 1982 to the 31st in 2012.

There are 89 entries—which make very interesting reading!

www.yateleysociety.org.uk/about-us/resolutions/

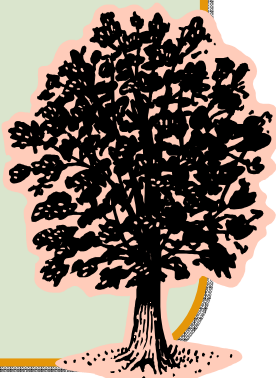
JUBILEE-ATIONS!

We have suggested to the Town Council that we should have a new plaque made for the Coronation Oak on Yateley Green, replacing the one which disappeared during the Church End improvements of five or six years ago. The replacing of the plaque would be timely because this year is the hundredth anniversary of the planting of the Oak to mark the coronation of George V, grandfather of the present queen.

It occurs to the Society that a double civic celebration could be created by the Council and the Society planting a new tree to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Our overseeing body, Civic Voice, is planning a nationwide Civic Day on 23rd June 2012 and we think it would be a fitting celebration for that occasion!

(An interesting check on the Forestry Commission dating calculations has been carried out on the Coronation Oak on Yateley Green, planted to commemorate the coronation of 1911. Using the John White method this tree dates at 1891, indicating that it was perhaps 20 years old when replanted into its present position.)



Plea for more volunteers

As always we need new volunteers to help with our various undertakings. You do not need to join one of the sub-committees – just indicate a willingness to get involved! We particularly need volunteers to join a rota for preparing refreshments (that's tea, coffee and biscuits) at the monthly meetings, help with the website, a Membership Secretary and a Press Officer.

If you would like to get involved but are not sure where you might fit in, let us know what you could or would do, what skills you have and what time you could spare...and we will get back to you to discuss how you could be useful within the Society.

If you are an IDEAS person we would like to hear your thoughts on any of the following:-

- ◇ How to recruit more members. All ages are welcome of course (in fact some of our senior members keep fit and healthy by being volunteers on the Common) but we'd really like to welcome more younger people. Age 40 downwards would be good!!
- ◇ A different venue. Several of our members are not keen on The Tythings, and we regularly review alternatives, but it is difficult to find somewhere which is conveniently located, comfortable, with good acoustics, ample parking ...and is affordable.
- ◇ The monthly programme. As you will be aware, we had some problems in 2010 with speakers letting us down at the last minute. 2011 wasn't so bad, and we will have a full programme for 2012 once dates have been confirmed with a number of speakers who have agreed in principle. However, after a few years of organising the programme whoever is doing it exhausts the list of possible speakers and places to visit and then runs out of ideas. Suggestions are therefore very welcome, particularly if you are able to make the contact and help with the arrangements.

[email: contact@yateleysociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@yateleysociety.org.uk)

We'd really like to hear from you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thursday 17 May 2012	Steve Bailey (Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership) – illustrated talk on conservation along local stretch of Blackwater River - Please note different venue!
Thursday 21 June 2012	National Trust—explain their reservations regarding the Localism Act
Saturday 7 July 2012	Yateley Summer Social—Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane, 7pm Tickets £5, Children under 16 £3.
Thursday 20 September 2012	The work of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Yateley” – it will be given by Ouida Grant who is CEO, Hart CAB

CHANGE OF VENUE

*Our monthly meeting in
May will be at
the Red Cross Centre,
Monteagle Lane, Yateley*

*Members and non-members
welcome, admission free.*



Membership Subscriptions

There are still some members who have not renewed their membership at the new rates:

Individual membership £10

Household (2+ adults) £15

Membership renewal forms can be downloaded from our website

www.yateleysociety.org.uk/membership/

Please support us by paying subscriptions promptly – thank you.

EXERCISE THE BODY AND CONSCIENCE!

**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

Welcome to our New Members

A warm welcome to our new members who have joined since publication of the last newsletter:

John and Janice Oliver , Mr V & Mrs B Mansell, Marcus and Alison Cuthbert , Mrs Hazel Hammersley , Mrs Sarah Fright