

The Yateley Society

Newsletter

Issue 113 January 2014

www.yateleysociety.org.uk

As we begin a new year, and with the AGM looming on 20 February I am in slightly better cheer than I seemed in the last Newsletter, where I reported on the decimation of the Trustees and Executive Committee (EC), by two immediate and two impending resignations.



Roger Coombes
Chairman

I am heartened to report now that Mike Mann, who leads the team of Conservation Volunteers, has stepped forward to join the Committee. Then, as a direct result of my appeal in Newsletter 112, Abby Roper volunteered to take on the role of Membership Secretary, intending to fit it in with all the demands of recently becoming a first-time mother. As you can imagine, the Committee was quick to co-opt both Abby and Mike.

Those of you who have not yet paid your annual subscription (due on 1st October) will be hearing from Abby in due course, although it will make her life easier if you send your payment to her, or bring it to a meeting, or better still complete a standing order form for your bank which will avoid having to remember it, or be reminded, every year.

Of the existing Trustees and EC, therefore, six will be standing for election at the AGM, which will still leave us short of our constitutional requirement of 8 to 12, with no Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. Both of these posts are crucial to the continuation of the Society. Please see the piece by Jo Hill in this newsletter for more information about what the roles entail.

The local history team is moving ahead with our major project for an exhibition on Yateley in the First World War next year. The Yateley News and Mail reporter is very interested in what we are doing (as is the Hampshire Museum service) and her last article was aimed at attracting new members. It resulted in two enquiries. A recent leaflet drop around Yateley and Frogmore also produced a new member. As always, I extend a warm welcome to these new members, and encourage all members to enlist friends and relatives to join the Society and join in with the activities.

So, as I started off saying, I am in better cheer than I was two months ago, but please contact any of the Trustees/EC if you think you could offer some time to help the Society to continue with its good work, particularly by becoming Treasurer or Newsletter Editor!

FLUTE SALAD TREAT

What a treat we had for the Christmas gathering. The Yateley based group Flute Salad treated us to an extended performance (due to our enthusiastic singing!) of Christmas carols. A huge thank you to the group who were truly brilliant. If you are interested in finding out more about them, this is their website.

<http://www.flutesalad.org/index.html>

Thanks also to Roger for the Christmas/Yateley themed quiz and to Jo for providing plentiful mince pies and mulled wine!



Happy New Year to all our members!

PLANNING MATTERS

Sandhurst Road, Community Care Village.

Most of the planning constraints have now been discharged and have been granted planning permission. Conditions regarding access and the flood risk matters are still pending.

Land north of Moulsham Lane – the “Urnfield”

A pre application has been submitted to Hart Planning Services for 150 homes. The developer, Welbeck Land Securities , intends to hold public discussions from 20th January. (see article opposite)

After the new Hart Core Strategy was declared unsound by the planning inspector, Hart has now withdrawn it and is currently working on a new document. This may take some considerable time.

Hart is now engaged in developing a new Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and this is being undertaken in conjunction with Rushmoor and Surrey Heath covering the Housing Market Area (HMA). This should satisfy the Duty to Cooperate with adjacent Local Authorities. To assist this process, Parish councils are being asked to identify suitable sites that could be considered deliverable for housing.

Barry Moody

YATELEY TOWN COUNCIL SEEKS YOUR VIEWS



The current rules of Heathlands Cemetery in Yateley (that have been in place since it opened in 1957) state that it is a ‘lawn cemetery’, which means that only a headstone or other memorial at the head of a grave to commemorate the person buried is allowed. For your information, you can find the rules on Yateley Town Council’s website or contact the Council Offices for a printed copy. Over the last two decades many graves have not complied with the existing lawn cemetery rules which have not been imposed by the Council. Please access this questionnaire to give your views on potential changes to the current rules. The consultation date has been extended to 21 January 2014. Please note that children’s graves in the baby section are not included in this survey.

<http://www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=6544efaa-8b3c-4730-b20d-d57debdcb784>

My Role—the end of an era!

You will have read that, at the AGM in February I am having to step down from my role in the Executive Committee (EC) because I am at a stage where family commitments prevent me from continuing at present. I have had a great time on the EC and have loved being in contact with such an interesting and entertaining bunch of people. I am sorry to have hogged the two best roles for so long, but now I need to hand over to someone else—or indeed others.

The Newsletter Editor role involves extracting articles from Society members and fitting them into this 4 page newsletter 4 or 5 times a year. Of course, you may have a better idea of how it should look and that would be entirely up to the new editor.

The Treasurer role involves around 3 or 4 payments per month and looking after the bank reconciliation. (Abby, as Membership Secretary looks after the subscription receipts from members.) I also put together a single page statement of financial affairs for the AGM which is checked by Society member Lawrence Smith in his capacity as Town Manager. This is an important role because the Yateley Society cannot continue without a Treasurer!

If you would like to take on either of these role for the Society (or if you and a friend would like to ‘job share’), please contact me as soon as possible so that we can organize a training/handover period. Thank you for putting up with me!



Jo Hill

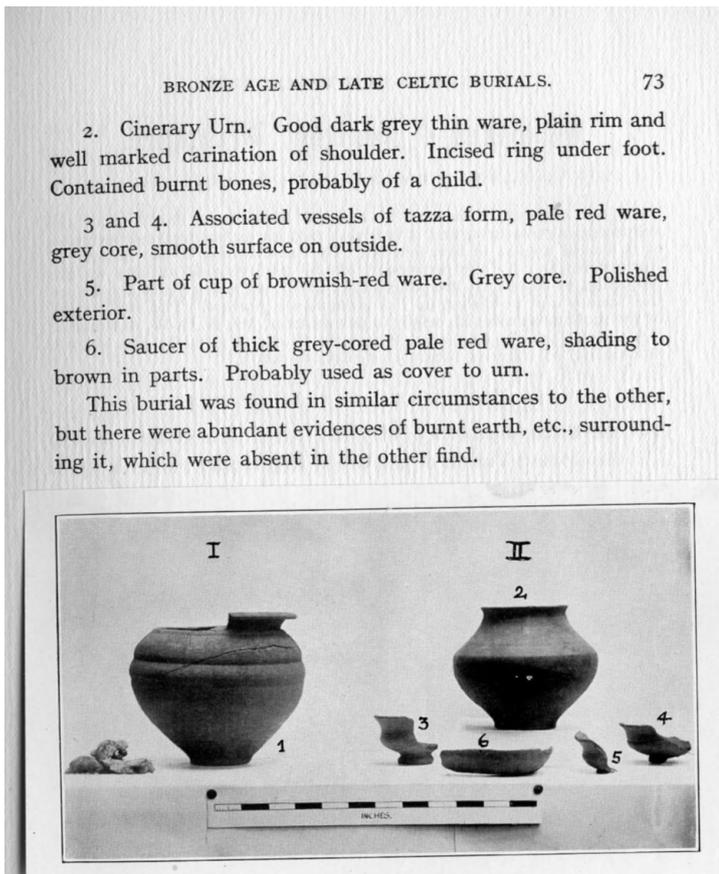
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Yateley's historic Urnfield site threatened by developers

Once again Yateley's Bronze Age Urnfield is the target of property developers. The field, between Moulsham Lane, Vicarage Road and Chandlers Lane, is so named because it is the site of at least two groups of cremation burials which date from the Late Bronze Age, between 1,000 BC and 500BC - about 3,000 years ago.

The field was once called Ash-hole Field and was part of Moor Place Farm, which in the 1920s was owned by Mr B. W. English. In 1926 workmen digging in the field to extract gravel for Mr English disturbed three or four pottery burial urns in a chamber buried between the topsoil and the gravel. Unfortunately the urns were broken as they were recovered, so the human ashes were lost. The fragments of pottery were taken to Reading Museum where they were examined and partially reconstructed. Comparison with known information and other pottery of this type confirmed that they were characteristic "bucket-urns" of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. This was a period when cremation burials had largely replaced the practice of mound or barrow burials of earlier periods, in which bodies



BRONZE AGE AND LATE CELTIC BURIALS. 73

2. Cinerary Urn. Good dark grey thin ware, plain rim and well marked carination of shoulder. Incised ring under foot. Contained burnt bones, probably of a child.

3 and 4. Associated vessels of tazza form, pale red ware, grey core, smooth surface on outside.

5. Part of cup of brownish-red ware. Grey core. Polished exterior.

6. Saucer of thick grey-cored pale red ware, shading to brown in parts. Probably used as cover to urn.

This burial was found in similar circumstances to the other, but there were abundant evidences of burnt earth, etc., surrounding it, which were absent in the other find.

were placed intact inside stone chambers and covered with earth. There are no barrows in the immediate vicinity. In fact the only barrow in Yateley is on the Common at Castle Bottom, with another one locally at Minley.

Unfortunately, no archaeological excavation was carried out in the field when the discovery was made, nor when some 30 further discoveries were made in the course of gravel extraction in the following years. The chamber in which the first urns were found was used by the workmen to store their tools and then presumably destroyed. The number of urns, however, provides sufficient evidence to indicate that there was a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement in the vicinity.

Interestingly, the old name of the field, Ash-hole Field, is found on the Tithe Map of 1846, which suggests that similar finds had been made earlier than the 1840s and this was known to people of Yateley before the Victorian era. It became known as the Urnfield following the discoveries of the 1920s when they were reported in the Camberley News. It is undoubtedly a rare and unique part of Yateley's prehistory.

The photograph of some of the pottery remains in Reading Museum comes from a report on the initial discovery by eminent archaeologist of the time Stuart Piggott in the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Archaeological Journal, Vol. 32 1928.

It should be noted that the current Pre Application from Montagu Evans (on behalf of Welbeck Strategic Land) for 150 houses on the Urnfield is opposed by The Yateley Society and local residents YURAG (Yateley Urnfield Residents Action Group) not purely because of

its historic interest but more significantly because of the flooding and traffic access issues for the area.

The site in question had been included within the Local Plan as "not for current development". However, with the recent Hart Core Strategy being declared unsound by the planning inspector there is in effect no Local Plan for housing at the moment. All applications will, therefore, be determined in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Hart does have in place an interim housing policy, that is intended to breach the period while a new Core Strategy is developed, but it is not clear whether that will be deemed an adequate mitigation for not having a sound policy!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Our monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane, Yateley, GU46 6LU (Unless otherwise stated). Members and non-members welcome, admission free.

Thurs 16 January 2014	A social post-Christmas meeting which will also see our Philip Todd exploring the past with picture postcards.
Thurs 20 February 2014	Yateley Society AGM—Come along and meet other members, enjoy a glass of wine and discussion about local issues of interest.
Fri 10 January 2014 7pm—9pm	Surrey Heath Museum invites Yateley Society members to a pre-opening, private viewing of the exhibition of George Kenner's paintings as described below.
	<p>Date: 11 January 2014 - 29 March 2014 Starts at: 11:00 - 16:00 Cost: Free</p> <p>This event will be held at: Surrey Heath Museum, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3HD</p> <p>At the outbreak of the First World War, George Kenner was a German artist living in London. He registered as an enemy alien and along with 350 other Germans was taken to Frith Hill prisoner of camp, Frimley, where he painted a series of pictures depicting camp life in the Spring, Summer and Autumn of 1915.</p>

EXERCISE THE BODY AND CONSCIENCE!

The Conservation Group normally meets at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill 10 am— last Sunday of each 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



Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust

You may be interested to know the Trust has contributed towards the production of a new publication entitled *The Birds of Berkshire*. The book provides accounts of the 328 species recorded in Berkshire and is the culmination of the work of over 400 volunteers from 2007 to 2011. It comes in a large, full colour format of 520 pages and includes over 600 maps and figures, illustrated line drawings of each species and 150 photographs.

The book also describes the dramatic changes since it was last published over 20 years ago. Some species have become extinct as breeding birds in the county whilst other species are new or expanding. Changes in land use, the growth of urban areas, creation of nature reserves and climate change have all had both positive and negative effects on local bird populations.

This might have come a bit late for a stocking filler but would make the perfect gift for any local birders. Priced at £35 plus postage and packing.

For more details or to order please visit:

<http://berkshirebirdatlas.org.uk/the-birds-of-berkshire-atlas-avifauna/>



Membership Renewal Reminder: Renewal subscriptions fell due on 1 October. Please complete the enclosed renewal form or download the form from: www.yateleysociety.org.uk/membership

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