



The
Yateley
Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 100 November 2010

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

As the Society approaches its 30th Anniversary it stands at a crossroads. Many of its founder members have moved on in various ways, and the passage of time has forced other stalwarts to take back seats, although they remain supportive. Whilst they still wish to attend meetings, they cannot be active as they once were. We therefore have fewer active members than we once had and the Executive Committee has operated with vacancies throughout this year and is hard pressed to do all that is expected of it, especially in the area of planning. The Committee, needs new, fresh blood – at least 5 new members are needed. Perhaps you know of a few like-minded people who would be good for us. You could suggest you all join up together.

This message may seem familiar – it has been given at the last two or three AGMs and regularly in the newsletter – but it becomes increasingly urgent. Planning threats, especially in the conservation areas, continue to appear. Perhaps some members, whilst concerned by such threats, feel that they lack the necessary knowledge and skills to be active in the Society. We hope to resolve this by arranging a course on planning for next year. This is currently being investigated, so watch this space! In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about planning please speak to Peter Tipton or any member of the Committee.

Similarly, we need a Press Officer to co-ordinate a newly formed Publicity sub-committee. Interested? If so, please contact me or Jo Hill, the Newsletter Editor.

There are three meetings to go before the 2011 AGM. I hope to meet you at one or all of them.

Roger Coombes
ysec@yateleysociety.org.uk



Thursday 16 December 2010
at the "Tythings", Reading Road, Yateley at 8.00pm

Christmas comes but once a year
Let's celebrate with festive cheer

**and a short, but fascinating film from Wessex Film &
Sound Archives of Yateley made by BBC South in 1965, depicting all the heritage features
valued by local residents.**

Everyone Welcome - Admission Free and festive refreshments supplied!

HART'S GREAT OUTDOORS

In October, Tim Ackroyd, well-known to stalwart members of the Society's Conservation team, gave a most interesting and heartening illustrated talk about Hart's Countryside Service, the rangers, and the sites they manage across the District. There are nine local nature reserves with four main sites: Fleet Pond, Hazeley Heath Common (South), Odiham Common and Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve. With diverse habitats and dependant species, each site needs tailored management. The team of four multi-skilled rangers works on all sites, but each is responsible for one site in particular. Tim has been responsible for all the small sites, which include our Royal Oak Valley, Phoenix Green Common, Basingbourne Heath, Fleet and Oakley Woods, Fleet.

The four major sites are managed under Higher Level Stewardship schemes, where government funding matches Hart's contribution to the management of the character species of each area. Fleet Pond, the largest freshwater lake in Hampshire, covers about half of the 135 acres of the reserve. From Saxon times The Pond or 'Fugelmere' was a notable fish farm, so the modern rangers' work on this SSSI has to concentrate on reed scything the margins, grazing with a mix of Shetland ponies and heritage cattle and managing the marsh and woodland to support the 180 breeds of bird, 26 types of butterfly, 21 species of dragonfly and 400 wild flowers, many of them nationally and internationally important. The Fleet Pond Society, founded in 1976 (long before the District Council was alive to the value of this area) provides constant workparties and financial support to the reserve.

Hazeley Heath is a noted Silver Studded Blue butterfly site and this summer clouds of them could be seen by visitors to this SSSI, which is also part of the heathland Special Protection Area of the Thames Basin. Here the grazing cattle can be moved over the area using temporary electric fencing. And because the heathland was deeply scarred by MoD tank tracks, the more drastic-seeming technique of mechanical scraping is used to help release buried heather seeds and so rejuvenate the heathland.

At Odiham Common there are abundant fungi and rich meadow grasses. It is home to the only colony of the Forester moth in Hampshire and also has rare spiders, such as the wasp spider. Here the soil is neutral and the wood pasture requires careful management of the crucial 10 metre band along its woodland edges.

Yateley's Royal Oak Valley receives no funding, just the devoted attentions of volunteers under the guidance of the Hart ranger. The story of 'our' valley is as unique as any of Hart's countryside sites and deserves its own telling. The rangers conduct advertised walks in all areas but you should really explore Hart's countryside this autumn and winter for yourselves. There is an attractive paper guide to all the sites, or go on to the Countryside Services section of Hart's website (www.hart.gov.uk) for lots more information about these local countryside treasures. - Elizabeth Tipton



Pond dipping Platform

The Yateley Society, with huge assistance from the Yateley Rangers has applied for a Big Lottery grant for a pond dipping platform for Stroods Pool. Our first application, to the Community Wildlife Fund was, unfortunately, not worthy enough apparently, but we have been bounced into the Awards for All application process instead now. So watch this space!

Surrey Heath Museum Action Group - Heritage Gallery

The Heritage Gallery has moved to larger premises in Park Street, Camberley, with more space for the exhibits. Come along and see the new Yateley Society display.

Conservation Area Statements – update

Very exciting, our groups working on the updated Conservation Area Statements are doing incredibly well. The Yateley Green statement is about to be adopted, the Darby Green statement will go to public consultation shortly and there is a stakeholder meeting for the Cricket Hill statement to be held in December. Our teams will then turn their attention to researching the 133 buildings that appear on the 1846 Tithe Map. Let me know if you are interested in joining the fun!

Reminiscences of Old Yateley by a Septuagenarian.
(William Burrows Tice b 16.8.1860, d 3.6.1941) (UNDATED, ca1933)
Part Eight of a serialisation of the Yateley Society booklet

Footnotes by R H Johnston, 2008.

Weddings

Mr. H. Hilton during his 40 years as Parish Clerk must have been able to record many funny little stories in connection with weddings, etc. Here are two he told me:-

"The parties came from Cove, and it appears the young man lived at home with his parents and to insure having plenty of food for the wedding, killed the pig. The young man had for his breakfast what is known as a pig's hock, having picked the bone he wrapped it up and put it into his pocket, remarking to his bride elect who was breakfasting with him, "I will put this in my pocket and when it comes to the words "with this ring I thee wed" I shall take it out and say "with this bone I'll break your head," and of course when they got to that they both burst out laughing, this was a great deal too much for the old Vicar¹, he closed the book and said, "I think you had better come again another day for me to complete the ceremony. I don't think you understand what a solemn obligation you are entering into," with that he turned round and went into the vestry. Mr. Hilton said it was the hardest job he ever had in his life to get him to return and finish the Service, which he did eventually, but he read the riot act to them very severely afterwards. The Bride went down the Church crying bitterly, and the young man looked very serious, as though he felt he ought to cry too. Mr. Hilton followed them out into the Church Porch and asked them what it was all about, they told him the story as I have told you, he also gave them a bit of good advice and sent them home."

This story concerned two Yateley people²:-

"The bride was a very, very nervous person and when she had to repeat the words "I Mary, take thee John, etc.," she could not get the words out, so the young man put his arm round her waist and said very appealingly, "Now my dear, do say it!" Mr. Stooks³, who could always see the humorous side of things, took no notice.

Sports.

Cricket in the Parish was always well supported, we could always raise a good eleven. The late Mr. Henry Bunch⁴ was a great supporter and a good player, he used to bowl round-arm bowling. The Paices⁵ were also good. The late Mr. Henry Hilton⁶ was also a most enthusiastic cricketer and played very late in life, he was a most tantalizing underhand bowler, I have seen him win a match when it seemed we had lost, often when the bowlers could not part the batsmen I have seen the captain put Mr. Hilton on, his bowling would be slower and the batsmen could not wait for them, if they did strike the ball it was alright, but if they missed it they were out at once as he was always dead on the wicket. I remember once he got four men out with five balls and won the match.

¹ This suggests this happened during the incumbancy of Mr Lewin, and while Henry Hilton was parish clerk. The identity of the couple is unknown – many Cove couples continued to be married at Yateley after the new parish church of St John was built at Cove.

² Their identity is not known.

³ Rev Charles Drummond Stooks was vicar of Yateley from 1885 to 1905. He died in 1909 and is buried in Yateley churchyard

⁴ There were four Henry Bunch's in Yateley. Tice probably intends Mr Henry Bunch, builder, of Cricket Hill, who was responsible for the Church restoration contract, mentioned by him later.

⁵ The Paice family were butchers.

⁶ That is, Henry Hilton, parish clerk, see above.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - 2010

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

Thursday 16 December 2010	Yateley Society Christmas Social Admission Free and festive refreshments supplied. Featuring a short, but fascinating film from Wessex Film & Sound Archives of Yateley made by BBC South in 1965, depicting all the heritage features valued by local residents.
Tuesday 28 December 2010	Join our team of volunteers on the Common for a festive celebration. Call Mike Mann on 01252 877741 for details.
Thursday 20 January 2011	tbc
Thursday 18 February 2011	Yateley Society AGM It's our birthday! This year we celebrate 30 years of the Yateley Society so come along and celebrate with friends.

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 RENEWALS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership subscription form, apologies for the lateness of the reminder. Memberships are due for renewal at the end of September each year. If you have previously signed a Standing Order, your membership will be renewed automatically. If you would like to have your membership renewed automatically each year, please complete the Standing Order section of the form and return it to the address shown on the renewal form.

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