45th Yateley Society Annual General Meeting

Held on 6th November 2025 at Yateley Industries, Yateley

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 7.35pm and Alison Hewitt welcomed all to the 45th AGM. It was noted that there were sufficient attendees to form a quorum.

1.0 Apologies – Ian McKay, Fran Resius, Ish Thomson, Chris Benn, Richard Quarterman, Jean Morgan, Hannah Carpenter, Malcolm Benjamin, Patricia Lambert

2.0 Chairman's Report and AGM Matters

Alison welcomed all attending this, the 45th AGM of The Yateley Society.

"Thank you all for coming tonight for the 45th AGM of the Yateley Society and thank you to our guest speaker Claire Morgan. Claire is going to share a bit about the history of block printing and its recent revival at Yateley Industries. You will also have a chance to try block printing later, but I must warn you it is totally addictive!

I have written a formal report for our annual report but I would just like to say a few words about the year gone by, what we are looking forward to and have many thank yous to make !

This year, two key applications arrived on the desks of the Hart planning team, and consequently on the desks of the Yateley Society Planning team. The first was an EIA screening request from Berkeley Homes for 400 houses on Firgrove Farm, in the Green gap between Yateley and Eversley. The 2nd was an outline planning application for 190 homes on Hollybush Farm – obviously both these sites are in Eversley, but Yateley would be heavily impacted if they came to fruition.

The combined impact of these applications prompted us to develop our Green gap Survey to canvas opinion of local residents on the development within the green gap and the surrounding area.

For the first time in many decades, we held a public meeting at Yateley School to raise awareness of the threat of housing development in the Green Gap and to launch the survey. Over 130 people turned out to listen to our planning team share their knowledge and research and over 1800 people completed our survey. A report on the survey has now been delivered to a wide range of key stakeholders, and we continue to take interested councillors for walks around Firgrove Farm to ensure they are fully aware of what is at stake. A key outcome of the public meeting was that Eversley parish council is finally developing its own NHP. We have been overwhelmed by your support and are very grateful for the donations that we have received. And I can assure you that they are being put to good use.

Looking back to the start of 2025, our planning team could never have imagined that they would think about planning matters almost 24/7 from May onwards. So Mary, Alan and I are enormously grateful to those people who have come forward to support us, namely, Neil, Jeff and Julie, as well as Malcolm and Martin who are researching and sharing their knowledge of sewage and all things water related!

I would also like to single out a few other people who definitely go above and beyond in their support of our activities.

Frances and Mike Clinch continue to provide amazing support in relation to local history research, proof reading and archive activities.

DRAFT

Mike Mann continues to work closely with the Hampshire Countryside Rangers and coordinates the conservation volunteers on Yateley Common and provides the essential refreshments for everyone. He is supported by Liz Hesketh on this task. Mike also leads a small team of people in the Royal Oak Valley where the current goal is to restore a small wildflower meadow. This involves extensive liaison with Hart Countryside Rangers. In the coming year we hope to be in a position to work in collaboration with Hart, and under our own steam in the ROV, with the goal of opening up the wild flower meadow and improving the pond and drainage.

Di Gardner is our Toad Patrol coordinator. With the support of Jo Hill, she is gearing up for the new season and is reviewing maps and data and will be applying for grants to fund packs of equipment for the volunteer patrollers.

Mary Ferriss and Alan Kinniard are the driving forces behind our planning team and continue to work so hard to ensure we can hold Berkeley Homes to account when the time comes. In an ideal world, I think we would all like to see Berkeley Homes decide that it wasn't worth their while to develop Firgrove Farm but we will have to wait and see. They also ensure that we comment on relevant planning applications across the local area.

Mary is also behind the initiation of Repair Café Yateley. The stars are beginning to align for this massive project and we are working towards a soft launch in the near future with the first public session taking place here on the 14th Feb 2026. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

I would also like to remind you that we have a Digital Library. Behind the scenes, Frances Clinch continues to review information to add to the library, so it is continually evolving. You can find the link to it on our home page.

All of our current and ongoing projects are listed in the annual report, and, as always, if you're keen to get more involved, or have an idea for a speaker, visit or research project, come and have a chat.

On this note, we have a couple of roles to fill and I would like to call on you all to help us do this - We need some admin support, and an events coordinator. So please share this around and if either of these roles appeal to you or someone you know, then please come and have a chat with one of us at the end of this meeting or drop us an email. I should just add that we are a close knit team, and you would be well supported should you decide to take on one of these roles.

And last but not least, I want to thank all our trustees, active members and volunteers for all their time and effort for making the Yateley Society what it is. Without them, none of what I have talked about above would be possible. I for one am very proud of what we are able to do for our community.

Now we will carry on with the formal matters of the AGM .

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

a) The Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting were proposed by Mary Ferriss, seconded by Frances Clinch and were accepted, all in favour.
b) The Annual Report was proposed by Mary Ferriss, seconded by Di Gardner and were accepted, all in favour.
c) The Annual accounts (FY Oct24-Sept25) was proposed by Mary Ferriss, seconded by Frances Clinch and were accepted, all in favour.
d) Trustee election. As the following trustees have been in term for 3 years, they need to be re-elected for the next term.
    a. Alison Hewitt: Proposed by Jo Hill, seconded by Liz Carpenter, all in favour.
    b. Mary Ferriss: Proposed by Di Gardner, seconded by Alan Kinnaird, all in favour.

DRAFT

c. Colin Broadley: Proposed by Mary Ferriss, seconded by Alan Kinnaird, all in favour.
d. Elizabeth Hesketh: Proposed by Jo Hill, seconded by Di Gardner, all in favour.

3.0 Guest Speakers

3.1 Claire Morgan: gave us an interesting presentation on the history of block printing, particularly its importance in the creation of Yateley Industries.

3.2 Maria Mannan of Yateley Industries: gave us a full update on the activities and development of Yateley Industries, including upcoming events.

Alison thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed, leaving members and guests to enjoy a relaxed social chat and the opportunity to have a go at block printing Christmas cards.

DRAFT