



The
Yateley
Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 94 May 2009

Registered Charity: 282397

Yateley & District Lions presents

The Yateley May Fayre

Monday May 4th 2009

at Yateley Green

It will include stalls, tombolas, refreshments, games and amusements provided by many local organisations and charities. This year's arena acts include:

Rockwood Dog Display Team
Hawk Experience Eagle and Vulture Show
Coventry Corp of Drums
Fun Dog Show

St Barnabas' Summer Fayre

Saturday 6th June 2009

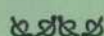
11.00am – 4.00pm

Brinns Lane, Blackwater

(Entry is free)

There will be a variety of stalls and activities for all the family!

.....and the Yateley Society will have a range of postcards and publications for sale at this event



New Walks Programme

On the back of this newsletter you will find our new Walks Programme. They were devised as a result of members requests by Tony Hocking and run through until October on the 4th Saturday of each month. The walks are all about 3 – 3.5 miles and good weather has been requested for them all!

We have:

- Bramshill Plantation,
- Minley Wood,
- Ambarrow and Heath Pond,
- To California and Back,
- Elvetham Estate
- Green Yateley, our hidden byways.



Yateley Village Design Framework

The Yateley Village Design Framework is due to be adopted and published in June 2009. Very shortly, Hart are expected to post a list of potential development sites in Yateley, so it may be that development sites in Yateley will be consulted on in the next few weeks. Although the Framework document no longer appears on the Hart Planning website, the Yateley Society would urge anyone with an interesting local planning to monitor the website for new activity and information.

http://www.hart.gov.uk/index/environment-and-planning/planning_policy/development_framework.htm

SOMETHING NEW IN THE ROYAL OAK VALLEY

Those of you familiar with the Royal Oak Valley will be aware that this attractive path, through woods and glades in the middle of a built-up part of Yateley, has a meadow on the western side which is very rich in wild flowers and other plants. The meadow has for many years been separated from the footpath by a wooden fence, which served to deter over use of the meadow and helped preserve its natural riches. Access via a wooden bridge over the intervening stream has always been possible, so it was never a 'no-go-area'.

Recently the wooden fence started to seriously rot away, and once derelict it became vandalised as well. Hart DC Ranger Tim Ackroyd, who has the Royal Oak Valley as one of his sites (but no budget to do anything for it!) decided to replace the now useless fence. Tim is very enthusiastic about the Royal Oak Valley, and the meadow in particular, and he has been supported by the Yateley Society conservation group in the past, mainly for removing Himalayan Balsam and assistance when the meadow has needed mowing. A few weeks ago he asked if we could help him with the fence replacement, which he would tackle when he could spare some time even if there was no money for it. He planned to plant a living willow hedge, rather than build a new fence.

Eventually it was agreed that work would start on Monday March 19th. Weekdays are not good for most people, but Mary and I volunteered, as did Mike and Inga Mann. Tim also enlisted a friend of his who cycled from Sunbury to take part! When we met we found that this did not involve planting a row of willow saplings as we had envisaged, but was a much more involved process.



Firstly we had to cut willow branches from the trees surrounding the meadow, all the raw material was to hand, so no expense was involved. The branches were sorted into thick, medium and thin for the various parts of the job. Thick poles were cut into roughly 4 foot lengths, sharpened at the lower end and strips of bark peeled off the same end. This allowed the poles to be driven into the ground as stakes, and the peeled areas would then produce roots so that the stakes would, in time, become living trees. Next the medium poles were also sharpened and peeled at the lower end. One was driven in close to each stake, then half cut through and bent to about 60 degrees to the vertical so that it could be woven in and out of the next few stakes. Again, these poles will root and grow in time. It was explained to us that we must be careful to sharpen and peel the correct lower ends as only then would rooting and growing take place successfully; gravity, or something, obviously rules! The final stage involved weaving the thin poles around the tops of the stakes to give strength and rigidity, to assist with this the poles were woven in pairs, with the pairs twisted together as they were positioned.

The rest of the task will have to wait, probably until next spring, as the willow growth is getting too advanced, and poles cut and planted from now onwards in this year may not get enough time in the ground to start rooting before next winter. As it is, it will be two years before anyone can be certain that the planting so far has been successful or not.

The job was very interesting, you are never too old to learn something new, very good exercise and it was very satisfying to get a quick visible result



By Tony Hocking

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

Reminiscences of Old Yateley by a Septuagenarian.
(William Burrows Tice b 16.8.1860, d 3.6.1941) (UNDATED, ca1933)

Part Four of a serialisation of the Yateley Society booklet

Please note that these are reminiscences, recorded about 1933. Some information is now out of date or may be factually incorrect. They do however, provide a glimpse into the world of Yateley as it was in the nineteenth century. Footnotes by R H Johnston, 2008.

Coming back up the road toward Eversley after passing The Poplars as it is now called¹ but which then was a Farm House with farm buildings of wood and thatch standing in front and down towards the present back entrance. After leaving the old house² next to the Poplars there was only the old house that stands at the top of Mouseham Lane³ until you got to the Fox Inn at Eversley, now called the Noah's Ark⁴. John, the last of the famous Geale family died at The Poplars, I remember him well, he was deaf and dumb⁵.

Taking the top of the Green there is very little alteration since I can remember only the Old House now occupied by the Misses Kelsey⁶ which was a Public House known as the Wheat Sheaf Inn with a grocer's shop attached. Now a few words about Cricket Hill - on the right hand side of the common there were no houses at all⁷, only the old cottage called Burnt Hall Cottage⁸, until you came to what is now called the Red Lodge (Timorue)⁹ where stood a delightful old thatched house¹⁰, a real bit of Old Yateley, on the other side there has not been much alteration only that the Cottage Hospital was the Yateley school¹¹ and the large red house was a public house¹². On the enclosed piece of ground near the Cricketer's Inn¹³, there stood a barn and stable¹⁴ that was always occupied by the farmer who lived at Hanford¹⁵, the last farmer I remember to have it was farmer James Searle¹⁶. Where. Mrs. Brown's house¹⁷ now stands there stood a double tenement house also with thatch for the roof, but which was unfortunately burnt down.

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- 1 The Poplars was a large and prominent house just on the north-west side of Chandlers Lane, next to its junction with Vicarage Road. It was demolished and replaced with some modern houses (probably in the 1960s)
 - 2 That is, the old house which is now (2008) called Goose Green Cottage, and which was the house where Tice had his bakery.
 - 3 This was on the western corner of the junction with Moulsham Lane (Tithe Apportionment No 84.) Until the 1980s some remnants of the agricultural outbuildings remained.
 - 4 The road between Yateley and Eversley was realigned in the 1960s, and so bypasses the old houses which are now in Fox Lane Eversley, and which included the former public house referred to.
 - 5 John Geale (born 13 Aug 1788, buried, Yateley churchyard Feb 7 1864 aged 75). The 1851 census records that both he and his elder brother James (baptised 4 Oct 1783) were deaf and dumb.
 - 6 This house is now called Brookfield House, and was occupied at the time Tice was writing by four unmarried sisters, (Georgina, b ca1866, d 1959, age 93; Emily Alice, b ca1870, d 1946 age 76; Louise Amy b ca 1871, d 1951, age 80; and Harriett Eliza, b ca 1872, d 1960, age 88), the daughters of Richard Kelsey, who had been a prominent Yateley farmer in the C19.
 - 7 Tice is here referring only to that part of Cricket Hill that lies south of Handford Lane.
 - 8 Tithe Apportionment No 268. This house still stands but is greatly extended. It was later called St George's cottage and used for a (mainly) girl's school run by Miss Wilding about 1900. Paul Nash, the painter, see above, records attending the school. [current name?]
 - 9 [Current name?]
 - 10 Tithe Apportionment No 266.
 - 11 Tithe Apportionment No 453. The school was built in 1834 on a newly enclosed piece of land. The school proved too distant from the main centre of population and so was moved to Yateley Green in 1865, again resulting in enclosure of land from Yateley Common. After a period in private ownership the building was converted into a hospital in 1899, and continued as such until 1974, during which time it was expanded on several occasions. It was then used for housing the homeless, but was unsuitable for that purpose and the present building constructed in the late 1980s.
 - 12 Tithe Apportionment No 452. This is the now white painted house almost directly opposite to the entrance to Handford Lane. [name] According to George Ives (1894-1970) the pub was called the Prince of Wales.
 - 13 Tice is probably referring to the "new" Cricketers (Tithe No 282) which replaced the Old Cricketers (Tithe No 284)
 - 14 Tithe Apportionment No 283 (Stable and yard).
 - 15 Tithe Apportionment No 272 now (2008) called Handfords. This house was doubled in size by an extension to the west in the early C20. The barn next to the road is marked on the 1844 Tithe Map.
 - 16 Joseph Searle had held it at the time of the Tithe Award in 1844.
 - 17 [House not yet identified]

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2009

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 21 May 2009	Yateley Village Design Framework – Peter Tipton
Thursday 18 June 2009	The Restoration and Reproduction of old Family Photographs – to be confirmed
Thursday 16 July 2009	The History of Watermills and Windmills of Hampshire – John Silman
Thursday 17 September 2009	History of Warbrook House – Philip Todd
Thursday 15 October 2009	The Ghosts of Hampshire – David Ford
Thursday 19 November 2009	Hampshire Marine Archaeology Trust
Thursday 17 December 2009	Christmas Special

PROGRAMME OF WALKS - 2009

Saturday 23 May 2009 Bramshill Plantation	<p>Starting Point: Riders and walkers car park at Bramshill Plantation, Grid Ref: SU 755 612, on the north side of the Eversley to Heckfield Bramshill Road.</p> <p>Route: Leave the car park in a generally NW direction, a winding path leads to a series of ponds and open gravelly areas, with a wide variety of plants. If the weather has been suitable there may be some orchids.</p> <p>We will walk in a clockwise loop round the plantation, covering about 3¹/₄ miles. The 'going' can be very wet and muddy in places if there has been recent rain.</p>
Saturday 27 June 2009 Minley Wood	<p>Starting Point: The walkers' car park off the Minley roundabout north of Minley Manor. Grid reference: SU 819 589. At the roundabout at the top of Minley Road, pass the Minley Road exit, then turn extremely sharp left into the car park between Minley Road and the road to Fleet.</p> <p>Parking space is very limited and a minimum of cars would help. The walk is mixed woodland and fields, with good views of Minley Manor, Minley Warren and Home Farm.</p> <p>The distance is about 3.5 miles. The going is generally firm, if irregular in places.</p>
Saturday 25 July 2009 Ambarrow and Heath Pond	<p>Starting Point: Ambarrow Court car park off the A321 Wokingham Road, Little Sandhurst. (Right hand side going towards Wokingham) Grid reference: SU 825 627.</p> <p>The walk is through woods and some heathland. The distance is about 3¹/₄ miles. There are no stiles. Half the route can be extremely wet and muddy after rain.</p>
Saturday 22 August 2009 To California and Back	<p>Starting Point: Roadside parking on the N verge of the B3348 near the Finchampstead playing fields at SU 794 6315</p> <p>Farmland and California Country Park. The walk covers about 3¹/₂ miles. The 'going' is generally good unless there has been heavy rain.</p> <p>Physical obstacles - The paths crossing the Finchampstead ridge are steep in places, but nothing too severe. There are two stiles near the start, both easy to climb over.</p>

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