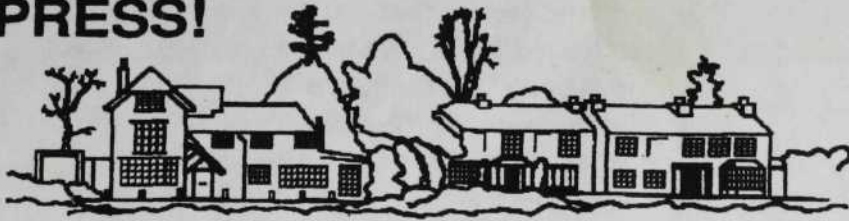


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STOP PRESS!



Issue 47 December 2000



The
Yateley
Society

Latest News on the Local Interest Issues currently being worked on by members:

Mushroom Farm - After being approved by the Development Control Committee, the plans were refused by a full Council Meeting the following evening. This has resulted in the Developers appealing against the decision. This means there will be a Public Inquiry held - probably in March. The procedure for Public Inquiry is that comments may be made by letter to the Inspector (contact me if you'd like the address), but members of the Public may also request in their correspondence to speak at the Public Inquiry to put their personal views forward. The more speakers the better! Written submissions or requests to speak must be submitted by 13 December to The Secretary, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 10/13 Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol, BS2 9DJ quoting refs 99/01152/OUT and APP/N1730/A/00/1-52946. The Developers, in the meantime, have put in a duplicate application (00/01359/OUT), probably in the hope of continuing negotiations.

Handfords Barn - the application for modifications to this important agricultural building has been refused.

Heath Cottage (the Dental Surgery) for demolition to be replaced by apartments - the Society has objected.

Esso garage - Richard Johnston studied the plans for altering the Esso garage to include a larger shop, and could see no planning reasons that would sustain an objection.

Robins Grove Park, application for 7 houses, was refused by the Councillors, against the advice of Hart's planning officers, on the grounds of the effect on the Conservation Area and the impact on local residents. The Developers have appealed and this will be determined by written submissions only. Richard Johnston, during his 3 minute appeal to Councillors for the application to be refused, waved a copy of the Council's official Conservation Area Statement in the air. As you know, the Society is committed to helping preserve our local

Conservation Areas and has played a major role in collaborating with the Council to produce these Conservation Area Statements. Planning constraints must reflect the policies within the Statements. The pressing need to do so is especially emphasised when we have a comment such as that by Alan Franklin of the Star Newspaper, that '*councillors should realise there is very little worth conserving in Yateley*'. Mr Franklin is wrong, but it shows the Society is fully justified in making the protection of Yateley's Conservation Areas a top priority in order to stem the continuing erosion of the quality of Yateley's environment.

A letter has been sent to the Environment Agency asking what has happened to the water in the Boundary stream. Levels have dropped quite considerably, to the detriment of SSSI Castle Bottom and also the Moulsham (Moules Fen) area which, in the recent downpours, did not Fen!

Oral History - The Society's Millenium Oral History Project has taken off. Sheila Farmer made our first recording of Yateley's former postlady, Mrs Marjorie Lovell, and only managed to reach the end of World War II. By coincidence, our most recent interview was with Mrs Lovell's niece and nephew. Mrs Denereaz was born in Yateley, but married an Australian. She came back from Australia for her mother's funeral. Her brother, Ted Wooldridge, had seen the announcement of our East India Company talk in the Fleet News. At the talk they learned that the Tiptons live at Monteagle House. Their great grandparents lived for many years at Monteagle Farm Cottages, which faced the Common, on the site the developers have now coined as Fox Farm. We said we would be happy to help them with their family history provided we could record their memories of Yateley. Little did we know the "interview" would go on for over seven hours! Anyone interested in joining our growing team to make these recordings please contact

