

Annual town meeting 2019

This has been a quite momentous year in Yateley.

Facilities

The Tythings came of age. Opened 21 years ago as a Sports Pavilion, replacing the 1950s changing rooms, when Yateley Green was still our main venue for sport. However, most of the field sports have decamped to their own freehold land at Sean Devereux.

So, we've refreshed the building and launched the Youth Suite, a purpose-built facility for youth, which took about 9 years in the planning, to ensure the facility was self-contained, safe, secure, has access to the all weather pitch, a quiet/interview room, kitchen and club room. The old Youth Suite was only used one evening a week, the new facility is available other evenings as well as during the day for youth services and activities. The Gallery room has been enlarged with new lift for council meetings and community use.

Yateley Men's Shed opened in August and is used for 3 regular sessions a week.

YTC installed new Christmas decorations which brightens up Church End Green during the festive season. The lights at Darby Green should be addressed within the next two financial years.

Environment

Following the successful restoration of Darby Green pond the year before, Shute's Pond on Yateley Green has also been dredged and restored. The main footpath on Yateley Green running east-west was also relaid with limestone chips.

Events

We made history this year, launching the Beating of the Bounds for the first time in 116 years. This was a Christian tradition the 5th century, following a series of poor harvests, when the Pope wanted priests to encircle the parish and bless the fields within, restoring the old Roman custom of Robigalia. It was introduced to these islands in the 7th century, and carried out annually in Rogation Week after 25 April. It was important before maps and people could read and write, to know which parish you lived in, for births, marriages and burials, where you paid your parish tithes (council tax) and where you were entitled to receive parish relief. It was enshrined in law by Alfred The Great, Æthelstan, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, when she made it a civic duty of parishes rather than a religious one. The last times it recorded in Yateley was 1902, when 14 of the Parish's worthies took part, and 1890. 150 walkers took part in the 11.5 mile walk in April. It is hoped to repeat this every 5 years.

Community

YTC supports the use of the green for May Fayre, Gig on the Green, and held the Picnic on the Green for the third time. We also lent support to Yateley Society who celebrated Civic Day in July when they managed to organise an Open Day at Yateley Hall for the second year running.

Administration

We've had a recent change of Town Clerk, with Jane Biscombe moving to the seaside and Rochelle Halliday joining us as Clerk last month.

This May sees the end of the 4 year term of the present councillors and there's still time to consider standing in this year's elections if you feel you'd like a say in the Council's work next four years.