

# The Yateley Society

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
(Report for the calendar year 2010 and  
Accounts for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010)

## INTRODUCTION

The Yateley Society, having annual receipts and payments less than £10,000, is not required to produce a Trustees' Report and Accounts conforming to SORP 2008. When the regulations were introduced, however, members voted that the charity should prepare its report and accounts as if it had income greater than £10,000. They felt that as the public amenity society for Yateley the Society's affairs should be as transparent as possible and beyond reproach. This resulted in a stylised form of report that contains regulatory material (such as that in Sections 1 to 3 below) and the Society's activities are reported in such general terms as to be of limited interest to members and local people who want to know in detail what the Society has achieved, and what the future may hold.

## 1. NAMES OF CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEES

The following Officers of the Yateley Society were elected at the AGM in February 2010. They are all charitable trustees:

Chairman:	Roger Coombes
Vice-Chairman:	Trudy Boothby
Honorary Secretary:	Graham Brown
Honorary Treasurer:	Jo Hill

Executive Committee Members:

Philip Todd  
Mary Roaf  
Peter Tipton

All members of the Executive Committee are required to sign a form annually acknowledging their role as charitable trustees. Members of the Executive committee receive no remuneration.

Within the terms of the Constitution there should be a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 Trustees. Only 7 Trustees were forthcoming at the AGM and despite the efforts of the Executive Committee no new trustees were appointed during the year.

Juliet Breschinsky became minute secretary during the year as a non-executive member and non-trustee.

The death of Graham Brown in December has left the Executive Committee and Trustees light at just 6.

## **2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Society's governing document is the Constitution, the model constitution of the Civic Trust, first adopted at its inaugural meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1981. The Constitution was amended at the AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1982 to change annual subscriptions to be payable on the anniversary of joining; at an SGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1996 to add a fourth Biodiversity object clause, and make a large number of detail changes to modernise the constitution, mainly to conform with Charity Commissioner and Civic Trust standards; and at the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2002 to change back subscriptions as payable annually to coincide with the financial year.

The Society is managed by the executive Committee, which meets on a Monday evening at six week intervals. All Society business is discussed to a structured agenda prepared by the Honorary Secretary. Minutes are kept by the Minute Secretary and approved as correct at the following meeting.

## **3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Society's Constitution contains the following object clauses:

- (i) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- (ii) To secure the preservation protection development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.
- (iii) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- (iv) To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the area of benefit and to contribute to the conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems and the protection of flora and fauna characteristic of the area.

Each year the Society's objectives and activities seek to further its charitable object clauses.

To achieve object clause (i) the Society runs a talks programme which anyone may attend free of charge, and has a website, which in addition to providing information, also attracts a steady stream of email enquiries, mostly concerning local and family history. The Society is also a major contributor to the website of the Southeast Berkshire, Northeast Hampshire, Northwest Surrey Heathland History Forum and by acting as webmaster.

To achieve object clause (ii) the Society continues to research Yateley's heritage including the history of old buildings, whether listed or not, and maintains a database of up-to-date research. In the recent past the Society has made substantial contributions to the Yateley Community Plan and LDF planning processes, and continuously monitors the activities of the Local Planning Authority. The Society also maintains a watching brief over the registered commonland in the parish as an historic feature, carries out historic research, and encourages archaeological research by local experts and maintains a forum for the dissemination of the findings. The Society also monitors the conservation status of Yateley Common, an important part of the

Thames Valley Heaths Special Protection Area for Wild Birds, supporting two members as observers on the Yateley Commons Management Committee.

To achieve object clause (iii) the Society's Registrar monitors all planning applications in Yateley, which are sent to him by the Local Planning Authority. The Society's Standing Orders require the Planning Subcommittee to consider all planning applications in the Society's area of benefit:

- for five residential houses or more
- in or affecting Conservation Areas
- relating to Listed Buildings
- within areas designated by the Town Centre Plan
- on or affecting registered common land
- within strategic gaps between settlements
- outside the settlement boundary where likely to compromise that boundary
- considered to be detrimental to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, National Nature Reserves, and other areas designed for the protection of wildlife, natural habitats and any other areas of nature conservation.
- for commercial or publicly owned premises and for changes of use of private and commercial properties
- any other proposals or applications considered by the committee to be "bad planning".

To achieve object clause (iv) the Society organises a group of Conservation Volunteers. Involvement is not restricted to Society members; everyone is welcome. The volunteer hours are logged annually. The Society's Conservation Officer is one of the two members attending the Yateley Commons Management Committee as observers.

The Society seeks to maintain membership levels on our area of benefit at or above the average membership:population ratio for Civic Trusts across the country. We have been criticised for not having a high enough profile in the community, and this is due partly to the lack of a dedicated person to undertake this role. Since, several years ago, the Society's Publicity Officer, a skilled professional, left the district it has not been possible to replace her with another volunteer.

The charity is administered entirely by volunteers. It does not have access to the financial resources that might allow it to operate in any other way. This naturally affects what may be reasonably expected of the charity in terms of performance and timeliness. Thus if a volunteer worker ceases to be willing to carry out the work, resigns from the Society, or leaves the district, and another volunteer cannot be found, the role he was undertaking is likely to cease. As the Society's membership ages, this problem is becoming more acute. It is proving difficult to recruit younger members with the necessary time and experience to replace those who are retiring from active service for the Society.

An important example of these succession problems concerns the Society's Planning Subcommittee. The two people who between them had been responsible for undertaking almost all of the Society's planning responsibilities for 12 years have now ceased in one case and intending to cease in the other. They were willing to act as "consultants" to help train new volunteers, but no volunteers to replace them have been forthcoming, despite the Society's reputation for competence in addressing planning issues being the reason why most people join the Society. An attempt to address the issue was discussed and proposed by the Executive Committee. This would take the form of a training course on planning matters provided for interested members who might lack knowledge, experience and confidence. The Society would provide the course using academics or experts in the field, possibly from local universities. This was intended for late spring or early summer 2011, but the sudden death of Graham Brown, whose initial idea it was and who was investigating the possibilities, has necessarily delayed it.

#### **4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Prepared by Roger Coombes

The Trustees consider that the Society, despite being an entirely volunteer organisation, did reasonably well in attaining the aims set by the object clause in its charitable constitution.

At the May Fair we were presented with an award by the Town Mayor, Myra Billings, in the form of an illuminated scroll, inscribed with the following:-  
"Presented to the Yateley Society in grateful recognition of outstanding service and contribution to the local community by Yateley Town Council.  
May 2010"

Despite the reduction in human resources within the Society and on the Executive Committee highlighted elsewhere, we maintained a level of commitment to planning issues, as detailed below.

It was not an easy year for our programme of monthly talks and visits. Despite the best efforts of the Vice-Chairman, we were hit on a number of occasions by the sudden unavailability of arranged speakers. Fortunately, the Executive Committee rallied, especially Peter Tipton, by holding updating sessions and discussions on a range of planning matters and local history research.

The Executive Committee took a decision during the year to attempt to reinstate some of the sub-committees which had evaporated over previous years, starting with a Publicity or PR sub-committee, in the hope that this would encourage more members to become involved. The new Publicity sub-committee met in December and it is hoped that it will continue.

As will be seen in the section below, the Conservation Volunteers continue to do sterling work in assisting the County Council Rangers.

The Executive Committee decided that the time was ripe for the Society's website to be revamped, and entrusted Jo Hill to undertake this task, which is making good progress, as anyone who has visited the site recently will see.

#### **4.1 PLANNING & CONSERVATION**

Prepared by Tony Hocking & Peter Tipton

##### Conservation of Heritage Assets

The Society's 2010 AGM called on Hart to commence reappraisal of the Yateley Green Conservation Area immediately. Hart's reappraisal programme was already slipping, and we were concerned by the continuing erosion of its historic character. Hart responded quickly by appointing consultants to review all three Yateley Conservation Areas. The Society has taken a very active role in the reappraisal process, including the initial assessment of historic buildings and the official 'stakeholder walkabout'. We were asked to review the Character Appraisals before publication. During the Public Consultation stage for the Yateley Green Conservation we submitted detailed amendments to the Management Proposals.

The publication of PPS5 in 2010 requires Planning Authorities to compile Heritage Environmental Records assisted where possible by voluntary groups. Therefore as an additional long term contribution to the reappraisal programme the Society is undertaking further detailed historical research into all historic buildings dating from before 1910 and lying within all three conservation areas. This process which goes right back to the Society's origins 30 years ago, and resulted in the publication in the 1990s of two heritage walk booklets written by Valerie Kerlake. The determined expansion of the Society's digital archives has made available new information with which to update previous research. Rather than republish the booklets the Society now intends to place the information on redesigned web pages, based on the Yateley Tithe Map; this will be accessible to all comers.

The Society had signal success in supporting a member's application to spot list Goose Green Cottage as grade II. We provided historical research for this pre-1700 building plus a detailed historic building survey by Richard Johnston. The English Heritage initial report quoted Richard's work and the citation gives full justification to the spot-listing. As a result of the conservation area reviews Hart has asked the Society to prepare further applications for spot-listing. To date a report has been submitted to Hart on one building and two more are in progress.

This local history research to support the Society's role as a community 'stakeholder' to the Local Planning Authority has been, and will remain for some time, the main thrust of the Society's local history programme.

##### Planning Applications

In conformity with the Society's standing orders the Society has only commented on Planning Applications affecting Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and the local environment. This year has seen a spate of repeat

applications, mainly concurrent with the reappraisals of the Yateley Green and Darby Green Conservation Areas.

An application for a single dwelling on the 'Hivings' site in Handford Lane was supported by the Society as a single large dwelling appeared more suitable than the earlier proposals of multiple houses or a block of flats. During 2010 the new house has been built, and looks acceptable in its surroundings.

The re-emergence of another application with a long history was for the demolition of the Old Post Office and the adjacent bungalow in Church End to be replaced with retail units and 6 flats. There was, as in the past, a great outcry from local people supported by the Yateley Society, against the removal of these iconic vernacular buildings. We submitted two letters of objection including a detailed history of the site providing evidence that it was the site of the Swan, and old inn demolished in the early 1700s. Were the current buildings to be demolished, the archaeology should be investigated. Hart rejected this application and a repeat was then submitted. The Society again objected. Hart's rejection of this second application resulted in a written appeal to which we submitted a detailed objection, based on the conservation area appraisal. The decision is still awaited.

A proposal for office development at Clarke's Farm was put into the Local Plan as long ago as 1996 but only a small enabling development of housing has so far resulted. However after sale of the site development proposals resurfaced again in 2010 this time for waste recycling site; this includes a concrete crusher with attendant noise and dust risk and the noise of heavy trucks being unloaded and reloaded. The site would affect two Listed Buildings and part of the site lies within the Darby Green Conservation Area. On behalf of the Society and the Town Council an objection letter was submitted by the same consultancy which was preparing the review of the Darby Green Conservation Area. The Society was invited to attend the 'stakeholders meeting' arranged by the Case Officer. The matter is still being considered by Hampshire County Council.

A new problem to arise is that of additional caravan sites for travellers. For Yateley the most contentious is an unofficial site on Mill Lane within one of the two proposed extensions to the Yateley Green Conservation Area. The Yateley Society originally objected on the grounds that it would hinder the extension of the Yateley Green Conservation Area into Mill Lane, and that the site was unnecessary as there are already two official traveller sites close to Yateley. A second site close to Yateley, but on the Berkshire side of the River Blackwater, was also objected to as being inappropriate for that area. An appeal against the enforcement notice for the Mill Lane site has now gone to appeal and will be heard in 2011

Woodhayes, one of the houses in Firgrove Road subject to several applications calling for replacement with blocks of flats was sold to new owners who submitted an application for an extension. This was not objected to as it would mean that the single house would be retained and that the Yateley Green Conservation area would not be compromised.

Yet another long-running saga is an application at The Coach House site in Macrae Road for seven dwellings to be built following vandalism which resulted in a fire which destroyed the large house. We objected on the same grounds as the Town Council, arguing that such an important site in the Conservation Area should be restricted to only two replacement buildings, preferably a community building. Unfortunately Hart approved the seven dwellings, and as yet community groups have no right of appeal.

A letter has been sent to the Inspectorate supporting Hart's rejection of a retrospective application in the conservation area for an illuminated sign on 1 Forge Court. This building is Trythes dating from before 1567, but the outside appearance is deceptive since this former Blacksmith's house was incorporated into a terrace of conjoined buildings in 1965.

### Planning Policy

Thankfully, during all the activity reappraising the three conservation areas, and the resultant spate of repeat planning applications before these reviews are adopted by full Council, 'planning policy' has been quiet. This has partly resulted from the scrapping of the SE Plan by the coalition government, then being reinstated by the High Court, but likely to be scrapped again by the Localism Bill. Right at the end of 2010 Hart revised its SHLAA with a worrying new assessment of the development potential for some 200 houses on the Urnfield site (north of Vicarage Road) adjacent to Yateley Green Conservation Area. With the LDF Draft Core Strategy poised for publication early in 2011 the future looks uncertain for the Society's ability to cope since, after over two years, the Society has still not been able to appoint a new Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee.

## **4.2 CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER**

Prepared by Mike Mann

Despite heavy snow at both ends of this year, the Conservation Group has continued the support of HCC Rangers Heathland Management, and volunteer hours were up 11% on last year. This is all the more exciting because, adding the time spent in the Royal Oak Valley eliminating Himalayan Balsam, the Team has built up the highest contribution of work hours since 1999. We now have a platform to build some really strong performance (habitat improvements) during 2011. It is hoped that 'extra' work parties can be arranged to support the imminent ***Dipping Platform Project at Stroude's Pool***, *without* neglecting the Heathland Management effort. This project has resulted from a Lottery Grant Application by the Yateley Society, and the Dipping Platform will be constructed under the supervision & direction of new Yateley Ranger, Jean Evans. Volunteers interested in supporting this project, which must be completed within one year, please get in touch with Mike Mann, Jo Hill or one of the Rangers.

2010 has seen a number of new, keen, hard-working volunteers join, and some of the long serving members have accumulated some impressive personal contributions. 12 volunteers have worked sufficient hours to qualify

for a Certificate from the Yateley Society, signed by the Chairman and the Yateley Common HCC Site Manager, in recognition of their achievements.

Two individual achievements are worthy of note. Will Tabner has enthusiastically supported the Group since 2000 and has amassed over 250 hours of work during that time. Frank Rose, actually not a Society member, has been attending since 1995, he is well into his 80's and still turns out. Frank has amassed an incredible total of well over 400 hours. The Yateley Society Conservation Group salutes these outstanding individual commitments and hopes that their shining examples will motivate others in the Group to greater efforts.

As many readers will know, volunteer work is primarily aimed at stopping the degrading influences of tree & scrub encroachment on the open heath areas in the absence of grazing animals, which was how the heath was created by human activities in the first place. There is now the real prospect of grazing returning to Yateley Common, probably south of the A30 initially. Over the long term this tends to improve the habitat and maintain its scarcity value, without the need for periodic, wholesale felling and intensive (costly) restoration works.

Meanwhile, we press on to support the efforts of our local Rangers. During the past few years HCC Rangers have succeeded, with a little bit of help from the Yateley Society Conservation Group Volunteers and others, in improving the habitat status from "Unfavourable, declining" to "Recovering and into Target Status". This was the official evaluation by Natural England in May 2010, and demonstrates that while there is a great deal more to be done, good progress has been made.

Large areas were cleared by contractors during 2010, and our Conservation Team concentrated on 3 main areas;

- South of the "Hospital Pond" – birch & scrub clearance, opening up the pond to the south (sunlight & flight path)
- "Stroude's Pool" – removal / coppicing of dense holly thickets & creation of glades (insect encouragement, good for Nightjars hunting off the adjacent heath)
- "Castle Bottom, NNR" - tree and scrub clearance to protect / recreate open areas of *secluded* heath (important for ground nesting birds, where disturbance by dogs / people / horses is avoided)

When walking across these valuable tracts of land, considered very rare on an International basis, people should always be mindful of the disturbance caused by their mere presence. They should keep dogs on leads and keep to the main bridle paths. Creating unofficial short-cuts across open expanses of heather is ignorant and may lead to rare birds abandoning nests. The same goes for vandalism and fly-tipping. Offenders should be reported immediately. If the rare species which depend on open heath land cease to populate it, it loses some of its value and then we all risk losing the heath land !

In addition to the heath land work, efforts to eliminate Himalayan Balsam from the Royal Oak Valley are starting to pay off.

We have been clearing this for five years and whilst most of the main areas are now clear, one or two plants escape our attentions each year and we end up with a small outbreak the following season. There remains a stubborn population under the cover of fallen trees, nettles and brambles which are proving tough to kill, but we have nearly succeeded, and the indigenous flora in the valley is burgeoning in response. More volunteers are needed next summer to complete the task.

If any readers would like more information about the Conservation Group, please get in touch. We operate on the basis that volunteers attend when they can because they enjoy it, and strictly *without* obligation. Come along on the last Sunday of every month, 10:00 hrs sharp, Wyndham's Pool Car Park, off Cricket Hill Lane. We convoy by car from there. **Tools, guidance & refreshments (& insurance) provided free. Everyone welcome, stay as long as you like** (session finishes at 13:00 hrs. anyway), youngsters under 17 years accompanied by a responsible adult, please.

### **4.3 MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING**

Prepared by Peter Tipton and Jo Hill

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership on 30 September 2010 was drawn from only 98 households compared with 108 on the same date in 2009. However, compared with the previous financial year membership was very stable at year-end: 163, up from 162. This excellent result is a tribute to the efforts of our former long-term Membership Secretary, Graham Brown. He had reported at our Executive Committee meeting in January 2010 that he was very concerned that, as a result of the economic situation, membership was still dropping heavily from our average historic level of 200. Graham partly stabilised the situation by persuading members to sign standing orders, thus improving this figure during the year from 32 to 51 members. The Society normally has a significant turnover as existing members leave the area, and new members replace them. This year a significant contribution to the roll of new members came from Mill Lane. We still had 29 Founder Members paid-up for the 2009-10 year.

The collection of cash subscriptions is normally accomplished using reminders in the first Newsletter following the financial year-end. Graham Brown's tragically early death is reported elsewhere, occurring on the weekend the Newsletter was being distributed. As a 'post-balance sheet event' it must therefore be reported that membership renewal forms were removed from the distribution to avoid unnecessarily burdening Graham's family. Emails were immediately sent to all those for whom we have an email address. At the time of writing the Society has received 99 membership renewals from 59 households -- so we are halfway to our target of achieving our historic level of 200 members. Our appeal for a new Membership Secretary met with an immediate response.

## Fundraising

Social events are the secondary means of raising funds for the society and these were generally well supported. The summer social took place at Hartford House again this year, hosted by Graham and Jenny Brown.

For the third year running we had a stall at the Community Fair run by St Barnabas Church in Frogmore & Darby Green, where we displayed and sold our range of prints of old photographs of Yateley and Frogmore & Darby Green.

## **4.4 LOCAL HISTORY, HISTORY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

Prepared by Peter Tipton and Richard Johnston

In January 2011 the Yateley Society makes local history itself, having been the local amenity organisation for the Civil Parish for 30 years. What then have we achieved in Local History research in those 30 years, and are we meeting our charitable object clauses? First and foremost the Society is a Civic Trust, set up to ensure high standards of planning, and to protect Yateley's heritage assets. Exactly 15 years ago, in view of the proposals to designate Yateley Common as a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds under EU Directives, we added protection of biodiversity to our charitable object clause. To meet our objectives the Society has had to participate in many public inquiries. Heathland management and protection, and heritage conservation requires research and the presentation of historical evidence at those Inquiries. At a public inquiry standards of proof of evidence are far higher than, say, for family history research. Therefore in order to establish an 'historic fact' the Society has adopted a standard of proof which requires confirming evidence to be obtained from three independent primary sources.

Historical evidence is usually presented at short notice for planning applications, public inquiries, for conservation area reviews, and for applications to spot-list historic buildings. This can only be achieved quickly and effectively if the Society maintains and adds to a comprehensive digital database of historic records. Until we are challenged we maintain that the Yateley Society has the largest digital database of any parish in the country. At a time when communities are being encouraged to start creating local digital databases through Heritage Lottery funding assisted by archive professionals we can say that we have been doing it unaided with no exterior funding, since the mid 1980s, when we were using Commodores and BBC Micros. On our 10th anniversary we demonstrated at the May Fayre the first release of our digital database on 4 floppy discs using a 'portable' Amstrad powered by a petrol generator.

In July 2010, 20 years later, our Archivist, Richard Johnston, reported to the Trustees that the Society's total digital archive consists of 52,000 images of 225 Gb. This is backed-up in a number of ways including being assembled into 3,300 discrete digitally accessible documents created by optical character recognition software.

The Society's paper archive has been assembled for about a century by Victorian antiquarians, former church archivists, a WEA tutorial group sponsored by the Society, by the Archivist himself sitting in archives transcribing documents, by research conducted for the 10 years of local history exhibitions, and of course from the research carried out for planning and conservation purposes. As it is digitised the Society's paper archive is being transferred to the Hampshire Record Office. The first deposit recorded in last year's Annual Report, was made within the financial year of this report. A large second deposit has now been made and a third is ready to be taken to Winchester. When the Society's catalogue is integrated with Hampshire's on-line archive the catalogue, essentially a description of the contents of the documents, will be available to anybody.

Since our Archivist, Richard Johnston, started the process of moving to Devon the priority has been to complete the digitisation programme and to deposit the physical archive. Digitisation is about 90% complete. A start has now been made on the Society's planning archive, which will certainly be an invaluable resource for future historians, and planners.

A small team, led by Richard, has continued to provide a free service to family historians from around the world. Exchange of information often results in us obtaining information and documents, including deeds and photographs for our own archives. The Society's websites provide public benefit, especially through the digitised parish records, not otherwise available on-line from public or commercial sources.

Maintenance of the digital database, and research for planning and conservation purposes will continue. However the Society now requires a new leader for the Local History Group to further other public-interest research projects, and possibly to recommence the annual local history exhibitions, the last of which was in 2005.

For 25 of our 30 years Richard Johnston has been a key member of the Society, having filled the roles of Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Archivist and, for the past 20 years, Local History Group Leader. As he retires from the latter position the Trustees would like to thank Richard for his enormous contribution to the Society, and are thankful too that Richard has agreed to remain as Archivist, a role to which he has devoted very many hours, making a quite outstanding and remarkable advancement to the history of Yateley and the charitable objects of the Society.

#### **4.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMME**

Prepared by Trudy Boothby and Jo Hill

There were three Newsletters circulated in 2009/10 (issues 97 - 99).

##### Programme of Events:

The year's programme included a variety of activities with the normal monthly meetings being held at the Tythings. Meetings are still held on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise notified, and additional visits or

events are publicised through the Newsletter. The programme of events was organised by Trudy Boothby.

Thursday 15 October 2009	The Ghosts of Hampshire – David Ford
Thursday 19 November 2009	Hampshire Marine Archaeology Trust
Thursday 17 December 2009	Christmas Special – the first public airing of oral history recorded in 1982 of Lorna Simons who came to Yateley in 1948.
Thursday 21 January 2010	Tracing the history of houses – Peter Tipton using actual Yateley research to illustrate the best ways of tracing house histories.
Friday 5 February 2010	Chair's Dinner –Highwayman in Monteagle Lane, Yateley.
Thursday 18 February 2010	Yateley Society Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19 March 2010	Planned meeting cancelled. Substituted with discussion on the future of the Society.
Thursday 15 April 2010	The Life of Anthony Culpepper, the founder of herbalism – Robert Louth
Thursday 20 May 2010	House History - Mark Pitchforth, Hampshire Record Office (postponed from March)
Thursday 17 June 2010	Planned meeting cancelled. Substituted with update on planning and conservation areas, led by Peter Tipton
Saturday 10 July 2010	Yateley Society Summer Social
Thursday 15 July 2010	Tour and Talk of Eagle House School.
Thursday 16 September 2010	Folklore and Legends of the local area - Greg Bramwell

The Conservation Group meets on the last Sunday of every month, generally at Wyndhams Pool and everyone is welcome.

## **5. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The accounts have been prepared by Jo Hill, Honorary Treasurer, and examined by Lawrence Smith, Yateley Town Clerk.

The principal funding sources for the Society are members' subscriptions, fund raising at social events and a small amount for publication sales. This year also saw a large receipt for Gift Aid, being the claim for Sep 2003 – Apr 2008.

The Society paid affiliation fees or subscriptions to Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, Hampshire Archives, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, The Campaign for Rural England, Environment Conservation and the Civic Voice.

The Society's credit balances at the end of the Financial Year are represented by the following reserve accounts, which represent key objectives of the Society:

The Daphne Kirkpatrick Legacy Fund	£1,800
The Planning Reserve Fund	£1,800
The Annual Contingency Fund	10
The General Fund	£1,500

The Daphne Kirkpatrick Legacy Fund, bequeathed by a former Vice President is reserved for an appropriate project to conserve Yateley Common, whether legal, material or research. Yateley Common is an important heritage resource, most of it being a Special Protection Area designated under European Directives.

The Planning Reserve Fund is reserved for financing major planning activities whether for legal representation or for employing expert witnesses.

A £200 Contingency fund is allocated annually to purchase hardware for presentation and exhibitions and equipment for the conservation group. The Executive Committee decided this year to spend £70 on a gazebo used to house exhibitions at local events and £120 on conservation equipment.

The subscription structure has been in place for many years now with no change or increase. In discussion with our new membership secretary, Roger Durdle, we would like to propose an updated subscription programme.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As is customary, I should like to give my thanks to my fellow officers and Executive Committee members for their support and advice during my first year as Chairman, and for all the work that they have done for the Society and for Yateley. This is tinged with sadness as I have to use this occasion to acknowledge the sudden and tragic death of Graham Brown, within days of the committee meeting in his home in November. It was a huge shock to all of us. It is a measure of Graham's contributions to the Society in many ways that we are struggling to cover all the areas in which he was active. I am especially grateful to those who have rallied round and I am heartened by the prospect of welcoming some new volunteers to the team. I wish on behalf of the Society to extend to Jenny and their children and grandchildren our heartfelt sympathies and best wishes for the future.

Roger Coombes  
Chairman, The Yateley Society  
February 2011

Report contributors: Roger Coombes, Trudy Boothby, Peter Tipton, Jo Hill, Mike Mann, Tony Hocking, Richard Johnston

