



YTC Annual Town Meeting Thursday 27 May 2021

The Yateley Society update

- As well as its paid-up membership the Society has a growing number of "Friends of Yateley Society" - supporters who follow us on Facebook and our Society website and comment on and discuss the things we represent and do.
- Unable to meet physically since last year's AGM the EC and sub committees meet by zoom video link and this year's AGM in February was held in this way. Our March and April meetings on zoom consisted of a presentation with discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan. Future meetings have yet to be confirmed.
- The Society has been very involved with the Neighbourhood Plan and Yateley Climate Action Network (YCAN), both of which were updated later at the town meeting. [by *Richard Quarterman & Mark Griffin*].
- Jo Hill and Alison Hewitt, two of the Society's trustees involved with those projects, are also part of the team behind the Wildflower verges project. The initial sites selected are:- a) Reading Road outside Frogmore Campus, b) Vigo Lane between Cullen Close and Alder Grove, and c) the top of Old Monteagle Lane and Monteagle Lane. The cultivation licence for these sites has been obtained by Yateley Town Council from Hampshire County Council and will be financed by Hart District Council at a cost of £131 for all 3 sites. The areas

have been signposted to inform the public about the projects and seeding took place in the last week of May. When in bloom these meadows should greatly enhance these areas within our semi-rural parish and may create demand for more.

- On a similar theme and being mindful that it is the Society's 40th Anniversary, we are in talks with Yateley Town Council about creating a COVID contemplation area for those who wish to remember family, friends and neighbours who have been lost to this horrible virus. Long-term Society members, for example, will wish to remember Ron and Steph Pattenden who were two of our founder members.
- The Society is monitoring the changes to planning laws which were outlined in the Queen's Speech. Much concern has been expressed at national and local levels at the potential threat to the environment and the green belt in particular that these might pose. The Society's planning committee is busily researching evidence to support applications for applying listed status to a number of older dwellings in the parish. One of these is Gayton House, which is threatened by demolition.
- The Society is currently considering creating a digital library for access by members and the public. This would include images and data from the archives. Although we deposited our archive of historic documents with Hampshire Record Office (HRO) a few years ago we have retained digital copies.
- The Society's local history group is continuing to seek the memories of anyone who grew up in Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green in the 1940s & 1950s. Please get in touch if that was you or someone you know.
- In the weeks ahead the Society will have a presence at the Gig on the Green in June, the Heathlands Week opening of the Daphne Kirkpatrick Nature Trail in July (Daphne was a founder member who was passionate about preserving and protecting the Common) and hopefully the Summer Fair on August Bank Holiday.

Roger Coombes
Chairman
May 2021