The Yateley Yarbler

Flying faster than facts







Experts say **'The Green'** should be permanently renamed **'The Yellow'** due to **"increasingly warmer globe"**



Pointing to The Green's yellow colour and ongoing global warming trends, experts in everything from grass to lawns have coordinated a new 1-page report suggesting the patch be renamed, so as to more accurately match its colour across the majority of the year.

Organisers of 'Gig on the Green' have already railed against the plan, arguing that 'Gig on the Yellow' just doesn't have the same ring to it. Alternative names have been suggested in the past, but rejected by the Yateley Town Council of Naming Things. Examples include 'The Blue' during icy periods, which was rejected for sounding "too sad" and 'The Red' during autumn when orange leaves cover it, which was turned down because it didn't really make any sense.

Many climate activists have suggested that the name change is likely unnecessary since global warming will likely work itself out, as things are prone to do.

Why not check out our online articles, available online!

Yateley angling centre discovers new type of triangle, Pythagoras yet to respond

Yateley Lion's start new specialist zoo to avoid false advertising lawsuit

The man in the box: Reflections on Andy Burnham

Dig on the Green

Upturned Viking Boat found by The Tythings, Sutton Who?



The town has been abuzz with the news that a wholly intact 100ft Viking longship has been uncovered in the park on The Green. Positioned vertically, this 9th-century war vessel is a stark reminder of Yateley's amazing history. Some historians have queried why its presence was not reported to archaeologists sooner, however, locals believe that because it was revealed slowly over a long period of time due to natural erosion patterns and footballs bouncing into it, that this made the ship harder to explicitly notice. Meanwhile, many Yateley residents stated that when they eventually did register it, they assumed it was simply a themed climbing frame for the playground. Yateley Historical Society has criticised the dig, however, arguing that we are a proud Saxon town, who "invaded the proper way", adding that the notion of having a Norwegian Viking ship as a tourist attraction is a damning rejection of our values as a village and a forgetting of all the damage the Vikings did to Lindisfarne alongside the broader North - some of which you can still see today in modern Grimsby.



Norway have already begun a campaign to return the ship home, with one particularly notable hat-wearing, whip-bearing, though anonymous, archaeologist, stressing "it belongs in a museum". The Norwegian government has asserted their desire to avoid an international incident, though has stated they will not rule out sending 'raiders' to pillage Yateley as a direct course of action, a threat that Yateley's monk community has widely condemned. Yateley Council has said that they are also "reviewing their options" and that they have not ruled out using ancient druid magic to revive Alfred the Great.

Why not check out our online articles, available online!

Fears that Yateley re-enactment society are taking Gunpowder plot day "too seriously" after MI5 intervention

Simon says: In conversation with Yateley's most famous corner shop

Pothole on Reading Road granted listed status, following heritage assessment

Rival Yateley Church announces daring plan to build a "Café 47"

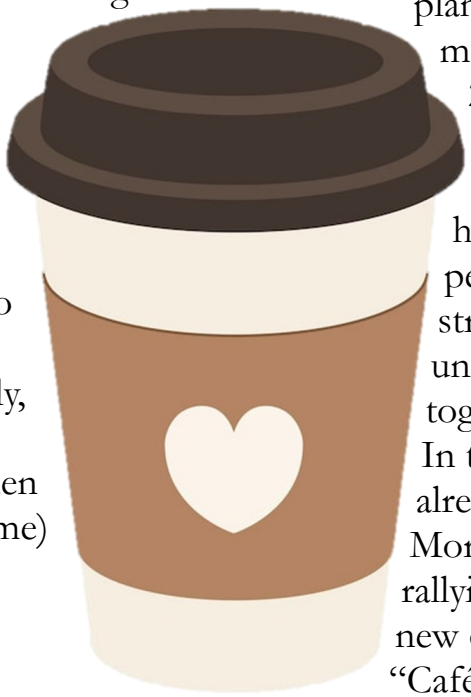


Attempting to compete with St Peter's booming coffee and community institution, Café 46, planners have pledged to build a new café that's not only bigger and better, but that also features an even more convoluted ordering system than ever before. "Building upon our 46 predecessors, we've created a bulletproof system where eating and drinking will remain on the ground floor, while drinking or eating will be contained to upstairs. Customers will order at the ground floor (Station 1) unless eating and drinking in our outdoor space. Our garden, not to be confused with our outdoor space, is for paying customers only, or those just drinking. Those ordering for the terrace, (the garden and outdoor space's collective name) order online via the QR code," explained a spokesperson for the café.



Sincerely flummoxed, our reporter questioned what drove their ambition. Asking, "What separates you from Cafe 46's approach to coffee and community building"?

Catherine Licchurch, Café 47's incoming manager, who asked to be kept anonymous replied, "From the start of this process we knew we had to stay true to our orthodoxy. Not only will an extra shot of coffee be added to every drink, but water may be served on request as wine and every order comes with a free confession, with our 5 year plan projecting every staff member be a registered priest, by 2036, allowing on the spot forgiveness at the table."



We at *The Yarbler* are sure, and history proves, that the good people at Cafe 46 and 47 will strive for a special relationship unlike any other, bringing Yateley together in new and exciting ways. In the mean time, reports are already flooding in that Yateley's Mormon community are eagerly rallying to raise funds for their own new café space, provisionally titled "Café 48".

Why not check out our online articles, available online!

What happened to Bramshills 1-2 and 4-8? An investigation

Daylight robbery increased 400% during eclipse says study

Exploring the quantum zone: Why time works differently in Eversley

Anti-social youths form dangerous literary group around Dickens Way



Loitering around the area of roads named after some of history's greatest writers, just off Vigo Lane, this worrying gang of young people collude at night on the roundabout to "suck the marrow out of life", reading violent and subversive texts, of both prose and verse. Reports suggest the boys speak in some sort of criminal code, or possibly tongues, employing unknown phrases like 'carpe diem', among others, all of which are presumably some sort of code for drugs.

The gang appears to have gained control over the streets of Hardy Avenue, Dumas Close, Keats Way, Christie Walk, Kipling Close, Dickens Way, Byron Close, and Herriot Court, with some law enforcement fearing their territory extends as far as Wordsworth Avenue. This has made said area of Yateley a worrying 'no-go zone' for local residents, in the period in which their 'meets' take place. High on 'rhymes' and 'pentameters' (two as yet unidentified substances), these erratic youths get wooed into a life of crime early on; often starting with a simple sonnet reading, they soon devolve into longer texts, known on the street as 'books'.

These texts often promote a philosophy of 'easy sexuality, relaxed morality' and a culture of 'anything goes', opening up their minds, souls, and hips to the temptations of sin. These activities stand as examples of the ultimate spiritual corruption and often include writers as radical as 'Wordsworth' and 'Tennyson'. One report even noted they overheard a group talking about their "favourite heroins", with one saying 'Elizabeth Bennet', which is presumably the name for a specific street variant of the drug.



Intelligence suggests that this criminal organisation was inspired by a local youth club leader, who compelled the young men-turned-criminals to 'carpe' the 'diem', all while forcing them to call him 'captain'.

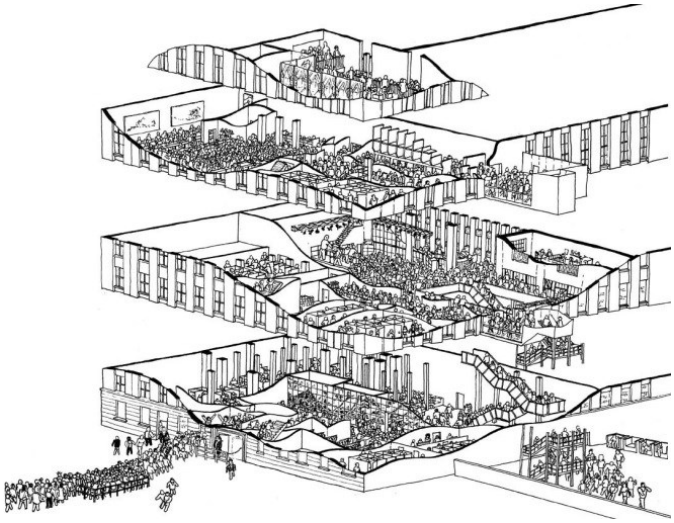
Thankfully, however, the man, now identified as a 'Mr Keating', was recently fired after an internal youth club investigation proved that this was far from the first time he'd tried such a stunt.

Yateley joins the club

Old Co-Op building to be transformed into new "Drum and Bass" nightclub, following planning permission success

After a successful planning application, German nightclub company, Klubhaus, has been granted exclusive permission to transform the old Co-Op building off Reading Road into a trendy and exciting new nightclub. According to the plans, the club will cover the building's multiple floors, with each having a distinct musical theme. "Hard industrial techno" will ring out from the ground floor, with "House on the first", Jungle on the second, and, unique to clubs in the local area, it will feature an "EDM rooftop bar". Klubhaus, also promises to carry over their iconic drink, dubbed 'Liquid Blood', while the plans also make reference to their commitment to a "distinctly European dress code". This marks the company's first foray into the UK's club scene, after finding much success with a network of nightclubs across Germany, Belgium, Haiti, and France. So, forget the D&P and get ready for some thumping D&B! The planning permission does not require that the club implement any sound proofing measures, meaning that, excitingly, the establishment's dynamic and eclectic range of music will be free to enjoy for all local residents and passing pedestrians, resolving many Yatelerians' noise complaints about it being "just too quiet" at night and early in the morning. A spokesperson for Klubhaus commented on the news, stating "We know Reading is a real hotspot for clubbing, so the opportunity to have one of our establishments just off Reading Road is a real joy." There's no doubt this will do wonders for the local community, economy, and the YTB (Yateley Tourism Board), while also being a great place to keep all those pesky youth! We at *The Yarbler* could not be more excited to give a big Yateley welcome to Klubhaus, their new club, and their bouncing beats.







Images: (Top right) Co-Op, Yateley, (Left) Concept sketch, Klubhaus, (Right) Klubhaus's iconic 'Liquid Blood' shot

Skate ramp on Green spotted being used as a skate ramp



Last week, a Yarbler on the ground caught a special, ephemeral moment on camera at the Yateley Green, where momentarily the skate ramp was used as a skate ramp by a local, mystery boarder. The skater achieved four short ups-and-downs before being shooed off by some teens, who wanted to run up and down it for a bit, presumably as part of some drug-taking, gang-related, or otherwise anti-social exercise.

Daylight robbery increased by 400% during recent eclipse, new data reveals

New statistics released by the Yateley Metropolitan Crime Association reveal that incidents of daylight theft increased by around four times during last Wednesday's eclipse. This morning, the police caught one thief, who spoke candidly about his regret, saying: "I didn't think it was that big a deal then my mate said the next one's not till 2090!" Adding, "Next time there's an event this special, be sure to remember the important things. I turned down an invitation from my nan to watch it so I could burgle a house. Big mistake." Read the full article online.



New 'Acorns' part of daring plan to bring every man, woman, and child in Yateley into the scouting network

The Yateley Scouts have announced plans for a new troop, adding to the growing list of Explorers, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, and, most recently, Squirrels. This new group would be named the Acorns, for 0-3 year olds of mixed gender. This comes as part of a new "desperate drive" for scout leaders across the world, with the hope that if they begin young, they'll never want to leave. Rumours are circulating that work on a lab for synthesising scouts- preliminarily called The Seeds - has begun. Experts believe this may have been the breaking point for Bear Grylls, instigating his protest resignation as Chief Scout, itself a deeply controversial move, with unspoken scout culture generally demanding leaders die in office. Critics of the Scouts worry their teachings may be a dangerous influence on youths, where ritualistic 'Laws' and 'Promises' are uttered on initiation and alternative outdoor lifestyles are repeatedly encouraged.





Yateley Amateur Drama Association's modern retelling of *Hamilton* a "stunning artistic achievement"



Last week, YADA, the Yateley Amateur Drama Association, staged a fantastic reimagining of *Hamilton*, the hit Broadway show, which details the life of Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton.

The company had the courage to adapt Lin Manuel-Miranda's text and songs word for word, outside of one major alteration: the setting. Moving it away from Revolutionary America to a modern, urban cityscape, where young gangs run drugs, paint graffiti, and speak slang words in the concrete jungle that is modern Basingstoke. The result, a resounding triumph.

Staged on the Yateley Green, using The Tythings balcony and a revolving stage floor, the association recaptured and expanded on the magic of the original, breathing new life into Manuel-Miranda's classic work. The performances were breath-taking, the vocals were better than ever, and the staging was everything I've come to expect of YADA and its fantastic ensemble: 5 Stars seems a very fair review.

I look forward to watching their reimagining of Les Miserables, set in the Jazz Age of 1920s Chicago, which has been slated for this Autumn.

Casablackbushe!

Casablanca remake begins reshoots at Blackbushe Airport

This summer, highly secretive reshoots for the new Casablanca remake have begun at Blackbushe Airport, which will presumably host the iconic closing sequence in which Rick lets Ilsa escape from Casablanca by plane. Denis Villeneuve is credited as the movie's director, with Oscar Isaac as the revolutionary, Laszlo. Meanwhile, the movie features celebrity sweethearts Timothée Chalamet as Rick, and Zendaya as Ilsa, who, I'm sure, will capture Bogart and Bergman's electric onscreen chemistry - and with such a Dune-studded cast, perhaps "We'll always have Arrakis!" is a more fitting line to describe this picture.



Filming had already proved problematic with Zendaya's watertight contract requiring her face to be in full colour glory, resulting in an avant-garde approach to filmmaking where everything but the A-list star will be black and white. Which comes as good news to supposed 'Film students' who'll read way too into it.

Giving this daring remake its edge is Donald Glover (known as rapper Childish Gambino), who's playing piano player Sam, bringing with him a modern R&B rearrangement of 'As Time Goes By', performed live on set with his MIDI drum pad keyboard.

We'd love to hear from you what you think about Casablanca (2027). Have remakes gone too far? Is this the beginning of a beautiful film, or a catastrophic creative and box-office mistake?

Junction dysfunction

People need to stop parking near the Dungells turnoff

As a regular driver, I can't say something puts more of a bee in my bonnet than people parking their cars near the Freshwood-Dungells junction. It makes what is already a challenging, low-visibility pull-out even harder, which, frankly, I and I'm sure you don't exactly need! While the hedge could do with being trimmed back, granting greater visibility, that is a subject for another article, on a different day and pales in significance or in annoyance to seeing and manoeuvring past cars that have been parked near the turn-off.

I must, I fear, digress - before I blow a fuse; however, I hope others can relate to this frustrating and all too frequent happenstance.



Proud *and* prejudiced

Bath needs to stop appropriating Hampshirian Jane Austen culture

I recently visited Bath and was horrified to see many locals and tourists alike donning Regency-style 'Austen-wear' in and around the city. I felt like walking up to them and shouting, 'My culture is not your costume,' but decided to follow in Austen's footsteps and write critically about them behind their backs instead.



Delving deeper, I soon realised that Bath had made quite the industry out of exploiting Jane Austen's legacy, either through museums, novelty gift shops, or, worst of all, themed walking tours. Such a brazen appropriation of Hampshirian culture needs to be challenged, since, after all, she was born *here*, not Bath!

The historical record supports my grievance. Contemporary sources say that Austen fainted after hearing the news she had to leave Hampshire for known-dump, Bath. Hampshire nurtured Austen's genius from a young age, believing in her when other counties likely doubted. Ironically, Austen used Bath as a backdrop in her novels to criticise vanity and the empty pursuit of wealth, and yet today, the BTB (Bath Tourist Board) exploits that very literary legacy for profit, palming off novelty gifts and experiences on tourists who don't know any better, without even a nod to Hampshire *or* Chawton. I would even go as far as to say that this level of arrogance, dare I say, pride, points to an underlying, institutional anti-Hampshirian bias, dare I say prejudice, deep within the BTB (Bath Tourism Board).

Now, a word to the BTB (Bath Tourism Board) directly: you have Mary Berry - and she was actually born in Bath - so why don't you sell kitchens and cookbooks to your city's tourists and leave Austen well enough alone? If not, we in Hampshire will be forced to take drastic action, perhaps even going as far as to boycott bath entirely, instead relying on the (more energy efficient anyway) modern shower.

Is the turnoff opposite The Royal Oak far too dangerous for drivers?

Every day I fear for my life when cars whip round the Reading Road-Sandhurst Road junction like a bullet in a room. The junction has far too much going on and it isn't clear who's right of way it is.



I often resort to going left, using the roundabout nearby, even if my end goal is turning right. Vans, trucks, bikes, motorbikes, cars, 4 wheelers, SUVs! Bedlam!

There could easily be an accident if god forbid someone span round that corner and someone was there.

So please mind your speed, 10 is plenty!



Just plane rude

Will all those aircraft ever be quiet overhead?

Having Yateley Common nearby has countless advantages. Whether you own a dog, a bike, or a desire to roam nature, it offers countless ways to enjoy the great outdoors, without having to hop in a car or board a busy bus. However, there is one rather large, rather noisy downside. Chiefly, that with the common comes Blackbushe Airport. Though no longer the second largest airfield in the UK, as it once was, its fall from grace in the aerospace world does not seemed to have coincided with a fall in noise pollution. While I'll concede that there are worse kinds of pollution, be it air, waste, or water, it can still be annoying, ruining peace and quiet in the garden. The one exception I will grant is that I like Spitfires flying overhead, they can stay.



In parking space no one can you hear you scream

We need more parking spaces in Yateley I scream, though I feel like I'm shouting into the void. Granted, I accept that we cannot simply flatten existing areas such as the Common, the Red Cross, or Eversley (as much as I'd like the final one) so as to build a multi-storey car park on top, something must be done. We need a call to action, a petition, someone who knows someone at either the council, the town planning office, or St Peter's. I hope someone reading this will have that power, and that we'll finally be given the space to park without feeling like we need a good scream!



Wild swimming across **Yateley** A **very** deep dive



Need somewhere to cool off in this record-breaking heat? Today, we explore where you can take a dip in our very own town. From the casual plunger to the everyday dipper, to the potential lawbreaker, we have a body of water for you.



No risk

Yateley's Health and Fitness swimming pool is open all day, allowing both families and hardcore breaststrokers to enjoy the sweet taste of chlorine, simultaneously or separately, with the night swim being an option for solitary divers. The cons are numerous: the lack of sunlight, small size, and young children per capita. So, if you're a lane swimmer or anyone over the age of 13, this wouldn't be my top choice.

Low risk

Horseshoe Lake is technically not within the Yateley border, at the time of writing, despite being promised to us long ago. Either way, the Yarbler will begin the first step in accelerating tensions by writing about it here. To dip in the lake, one unfortunately must book ahead, but only for 9 pounds each. Wow. A wetsuit is advised, and the sense of privacy is low. Watch out for the ruthless scouts in their kayaks, wiping out local swimmers in their 10s. If you're seeking thrills, you can attempt to conquer the central island, where hundreds of birds will welcome you with open beaks.



High risk

Positioned off of Cricket Hill, the secluded Wyndhams Pond offers potentially dangerous still water, seasonally angry swans, and slightly unnerving fishermen you're not quite sure you should approach. Legally, it's illegal. But back in the day this place had a diving board, and was a proper hotspot for locals.



Perilous

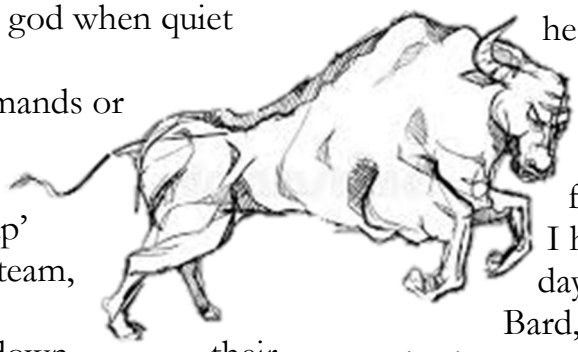
I wouldn't recommend the pond on Yateley Green, but for completionists you can enjoy a shallow still patch of water, which, according to Yateley Town Council, is 'not fit for human recreation'. One of the few pluses in this extremely public location is the lack of any aquatic life besides the odd bird - although walking without stepping on all manner of footballs, tennis balls and other substances could prove challenging. Risk definitely outweighs reward (also likely illegal), but when it's this hot, you can plead heat stroke, insanity or the greater risk of drying out like a grape in the sun.

The Tale of the Castle Bottom Bard



In this month's edition of Common Knowledge, we've chosen to investigate the folklore of the Yateley common told through the mouths and eyes of locals. This week we have been lucky to track down and interview Yateley's only surviving oral storyteller, The Bottom Bard. A hike into the Castle Bottom Hills eventually brought us to his solitary home. Our team of yarblers were relieved to find shelter from the oppressive heat. Yateley, Eversley and even Darby Green were visible from the castle, and upon climbing its highest tower, one of our reporters claimed he saw the Atrium. Clearly heatstroke was taking hold. After a traditional Yatelerian yoghurt (recipe in lifestyle section), we asked him for a story, which is recorded below:

'When the sun has set, and the 406 has made its final stop, in the depths of Castle Bottom's majesty,
When the geese and heese have been herded from the creek and the tall trees can sing their sultry song,
The sun beckons us to follow but we cannot hear
For the moon is our new god when quiet solitude creeps so near.
If you follow these commands or fall into their trap
The Castle Bottom Bull will yell, like a thunderclap'



This severely rattled our team, who, bundled up at the fireplace, still felt a chill down their calves. He drew this abnormous creature for us (shown below) and weaved a tale of advise for if we ever encountered this beast.

The sun was beginning to set as we left the castle walls. The Bottom Bard gave us a long smile with his pearly yellow teeth, and we waved goodbye for the last time.

I checked my stagecoach app-as I often do in banal frustration- and to my horror, the 406 had reached its destination. We began a light jog, as darkness enveloped the large expanses of shrubbery and shadows. One of our Yarblers (Chris) tripped on a root, dropping the boom mic in the process. The clatter reverberated into the silence, and through the trees a low, long moo rolled like a wave. Our training kicked in, and we dived into the Castle Bottom stream, covering ourselves in pebbles and branches, but Chris was lost in the carnage, shouting out our names in panic. It was too late for him. The Castle Bottom bull stormed across the bridge, huffing, galumphing and staring with the bright red eyes I only caught a glimpse of. Eye contact or conversation is very important to avoid. Another long, loud moo seemed ear-splitting, but we had to endure it. A human scream and the rushing of hooves were the last things I heard before I fell into deep, troubling reverie. I awoke 13 hours later, by a disgruntled horse. I was carried in convulsions back to town by local folk.

I have vowed never to talk about that day again, of the Bull, Chris, or The Bard, whose castle seems lost somewhere in the common's winding paths, not forgotten, just waiting to be discovered once more.

Make sure to tune in next week for a new edition of Common Knowledge. Where Yateley's hidden secrets are found.

Meet John 'Maverick' Walker, **Stagecoach hotshot** and driver of the **Number 3 bus**



John 'Maverick' Walker, or 'Mav' to his friends, has been described by superiors and colleagues at Stagecoach as a "reckless and wild cowboy who drives by the seat of his pants", but also as a rule-breaker of unmatched brilliance and "one of the finest drivers Stagecoach has ever produced".

One co-worker, known simply as 'Iceman' has gone as far as to call him, "the fastest man alive".

Having trained at Stagecoach's elite bus-driver training school in the Nevada desert, Bus Stop Gun, 'Mav' graduated second in his class in 2024 and has been manning the Number 3 bus in Yateley ever since.

'Iceman', his long-time colleague and driver of the 406 to Farnborough, said that he initially viewed Walker as a problem, believing that he was "unsafe every time he went on the road" adding "I didn't like him because he was dangerous", but said after they moved past their rivalry following a turbulent "movie-worthy" series of events he came to the decision that "he would be Walker's conductor any time". 'Iceman', whose real name is Clive Parker, said it was a privilege to watch him drive the Vigo bend, and that he commanded that corner like no one else he'd ever seen, "like a man possessed."

The Yarbler reached out to his Bus Stop Gun commander, Marz Gendelfuon, call sign 'Cobra', who reflected on his time at the academy, noting, "I saw some real genius in his driving, but I couldn't say it in the classroom."

Walker himself told *The Yarbler* that his driving philosophy came down to one defining principle, 'Don't think, just do', and that his style, while renegade, dangerous, and likely to catch up with him, always garnered results on the road, adding, "it's not the bus it's the driver".

It's safe to say that while Walker may put pedestrians and passengers at risk with his driving, this is nonetheless almost certainly worth it when weighed against his fantastic capacity to not only get results but look like a legend doing it.



We at *The Yarbler* certainly wouldn't want to have him driving us, working for us, or on the road near us. Still, there's no doubt we'd take any opportunity to watch him work his driving magic from a safe distance, preferably stood behind some sort of massive barrier.



Walker pictured above showing off his pioneering 'no-hands' move at the Bus Stop Gun academy in 2024.