The Yateley Yarbler

Flying faster than facts







Your money for your pint!

The Highwayman pub stampedes back into Yateley, following local crowdfunding efforts



After 10 years of local fundraising efforts, the historic Highwayman pub will make its triumphant return this November. The Yateley institution closed in 2015 supposedly due to noise complaints, although frequent robbery by masked youths in purely aesthetic tricorn hats and rumours that staff were not allowed to sit down as part of their 'Stand and Deliver' USP certainly didn't help. A distinctly unsuspicious arson fire followed, leaving nothing but ash and insurance investigations in its wake.

Plans to rebuild the pub on the same plot of land were initially delayed after residents complained about their own houses' resulting destruction. Luckily, English Heritage intervened, noting The Highwayman's historic significance and calling for its preservation, allowing construction of the state-of-the-art free house new build to go ahead.

The new managers have already announced their first event, Guy Fawkes Night. They'll serve gunpowder shots and have a large bonfire in the pub garden. Safety concerns have already been raised by the Yateley Fire Brigade and locals alike, as some fear history might tragically repeat itself.

Why not check out our online articles, available online!

Frog missing! Local pub forced to change name to *and Wicket*

With panels on the street, does solar power really work?

The man in the box: Reflections on Andy Burnham

Local campaign successfully raises funds to **demolish Greggs'** and replace it with **Gail's** as part of new **gentrification drive**



Local campaign successfully raises funds to demolish Greggs' and replace it with Gail's as part of new gentrification drive Campaigners for the 'Gentrification, Regeneration, and Enterprise Group' have stated that Greggs, while a fantastic community asset with affordable prices and quality food, nonetheless brings down the area, by being not only "too northern (and therefore terribly working class)" but also "not a Gail's".

A situation which was only made worse after new northern Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he liked eating there.

One campaigner told *The Yarbler*, "I'll build it with my bare hands if I have to" before going back to muttering something indiscernible about "bloody Fleet".

Another campaigner said in an official statement that "Fleet thinks it's all that, especially since it beat us in Town of the Year back in the day, and, frankly, their new Gail's has only made the town's superiority complex worse. We need to beat them at their own game. With the Fleet Marks and Spencers closing, now, more than ever, is the time to strike."



The campaign pledges to raise Gail's prices above their existing baseline, with 'Sourdough loaves' priced at £7, or £8 if you're eating in, and small coffees selling at £5.50. They say this is to ensure the standard of customer remains high and that the increased prices reflect the superior quality of person in Yateley.



We at *The Yarbler* couldn't be more excited to welcome Gail to the area, with open arms and even more open wallets!

Major Blackbushe **runway expansion** set to increase air traffic by **1,150%**



Formerly a crucial military airbase during the Second World War and once the second largest airport in the country, Blackbushe is soon to be restored to its former glory with a series of new runway expansions set to overrun the Common. Before long, our local airport will be hosting airlines from Pan Am to Ryan and passengers with destinations German, Tahitian, and everything in between.

The new runway would reclaim much of the previously abandoned airfield, all while flattening most of the western Common into tarmac. Plans include "filling in Castle Bottom" to allow space for a "whole Concorde" borrowed from a display at Manchester Airport, presumably as a subtle thwarting of Andy Burnham. In what we're sure will prove an exciting status-quo breaker, the plans include regular intermittent road closures of the A30 during landings every 45 minutes, with an accompanying level crossing to curb safety concerns.

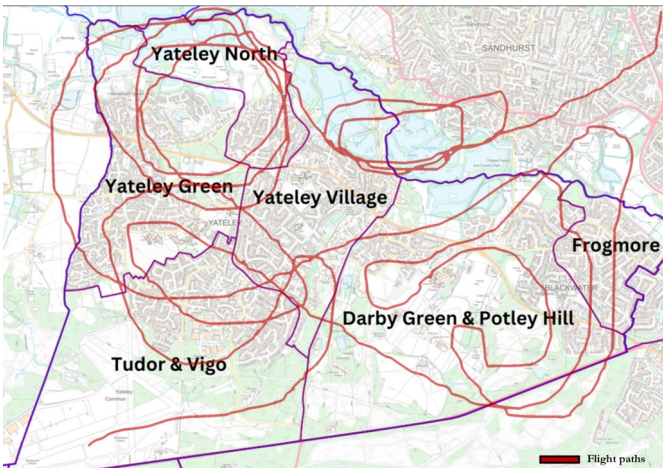
Even more excitingly, we at *The Yarbler* have a real scoop. A team of our top investigative Yarblers got their hands on the Blackbushe plans, securing them safely in an R2 droid, which was jettisoned from a plane before Blackbushe employees managed to reach them.

After passing through the hands of a farmboy, a hermit, and a local smuggler, it eventually reached our HQ on Yavin 4. Our efforts did not go to waste, as encoded messages from US government officials revealed plans for Blackbushe Airport's use militarily in Iran, which would increase air traffic and noise pollution by a further 5%.

We interviewed a few local residents to get their thoughts. A local, anonymous farmer told The Yarbler, "I'm worried this many planes would block out the sun! Crikey!", while his stablehand added, "Wait, if we stole the plans and they control space, does that make us Alderaan? Are we gonna be blown up?"

One Cranford school teacher commented: "With the probability of a major international incident in Yateley now dramatically higher, would this increase the chance of Yateley Manor's destruction, or is their airspace private too?"

Currently, a rag-tag band of Yateley residents are rallying together, with ambitions to exploit the new runway's one major weakness, revealed in the stolen plans. Chiefly, a two-metre thermal exhaust port on its surface that leads directly to the main reactor core, which, when hit directly with a proton torpedo, causes a chain reaction that makes the whole airport fall over and explode.



‘Busmania’ as passengers go feral after Number 3 stalls near Blackwater Lidl for 48 hours



What began as a routine delay for local passengers aboard Stagecoach’s Number 3 service from Yateley to Aldershot, after a low-flying pigeon became trapped in the vehicle’s front-left wheel arch, quickly turned violent.

After Lidl worker Jack Stamis approached the bus to bring them a box of chocolate eclairs, the situation dramatically deteriorated. He was quickly mobbed by the passengers, beaten to a pulp, and dragged aboard. Many of those aboard were dressed in simple rags with elaborate headdresses, and fears are currently spiralling over the mental and physical well-being of those trapped on the bus.



A naked Mr Stamis was briefly spotted 2 hours later, trying to crawl out of a window, before being clubbed from behind with a pair of noise-cancelling headphones and carried away.

Most concerningly, this morning, passengers were spotted aboard the middle of the bus dancing around a fire, before throwing a Mr Stamis-shaped mass onto the flames, while chanting something about the rain.

Many in Central Blackwater are beginning to fear the worst, that Mr Stamis has been killed

by a group of ordinary Yateley and Blackwater residents, who just two days earlier were content to sit across from each other in a bus in deathly silence. A perimeter was formed the previous day, though the events of today saw it brought back as far as Aldi.

At noon, *The Yarbler* and The Times intercepted a radio call for help from a local Blackwater passenger, whose loved ones say had simply sought to avoid the walk from suburban Blackwater to its train station. Unfortunately, however, his radio message could not be made out over the incomprehensible screaming that disrupted the line.

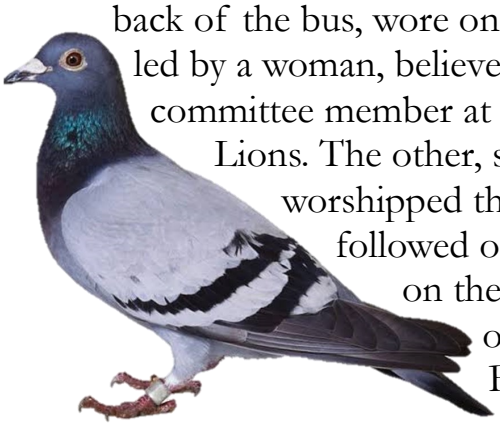
This afternoon, continued guerrilla attacks from residents aboard hampered attempts to get the bus moving again. The driver, barricaded in his cabin, was forced to defend himself with makeshift tools.





Early this evening, during a rare lull period, one passenger broke free of the bus, scrambling all the way to the perimeter. And though he was in no condition for an interview, speaking in entirely unprecedented syllable combinations, *Yarbler* analysts were able to extract the following.

It seems the bus had divided into two rival groups. The larger of the two defended the back of the bus, wore only red, and was led by a woman, believed to be a committee member at the Yateley Lions. The other, smaller group, worshipped the rain and followed one of the Gig on the Green organisers.



By 18:00, with the dead pigeon still stuck in the bus's wheel arch, there was only one hope left: a police marksman positioned 100ft away at the perimeter, right by the train station, could shoot the bird out, giving the bus driver a slim chance of getting to Aldershot before he was sacrificed for the rain.

Thankfully, at 19:17 this evening, a marksman successfully shot the bird out, and the bus was able to complete its journey to Aldershot. Having overcome a total of 48 hours spent stuck near the Blackwater Lidl, passengers put their clothes back on, cleaned off the blood, and retook their seats. After being temporarily rerouted through Sandhurst due to roadworks, they soon arrived at their destination, where passengers quietly thanked the driver before dispersing across Aldershot.



Yateley Lion's start new big cat sanctuary to avoid **false advertising lawsuit**



After years of significant legal pressure and multiple false advertising lawsuits the Yateley Lions have recently found a clever loophole in the law that will help the group avoid any further multi-million pound out-of-court settlements. The new 12-acre specialist big cat sanctuary, set to be established behind The Cricketers, plans not only to protect endangered lions but also the organisation itself from any further legal scrutiny. The White Lion is not expected to be sheltered by the new sanctuary as it is a pub rather than a real lion.

Sheer number of **roadworks** sees **Council** decide "sod it, let's just pedestrianise all of Yateley"

With over 90% of Yateley's roads now under some form of closure due to roadworks, Yateley Town Council has decided to officially confirm a situation that has already been in place, at least unofficially, for some years now, declaring all of Yateley's roads for the pedestrian. While this is sure to have a negative impact on people who use cars or the bus and for businesses that rely on people driving through, it will undoubtedly benefit people who don't fall into those categories or know anyone who does. Further controversy has arisen from the decision after a representative of Big Pavement was spotted earlier this week entering the Council building with a large pile of cash, before exiting empty-handed shortly after. Authorities are yet to determine whether this could be deemed in any way suspicious.



The Green King: New **Wetherspoons** to open near to The Tythings building

What is the essence of this town? If squeezed into a punch, what would it contain? Many locals argue our eclectic range of pubs is what elevates us as a community. However, for Yateley Westside residents, it's a different story. Existing in what experts have called a 'social chasm', West Yatelerians must resort to a short drive or even to the 'Cricketers wannabe', the Frog and Wicket.

But locals are set to rejoice with the news of a brand-spanking new Wetherspoons positioned on The Link road opposite The Green. The name? The Green King, in honour of one of our greatest patches of grass. Thanks to Spoons nationwide company policy of a general stickiness, menus, plates and glasses will be securely stuck to the table, averting any of Eversley's signature antisocial antics. Special local cuisine on the new pub's menu is said to include Jerry Crisps and a Stuart Bailey's hot chocolate as its signature drink. Local sport would be shown through a state of the art glass window, with a perfect view of football, catch, or your mum's pilates class on The Green. We at *The Yarbler* hope this will be a turning point for West Yateley as part of an ongoing scheme of urban regeneration.



Gimme bus shelter

You're just a stop away

Today we mark the passing on and destruction of two Yateley bus shelters. The one on Darby Green Lane and the one opposite St Swithuns. The latter is a particular heart-render, certainly earning itself a spot in the history books of greatest bus stops. For years, it has sheltered the world-weary through every storm, sleet, and Stagecoach delay; and stoked the fire of many a student's dwindling hopes as to whether the 406 will turn up at all. You will be missed.

It also served as a creative space for young artists in the local community to make statements with aerosol based paint that would otherwise go to the potentially actually deaf ears of the town council.

These two bus stops will be upgraded and transformed by the council, with a state-of-the-art redesign illustrated below. This naturally opens up the new shelters to philosophical debate. Since, if every part is replaced, is it still the same shelter? We reached out to Theseus for answer, but he declined to comment.

We at *The Yarbler* would love to hear your own experiences of these two iconic bus shelters, so please do send in your favourite memories of this famous pair to yateleyyarbler@gmail.com.







Visit Yateley: The Seven Wonders of our great town



Hoping to explore Hampshire's most hidden gem? Tucked in the bosom of the Surrey-Berkshire-Hampshire border, this quaint town remains largely undiscovered by tourists flocking to Austen's county.

So, for those who want to see beyond Southampton's sunny shores or Fleet's compelling military history, why not hop on the Number 3 bus from Camberley's Atrium right into the heart of Yateley: the home of the world record for most people dressed up as bees, the shoe bomber, and three very cheeky churches. So, join me for a whistle-stop tour of a Yarbler-curated Seven Wonders of Yateley.

For tourists who love a bit of history, we offer Yateley's only partially surviving ancient wonder: the ruins of Castle Bottom Castle.



Although much of it was destroyed during the Napoleonic Wars in a 'Great Storm', you can still enjoy it via a two-to-four-hour hike into the English prairie of Yateley Common. Dating back to 1450, its tactical position on a hill and near the airport made it a critical defensive citadel for the Holy Romans. Oh, and make sure to take a photo under the famous Weeping Arch, plus remember, going in the morning will help avoid queues.



Simon's is a staple of Yateley culture. The convenience institution on Ayelsham Way boasts a 4.9-star rating on Google, which prompted a localwide manhunt for the monster/maniac who 4-starred it last year. The staff: impeccable; the off-brand sweets: delectable; the strange and obscure drinks such as a 2-litre bottle of artificial bubblegum fizz: unnerving - but to quote author Donna Tartt, "Beauty is terror".

If you want to soak up Yatelerian culture like a dry sponge, visit Yateley's central patch of grass: The Green. A wonder in itself, it's also home to wonders within it. The park's slide, although unslidable due to its age and quality, must be admired (perhaps from a distance). There's also the legendary skate ramp, where you can perform the local ritual of running up and down it a few times. And why not get an iconic photo at our fourth wonder, the Yateley graffiti mural on the Tythings building for that perfect 'insta' thumbnail.

The Green truly comes alive, however, at sunset, when teenagers transform the



playground into a nightlife experience of throwing things in the glimmering green pond, sitting on the swings, and trading their favourite sugars for Youth Club.

Earning its own place as a wonder, especially at this time of night, is the lovely Kebab Man and his marvellous van.



A true hidden gem and the best spot for local cuisine. Whether you want a burger, chips or a kebab, he's got you and your doner covered. Time may ebb and flow, but he'll remain everlasting and reliable, like Queen Elizabeth or tennis.

Discoveries is our next great wonder. A quaint charity shop run by St Peter's Church, it features lots of women's clothing, china sets, and a wonderful collection of paintings at the back. The outside always has a little chalkboard sign spreading love and joy.



Its accompanying Cafe (46th in a long line) is perfect for trying Yateley coffee and cream tea.

Our final wonder is the abandoned airfield. Mesmerisingly flat, like standing on a dark silver horizon.



One could cycle, walk, run, dogwalk, or even drive atop it. Book one of our free bike tours (not including tips) of the airfield to explore its long stretches of road and the landmark race track, freely accessible unless it's being used by the parents and their children who drive go-karts on it and make me think maybe Marx was onto something.

Thank you for joining me, and I hope to see you at one of these wonders as part of your next big holiday.

This message was brought to you as part of the Yateley Tourist Board's Visit Yateley campaign.

Which politician should you dress up as for Halloween?



Which politician should you dress up as for Halloween? From the last minutes to the month beforers. Keir Starmer and Andy Burnham lend themselves well to low-effort costumes. Keir requires a plain red tie, glasses and a navy or black suit. What is most vital is his silver fox hair, swept up to the side. For Burnham, simply choose a plain black shirt, suit jacket and trousers. Make sure your Manchester accent is on point, and say 'y'know' a lot.
Liz Truss is another easy one, requiring a sensible plain dress, most iconically blue or red, and an accessory lettuce. Bonus if you can replicate her haircut!
Looking to go as a pair? Does one of you have a receding hairline? May I suggest Rest is Politics presenters, Alistair Campbell and Rory Stewart. Rory Stewart is always seen in a serious quarter-zip talking about his hikes in Persia or his wife Shoshanna. Alistair is where the flair begins. While you could opt for a cardigan and tie, pairing that with his rarely seen kilt spotted only at The Rest is Politics Live. Bonus if you have bagpipes. An alternative is his tartan coat shown here.





Gayton House Retirement Players dazzle with *A Streetcar Named Desire* production

The newly established GHRP, an amateur dramatics group for retirees based out of Gayton House, stunned audiences with their recent rendition of Tennessee Williams' classic play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Playing to a sold-out crowd on an outdoor stage in front of The Tythings, the group brought this gritty, Pulitzer Prize winning text to life. Harriet Moore, a retired nurse, blew audiences away with her highly nuanced portrayal of Blanche DuBois, presenting a fragile and haunted depiction of the character's psychological unravelling. Meanwhile, James Harpen, a retired administrative assistant, stunned with his commanding portrayal of Stanley Kowalski, bringing a raw physicality, intensity, and naturalism to the role. Moore and Harpen's contrasting acting styles, the former approaching with a refined classical British background and the latter a raw, aggressive form of American method acting, created a brilliant, volatile friction on stage.



The rest of the cast and staging was similarly fantastic. This is why we go to the theatre. 5 stars. It will be interesting to see if Fiske Court's upcoming production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is able to rival this amazing performance.

Ghost Kart: The force haunting the Blackbushe Racing track...



In this week's edition of Common Knowledge, we explore the elusive Blackbushe Racetrack. For years, it's hosted Go-Kart events, presumably for someone, while providing a safe space for privately educated teenagers and parents who have too much money, or the genuinely enthusiastic karters, who I wholeheartedly support.

When the track isn't in use, you can take the side path and even get on the track itself. It's a hotspot for concrete sunbathing and trespassing, especially for Yateley Youth, often seen trading their favourite smelling salts. However, one of our readers wrote in about a 'ghostkart' on the racetrack. The Team, always intrigued by the supernatural, unanimously agreed we had to check it out. Months of preparation followed. We had to gather rare, antique equipment from the 80s, including Ecto goggles, a Proton pack and a PKE meter to track psychokinetic activity. Our expedition began badly. We lost one of our team to a tree root that tripped him down The Common Cliffs, and the discovery that racecar backwards was, in fact, racecar was another bad omen.

On finally reaching the Blackbushe Racetrack, we camped out till witching hour to ensure a spotting. What happened next can only be described as really scary. We heard it before we saw it: the high-octane zoom round the bend, the high-pitched buzzing of the engine and the screeching of tyres. It passed the finish line and carried on at a dangerous speed. Luckily, we brought Go-Kart pundit and 3 time Piston Cup champion, James Price, who immediately spotted that the ghost was a famous Karter who died tragically in a catastrophic accident on the very track in front of us. Quincy Q. (The Quake) Quadley was a young karter of great potential. The River Phoenix of the Kart World. After a promising start to the season in '88, Quincy refused a pit stop 4 times in a row, desperate to take 1st place from his rival, Zach Zoomin' Zimmerman. Friends close to Quincy described their Heated Rivalry-esque relationship, prompting increasingly intense competition climaxing at Blackbushe racetrack. Quincy Quadley attempted an overtake on the 214th lap, but failed before the corner, crashing into the concrete barrier at 185 mph. The recent addition of heated seats (a well-meaning gift from Zimmerman) caused a fire in the engine and then an explosion. Quadley was eviscerated but probably felt no pain; however, it seems his spirit lives on. We watched as his ghost repeatedly catapulted round the bend, and crashed again and again into the barrier. Some say that one day he'll turn just enough to make it round that corner, finishing the race, and freeing his soul from torment.

Coda

We were all hypnotised by the sight. One of our team, Chris, ran towards the track in a state of hysteria. We shouted and begged for him to come back, but he seemed transfixed and possessed- desperate to see him closer. Perhaps it was Zach's spirit, trying to reunite with his lover. We'll never know, as Chris and the boom mic were whisked off by the spirit as it ran him over, disappearing into the night. Another victim of the Ghostkart and its helpless, tragic driver.

Yateley Swimming Club and Yateley Kayak and Canoe Polo Club enter high-stakes bidding war over use of Sean Devereux during rainy periods



After years of regular disuse during periods of rain, drizzle, and damp due to flooding at the low-lying Sean Devereux football pitches, Yateley United finally decided enough was enough.

Citing the fact that the pitches remain "broadly underwater" and "therefore unusable for the majority of the year" (a problem exacerbated by the United Kingdom's characteristic poor weather and climate change), the club has announced a permanent move to a new football pitch in Aldershot, to be named the Shell Estadia de Sport as part of a corporate partnership with oil company Shell's Spanish arm.

With this departure set in stone, Yateley United organised an auction to determine Sean Devereux's new ownership. The pitches' natural advantages saw it attract attention from Yateley Rotary Club, Yateley Scuba and Snorkel, Yateley Paddle Club, and Yateley Flood Group; however, all dropped out of the bidding as the price reached seven digits.

The two groups to go beyond the £1,000,000 mark were, of course, the infamous Yateley Swimming Club and the equally notorious Yateley Kayak and Canoe Polo Club. Bids reached as high as £8.7 million before the YKCPC finally backed down, allowing Yateley Swimming Club to officially take over land rights for the famous pitches.

The club has coordinated an Extraordinary General Meeting to determine if they should use the land as a swimming venue for members or add it to their already-enormous real-estate portfolio (currently totalling several billion pounds in commercial, industrial, and residential assets), developing the land into an Artificial Intelligence data centre and a series of industrial warehouses.

