



42nd Yateley Society Annual General Meeting

Held on 3rd November 2022 at Monteagle Hall, Yateley

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 8pm and Roger Coombes welcomed all to the 42nd AGM. It was noted that there were sufficient attendees to form a quorum.

1.0 Apologies – Richard France, Adrian Hobbs, Jackie Hobbs, Ish Thomson, Cherie Cheatham, Mandy Baynes, Fran Risius, Eve Angel, Mary Ferriss, Michael and Nicky Duncalfe.

2.0 Chairman's Report and AGM Matters

Roger welcomed all attending this, the 42nd AGM of The Yateley Society. He then provided a brief introduction of each of the member of the Outgoing Committee –

Roger Coombes – Chairman, with particular interest in local history

Jo Hill – Vice Chair, heads up the PR Committee, responsible for website updates, social media and newsletters

Liz Hesketh – Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Liz Carpenter – Secretary and Webmaster

Alison Hewitt – Heads Planning and Conservation teams, involved with the Neighbourhood Plan and Yateley Climate Action Network.

Colin Broadley – Archivist, responds to requests for information

Di Gardner – involved in planning and listing historic buildings

The **Annual Report and Accounts**, having been previously circulated were accepted as being read by all prior to the meeting. Therefore -

- The Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting were proposed by Tony Hocking, seconded by Jan Whillier and were accepted, all in favour.
- The Annual Report and Accounts were proposed by Jo Hill, seconded by Robin Strange and were accepted, all in favour.

Election of Committee:

As minuted at the last AGM, it has been agreed that The Yateley Society have decided to adopt the HVA's recommendations regarding our process of engaging our trustees. As such, we should look to have one third of our trustees, typically two, of those longest serving in their current role, to step down at each AGM and offer themselves up for voting again. Their feedback was that it is now more typical for a charity to engage a trustee in role for a period of 3 years, subject to 3 terms within that role. That is not to say that an individual must step down as a trustee after that time, only that a role within the committee, such as treasurer or chair, should have the opportunity for a new individual to step in and offer fresh perspective to that role.

As this is the first AGM with this new process, Roger handed over to Tony Hocking to take the voting in of a new Chair and Archivist, as Roger and Colin have been in post for the longest. All trustee nominations were received 14 days ago.

Alison Hewitt as Chair – nominated by Robin Strange, seconded by Tony Hocking, all in favour.

Colin Broadley as our Archivist – nominated by Alison Hewitt, seconded by Mary Hocking, all in favour.

Additional trustees:

Mary Ferriss – proposed by Jo Hill, seconded by Jan Whillier, all in favour.

Tony Hocking handed back to Roger Coombes who thanked Tony for handling the votes.

3.0 Presentation to Roger Coombes

As her first task in post as the new Chair of The Yateley Society, Alison Hewitt thanked Roger Coombes for commitment as the Chair of the Society for the last 12 years. On behalf of all members, she presented him with a painting, showing a scene from his beloved "Rupert Bear" storybook. Her speech is given here:

"I'm very grateful to Roger for all that he has done as Chair of the Yateley Society and being a key font of all knowledge about the local history of the parish of Yateley. Roger, I hope you can continue to do a great PR job on behalf of the rest of the committee, many of whom (sadly!) still have to go to work.

As new chair, one of my first tasks is to review our subgroups and their terms of ref to ensure they're still relevant and addressing our object clauses. If this is something you'd like to be involved in, please get in touch with me.

As a committee we have been so busy over the last year that we have realised we need to reorganise slightly so that we have more, smaller more focussed groups for specific tasks and we will begin working on this at our first communications meeting. We will also be looking at different ways of meeting, reporting and organising ourselves and hope to make more use of Zoom meetings (especially in the winter), WhatsApp groups for event organising, and facilitating hybrid meetings (meaning meetings can be online and in person at the same time) so that we can be more accessible to the community.

As a society, we are totally reliant on active members to enable us to take part in community events and organise our programme of talks etc. and we have reached the point where we really need new people to come forwards to spread the load more so that we can continue to develop our community engagement. Much of the current committee still work either part or full-time and we need more pairs of hands and ideas. So please come and talk to one of us to find out what you can do to help take the Yateley Society forwards into 2023 and beyond.

I should also add that you don't have to be a Trustee of the Society to get more involved. You can now be an official Volunteer, which gives you a Yateley Society email address and the opportunity to join a meeting with the all the Trustees at least twice a year. Alan Kinnaird and Ute Weyer are the first of our members to be enrolled as Volunteers. So if you think this is something that would suit you, and if you would like to find out more about this role, then come and have a chat with our Secretary, Liz Carpenter.

As ever, if you have a suggestion for a speaker, think there's something we should be doing, or need to be aware of then please get in touch as we are always looking for suggestions for new projects, and ideas for monthly talks.

4.0 Jo Hill - presentation

Jo gave a detailed presentation covering the topics of Communications, Conservation, Planning and Local History:

4.1 **Communication** – here Jo detailed how we need to increase our society membership, provide more opportunities for face-to-face networking & learning, engage with more people and work with partnerships such as the Neighbourhood Steering group, Yateley Big Green Week and Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy.

4.2 **Conservation** – this covered the topics of Wildflower verge creation and Community Orchard, Help a Toad Across the Road, Partnerships with BAe Frimley, Yateley Climate Action Network and Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy. What next – Tapestry lawns / Family events / More orchards.

4.3 **Planning Group** - Review planning applications to make sure they have taken into account our Neighbourhood Plan, keeping sight of the archaeological interest in our land and encouraging good building design and maintenance. What next – 2023 Sustainability Fair / Usage of Minley Manor Home Farm.

4.4 **Local History Group** – Discussed History, Coffee & Chat (2nd Tuesday each month Café 46), presentations to other groups. What next – Easy access to facts and photos.....plus the online digital library (which was demonstrated).

Jo finished by talking about all the ways we could do some more help, including:

- Wildlife and plant surveys / working parties / best practice research
- Planning Application monitoring / canvassing opinions
- Local building and genealogy research
- Organising information / producing pamphlets / note taking
- Using technology to reach and engage with more people about all our activities
- Linking with other groups to achieve common aims

Alison thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.