

# The Yateley Society

## Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

Financial Year Ending 30th September 2022



External Events...



Community  
Collaboration...



Regular Talks...

## Reference and Administration Details

**Charity Name:** The Yateley Society  
**Registered Charity No:** 282397  
**Email address:** secretary@yateleySociety.org.uk  
**Website address:** www.yateleySociety.org.uk

### Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Trustee Name	Office
Roger Coombes	Chairman/History
Jo Hill	Vice Chair/Communications
Liz Carpenter	Honorary Secretary
Elizabeth Hesketh	Honorary Treasurer / Membership Secretary
Alison Hewitt	Planning / Conservation
Colin Broadley	Archivist
Diane Gardner	Research

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## 1. Chairman's Report

It feels unusual to be writing my introduction for a second annual report in the space of 12 months; this is for logistical reasons which we touched upon at the AGM in February.

Looking back at the newsletters of the past year and reflecting on the work and activities of the Society I am struck more than ever by our versatility across all our aims and objectives as we 'emerged' from Covid restrictions.

The AGM in February enabled me to publicly thank Peter and Elizabeth Tipton as 'founding members' for the many and varied ways in which they had been involved in the Society's growth and development throughout the 40 years since the Society's inception in 1982. That AGM also entered new territory in as much as enabling the current trustees to use a PowerPoint presentation to display the achievements of the previous year and to look ahead at the aims and objectives of the year ahead. The Sunday morning 'brunch' recently attended by 30 members was an offshoot of the AGM discussions and a different approach to communication. The report you are now reading enables you to judge how successful we have been in meeting our objectives.

Looking across the spectrum of our interests and members activities, however, I have become aware of a shift of focus in recent years from local history (which had been a mainstay of the Society's early years in the 1980s and 1990s) to conservation, environmental and ecological matters. We are doing more in promoting 'green issues' and raising awareness of the delicate balance between urban development and protecting our natural environment. This now encompasses growing concern nationally and indeed globally about the negative effects of climate change. You will find references to our activities later in this report.

From its inauguration several Society members have also been conservation volunteers giving time and considerable effort supplementing the work of the Countryside Rangers on Yateley Common. Forty years on more members and "Friends of Yateley Society" (our Facebook group) are continuing this commitment. I am writing this a few days before the Sustainability Fair event which forms part of the **Yateley Great Big Green Week**, a co-operation between The Yateley Society, St Peter's Church and YCAN (the **Big Green Week** is organised nationally by the Climate Coalition).

I am not going as far as saying that local history is taking a back seat to conservation and planning, but it can only progress at a rate determined by the number of members actively researching and writing. This is currently quite low, particularly when compared to the team of 10 – 12 which worked on the Yateley in the Great War project meeting monthly over a period of four years a decade ago. The current ongoing project(s) cover the houses and families of Vicarage Road and medieval settlement at Firgrove Manor and Love Lane fields (in the Yateley-Eversley strategic gap). The threat of development in that gap is also of concern to our Planning group.

One can never be sure when an application for development will crop up, especially when made retrospectively as has been a recent trend. With Gayton House, Love Lane fields and Yateley Hall, our planning team has been kept busy this year. Our objections have helped to persuade HDC planning department to refuse most of them, but we are aware that developers won't give up and we anticipate them appealing against the refusals or revising their plans. The Society needs to remain alert to potential threats to our natural and suburban environments.

With his reputation of concern and speaking out on environmental issues, it will be interesting to see how our new King, Charles III, might influence green awareness at both national and local levels.

One erstwhile prime minister remarked that “there is no such thing as Society”. Writing on the day after the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II I am reflecting on the words used by the Archbishop of Canterbury: “those who serve will live and be remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten”. Having served as chairman of this Society for more than a decade it is time for me to pass the baton to someone else. It has been a privilege, for which I thank my fellow members, and thankfully I have not been aware of any special and untoward power.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the trustees and volunteers that have helped The Yateley Society to continue to thrive and grow this year.

***Roger Coombes, Chairman***  
*chairman@yateleySociety.org*

## 2. Structure, Governance and Management

### 2.1 Description of the Charity’s Trusts

#### **Type of governing document.**

The Society’s governing document is our Constitution; the model constitution of the Civic Trust, first adopted at its inaugural meeting on **15th January 1981**. The Constitution was amended at the AGM on the **31<sup>st</sup> January 1985**, at an SGM held on **14th November 1996** to add a fourth Biodiversity object clause, and make a large number of detail changes to modernise the constitution, mainly to conform with Charity Commissioner and Civic Trust standards, and at the AGMs of **20 February 1997** and **15<sup>th</sup> February 2001**.

#### **How the charity is constituted.**

The charity is an **unincorporated association**. Further research, on the Charity Commission website, reveals that an unincorporated association is appropriate where the charity:

- is to be relatively small in terms of assets.
- has a membership.
- is to be run by charity trustees who will be elected by members or appointed to hold office for fixed terms.
- wants to take account of the views of local residents and organisations through membership or as users.
- wishes to carry out its work wholly or partly through the voluntary effort and contributions of its members.

The appropriate governing document is a constitution – which we have.

#### **Trustee selection methods**

As approved at our AGM of February 2022, we will now be following the standard processes as recommended by Hart Voluntary Action, and generally adopted by charities within the UK. That is to say, once a Trustee is voted in at an AGM by Society members, or co-opted during the year, and appointed to the executive committee, they will serve a term of no less than 3 years. This is subject to a maximum of 3 terms (within a specific role), or resignation by said Trustee

should their circumstances change, and they are no longer able to support the role they have been appointed to. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. Our constitution will be amended accordingly and will be subject to approval at the AGM on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022.

### **Volunteer selection methods**

In recognition of the pro-active and valuable work undertaken by some of our members who do not wish to be made Trustees, we now have the option to sign them to a new "Volunteer Agreement". It also enables these members to work under the "umbrella of credibility" having been given a Society email address, and the support of the executive committee, with a formal reporting structure to a nominated Trustee.

## **2.2 Data Protection**

From 25 May 2018 all UK organisations, including charities need to comply with a new data protection law, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We continue to monitor our processes to ensure compliance and make our Privacy Policy available to both new and existing members.

## **2.3 Additional Governance Issues**

### **Induction of Trustees**

We have developed a Trustee Handbook intended to provide important information to new trustees and as a point of reference for all other officers and trustees to ensure all can undertake their roles and responsibilities in a diligent manner. It is intended that this document is reviewed and amended as necessary on a regular basis.

In line with our new "Volunteer Agreement" programme, there is a reduced version of the Trustee handbook for our new volunteers.

### **Management and Volunteers**

The charity is administered entirely by volunteers. It does not have access to the financial resources that might allow it to operate in any other way. This naturally affects what may be reasonably expected of the charity in terms of performance and timeliness. Thus, if a volunteer ceases to be willing to carry out the work, resigns from the Society, or leaves the district, it is important to find other volunteers to take on that role to ensure continuity of effort, and to take plans and projects through to their conclusion.

## **2.4 The Charity's Organisational Structure**

The Society is managed by the Executive Committee, which meets on a Wednesday evening at approximately six weekly intervals. All Society business is discussed to a structured agenda prepared by the Honorary Secretary. Minutes are kept and approved as correct at the following meeting. The Executive Committee is supported by several subcommittees:

### **Communications Subcommittee (PR)**

The Communications Subcommittee is led by Jo Hill and meets every 6 weeks to discuss public-facing matters, such as advertising, social media and event planning. The team have continued to work hard on a variety of matters this year.

### **Planning Subcommittee**

The Planning Subcommittee is led by Alison Hewitt, and it continues to diligently monitor planning applications and development and to give a Society response where appropriate. Alison

provides a comprehensive report to each YSEC meeting as to activities undertaken and progress being made.

## **Supporting Organisations**

The Society wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance provided this year by Yateley Town Council, Yateley Country Markets, Hampshire Countryside Rangers, the Yateley Cobbler, EJC Websites and PRINTRIK.

## **3. Objectives and Activities**

### **3.1 Summary of the objects of the Charity**

1. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, and architecture of the area of benefit.
2. To secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.
3. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
4. To secure the enhancement of the biological diversity of the ecosystems, the conservation of the natural and semi-natural habitats, and the protection of the characteristic flora and fauna within the area of benefit

### **3.2 Statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.**

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our Executive Committee meetings. There is a standard agenda item under which we record the Society's main activities during the year for the public benefit and how these relate to our charitable objects.

### **3.3 Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.**

Each year the Society's objectives and activities seek to further its charitable object clauses.

To achieve object clause **(1)** the Society runs a talks programme which anyone may attend free of charge, publishes books and publications, and has a website, which in addition to providing information, also attracts a steady stream of email enquiries, mostly concerning local and family history, and planning matters.

To achieve object clause **(2)** the Society continues to research Yateley's heritage including the history of old buildings, whether listed or not, and maintaining a database of up-to-date research. The Society continues to monitor the activities of the Local Planning Authority and is actively involved in supporting Yateley Town Council and other community groups in the process of drawing up the Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan.

The Society also maintains a watching brief over the registered common land in the parish as an historic feature, carries out historic research, and encourages archaeological research by local experts and maintains a forum for the dissemination of the findings. The Society also monitors the conservation status of Yateley Common, an important part of the Thames Valley Heaths Special Protection Area for Wild Birds, supporting two members as observers on the Yateley Commons Management Committee.

To achieve object clause **(3)** the Society monitors significant planning applications in Yateley, via the Hart Planning website and convenes public meetings to discuss any major planning challenges of concern to agree any necessary action plans.

To achieve object clause **(4)** the Society organises and supports financially a group of Conservation Volunteers. Involvement is not restricted to Society members; everyone is welcome. The volunteer hours are logged annually. Two members regularly attend the Yateley Commons Management Committee as observers.

## 4. Achievements and Performance

### 4.1 Membership

For this financial year (ending 30 September 2022) The Yateley Society has 166 paid up members, including 1 corporate member, and in addition we have 7 lifetime and 4 honorary members. This is a significant rise from the previous year.

This reflects the freedom from covid restrictions that has hampered our face-to-face activities over the past two years. Clearly our presence at local fairs and events helps a great deal in recruiting and keeping members and, together with our social media presence, raises our profile.

Our new membership package 'Membermojo' is now fully operational and is proving to be a much easier and accurate method of managing our member's records and subscriptions. The ease of joining and renewing through our website, and the email communications reminding members to renew, has undoubtedly reduced the number of expired members.

The ability of the trustees to use Membermojo to communicate with members is a very useful tool and members can reply individually to these emails with queries or problems. We would encourage them to do this as we are always happy to help and engage.

*Liz Hesketh, Membership Secretary*  
*membership@yateleySociety.org*

### 4.2 Communication

The Communications Subcommittee is chaired by Jo Hill and meets regularly to discuss promoting the work of the Society via social media, events, talks and links to other groups with a view to increasing interest in and, ultimately, membership of the Society.

#### Newsletter

The Newsletter editor role is carried out by Jo Hill, assisted by Frances Clinch as proof-reader with contributions included from the Chairman, heads of subgroups, members, and affiliated organisations. Four newsletters were produced during the year Oct 21 – Sep 22 which were sent electronically to members and placed on the website.

#### Website

Our website focusses on the four object clauses of the Society with **Town Planning** signposting to the Neighbourhood Plan information, council planning departments and conservation area maps. **Conservation** promotes the support of nature conservation and also provides links to information on Yateley Common, "Plantlife" (wild plant conservation) whose advice is followed



for our wildflower verges and Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee. **Local History** points to a searchable index of the "Yateley in the Great War" book, Hampshire Archives and links to a wealth of our legacy local history data on wiki databases, as well as advertising a regular "History, Coffee and Chat" event. **Events** explains the programme of talks, events, and publications available from the Society with the ability to book places or order merchandise.

The Society membership management package, Membermojo, has streamlined applications and payments, improved communications and allow members to manage their own preferences.

### Social Media

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts enable us to promote the Society to a greater number of Yateley residents and are useful tools for addressing the Society's object clause (i). All Facebook posts are also shared to other local groups, whose memberships total around 20k allowing us to reach a widening audience outside our own membership.

Our closed Facebook group, **Friends of the Yateley Society** with over 430 members, continues to be used extensively for discussion and information about the local area.

These steps all help to raise awareness of the Society and its aims, and this is borne out by increasing numbers of followers, reach and interactions.

## 4.3 Meetings and Events

Monthly meetings, events, local history Coffee and Chat at Café 46 and the monthly Conservation Working parties all continued.

The Society's monthly events programme is summarised in the table below.

Month	Talk/Event
Oct 2021	Abbey Roper gave a presentation about St Barnabas Church in the church itself.
Nov 2021	Yateley Christmas Market
Dec 2021	Dr Richard France gave a chat about 33 years as a GP in Yateley at the Society's Christmas social event at Bistro 19.
Jan 2022	Zoom presentation by Penny Green, Project Ecologist, about the Knepp Estate – Rewilding Britain
Feb 2022	"Be a Part of our Future" presentation and Annual General Meeting
Apr 2022	Rayner Mayer gave an update on the Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green Neighbourhood Plan
May 2022	Yateley Lions May Fayre – the Society produced a display based on the research around Gayton House (including the recent planning discussions) and Vicarage Road.
May 2022	Berkshire Birds of Prey gave a display to Society members at Yateley Cricket Club.
June 2022	The Society presented a display about St Barnabas Church and Jubilee memories at the Frogmore and Darby Green Jubilee Event
July 2022	Roger Cansdale from the Basingstoke Canal Society gave an insight to the history of the canal's ownership and development
July 2022	Afternoon Tea on the Basingstoke Canal on the John Pinkerton II narrow boat
July 2022	The Society launched the "Wilding your Garden" challenge supported by a £1000 donation for an eco-project by <i>BAE Systems</i> .

Sep 2022	"Be a Part of our Future" brunch at Bistro 19.
Sep 2022	Roger Coombes gave a talk about St Barnabas Church to the residents of <i>Hampshire Lakes Care Home</i>
Sep 2022	Roger Coombes gave a talk about the Society to the <i>Camberley &amp; Yateley Friendship Centre</i>
Sep 2022	RSPB and Hants and IoW Amphibian and Reptile Group presented information about the (mostly endangered) wildlife that can be found locally.
Sep 2022	Sustainability Fair at Church End Green featuring local groups and businesses highlighting actions to tackle climate change.

Executive Committee and Sub-group meetings were held during the year either in person or by Zoom.

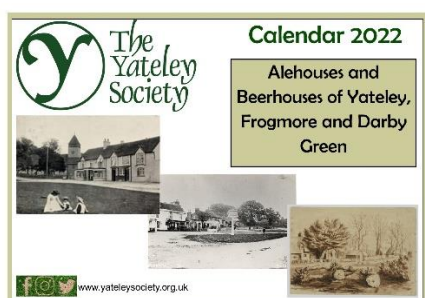
### Links with third party groups

During the year, the Society worked with ***Yateley Climate Action Network*** (YCAN – a working group of Yateley Town Council comprising councillors, local groups and volunteers) on the wildflower verge project, planting around 400 whips from the Woodland Trust around the area, and creating a Community Orchard - all encouraging local volunteers from all walks to participate.

Collaboration with YCAN and St Peters Church resulted in the ***Yateley Great Big Green Week*** in September 2022 which comprised a Sustainability Fair, online webinars exploring heating systems and reducing energy bills, wildlife talks about local birds, amphibians and reptiles, as well as encouraging other local groups to hold their own Great Big Green Week events to improve the local environment.

## 4.5 Merchandise


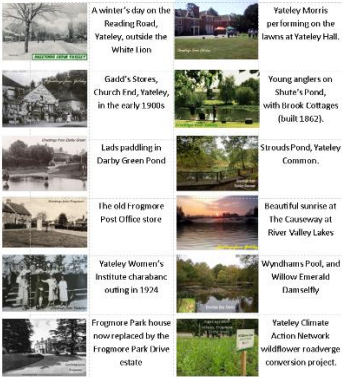
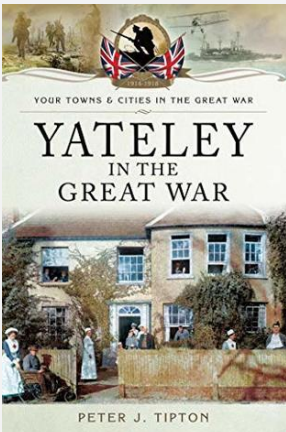
The Society sells merchandise at events and through our online shop.



The 2022 Calendar was launched in November 2021 and featured Yateley alehouses and beerhouses.



Following the wildflower verge project launch in March 2020, June 2020 saw the launch of the Society's Wildflower Bombs to encourage residents to create their own wildflower areas.

 <p><i>Greetings from Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green</i></p>  <p><i>Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green Greetings Cards</i> 75p each / Pack of 5 assorted cards with envelopes—£3.50 All proceeds are re-invested in our local projects</p>	<p>The Society increased its range of Greetings Cards by another 2 – Frogmore Park House and the wildflower verge project.</p>
	<p>The Society continues to supply Yateley in the Great War. It is a great 'conversation starter' on social media and at events, and the website features a searchable index of names.</p>

The Society also has postcards, local illustrations and publications which are promoted at events and on the website.

**Jo Hill, PR/Communications**  
**[vicechair@yateleySociety.org](mailto:vicechair@yateleySociety.org)**

## 4.4 Planning

Once again, we haven't had many face-to-face meetings since February, but continue make great use of email, Zoom and social media to communicate and share information with one another and the community - the **Friends of Yateley Society** Facebook group being the main place we share that information.

We were very pleased that the *Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan* was formally accepted at Hart District Council on the 28 July, meaning it now sits alongside the Local Plan for the district as the primary consideration when deciding on planning applications in the Parish of Yateley. The "Plan & Decision Statement" can be viewed on the Yateley Town Council website and on Hart's website.

An on-going task of the sub-group is to monitor and comment on planning applications where appropriate. The last 6 months have been busy on this front and a summary of activity is given below:

**Love Lane & Love Lane Fields** – 21/01744/FUL Eversley Sign, Eversley Road, Yateley, Hampshire - Formation of agricultural field access.

After extensive investigative work by the Yateley Society Planning sub-group and several very supportive local residents, the developer withdrew this application on 22nd September 2021. However, we knew that they would be back and on the 9th March 2022 another application relating to the same land arrived.

22/00528/OUT Land at Love Lane and Firgrove Road, Eversley, Hampshire - Outline Planning Application for mixed use care related development (Use Class C2) to provide an 80 bed residential care home and up to 8 care related dwellings with all matters reserved except for access.

As with the previous application in 2021, a huge amount of work went into scrutinising the many documents submitted by the developer, liaising with various organisations, and collating relevant information so that comments on the application could be submitted to Hart. Again we were very fortunate to be supported by local residents who did an amazing job of surveying wildlife in the fields and the traffic on the B3272 (Reading Road) and by the community submitting 90 objections. On 1st September 2022 Hart announced that they had refused the application. We will continue to monitor the situation to see what happens next.

Due to this refusal, **Love Lane**, a 10th-12th century medieval lane has been saved for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

**Yateley Hall** - 22/01390/FUL Yateley Hall, Firgrove Road, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6HJ Retention of 4 no. outbuildings.

For the last few years, Yateley Hall has been the home of Hurst Lodge School. To date, a series of activities have taken place without planning permission, for which a comprehensive retrospective application is overdue. This recent application, which only partially deals with the issues, was submitted after the event to keep a number of timber 'cabins' which they have erected adjacent to the Hall. However, the accompanying documents make it clear that the long-term aim of the school is to extend the Grade 2\* Listed Yateley Hall. Hart refused planning application for the 'cabins' on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**Gayton House** – 21/02940/FUL Motoright, Village Way, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 7SE Construction of a part two part three storey building to accommodate twenty two sheltered apartments, communal facilities, a guest suite, access, car parking and landscaping following the demolition of Gayton House and Village Service Station.

The Yateley Society was approached by the applicant, the developer "Lilyford", in 2021 and were consulted on their plans. We also offered them information on the local history and architecture of the area. It was encouraging to see so much of what we shared taken on board in this application. However, Hart refused the application on the 1st March 2022 for a variety of reasons.

Lilyford resubmitted a planning application in May 2022 that addressed all reasons for the previous refusal in application 22/01062/FUL Demolition of Village Service Station, erection of a part two, part two and a half storey building to accommodate one commercial unit (use Classes E(a) & E(c)), twenty sheltered apartments, communal facilities and associated access, car parking and landscaping, demolition of toilet and utility at ground floor rear of Gayton House, erection of a single storey rear extension to accommodate refuse store and change of use to 2 sheltered apartments, guest suite and buggy store.

In response to objections from the community and the Society, this amended application now proposes to incorporate the existing Gayton House into the new development which is really encouraging. Although a decision was expected at the beginning of September, Hart have been given more time to consider new documents on drainage and flooding which have recently been submitted to them by Lilyford. These documents are also being considered by the Environment Agency; hence we have to wait a little longer to find out the future of this unsightly spot in the centre of Yateley will be.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned or would like to get involved, then please get in contact.

***Alison Hewitt, Planning Subcommittee***  
*planning@yateleySociety.org*

## **4.6 Conservation**

Following the successful return to **Heathland Management work** in Sept 2021, 2022 has continued in a similar vein with average volunteer attendances approaching pre-pandemic levels.

This year seven new volunteers have joined the Conservation Group Work Parties on the Heaths, hosted by the HCC Rangers, although we would also like to welcome more of our old volunteer friends to maximise future effectiveness. Assorted tasks included the challenge of maintaining the 'open' aspect of Heathland by scrub & small tree removal, helping eradicate invasive foreign species (Japanese Knotweed), maintaining Emergency Services access, Ragwort control, and Holly control to encourage more light reaching ground level which increases woodland flora, insects & invertebrates.

A key objective in managing Heathland habitats is to create & sustain mosaics of different types of vegetation & structures suitable for the widest possible biodiversity, at the same time ensuring that rare or threatened species are accommodated. Tasks are suitably adjusted to individuals' capability, and we have enjoyed support from volunteers in their 80's.

Some ground nesting birds such as the **Nightjar and Woodlark** have adapted to depend on Heathlands for breeding. Nightjars fly from Africa annually to breed locally. Their camouflage is very effective, to the extent that one can sometimes approach within a few metres before they take flight. This type of behaviour can be quite alarming and has earned the Woodlark the nickname of the "Heart attack" bird.

During the nesting season it is important that people and dogs in particular do not leave the foot paths across open Heathland. There is always the possibility of stepping on a well camouflaged nest & eggs, and if the bird is put to flight by a foraging dog the ever-vigilant predators, such as Magpies, Jays, Rooks & Crows (Corvids), will spot that & target the nest.

After a sympathetically received approach to HCC highways to test the feasibility of deploying temporary drain covers in areas where **amphibians** migrate in numbers to breed, we still await a response. Toads are not good swimmers and along with frogs & newts, if swept into a drain in a storm they are likely to perish. A "Help-a-Toad-across-the-road" campaign is envisaged next year starting in ~ Jan / Feb / March, depending on the weather conditions prevailing.

**28th Sept '22: Three Asian Hornets (AH) were discovered in Essex.** Bee Unit Inspectors were dispatched to the area. At this time of year Queens may leave the primary nest to set up

new colonies. These may be found in treetops, bushes, wall cavities etc and nests may become evident as the leaf cover reduces. If an Asian Hornet nest is suspected under no circumstances should anyone approach within ~ 5m. without full protective clothing as AH will mount an attack to defend their nests. Anyone who suspects that an Asian Hornet has been seen should call the local AHAT (Asian Hornet Action Team) immediately who will verify the species and deal appropriately.

A suspected AH was reported recently in Eversley but was immediately identified as a European Hornet by AHAT; no further action was required. Vigilance remains very important.

A substantial outbreak of **Japanese Knotweed** was identified and the BVCP Team informed who subsequently attended the Royal Oak Valley & applied biocide control. The large, spreading stand was successfully knocked back to ground level during 2021 but shoots have re-emerged and will require further treatment. Yateley Society is maintaining a watching brief.

A large area of the Royal Oak valley, estimated as approximately 130m x 30m, was clear felled under the aerial cables, presumably by the Electricity Supplier SSE. Because there was no advance warning of this radical clearance it is not known by the author whether any species of importance have been lost as a consequence.

If you would like to find out more about anything mentioned above, please contact [greenaction@yateleysociety.org.uk](mailto:greenaction@yateleysociety.org.uk).

***Mike Mann, Conservation Coordinator.***

## **4.7 Local History Group**

The Local History Group continues to be what it has always been since the Society was formed in 1981 - a loose association of members (and sometimes non-members) whose interest in 'local history' covers a fairly broad spectrum. The size and composition of the group has always varied according to the topics being researched at any time. In the 1980s and 1990s it was rarely spectacularly large, and members usually worked individually or in pairs delving into the history of a building, an area, an individual or a family – usually one of those commemorated on gravestones or memorials in St. Peter's Church. Their findings might be published in a pamphlet or the Society newsletter or given in a talk.

The research and investigations which led to the publication of Yateley in the Great War by Pen & Sword were a different case. This was a topic which generated involvement by around a dozen members and non-members who worked as a team over a period of some 4 – 5 years generally meeting monthly to discuss progress and division of tasks. When the book reached publication, the team disbanded (some having sadly already passed away) and went their separate ways. None continued working within the Society. Their interest and motivation had been fulfilled.

The current Group consists of four researchers with particular interest in Vicarage Road and its surrounding area at Church End – notably the buildings and their occupants in the Edwardian era (c1901 - 1910) and their links with other places in Yateley. The motivation for their investigation is not purely local history per se but also embraces the acquisition of evidence for use in planning matters. This is also true of investigation into mainly archaeological findings in the Yateley – Eversley 'strategic gap' including Love Lane fields and Firgrove Manor which are revealing evidence from the Middle Ages.

This research is largely being done on computer and by email communication and as such 'physical' meetings are intermittent, usually two or three per year. It is hoped to publish an

interim summary of the group's findings as a means of generating wider interest and thereby attracting more much-needed assistance. Interested? Please get in touch.

***Roger Coombes, Local History Group***  
*chairman@yateleySociety.org*

## **4.8 Archives**

Much work has been carried out in the last 12 months. We now have enough External Drives to enable me to loan one to the Secretary as a major security backup, one to the Vice Chair as a working copy and one to the research team for their use. All three of these have a double so that I can have a pre-updated drive to change over on receipt of the one held by those three currently. The aim is to do this monthly. This has not quite worked out but is still the aim. I also hold a further drive, a copy of the latest version which also has a copy of a second Master Drive which has come into the Archive in recent times.

A major part of my job is to 'refresh' the existing digital archive – changing any unusable file type into a current format. Examples are '.rtf' files from old versions of redundant Wordstar Word Processors into MS Word '.docx' and '.rme' files ASCII – DOS Text Files again into '.docx'. There are several others. The 'NCH Suite of programs' and 'File Merlin' help with this work which extends into picture files.

I have had great success with some picture files using the Corel Draw suite of programs in improving the quality of images we have in the Archive and this process takes place with the format changes above.

Slowly the old set of CD archive files are being replaced by refreshing, deleting of program files relating to CD operation, some reduction of duplication and renaming. The old CD set, presumably starting at cd001 ran to at least cd450 when DVD's started to be used. Many of these have now been eliminated and we have only 66 left. In many cases the content of old CD files has been moved to DVD's and in many cases the contents of remaining CD's have not been indexed.

I recently continued my work on CD089 and made 161 changes to the archive although many of these were minor file name enhancements (DOS Files were limited to 8 characters making for names like 'LITHALT', 'ROBINGR' and 'ROBGRCOT'. There is no normal limit now, but I try to place keywords at the start of file names. If you can help me with a meaning for 'LITHALT' I would be grateful!

Out of this same work came coloured map files from the National Farm Survey of 1941-43. These show the extent of land owned by particular landowners each in a differing colour and are very useful for research. The previous file name for these was MAF73. This is the National Archives reference for 'Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food' documents. This code is well known to researchers, so the abbreviation is retained in a longer title. These are not available online so must have been purchased or copied by visiting the National Archive in the past.

This particular cd also produced a life history of Henry Brown Mason who was an officer in the Royal Navy at the time of Nelson. The 26 documents link the name to Hilfield (Hill Field), Hall Place, Yateley Manor and Robin Grove and include a good picture of Hilfield before a fire in 1900 and a Family tree spanning 7 generations.

People files for Sandhurst and Finchampstead are also here obtained by hours of work in the past peering at poor quality IGI (International Genealogical Index) microfilms from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These files are using the 2003 version of Excel Worksheets but now resaved as "Excel.xlsx".

It is interesting to note that changing from old Excel Files to the Latest Excel Format give a large saving in file space. For example, the old Sandhurst and Finchampstead above file was 1,308Kb and the new one is 307Kb both having identical information. Unfortunately picture files often get larger but are of better quality.

One recent and ongoing project is the recently released 1921 Census information. Currently this is available at Find My Past website at a cost of £3.50 per family. At times the Company gives a 50% reduction and being a subscriber myself I get an additional 10% off. Nevertheless, I have been slowly downloading these and now have a big spreadsheet on the Archive. I currently have 242 people recorded here in full and some data for the whole of Yateley. It is already interesting with those working at RAE; Yateley Cottage Hospital, who had a nurse from Melbourne; Gardeners who worked at Yateley Hall; the Head Gardner at Kerala; Agnes Courie an apprentice at 15 working at the Yateley Post Office; Margaret Inman, 27, was a Dormitory Servant at the Royal Military College; Charles Douglas Frankes an Insurance Broker in New York living as a widower with two servants was in Yateley in 1921. We have several Hawkers working in "No fixed place" but nevertheless recorded by the enumerator as being in Yateley. And to end up the Undertaker Parker & Sons were then "Undertakers and Coach Builders" employing Archie Filmore as an Apprentice to a Wheelwright.

*Colin Broadley, Society Archivist  
archivist@yateleySociety.org*

## 4.9 Fundraising and grants

This year the Society also a donation from **BAE Systems** to put towards a local eco project. It was decided to organise an educational family garden wilding event and provide a free kit comprising a bird box, bug hotel, watering can, wildflower seeds and bug guide worth around £25 each to give away to families attending the educational event in October 2022.

The Society is registered with Hart Lottery which pays us 50p for every £1 ticket purchased, and also Amazon smile which pays us a percentage of all purchases made, both when the Yateley Society is pre-selected as the beneficiary.

## 5 Financial Review

### 5.1 Treasurer's Report

These accounts have been prepared by the Honorary Treasurer, Elizabeth Hesketh, as required by the Charity Commission. As the receipts and payments fall below £10,000 and there is no legal obligation to do so, the accounts have not been audited. However, the Society feels that, for full transparency, they should be independently examined. We are still looking for a suitable person and once they have been appointed these and future accounts will be verified.

Subscription income at £1498 continues to rise from receipts of £1146 last year. Despite this increase our total cash funds fell by £1511 from last year. This loss is mainly related to the cost of £801 for a much-needed upgrade and maintenance of our website and on-line processes.



We are very grateful for the donation from **BAE Systems** of £1000, and for Patrick Burford for nominating us. This was to be used for conservation and, with the aim of encouraging our younger generation to be involved, we have made up wildflower gardening kits. This donation has now been spent.

The Society also wishes to thank **The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust** for their grant of £1000 to support the Wildlife Verges Project. After using the funds remaining from last year's HCC grant, there is £918 left to carry forward to next year.

Although we have had some ideas, we are still looking for a suitable **Pond Project** to use the £2330 of restricted funds from the Moulsham Pond fundraising. Together with the £918 of restricted funds mentioned above, we have a total of £3248 restricted and £4170 of unrestricted funds.

The process of administrating and claiming Gift Aid is still ongoing. It turned out more complicated and time consuming than originally anticipated, but at present we have £236.25 that we can submit to HMRC for approval.

**Elizabeth Hesketh, Honorary Treasurer**  
*treasurer@yateleySociety.org*

#### **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

	Sub Total	General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Membership Subscriptions (less fees)</b>					
Membership Subscriptions	1498				
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	280				
Subscriptions Paid Twice	45				
Total		1823		1823	1146
<b>Sale of Goods (less fees)</b>					
Calenders	185				
Wildflower Seeds	150				
Other	148				
Total		482		482	376
<b>Member Event/Talks (less fees)</b>					
Social Events Entrance	586				
Fundraising (Raffles)	90				
Total		676		676	574
<b>Donations</b>		173	1000	1173	11
<b>Grants</b>			1000	1000	800
<b>Lottery Receipts</b>		178		178	183
<b>Deposit Account Interest</b>		3		3	3
<b>Cash Donations</b>		11		11	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>3346</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>5346</b>	<b>3093</b>

**PAYMENTS****Sale of Goods Costs**

Calendars	177			
Wildflower Seeds	0			
Other	99			

Total		276		<b>276</b>	352
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**Member Events/Talks**

Social Events Venue Hire	782			
Talks/AGM Room Hire	160			
Promotional Events	72			

Total		1013		<b>1013</b>	351
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**Equipment/Software**

Display Stands	149			
Zoom	144			
Membermojo	75			
Other	141			

Total		509		<b>509</b>	1485
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**Donations**

YTC Wildflower Project	351			
Speakers	100			
Other	50			

Total		418	83	<b>501</b>	582
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**Projects**

Drone Video	1800			
Wildflower Garden Kits	1081			

Total		1881	1000	<b>2881</b>	0
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**Affiliated Fees/Subscriptions**

	298			<b>298</b>	291
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**Insurance**

	228			<b>228</b>	204
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**Stationery/Postage**

	253			<b>253</b>	33
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**Newsletter**

	86			<b>86</b>	32
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**Website Maintenance**

	801			<b>801</b>	264
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**Legal Fees (Moulsham Pond)**

	0			<b>0</b>	120
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**Refunds (Moulsham Pond)**

	0			<b>0</b>	1905
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<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>5763</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>6846</b>	<b>5619</b>
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<b>Nett Receipts</b>	<b>-2417</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>-1500</b>	<b>-2526</b>	
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Cash Funds Last Year End	6598	2330	<b>8928</b>	11454	
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Cash Funds This Year End	4181	3248	<b>7428</b>	8928	
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**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>				
Current Account	97	3248	3344	4806
Deposit Account	3388		3388	3385
Paypal	665		665	718
Cash Float	30		30	19
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>4180</b>	<b>3248</b>	<b>7428</b>	<b>8928</b>
<b>Assets for own use</b>				
Display Stands	149		149	1232
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Expenses incurred but not paid	-70		-70	-36
Subscriptions paid in advance	-280		-280	
Subscriptions paid twice	-45		-45	
Grant not yet spent		-918	-918	
Moulsham Pond Reserve		-2330	-2330	-2330
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-395</b>	<b>-3248</b>	<b>-3643</b>	<b>-2366</b>
<b>Net Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>3934</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3934</b>	<b>7794</b>

**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<b>Roger Coombes</b>	<b>Liz Carpenter</b>
Full name(s)	Roger Coombes	Liz Carpenter
Position	Chairman	Honorary Secretary
Date	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2022