



Greetings  
and a happy new year to  
all. It is AGM time again and I hope  
to welcome you all on 19<sup>th</sup> February. It is  
your opportunity to meet and re-elect the  
Trustees and Executive Committee and to  
ask questions about the Annual report and  
any matters pertinent to the Society. As  
part of this democratic process it is  
important that we have a quorum of our  
membership in order that key decisions  
are 'legal' according to our constitution.

One question on  
which you will  
be consulted, of  
particular  
interest and  
concern to those  
who regularly  
attend our  
monthly  
meetings, is  
whether you  
would support a



change of night. The Society has always  
met on the third Thursday of each month, as  
this was suitable for most people. Members  
come and go, however, and it has been  
brought to our attention that there are a  
number of people who would like to join us  
and become involved but for whom that  
night clashes with meetings of other groups,  
such as the W.I. and scouts. It has been  
proposed that we move our meetings by a  
day to the third Wednesday of each month.  
Please give some thought to whether this  
would affect you before the AGM.

*Roger Coombes*

## Yateley Society Web Site

We have got a new web site. Launched a week  
or so ago the new web site allows us greater  
flexibility in adding information and publicising  
important events etc. on the Home page.

Although the web site is new it still retains a  
familiar layout as before and, where current, all  
the old information is still available.

We have taken steps to get the old web site  
removed and the new web site address is still  
<[yateleysociety.org.uk](http://yateleysociety.org.uk)>.

[For the moment the previous Newsletter seems  
to be altogether absent, along with the  
Newsletter Archive (although the items are  
listed). The ones that were never transferred to  
the archive seem to have vanished, too. - Ed]

## New Newsletter Editor

It is with pleasure that I announce that we expect  
to appoint Jo Mercado as Editor at the AGM.

## Planning Matters

### Yateley Common

It has happened at last. After all the discussions that we have had over the past two years, Hampshire County Council has made a formal application to the Secretary of State to fence parts of Yateley Common in order to use grazing animals as part of the maintenance strategy.

Anybody who wants to make any comment or representation should do so by the 27<sup>th</sup> March, writing to:-

Planning Inspectorate,  
Room 3/25B,  
Hawk Wing,  
Temple Quay House,  
2 The Square,  
Temple Quay,  
Bristol,  
BS1 6PN.

The details of the fencing application are available to view in Yateley Library. The next stage should be the appointment of the inspector and the arrangement of a public meeting.

*Please, whatever your views, write to the inspectorate. Apathy bodes ill for the future of the common.*

### **MINUTES OF THE YATELEY, COVE AND HAWLEY CHARITIES 1886-1909**

I have in my house (though not in my possession as they belong to The Yateley Society) photocopies of the Minutes of the meetings of the Trustees of these Charities. There are 35 pages, which sounds daunting but in fact there is not so very much on a page as they are of course hand-written and mainly rather spread out.

Most of the hand-writing, however, is in that urgent, steeply sloping Victorian style that needs concentration on the part of today's reader.

Dipping in here and there I found familiar names amongst the Trustees: F.H.Fitzroy of Frogmore Park, Dr John Mills, G.Holt Stilwell, and a number of farmers - Thomas Ellis who failed to attend for two years and so was replaced; George Prier who had a fruit farm in Darby Green and after whom Priors Lane was misnamed; F.W.Cobbett of Cobbetts Lane; and L.D.Kelsey who owned pieces of land in various parts of Yateley and Darby Green but had built himself a fine new house in Blackwater and so was representing Hawley. Replacements later included Captain Masterman RN; Yateley's master butcher, John Hills; and Admiral Gibson from Blackwater whose wife was the daughter of Bishop Sumner of Winchester. (John Mills's diary records the days that his wife shared painting lessons with Mrs Gibson.)

The Trustees always included at least two clergy. For many years there was the Reverend J.I.P.Wyatt of Hawley, while the Reverend C.D.Stooks of Yateley was elected Honorary Clerk of the Committee in 1886 and continued as such for 19 years. The Reverend John Beardall who succeeded him as vicar of St Peter's also took on his duties as Trustee and Honorary Clerk for the last few years of the Committee. (His 20th century hand is encouragingly legible.) Some of these charities had been founded two or three centuries earlier, and some were shared with Sandhurst so on

occasions a Sandhurst Trustee would be present. One was Dr William Russell who had built for himself and his family and his patients the huge mansion that is now Eagle House School.

Amongst the pages of Minutes I came across an estimate dated November 1906 from the builder Henry Bunch for repairing, repainting and relettering the Simmonds graves in St Peter's churchyard - for £4-17-6. This clearly should have been done earlier; money had been left for the purpose by Jacob Simmonds who died in 1843. Any surplus income was to have gone to the poor of Yateley, but if the graves had been neglected it should go to the poor of Sandhurst. The Trustees seemed a little disconcerted at what might have been their negligence and they accepted the estimate. The graves lie on the left of the footpath that slants to the left as you enter the churchyard. There are five of them side by side and a low white fence surrounds them all. Some twenty or thirty years ago The Yateley Society paid to have them restored but today they are in a desperately poor condition again with much of the woodwork completely rotten.

I think some interesting research could be pursued with these pages, and if any member would like to consider it, please let me know. A pleasant ploy for Lent perhaps. I also have photocopies of Yateley parish magazines from the first one in March 1878 to November 1880. I'd be glad to pass these on to anyone who is interested.

*Valerie Kerlake 01252 872240*

## **Hawley Park Farm**

Applications for 126 houses and the creation of a large SANG (Suitable Alternative Greenspace) in Hawley have been approved by Hart District Council. However because of fierce local opposition Sir Gerald Howarth MP has requested that the Secretary of State call-in the application for his own decision. Because Hawley is outside the Society's charitable "area of benefit" we have not been directly involved. However we do await developments with great interest because the principles involved may well impact on our own "Heritage Assets". Although Hart claim the huge new SANG is supposed to enable new development in Surrey Heath and Rushmoor it could well end up just enabling more development in Hart.

## **WW1 Exhibition for 2015**

The Society's 2014 exhibition has been at Yateley Manor School until this half term. Meanwhile the exhibition team is busy researching Yateley in 1915 for this year's exhibition. It is hoped that this can be mounted this September. The roller banner displays used for the first time last year were very well received, and proved especially popular, and useful, when the exhibition was displayed in schools. So we would like to create another six banner displays this year covering another six different topics. However we shall need a grant to be able to continue to finance them, or a massive amount of new member subscriptions. We have teams working on both.... Help or suggestions will be gratefully received.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?** *Our monthly meetings are held at 7.45pm 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.*

Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>AGM</p> <p>Usually this meeting is accompanied by free refreshments. Unfortunately I do not have definitive data on this matter. Please read our chairman's article on the front page, and consider which days would suit you and others who you know.</p>
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<p>A slide show of old photographs of Yateley, taken at various times throughout the last century. Many of these views have disappeared or changed considerably. What will you recognise? What memories will be recalled by members and others who have lived here a long time? And what old photographs have you found which we might not have? Bring them along to show to others: you might well learn more about them</p> <p>Copies of (most of) the pictures will be available for sale.</p>

### Membership renewal

Please remember to renew (or join as appropriate). The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September. -Ed.

### Scarlet Fever

I see that NEHHAS has a project going on epidemics. Whilst looking for some fillers I found (in the vicar's New Year 1882 sermon, quoted in the Feb parish magazine):

“And first I think we have, my brethren, to thank God for giving us a year of health,— there has been no serious epidemic compared with the alarming one which visited us last year, of scarlet fever.

“The burial register reached 17, against 27 last year, out of which seventeen two deaths occurred in other parishes”

Reports on the school in earlier editions give additional details

## 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*

**[Notices on the common suggest that the rangers would be pleased to hear from people available at other times. -Ed]**

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