

# The Yateley Society

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Yateley Society  
will be held on  
Thursday 20 February 2003 at 8.00pm,  
at Yateley Industries, Mill Lane, Yateley  
(at junction with Reading Road, B3272).

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 21 February 2002 - attached *Roper Coombes & J Hill.*
3. Matters Arising *P.T. on last yrs discussion - meetings Ltt. - Planning.*
4. Chairman's Address and adoption of Annual Report for 2002 *Alan Hedden & Philip W.D.*
5. Treasurer's Report and approval of Accounts for year ended 30 Sep 2002 *P.T.T. & Graham*
- ✓ 6. Election of Officers:  
a) Chairman    b) Vice-Chairman    c) Hon Secretary    d) Hon Treasurer
- ✓ 7. Election of Executive Committee
8. Resolutions (details appended)
9. Any other business. *9.40.*

1) 2nd Roper Coombes  
2) 2nd J Hill  
3) 2nd Jean McWhaine

R H Johnston Secretary  
4 Dungells Lane, Yateley, Hants  
01 252 872 832  
15 January 2003

### Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Members are reminded that they may propose members of the Society for election as Officers or Executive Committee members. The constitution requires that nominations for the Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be received by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the meeting. Nominations must be presented in writing, signed by the nominator, a seconder and by the person proposed.

Nominations for other Committee posts may be made at the meeting, but it would be helpful if such nominations can be notified to the Secretary before the meeting.

# The Yateley Society

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of The Yateley Society held at 8.15pm on Thursday 21st February 2002 in the Ryder Social Area, Frogmore Community College, Frogmore Campus, Yateley

## Attendance

Tony Hocking Chairman, Roger Coombes Vice-Chairman, Peter Tipton Treasurer, Richard Johnston Secretary and 13 other members, at the start. Another two members arrived during the early part of the meeting.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Colin and Pam Medley, Jenny Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Warrander, Mr. and Mrs. Dear, Mrs. Boothby, Mr. and Mrs. Pattenden, Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, Dr. and Mrs. Kerslake, Mrs. McIlwaine.

**Note:** Richard Johnston noted that under article 5 of the constitution we require 20 members to hold an AGM or an extra-ordinary general meeting. Although there were fewer than 20 members present, adequate notice had been given of the meeting, all papers had been distributed in advance, and 15 apologies had been received. As we had no major resolutions to pass and were not intending to change the constitution it would be appropriate to approve minutes and receive reports in the normal way.

It was proposed that the requirement be suspended for this meeting.  
Richard Johnston proposed, Jo Hill seconded  
Passed unanimously.

## 2. Minutes of 20th Annual General Meeting held 15 February 2001

These were approved unanimously. (Prop. Roger Coombes, 2nd Caroline Powell)

## 3. Matters Arising

References are to the approved minutes.

9) As required, the change to the constitution had been forwarded to the Charity Commissioners.

10) Policy resolutions had been taken into account by the Executive committee and used in their discussions with the Yateley and Hart councils.

11 a) No action had been taken regarding a change to the speed limit in Vicarage Road.

11 b) Peter Tipton reported that the Yateley Council Management Committee had reviewed the Yateley Country Park Management Plan the previous Tuesday.

## 4. Chairman's Address

The Chairman summarised the main features of his report, which had been circulated before the meeting.

The Annual Report was adopted unanimously. (prop Robin Strange, 2nd Chris Willis).

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Peter Tipton presented the accounts, which were prepared on the same basis as the previous year. The cash balance is higher than the previous year, with membership contributions higher because of record membership, changes in the membership year, and two life membership contributions.

The money on hand is divided into the Daphne Kirkpatrick memorial fund (earmarked for protection of the Common), a reserve fund for expenses connected with Public Inquiries etc. and a general fund.

There was discussion on additional uses for the funds, particularly for publicising the society and events to attract more members and to encourage volunteers.

In response to a question on the size of the current account, the treasurer said he was looking to move the accounts from Barclays to attract higher return on the deposit account.

The accounts were adopted unanimously. (prop Jo Hill, 2nd Roger Coombes)

The meeting unanimously endorsed Mr W R Foyster as the "independent examiner" of the accounts (Prop Peter Tipton, 2nd Roger Coombes).

### 6. Election of Officers

These had all been proposed in advance as required under the Constitution, and had been nominated as follows:

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman:	Tony Hocking	Richard Johnston	Roger Coombes
Vice Chairman:	Roger Coombes	Tony Hocking	Graham Brown
Treasurer:	Peter Tipton	Roger Coombes	Graham Brown
Secretary:	Richard Johnston	Roger Coombes	Tony Hocking

These were unanimously elected unopposed, en bloc.

### 7. Election of Committee Members

The following were proposed for the committee:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Philip Todd	Colin Medley	Tony Hocking
Graham Brown	Jo Hill	Peter Tipton
Colin Medley	Tony Hocking	Graham Brown
Jo Hill	Colin Medley	Graham Brown
Wilma Jordan	Richard Johnston	Peter Tipton

These were elected *en bloc*, unanimously.

## 8. Discussion

The following notes intentionally record the discussion fairly fully.

### 8.1 Introduction

Peter Tipton led a discussion on the Society's activities. The discussion took the form of Peter outlining the background to a topic and inviting two or three speakers to speak for or against proposals.

It was noted that we have about 200 members but average attendance at the monthly meetings is about 20. In the past the society had had a very varied set of activities, with a meeting of some subcommittee of the Society every week, with many members taking an active role. Now, the society is mainly run by the members of the Executive Committee.

The aim of the discussion was

- to agree the Society's priorities and to get direction for
- the public programme,
- members programme and
- communications.

### 8.2 Priorities

Peter Tipton proposed that the society should concentrate our efforts on:

- Practical Conservation
- Planning
- Local History

and not try to address Natural History as this is well covered by other groups such as the Camberley NH Society. It was noted that we have no member willing to lead a Natural History subgroup. The conservation volunteers have a continuing interest in NH and are learning from the Rangers.

Jo Hill and Margaret Talbot spoke in favour. Graham Brown suggested that we could revive more outside activities such as visits to local historic houses.

#### a) Planning

The planning subcommittee examines all applications that fall into the following categories:

- Developments affecting Conservation Areas
- Developments affecting Listed Buildings
- Developments of 5 or more houses
- Large Commercial Developments
- Developments affecting biodiversity of Yateley Common

Richard Johnston added that we also take special note of applications that seem to run counter to current planning policies and guidelines or that might create a precedent if they were approved.

There was much support for the visibility and effectiveness of the planning work over the years. Much of the work is done by Richard Johnston and Peter Tipton, but particular issues are taken up by member groups who organise specific campaigns.

Many members have been affected by planning issues, and this work provides a strong reason for renewing membership.

b) Conservation

The group meets every month to work on the common.

There were no proposals or suggestions for improving the group. They will benefit from new safety equipment.

It was suggested that their work should be publicised more.

c) Local History

A large number of options were mooted:

- Public Lecture Programme
- Annual Library Lecture
- Public Exhibitions
- Develop Website
- Yateley History Project
- Adult Education Classes
- Beginner's Classes
- Advanced Classes
- WEA Dayschools
- Teacher Packs
- Heritage Walks
- Guided Walks
- Publications
- Talks to other Organisations
- Family History Contacts
- Networking

The local history lectures had proved popular and many people joined the society to benefit from the accumulated knowledge.

### **8.3 Public Programme**

The Society will continue to make representations to planning inquiries.

The conservation work should continue, with more publicity and more frequent soliciting for volunteers.

It was agreed that the History Group should aim at one major exhibition per year.

There is a possibility that we could arrange for Yateley material to be included in courses on Local History that might be run by Reading University or by the WEA. There was some support for this but we could not measure the likely take-up of such courses at this meeting.

There is the possibility of running adult education courses jointly with either of Reading University and/or the WEA. The Reading University Courses might either be 'beginners' (to attract new younger Society members), and/or 'advanced' for current History Group members. The latter might prefer Saturday one-day schools, sponsored by the WEA on more advanced subjects. All these courses might use the Yateley Society CD as the illustrative material.

There seemed to be general agreement that any of these might be a 'good thing'. The beginners course would be a standard course held in Yateley instead of at the University. It would carry a University credit. We need to canvas opinion as to what subjects we should ask the WEA to investigate. This would be for the academic year from Sept 2003-2004 since next year is already fixed. Reading might be earlier for a beginners course if we can act quickly.

**8.4 Members Programme**

Peter Tipton made no specific proposals but threw open the discussion, which mainly concerned possible visits to local places of interest and walks.

As there have been none recently the likely attendance at such events is uncertain but some members present expressed interest.

The lectures programme, which is serving its purpose and having reasonable attendances, was not discussed.

**8.5 Communications – with members**

The discussion noted that the Stop Press had effectively replaced the Newsletter for the past two years. Whilst members appreciated the relevance and the role of the Stop Press the loss of the Newsletter was regretted. Elizabeth Tipton felt that the frequent Stop Presses left the role of the Newsletter more uncertain.

We should consider reviving it in the same format but re-defining its role, providing guidance for the editor, and managing its re-launch.

**9. AOB**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22.22.

Graham Brown - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2002

8. The following should be prepared for the AGM:  
9. Any other business.  
B. H. Jellicoe Secretary,  
4 Dunsdale Lane, Vauxhall, London  
01 252 872 832  
15 January 2002

Minutes of Officers and Executive Committee  
Members are reminded that they must propose resolutions of the Society to the Officers or Executive Committee in writing. The resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be considered by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the meeting. Resolutions must be presented in writing signed by the proposer, a second, and by the proposer proposed.  
Proposals for other Committee reports may be made at the meeting, but it would be helpful if such proposals can be submitted to the Secretary before the meeting.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

### RESOLUTIONS

#### **Resolution proposed by Peter Tipton**

*This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society congratulates Hampshire Record Office in initiating its 'Meet the Archivist' programme at local Libraries throughout the county.*

#### **Background**

Hampshire Record Office's 'Outreach Programme' has always included talks to local groups. Indeed the Yateley Society has hosted talks about Hampshire Archives Trust by Caroline Edwards and a workshop on oral history recording by David Lee of Wessex Film & Sound Archive. In the next several months the talks and walks programme includes an average of four events per month hosted by local groups.

The Record Office is now visiting local communities to hold workshop sessions in local libraries. The idea is that you will be able to ask a visiting archivist for advice concerning your own research; you can bring your own documents and questions to find out about sources for family and local history.

The next 'Meet the Archivist' event will be held here in Yateley, but you will have to telephone Yateley Library (873880) to book a place. The date is Thursday 13 March and the time is 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

As a member of the Society's Local History Group I think this is an excellent new initiative by the HRO. I hope family historians, whom there must be legions in Yateley, will come along with their questions, whether or not their families are from Hampshire. They might then eventually be encouraged to try their hand at local history.

#### **Resolution proposed by Richard Johnston**

*This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society, recognising that large transport intensive land uses in places like Clarks Farm and Sandhurst Road, Yateley is now contrary to Government policy, calls on Hart District Council to modify, without delay, the newly adopted Local Plan to exclude these and similarly unsuitable sites in Hart District.*

#### **Background**

Government Transport Planning Guidance (PPG13) now requires large scale commercial and other developments that attract large numbers of journeys to be located close to major transport interchanges, so that they can be accessed by modes other than the private car. This was one of the reasons for refusal on appeal of the Clarks Farm development. However the recently adopted Hart District Local Plan still includes intensive development proposals in inappropriate locations, including those for Clarks Farm and Sandhurst Road, Yateley. The Local Plan therefore needs immediate revision to exclude these sites on the grounds of their non-conformity with Government policy.

## **Resolution proposed by Graham Brown**

*The Yateley Society urges the Environment Agency to ensure that effects of run-off on downstream communities are fully evaluated and costed by planning authorities, especially for developments within or near the flood plain and for flood defence measures. The effect of road and office park development upstream of Yateley is noticeable in the increased severity of run-off surges. Any further developments within or close to the floodplain now need to be balanced by measures to retain and restrain run-off.*

### **Background**

I was alarmed and disappointed by the response of the Environment Agency to the recent flooding in Chertsey and in particular to their claim that the flood control changes near Maidenhead had not been a factor.

It should be recognised that flooding is not caused by rainfall alone, but by run-off. Run-off is increased by changes in land use from forestry to agriculture, from pasture to arable, by an increase in tillage, by development of roads and buildings and especially by channelling of waterways, flood defences and urban development upon flood plains.

The River Blackwater, near Yateley and upstream, has been channelled and it is noticeable that it tends to rise and fall quickly as surges of run-off pass through to flood Sindlesham and Arborfield. Nevertheless high river levels have been reached in the past two years and storm water drains have overflowed.

Further commercial or housing developments upstream of Yateley would exacerbate run-off surges. Winters are becoming wetter and it is necessary to preserve boggy areas and floodplains in upper regions of catchment areas as sponges for surplus rainfall to avoid problems downstream.



## Nominations for Yateley Society Committee 2003

All persons signing as agreeing to stand for election declare that: a) at the AGM they will be fully paid up members of the Society  
 b) they are not ineligible to accept the Trusts of a registered charity; c) if elected, they will accept the Trusts of the Society.

Office	Nomination	Proposer	Secunder	Agreed to stand
Chairman	ASF HOCKING TONY	R. I. COOMBES R. J. Coombes	ALF BROWN ALC Brown	M. Hocky.
Vice Chairman	<del>ALF BROWN</del> ROGER COOMBES	ASF HOCKING M. Hocky.	J. Hill	R. J. Coombes.
Secretary	RICHARD JONSTON	Anne Davies. ANNE DAVIES.	R. I. COOMBES R. J. Coombes	R. J. Coombes
Treasurer	PETER TIPTON	R. I. COOMBES R. J. Coombes	ASF HOCKING M. Hocky.	P. Tipton
Committee memb	GRAMAM BROWN	J. Hill	R. I. COOMBES R. J. Coombes	ALC Brown
Committee memb	COLIN MEDLEY	ALF BROWN ALC Brown	ANNE DAVIES.	Colin Medley
Committee memb	JO HILL	J. Hill	ASF HOCKING M. Hocky.	J. Hill
Committee memb	PHILIP TODD	ALF BROWN ALC Brown	J. Hill	Philip Todd.

### The Yateley Society Trustees 2002-2003

I, the undersigned, declare that I

a) am not disqualified under section 7 of the Yateley Society Constitution from acting as a member of the Executive Committee of the Yateley Society;

b) accept and am willing to act in the Trusts of The Yateley Society with effect from 20 February 2003.

NAME	TITLE	SIGNED	DATE	DATE OF BIRTH	ADDRESS
Tony Hocking	Chairman	<i>T. Hocking</i>	20/2/03	13/5/35	30 CONNAUGHT CLOSE, YATELEY, HAMPSHIRE GU46 6QQ
Roger Coombes	Vice-Chairman	<i>R. Coombes</i>	20/2/03	21/9/1949	6 Alder Grove, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 6EN
Peter Tipton	Hon. Treasurer	<i>P. Tipton</i>	20/3/03	3/12/1939	Monteagle House, Monteagle Lane Yateley Hants GU46 6LU.
Richard Johnston	Hon. Secretary	<i>R. Johnston</i>	20/2/03	20 MAY 1948	4 DUNDELLS LANE, YATELEY, HAMPSHIRE GU46 6EY
Graham Brown	EC Member	<i>G. Brown</i>	20/2/03	2 JAN 1939	Heartford House Vicarage Lane Yateley GU46 7QR.
Philip Todd	EC Member	<i>Philip Todd</i>	20/2/03	29/09/56	DRESSONS, THE STREET, EVERLEY, HANTS RG27 0PS
Joanna Hill	EC Member	<i>J. Hill</i>	20/2/03	08/08/60	45 DARBY GREEN LANE, BLACKWATER SURGEY GU17 0DN
Colin Medley	EC Member	<i>Colin Medley</i>	20/2/03	7/11/1928	33 HOLFIELD YATELEY HANTS GU46 6XP.
	EC Member				
	EC Member				

The  
Yateley  
Society



*Annual Report*  
2002

**THE YATELEY SOCIETY**  
**Annual Report**  
**For the Year Ending 31 December 2002**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Another year has passed, with another set of problems and achievements for the Yateley Society.

Looming over us during the year, as it has done for several years, was the development application and appeals for the 'Mushroom Farm', or Clarks Farm. Legal challenges came and went at ever higher levels, but it looks as if the original proposals are dead. However, alternative proposals are in the pipeline!

In similar vein Fox Farm keeps rearing its head in spite of a firm refusal of planning permission; this is yet another instance of developers never giving up.

There have been many other planning issues during the year, but the number has been so great that a large proportion have had to be ignored, and others have been graced with just a letter of protest; the Planning Group being overwhelmed with work.

Apart from the vexed area of planning the Society activities have carried on much as usual. Historical research, in particular the history of Yateley buildings and families, has revealed a lot more of Yateley's past and the History Data Base is due for another update as a result. Richard Johnston was asked to investigate several buildings during the year and some of the work has been done on a semi-commercial basis.

Two important new matters arose in 2002. Firstly there were renewed schemes by Hampshire County Council to improve the centre of Yateley, and the Society was involved in discussions and a photographic survey. Secondly, and more worrying, was a set of proposals to reorganise and 'improve' the traffic situation in Yateley and on the A30; this provoked considerable comment from the Society and from individual members, mostly critical, as we believed that Hampshire County Council and its advisers were operating from false premises.

The talks and events programme has been very interesting and concentrated on history. An unusual 'away' event was the presentation given on the history of Yateley Baptist Church, at the church itself. In contrast to the history, one of the meetings saw a demonstration of Morris Dancing by the Yateley Morris Men, a very lively and interesting evening. The history theme put a lot of work on Richard Johnston, and we were very grateful to him for his pocket histories of Yateley buildings, and to Peter Tipton, Richard and Chris Bunch for accounts of Yateley families. Noteworthy in this context was our support to 'Local History Week' in May with talks on three Yateley families given at Yateley Library. It seems that this event is to become a regular annual fixture for which the Society will be called upon to help. This is to be encouraged as it gives the Society good publicity of a very positive kind.



Special events were limited to the annual Summer Social and the 'Chairman's Dinner'. The Summer Social took place in the delightful garden of Abberley House thanks to Wilma and David Jordan. Never before has a wandering fox gate-crashed the festivities!

The conservation working parties continued to make their impact on Yateley Common and Castle Bottom. Regrettably we have had unusually little support from the schools and other young people this year, but the core stalwarts have persevered. One session was cancelled because of severe weather, a rare occurrence.

We were sad to lose the Hampshire County Council Site Manager, Tony Davis, after 13 years in Yateley. His successor, Andy Davidson, has also worked on Yateley Common and the other local sites for many years and we look forward to a continuation of the steady improvement of the Common in the future.

In the absence of other volunteers the Chairman led two walks on Yateley Common during the summer, one in an evening was well supported, one on a Saturday afternoon was not; we shall learn from that.

As reported last year the 'Yateley Footways' project has progressed, at last the first area to be mapped was brought to a suitable format and has appeared on the Society website; a further four areas were completed by the years' end and these will be put on the website soon.

A new matter of great concern is the gradual deterioration of the Castle Bottom National Nature Reserve because of an alkaline water flow from the LaFarge - Redland gravel pits. It appears that the alkalinity is mandatory under current water discharge regulations, but this is totally unsuitable, and environmentally dangerous to a strongly acid bog area. The Society and the Hampshire County Council Rangers have protested to the Environment Agency and to English Nature, but the Environment Agency appears reluctant to force a change in the water quality. A further problem is a large outflow of heavily silted water from the gravel pits, again damaging to the Nature Reserve.

## 2. ADMINISTRATION

The Officers of the Society during 2002 were:

Chairman - Tony Hocking

Vice Chairman - Roger Coombes

Honorary Secretary - Richard Johnston

Honorary Treasurer - Peter Tipton

Executive Committee Members were:

Graham Brown (Membership Secretary)

Jo Hill (Programme Secretary and Website Manager)

Colin Medley

Philip Todd

Wilma Jordan (part time)

It was unfortunate that Wilma Jordan, a willing volunteer, was unable to continue as a Committee Member because of work commitments. A survey of the availability of Committee Members on all possible evenings revealed that the traditional Monday was the sole opportunity to attend for most people. Wilma has been enlisted as an advisor.

There were 8 Executive Committee meetings during the year, numbers 178 to 185. There were no Special or extraordinary meetings.

I offer my thanks to all the Officers and Executive Committee members for their efforts during the year.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

At the end of 2002 the Society had 179 current memberships, of which 79 are household memberships. However, there are 10 household and 8 single membership subscriptions overdue, so only 190 members are entitled to vote. 9 memberships lapsed during 2002.

The changeover to fixed date membership, which started with the March 2001 renewals, is now complete. 71 members returned the renewal form and signed the Gift Aid Tax declaration, so we will be able to recoup gift tax on £446 for this year.

## 4. PLANNING

Once again the Society's planning activities continued to suffer from too few people being actively involved, and it has been possible only to follow up the most important or most pressing planning issues. The heavy spate of significant planning applications affecting Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings continued to predominate. If the Society is to maintain its competence in this core area in the longer term, it is important that new people come forward to learn and fully participate in the process.

The Clarks Farm Public Inquiry was taken to judicial review, and the decision was overturned by the High Court in January 2002, but this ruling was itself overturned in the Court of Appeal shortly before the end of 2002, so the appeal decision stands. A new application has been submitted, very similar to the one, which was refused on appeal, which the Society has opposed on essentially the same grounds as before. This new application had not been determined by the end of 2002.

The site at Robins Grove Park, where a previous application was refused on appeal in 2001, has now been built upon, as was expected at the time of the last annual report.

An application to build in a garden adjacent to Cross Oak Cottage was the subject of a Planning appeal. The appeal was refused, but not on Listed Building grounds.

The application for housing behind Barclay House that was refused by Councillors in 2001 finally went to appeal in November 2002. There was a very large turnout of local residents at the informal hearing. The appeal was refused on grounds that would seem to make any further similar proposals difficult.

The Society had intended to have further discussions with Hart District Council during 2002 about the way some applications were being handled by the Council. This did not occur, but there is some evidence of an improved approach following the appointment of a new officer to oversee development control.

The Society continues to be concerned about and actively involved with such concerns as Yateley Common, the airfield, and Blackbushe Metals, and initiatives for improving Yateley's "Town Centre".

The Society was asked to undertake a review of Yateley Town Centre with a view to helping with the Yateley Village Design Framework, a Hampshire County Council initiative; about 15 members walked the Reading Road and took photographs in May 2002. The follow up meeting to discuss the photographs and their implications has not yet taken place.

"Traffic Management" proposals by Hampshire County Council for the B3272 through Yateley and Eversley provoked considerable debate and not a little anger, and extensive comments were returned to the Consultation process.

Towards the end of the year Hart District Council formally adopted the Local Plan. As adopted the Plan contains several policies to which the Society still strongly objects. These include the policies concerning sites for commercial development at Clark's Farm and at Sandhurst Road, and the policy appearing to endorse noisier water sports in the Blackwater Valley. The Society awaits an early review of the adopted Plan in order to present its arguments for modification and even deletion of these policies.

## 5. HISTORY

History interest in the Society remains strong. Peter Tipton and Chris Bunch gave the two main talks at the "Local History Week" event, which was held at Yateley Library. Other history talks and discussions formed a significant part of the Society's talks programme, and a talk was given to Yateley's "University of the Third Age" group in January. Individuals continued their research projects during the year. The houses, Welmore, the former Globe Farmhouse, Casa dei Cesari and Pond Farm were all the subject of "quick" architectural surveys, and were found, as usual, to be older than originally thought. Some oral history recordings were made during the year. A number of family historians contacted the Society during the year, with benefits for both sides.

## 6.1 Yateley History Project

During the year some more new material was accumulated from a variety of sources. A minor update was made to the CD-ROM, but a large amount of material remains to be transferred to CD.

## 6. CONSERVATION

This year has seen another slight fall in the total work hours expended by the group, but it must be said that it was all *quality time* due to the focused energies of the battle hardened band of experienced volunteers. Thus, a lot of useful work has been achieved on both Yateley Common SSSI and Castle Bottom NNR.

Tasks have been directed, as always, at birch and pine control, and in the autumn a new task of repairing the board walk on Castle Bottom was successfully tackled under the expert guidance of Ranger Claire Bloomer.

Also in the autumn, the Yateley Society supported a Yateley Lions' initiative and joined the restoration work on the Moulsham Lane Pond. A large quantity of rubbish, weeds and tree growth was removed, and the task will probably be completed with another session, or two, next year.

The year of 2002 was most memorable as it marked the moving on of Tony Davis, Site Manager for twelve years, who has gone to take up a post involving butterfly conservation in Dorset. The post has recently been filled by Andy Davidson, who has also been working on Yateley Common and its environs for many years, and is now studying for his MSc in Environmental Management.

It is worth noting that, prior to Tony Davis's tenure at Yateley, the heathland habitat had been degraded steadily for a number of years due to the lack of physical intervention and positive management by his predecessors. Tony Davis oversaw massive changes in that direction and instigated significant tree removal and heathland regeneration programmes that caused him some considerable stress and aggravation from some of the local populace who were, apparently, ignorant of the reasons for this important work. He has laid the foundation for a healthier Yateley Common, as is evidenced in the wildlife surveys, and the Yateley Society members will always remember and value highly his unique contributions and skills.

We take this opportunity to wish his successor, Andy, every success, and pledge him our continued, enthusiastic support. We look forward to the day that Andy will oversee the next quantum jump to consolidating the local heathland in perpetuity with the introduction of a phased grazing programme.

Best wishes to Tony and Andy in their new careers, and many thanks to each and every one of our wonderful volunteers.

## 7. YATELEY SOCIETY WEBSITE

The website to publicise the Society is being maintained on the Hampshire County Council web server. This provides information about the Society in general, its publications, provides notice of meetings, and has a local history site within it. It may be found at <http://hants.org.uk/yateley>. The site continues to attract modest interest, and the site was redesigned and updated during 2002.

The website was used to display the first of the Yateley Footways maps, this section will continue to be updated as new maps become available. Also on view were the photographs taken along the Reading Road, illustrating the many eyesores, and some good features, of this important local artery.

## 8. PUBLICATIONS

Work on revising and updating the forthcoming booklet on 'The Haven' has continued. New items of evidence and anecdotes keep being discovered and this has delayed publication by forcing several partial rewrites. An advertising filmstrip concerning 'The Haven' has been promised to the Society and this may mean yet more amendments to the booklet.

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMME

### 9.1 Communications with Members

There were five Stop Presses issued in 2002, numbers 54 to 58. Stop Press continues to be the main channel of communication with members.

The Executive Committee believes that an additional publication, less frequent, but more expansive and dealing with a few important topics in some detail, is required. An editor for such a publication is needed urgently.

### 9.2 Programme

The year's programme included the normal variety of activities, consisting mainly of the monthly meetings.

#### 9.2 i) 2002 Talks:

The Ryder Social Area at Frogmore Community College was used for meetings in the first half of the year, apart from the visit to Yateley Baptist Church. The Ryder Social Area was thought to be somewhat unsatisfactory, particularly as students and staff tended to walk through the room during talks. As an experiment the meetings in the latter part of the year were held in the hall at Yateley Industries for the Disabled; this proved to be convenient and popular with the established membership. There was the additional benefit of providing support to this valuable local organisation.

Thursday January 17th. *'The History of Yateley'*  
A talk by Richard Johnston updating and expanding an earlier account of how Yateley developed, and describing some of its characters.

Thursday February 21st. The Yateley Society Annual General Meeting  
A review of the Society's activities in 2001 and a chance for members to hear and discuss issues of importance to the Society in the coming year.

Thursday March 21st *'The History of the White Lion'*  
An illustrated talk by Richard Johnston describing the gradual change of the building from a C17 private house to a public house.

Thursday April 18th. *'The History of Yateley Hall to 1700'*  
An illustrated talk by Richard Johnston revealing the great age of the original building, a survey of hidden features and the mystery of the 'moat'.

Thursday May 7th. *'This Was Yateley'*  
A programme of three talks about well known Yateley families, 'The Fitzroy Story' by Richard Johnston; 'Exploring the Caves of Yateley' by Peter Tipton and 'Defending Quetta with the 4th Hampshires' by Chris Bunch. This was in support of the contribution made by Yateley Library to the nationwide Local History Week.

Friday May 17th. *'Yateley Baptist Church - 175 Years Old!'*  
A presentation and exhibition about the history of Yateley Baptist Church, given at the church by Mr. Ken Walters.

Thursday June 20th. *'On the Trail of Flora Thompson'*  
An account of the story of the author of the *Larkrise to Candleford* trilogy, who at one time worked at Yateley Post Office, by John Owen Smith

Thursday September 19th. *'The Fitzroy Family'*  
A talk tracing the Fitzroy ancestry back to Charles II, and describing the family links with Frogmore Park in Yateley, by Richard Johnston

Thursday October 17th. Planning Update Meeting. A discussion on the local planning matters of current importance; e.g. the Mushroom Farm (Clarks Farm), Barclay House, etc.

Thursday November 21st. *'Camberley's Locals'*.  
A history of Camberley public houses, by Ken Clark of the Surrey Heath Local History Society.

Thursday December 19th. Members Evening.  
Society members were invited to give 'a 1 minute talk on their impressions of Yateley', with a glass of wine and mince pies to aid the discussion.

### 9.2 (ii) Conservation

Working Parties met on Yateley Common on the last Sunday of each month of the year, work took place on all occasions except the November meeting when severe weather curtailed activities.

**9.2 (iii) 2002 Walks:**

(Ideas for walks are always welcomed, please contact Tony Hocking on 875 158)

Thursday July 18th. *'A Walk on the Wild Side'*.  
A 3-mile walk around the western part of Yateley Common and into Castle Bottom, led by Tony Hocking.

Saturday September 28th. *'The Eastern Common'*.  
A walk around the part of Yateley Common east of Cricket Hill Lane, led by Tony Hocking.

**9.2 (iv) 2002 Special Events**

Friday January 25th. *The Chairman's Dinner*.  
A communal pay-your-own-way dinner was held at The Ely. Once again this was a convivial way to greet the New Year.

Saturday July 14th. *The Summer Social*.  
This year the social was held in the garden of Abberley House. Our thanks are due to Wilma and David Jordan for allowing us to invade their delightful garden for our festivities; the fox that wandered in had a great surprise!

In conclusion, I offer my thanks to all the Society members who continue to support the Society, be they directly involved in our many activities, or giving us moral and financial backing.

Anthony (Tony) J F Hocking  
Chairman, The Yateley Society

**Report Contributors:**

Richard Johnston, Peter Tipton, Roger Coombes, Graham Brown, Mike Mann, Tony Hocking.





*The  
Yateley  
Society*

**The Yateley Society**

**Registered with the Civic Trust  
Registered Charity No 282397**

**Membership Secretary**  
Graham Brown  
Hartford House  
Vicarage Lane  
Yateley  
Tel 01252 8719354

# The Yateley Society

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of The Yateley Society,  
held at 8.05pm on Thursday 20th February 2003 in the Meeting Room,  
Yateley Industries, Mill Lane, Yateley

## Attendance

Tony Hocking Chairman, Roger Coombes Vice-Chairman, Peter Tipton Treasurer,  
Richard Johnston Secretary, 22 other members and 3 guests.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Susan Warren, Ann Knott, Mr. and Mrs. R. Nash, Mrs Colbert, Trudy Boothby,  
Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, Gerald Howarth

## 2. Minutes of 21st Annual General Meeting held 21 February 2002

These were approved unanimously. (Prop. Roger Coombes, 2nd Jo Hill)

## 3. Matters Arising

Peter Tipton reported that decision for the monthly meetings to major on Local  
History had started well, but the numbers attending meetings had tailed off towards  
the end of the season. The intent is to continue to feature local history.

Tony Hocking reported that the society walks had mixed success. It was clear that  
there was more support for evening walks than afternoon walks. There was more  
scope for more interesting walks within a wider radius – say, up to 10 miles.

Peter Tipton said that the planning subcommittee was still looking for additional help.  
Thanks to several members who had contributed mightily to specific issues, like  
Clarkes Farm, Barclay House and RMC.

## 4. Chairman's Address

The Chairman summarised the main features of his report, which had been  
circulated before the meeting. It was noted that Gerald Howarth was taking up the  
issue of the acidity level of run-off into the Castle Bottom Nature Reserve with  
Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment.

The Annual Report was adopted unanimously, (prop Colin Medley, 2nd Philip  
Todd).

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Peter Tipton presented the accounts, which were prepared on the same basis as the  
previous year. The changes in the membership year, which had led to a higher  
subscriptions figure in 2001, were evened out by a lower figure in 2002. The cost of  
insurance had risen by 40% or so, allegedly because of the added risk of the  
conservation working party being attacked by terrorists. Room hire was costing more  
but we were benefiting from the facilities and convenience of Yateley Industries. The  
deposit account had been moved to attract more interest, but interest rates had fallen.

The money on hand is divided into the Daphne Kirkpatrick memorial fund, a reserve fund for expenses connected with enquires and a general fund.

There was discussion on the forthcoming Formal Enquiry into the application by RMC for noisy watersports on the lakes adjoining the golf course south of the River Blackwater. Anne Davies is leading the objections.

There was a show of hands to indicate support. Members were urged to submit individual objections within the following six weeks. Anne will circulate some of the reasons for objecting to the e-mail list.

Anne is considering paying for a review of the case by a qualified lawyer, and the Society may make a contribution to costs.

The accounts were adopted unanimously, (prop Peter Tipton, 2nd Graham Brown)

Peter Tipton asked for a show of hands on the question of schools selling their playing fields. It was generally agreed that this was a bad policy.

## 6. Election of Officers

These had all been proposed in advance as required under the Constitution, and had been nominated as follows:

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman:	Tony Hocking	Roger Coombes	Graham Brown
Vice Chairman:	Roger Coombes	Tony Hocking	Jo Hill
Treasurer:	Peter Tipton	Roger Coombes	Tony Hocking
Secretary:	Richard Johnston	Anne Davies	Roger Coombes

These were unanimously elected unopposed, en bloc.

## 7. Election of Committee Members

The following were proposed for the committee:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Philip Todd	Graham Brown	Peter Tipton
Graham Brown	Jo Hill	Roger Coombes
Colin Medley	Graham Brown	Anne Davies
Jo Hill	Peter Tipton	Tony Hocking

These were elected en bloc, unanimously.

## 8. Discussion

Three resolutions were proposed. These had been circulated ahead of the meeting with the rationale and justification for them. These are reproduced below.

### 8.1 Meet the Archivist Programme – proposed by Peter Tipton

*This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society congratulates Hampshire Record Office in initiating its 'Meet the Archivist' programme at local Libraries throughout the county.*

#### Background

Hampshire Record Office's 'Outreach programme' has always included talks to local groups. Indeed the Yateley Society has hosted talks about Hampshire Archive Trust

by Caroline Edwards and a workshop on oral history recording by David Lee of Wessex Film & Sound Archive. In the next several months the talks and walks programme includes an average of four events per month hosted by local groups.

The record office is now visiting local communities to hold workshop sessions in local libraries. The idea is that you will be able to ask a visiting archivist for advice concerning your own research; you can bring your own documents and questions to find out about sources for local and family history.

The next 'Meet the Archivist' event will be in Yateley on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30.

As a member of the Local History Group, Peter welcomed this excellent new initiative by the HRO, and hoped that family historians would attend and be encouraged to try their hand at local history.

Passed unanimously (2nd Graham Brown)

Jean McIlwaine asked that the letter forwarding the resolution should also thank them for their help after the church fire in 1978.

## **8.2 Hart District Local Plan – proposed by Richard Johnston**

*This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society, recognising that large transport intensive land uses in places like Clarks Farm and Sandhurst Road, Yateley are now contrary to Government policy, calls upon Hart District Council to modify, without delay, the newly adopted Local Plan to exclude these and similar unsuitable sites in Hart District.*

### **Background**

Government Transport Planning Guidance (PPG13) now requires large scale commercial and other developments that attract large numbers of journeys to be located close to major transport interchanges, so that they can be accessed by modes other than the private car. This was one of the reasons for refusal on appeal of the Clarks Farm development. However the recently adopted Hart District local Plan still includes intensive development proposals in inappropriate locations, including those for Clarks Farm and Sandhurst Road, Yateley. The local plan therefore needs immediate revision to exclude these sites on the grounds of their non-conformity with Government policy.

Passed unanimously (2nd Jo Hill)

Philip Todd informed the meeting that the plan had been approved in December and that 9 policies were immediately identified for review, 4 of which were urgent. The revised policies would be published as amendments to the plan.

## **8.3 Resolution on Floodplains – proposed by Graham Brown**

*The Yateley Society urges the Environment Agency to ensure that effects of run-off on downstream communities are fully evaluated and costed by planning authorities, especially for developments within or near the flood plain and for flood defence measures. The effect of road and office park development upstream of Yateley is*

*noticeable in the increased severity of run-off surges. Any further developments within or close to the floodplain now need to be balanced by measures to retain and restrain run-off.*

### **Rationale**

The Yateley Society was alarmed and disappointed by the response of the Environment Agency to the recent flooding in Chertsey and in particular to their claim that the flood control changes near Maidenhead had not been a factor.

It should be recognised that flooding is not caused by rainfall alone, but by run-off. Run-off is increased by changes in land use from forestry to agriculture, from pasture to arable, by an increase in tillage, by development of roads and buildings and especially by channelling of waterways, flood defences and urban development upon flood plains.

The River Blackwater, near Yateley and upstream, has been channelled and it is noticeable that it tends to rise and fall quickly as surges of run-off pass through to flood Sindlesham and Arborfield. Nevertheless high river levels have been reached in the past two years and storm water drains have overflowed.

Further commercial or housing developments upstream of Yateley would exacerbate run-off surges. Winters are becoming wetter and it is necessary to preserve boggy areas and floodplains in upper regions of catchment areas as sponges for surplus rainfall to avoid problems downstream.

Passed Unanimously (prop Graham Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jean McIlwaine)

### **9. AOB**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.40 and members took wine and biscuits until well after the closing time of 22.00.

Graham Brown - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2003