



The  
Yateley  
Society

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 102 March 2011

Registered Charity: 282397

## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

It was reassuring to have a respectable attendance at the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> February and I thank everyone who came. It is also good to have more people on the Executive Committee (EC) for this year, and I have pleasure in welcoming new recruits Roger Durdle (Hon Sec), Juliet Breschinsky (now as an elected member of the EC as well as Minutes Secretary), Steve Long and Barry Moody. This brings the EC (and Trustees) up to 10 – the largest it has been for a long time.

This does not mean that we have stopped looking for other people to have active roles within the Society. Roger Durdle will be chairing the new Publicity sub-committee but it still needs a Press Officer, and ordinary members of the Society are welcome (indeed encouraged!) to join this and/or other sub-committees. As I stated at the AGM, we hope to form a new Planning sub-committee once the Planning course is under way, and at the EC meeting following the AGM it was agreed that an Events sub-committee is needed to organise our programme of monthly talks and visits.

So don't hesitate. Ask not what your Society can do for you, but what you can do for your Society!



**Roger Coombes**

## HERITAGE GALLERY EVENTS

Hopefully everyone is aware of the Heritage Gallery in Park Street, Camberley and of our involvement. The Surrey Heath Museum Action Group (SHMAG) is planning to utilise the small room behind the main shop to hold Thursday lunchtime talks and presentations. As we are an active supporter of SHMAG can members support this in any way? Are any of you interested in giving a short talk on any local history topic or research project?

The museum staff are kicking things off on 14th April with a talk about "Objects from the Museum Collection", - a further two similar talks are scheduled for 12th May & 16th June. One other talk entitled "Hidden Treasures in Churches" is arranged for 21st April. So far the dates are all to be just half hour sessions on Thursdays. The hope is obviously to attract visitors during their lunch breaks, but also any interested members of the associated clubs supporting the Gallery - ie us.

Contact Jo Hill for more information.



## NOTES FROM THE RANGERS

The Yateley Rangers have set up an organisation called "Friends of Yateley Common". For details please contact [northern.sites@hants.gov.uk](mailto:northern.sites@hants.gov.uk).

The Adder will be out and about soon as they start to emerge from hibernation. For more information, look out for information on site noticeboards from March.

As spring approaches, please remember to stick to tracks and keep your dogs on leads – the Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark are all ground nesting birds and at danger of disturbance.

3 ponds ramble – Visit 3 ponds, explore woodland and cross heathlands with the Yateley Common Ranger as your guide. Meeting 10am Sunday 17 April in Wyndhams car park, off Cricket Hill. Booking essential. 01252 870425

Easter trail – Collect all the clues and collect your easter surprise on Yateley Common. Monday 25 April, 11am – 1pm starting at Wyndhams car park. Booking essential 01252 870425. £1 per child.

## Yateley's Community Archive

Following an enquiry at the AGM, the Society was asked to explain its archiving policy.

This example well illustrates a process initiated by an Executive Committee decision about two years ago to deposit for safekeeping at the Hampshire Record Office (HRO now renamed HALS) all the 'primary sources' which have been collected by the Society, together with those collected by earlier Yateley local historians.

*The Chairman of the Red Cross in Yateley sent us an email saying an envelope was being offered on eBay with "an interesting Yateley address." This envelope turned out to be addressed to Sir Charles Stewart Wilson at The Manor House, Yateley in 1914. Sir Charles was around that time Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs 1912-13; a Member of the Committee for reorganization of the British Telegraph Service 1914, and Assistant Secretary Ministry of Munitions 1915-19. I, for one, had not known that such a person might have been resident in Yateley during WW1. Our Archivist, Richard Johnston promptly bought the envelope for £7.50, and has photographed it for the Society's digital archive. The intention is that the original envelope, known to historians as a 'primary source' will be deposited in the Society's collection at the HALS.*

Earlier collections include those assembled by Geoffrey Holt Stilwell, Sydney Loader, and Jean McIlwaine. Technically some of these collections belong to the Society, and some belong to the original owners, but Richard and his team have now digitised them. Of course the originals of all these archives, irrespective of ownership or copyright are open to researchers in Winchester. HALS has been primarily (sorry about the pun) interested in collecting primary sources.

"Digital archives", which the Society has been building, cannot be made available to all-comers since we have to respect the original owners' copyright -- which can be quite strict and mostly involve payments. The Society's local history group researchers use it as a 'closed user group', but other researchers are invited to submit their questions so that we can provide them with the answers they need free of charge.

We appreciate that through the website, the difference between what is available to the general public and what we must not make available is not yet clear. We are working very hard to reorganise our website to make this area more user-friendly.

A fuller description of the Society's archiving policy and terms is described on our website. – **Peter Tipton**

## Civic Voice Open Meeting

The Yateley Society is a member of Civic Voice, but do you know what it's all about?

There is an

Open Meeting

on

12 April at 7pm

at

Rushmoor Borough Council Offices

with guest speaker

Tony Burton.

Tony has over 20 years of experience in the field of community action, land use planning and environmental and heritage politics. He moved from his role as the National Trust's Director of Strategy and External Affairs to take up a directorship in Civic Voice. Prior to the National Trust Tony spent 13 years at CPRE. He left as Deputy Director in 2001. Tony was also a founder trustee of Heritage Link – the voluntary sector networking organisation for heritage groups - and chaired its environmental equivalent Wildlife and Countryside Link. He was a member of Lord Rogers Urban Task Force and has been an advisor to ministers on issues as diverse as urban renaissance and hedgerow protection.

We are also supporting Civic Day. A new initiative when civic societies across England will invite people to celebrate their area and discover more about where they live. A diverse program of events and activities showcasing civic society activity is being planned, for the first Civic Day. We will be having our own event at the -

St Barnabas Church Summer Fayre on Saturday June 18.

Come along and see us.



## Membership Structure Change

We would like to begin an active campaign to recruit members in order to expand the capabilities of the Society. By this we mean:

- a) implement projects for members to get involved such as the research into Yateley's listed buildings and conservation areas, a planning workshop course and the restoration of the glass plates discovered in a privy at Cricket Hill!
- b) joint funding of experts to help the Yateley residents eg Yateley Society and Yateley Town Council funding conservation expert for the Conservation Area statements and possible representation at the Clarks Farm planning meeting, possibly in March.
- c) the purchase of new tools for the conservation working party
- d) the purchase of a new audio-visual projector for presentations and media shows at our meetings

To this end we have set up a new PR sub-committee to update all our PR and communications activities.

- a) we will review the use of technology to increase contact with our members, ie website, facebook, twitter
- b) we will review the image of the Society and update the look and feel of our communications
- c) we will proactively promote the Society and its activities in the local area

In order to facilitate these activities, and after suggestions and debate at the AGM, we are simplifying our membership fee structure and introducing a modest increase in fees along these lines:

Individual membership	£10
Household (2+ adults)	£15
Corporate	£30

Any members renewing their 2010/11 membership before 1 April can take advantage of the old rates. New Memberships and renewals after 1 April will be at the new rate.

## Picture This

With the formal part of the AGM having been completed, the Executive Committee in place, a healthy number of Yateley Society members sitting comfortably with a glass of wine in hand, we all settled down for a real treat!

Elizabeth Tipton arranged for a handful of long standing Yateley Society members to read narratives written by members 15 years ago. These encompassed a wide variety of topics relating to Yateley.

First we 'marched back' to the 1930s to hear the memories of Philip Todd's uncle and father during World War 2, when they were night watchmen on Hartford Bridge Flats as members of the Home Guard. Mary Hocking gave us a witty account of surprising instances of not having to explain where Yateley is, when meeting people around the globe as far afield as China, while Tony read the archaeological notes of Geoff Hoare which referred to some of the better known properties in Yateley. Peter Tipton read the words of John Ford of Chandler's Lane who asked, 15 years ago, "Why move to Yateley?" and "Why Stay?". This was balanced out nicely with Edward Dawson relaying to us Max Nicholson's environmental piece describing sights of scientific interest (SSI) We were reminded by Caroline Powell, of the History Projects conducted by the Yateley Society in the late 1980s, who used details from wills, probate records long with inventories to give a fascinating insight into the lives of the farmers who lived and worked the land here in the distant past and owned livestock, bees and grew crops. Roger Coombes followed this with the words of Ted Brooks who described a walk to took on Yateley Common and how the sights and sounds change as he wandered out of ear shot of cars into the world of nature referring to familiar places along the way and reminding us of the rural space we are all lucky enough to have in Yateley to be explored. Last but not least, Dr France described to us his induction into life in Yateley as a GP in 1964 and the changes that took place during that time. The 'patchwork pieces' sparked fond memories for many who have lived in Yateley for some time. For those of us who are more recent residents, it gave a very interesting and informative view of the place we have chosen to be our home and proved to be a very fitting way to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yateley Society.

# PROGRAMME OF 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. *All events are open to non-members and there is no admission charge.*

Thursday 17 March 2011	Colin Ive Talking about the "Gig on the Green"
Tuesday 12 April 2011	Open Meeting of the Civic Voice With Guest speaker Tony Burton
Monday 14 April 2011	Heritage Gallery "Objects from the Surrey Heath Museum Collection"
Sunday 17 April 2011	3 ponds ramble Visit 3 ponds, explore woodland and cross heathlands with the Yateley Common Ranger as your guide. Meeting 10am Sunday 17 April in Wyndhams car park, off Cricket Hill. Booking essential. 01252 870425
Monday 25 April 2011	Easter Trail Collect all the clues and collect your easter surprise on Yateley Common. Monday 25 April, 11am - 1pm starting at Wyndhams car park. Booking essential 01252 870425. £1 per child.

## **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



### **Family History Day**

Camberley Library will be running an Internet Workshop with Sally Jenkinson from the Surrey History Centre from 10.30 until 12.00 on 5 April 2011. Booking is essential (call 01276 65701) and the cost is £5.00. There will also be a free 'drop-in' session called 'Ask the Expert' from 12.00 until 2.00pm.

### **Butser Ancient Farm**

We have been asked to bring to your attention the programme of events and workshops being held at Butser Ancient Farm this year.



Visit [www.butserancientfarm.co.uk](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk) for full details and costs or tel:02392 598838.

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