



The  
Yateley  
Society

Registered Charity: 282397

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 103 May 2011



## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



Roger Coombes

## YATELEY COMMON CONSULTATION

At the May meeting, we have Ian Stoneman Sites Manager for Hampshire County Council Countryside Service North Area coming to talk to us and answer questions about the Public Consultation regarding the future of Yateley Common. There is a questionnaire online at [www.hwt.org.uk/pages/yateley-consultation.html](http://www.hwt.org.uk/pages/yateley-consultation.html) and we will have paper copies available at the meeting.

You may have seen the launch at the May Fair. As many of our volunteers will appreciate, heath lands and their associated flora & fauna are adaptations over many centuries to man-made activities, such as deforestation and grazing. There are many studies which have established that grazing is beneficial to this now internationally rare habitat, and it potentially increases the biodiversity of the habitat.. It is not the complete solution in modern times, since cattle won't fell established trees, but it is certainly desirable from an ecological point of view and grazing is the most natural, sustainable way to keep this very rare habitat in good condition. If the habitat value is allowed to degrade, the Community runs the risk of losing these open areas to urban development. It is for these types of reason that the Yateley Society, and volunteer supporters, have sought to encourage the re-establishment of grazing on local heath lands for the last twenty years or more. The statutory body for nature conservation, Natural England (formerly English Nature), supports the grazing of heath land in principle. The forthcoming Public Consultation will be the one opportunity to make that message heard from the Community. **It is therefore very important that everyone who values the heath land, and who wish it to remain in perpetuity (and improve in ecological value), has their say in supporting the re-establishment of grazing by completing the Public Consultation questionnaire.** A possible 'spin-off' benefit of grazing is that illegal and dangerous motor cycling will be impeded across open common land areas, and that should benefit all legitimate users. I hope that our members will be able to support grazing proposals for parts of the Common, so that we grasp the important opportunity that is finally on our local horizon.

**There may not be another opportunity like this - Every vote counts ! Please spread the word. – Mike Mann**



## **Gig on the Green and Civic Voice (March Meeting)**

Our March meeting was unusual in having two speakers.

First on the floor was Councillor Colin Ive explaining the aims and organisation of the “Gig on the Green” which is planned for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Colin has sought and obtained approval from all the appropriate authorities, including the Common Management Committee, and has taken steps to allay any local concerns. Talking to the Yateley Society was part of this consultation. Questions were put to Colin and his answers satisfied the audience.

Next up was John Walker, a trustee of Civic Voice and vice-chair of the Canterbury Society. He spoke briefly about the history of the civic society movement, which goes back to the 1840s, although the concept of “civic pride” is much older. The Civic Trust was formed by Duncan Sandys and others in 1957, and it was behind the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 which saw the creation of conservation areas.

The folding of The Civic Trust in 2008/09 came as a shock, but its spirit came bouncing back when CPRE and others put up some money to try to create something similar. Tony Burton and Ian Harvey were and remain leading lights. A conference in Blackpool established Civic Voice – an organisation to act as a national voice for the civic society movement and for civic societies throughout the country. It was launched a year ago by Griff Rhys-Jones, who is still identified as a national spokesman.

271 civic societies are currently members of Civic Voice (the Yateley Society is one of them), and it is hoped that by the end of its third year this figure will have reached 400. It is independent of everything other than its civic society members. It aims to be a low cost organisation, with funding coming from membership subscriptions and grants from a few charitable trusts.

Communication with its member societies is important, and costs are kept low by being web-based. It sends out a lot of information by emails, sometimes three per week.

25<sup>th</sup> June is Civic Day, on which civic societies are being encouraged to hold local events to demonstrate and promote civic pride. There will be a lot of national publicity. (The Yateley Society intends to do something at the St Barnabas Fair in Darby Green on 18<sup>th</sup> June, so watch out for more information on this).

John’s talk was followed by 40 minutes of questions from the interested audience. – Roger Coombes

## **FREE DAY PASSES FOR YS MEMBERS**



We have just renewed our membership to Civic Voice and members to a free day pass from English Heritage and also a free day pass from the National Trust. In order to claim your free pass please contact me, Jo Hill on 01252 640909 or email [jo.hill.45@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.hill.45@ntlworld.com).

This new body appears to be more dynamic, under the leadership of Tony Burton, and chairmanship of Griff Rhys Jones. It comments widely on built environment matters; public policy, planning, politics and campaigns. It has an excellent website [www.civicvoice.co.uk](http://www.civicvoice.co.uk). Our society should be inspired by their activities

We are contacting James Arbuthnott MP and Gerald Howarth MP (both Yateley Society members) to urge them to help set up an All Party Parliamentary Group for civic societies.

Civic Voice is working with a number of MPs led by Laura Sandys MP to set up a special group in the Houses of Parliament on civic societies. This would be open to all MPs and members of the House of Lords. Laura Sandys is the daughter of Duncan Sandys who founded the Civic Trust and is a strong supporter of Civic Voice and the civic movement.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on civic societies would provide a focus for discussion and debate and raise the profile of the civic movement in the corridors of power. It is not party political and will include Parliamentarians from all the main political parties. We would expect to invite Ministers and attract other influential voices to address the group and strengthen the role of civic societies

## **THANKS YATELEY TOWN COUNCIL**

In response to a grant application for conservation equipment, we would like to thank Yateley Town Council for donating £250 to the Yateley Society. This will be spent on equipment to continue the work that the volunteers do with the Yateley Rangers on the common.

If you would like to join in, they meet on the last Sunday of each month at Wyndhams Pool car park.

We will also be working with the Rangers on the pond dipping platform project this summer. Call Mike Mann for more details on 01252 877741, email [mike.rmann@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.rmann@btinternet.com).

## CLARKS FARM LATEST

The saga of Clarks Farm goes on. The application for M Collard to carry out Waste Materials Recycling has once again stalled.

The application, which will involve concrete crushing and other waste processes and is expected to create noise, dust and heavy lorry traffic, was due to be heard on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April by a committee of Hampshire County Councillors. Julia Davey, Case Officer, had informed us that the officers have recommended the application for "Approval".

We were all set. The local residents, the Yateley Society and Yateley Town Council had instructed an expert witness, Humphreys, to represent all three parties to the committee, several speakers had also booked to speak and the local councillors were primed to fight. Around 50 residents were to go by organised coach to Winchester, and then at around 5.30 on the Tuesday evening we heard it had all gone pear shaped.

Hampshire County Council had forgotten a technical step in the process, ie to advertise the Environmental Impact Assessment, and this had been picked up in a meeting that day. So the application was immediately removed from the agenda!

The case won't be heard now until the May or June meeting. – Jo Hill

### UNDERSTANDING HART LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Hart District Council is preparing new planning documents, the Local Development Framework (LDF), to replace the current Local Plan in order to address sustainable development as required by national planning guidelines. The LDF will provide a long term planning document for Hart and set out the spatial vision and objectives to the year 2026.

Scoping Reports are the first stage of the emerging Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and draft SA scoping reports have been sent out for consultation, namely the Core Strategy development plan, Open Space development plan and Urban Characterisation supplementary development plan.

These SA Scoping Reports will establish the criteria and assess the sustainability implications of the development plans and show how the policy options have been evaluated and refined to arrive at the most sustainable strategy and policies. Yateley Society, as a Hart stakeholder, is currently assessing these documents and will respond accordingly. When the final SA scoping reports have been agreed, Hart District Council intend to set up a number of exhibitions to get public feedback. – Barry Moody

### FLEET AND CHURCH CROOKHAM LINK UP

I was invited to attend the Fleet and Church Crookham Society AGM on behalf of the Yateley Society. They are very similar to us in membership and issues and we believe there will be mutual benefits by liaising. We are setting up a joint project with them later this year – a series of Beginners Planning Workshops – which we will publicise in due course. – Barry Moody

### THE OLD POST OFFICE SAGA– (LLOYDS PHARMACY)

The Inspector dismissed the appeal to redevelop the Old Post Office.

This is the key paragraph mentioning the Society's evidence:

"Turning to the effect of the loss of the existing buildings, reference is made to the emerging Yateley Green Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals, which identifies the properties on the site as making a positive contribution, forming a group with the public house.

In addition, the Yateley Society has made a reasoned case for the retention of these buildings, which include a former post office, as heritage assets. These points are noted. However the Character Appraisal is not yet adopted, being described by the Council as carrying very little weight. At this stage, there are not compelling grounds to override the recommendations of the adopted Local Plan and Yateley Village Design Framework (YDF), the latter being relatively recent, and prepared after public consultation. In reaching this view, account is taken of the introduction of Planning Policy Statement 5 in 2010. However, as indicated in Local Planning Policy CON14, it would be undesirable to allow the demolition before satisfactory replacement buildings are approved, as an open, vacant site would have a detrimental effect on the area. In the absence of an approved replacement, it is concluded that the demolition of the existing buildings on the site would not preserve the character or appearance of the Conservation Area." – Peter Tipton

# FORTHCOMING 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. *Events are open to non-members - no admission charge.*

Thursday 19 May 2011	Ian Stoneman - consultation on the future of Yateley Common
Thursday 16 June 2011	Graham Fleuty - Yateley War Memorial 1914-18 Mesopotamia Campaign

## 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

### HERITAGE GALLERY TALKS – Park Street Camberley

Thursday 19th May Mary Bennett Surrey Heathlands & Camberley

Thursday 26th May Bernard Baverstock Introduction to bats

Thursday 2nd June Bob Price The Brown Hare & Folklore

Thursday 9th June Malcolm Henderson The Lightwater Spear



### SURREY HEATH LOCAL HISTORY WALK

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June –

Midsummer Murders in Knaphill.

A very entertaining and informative walk with Iain Wakeford. Meet at the carpark at the top of Waterers Park (Barley Mow Lane, off Anchor Hill, Knaphill) at 7pm.

### SUMMER SOCIAL

It's about this time that we ask members if anyone would be able to host our Summer Social. If you have an outside space (because the sun always shines on us!) suitable for 20-30 people, please let Trudy Boothby know on 01252 409262 or email [trudyb@rya-online.net](mailto:trudyb@rya-online.net)

### URGENT NOTICE – LAPSED MEMBERS

Despite a number of reminders some previous members have not renewed this year and we can only assume they wish their membership to lapse. It is not viable to continue delivering Newsletters to lapsed members so this edition will be the last one they will receive.

Memberships can still be renewed by downloading the Application Form from our website <http://www.hants.org.uk/yateley/> - Roger Durdle

### An invitation to all Yateley Society members (guests welcome) to the

#### Annual Chair's Dinner

To be held at  
The Highwayman  
Monteagle Lane, Yateley

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
At 7.30 for 8.00pm  
Set menu choice £25/head

Please call Trudy Boothby on 01252 409262 or email [trudyb@rya-online.net](mailto:trudyb@rya-online.net) to reserve places.

### VACANCIES

We are asking for volunteers to take on these new positions within the Society. You can do as much or little as you are able – but taking part means we can make a difference:

- Helping to monitor on-going planning applications
- Events subcommittee secretary
- Local History Group Leader
- Press Officer

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