

# The Yateley Society

# Newsletter

Issue 115 April 2014

[www.yateleysociety.org.uk](http://www.yateleysociety.org.uk)

First of all, a big thank you to all the members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February. We had a quorum (just!) and everything ran smoothly. With some nominations made in advance and others made from the floor on the night we managed to elect four Trustees and four Executive Committee members, significantly filling the posts that had become vacant. Those elected were as follows.

*Officers:*

<i>Chairman:</i>	Roger Coombes
<i>Vice -Chairman:</i>	Barry Moody
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	Steve Long
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Graeme Tucker

*Ordinary EC members:*

Jean McIlwaine
Mike Mann
Abby Roper
Philip Todd

For your information, other posts within the Society are:

<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Chris Willis
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	Abby Roper
<i>Planning sub-committee</i>	
<i>Chairman:</i>	Barry Moody
<i>PR sub-committee</i>	
<i>Acting Chairman:</i>	Roger Coombes
<i>Members:</i>	Trudy Boothby, Jo Hill, Mary Roaf

Many thanks to Trudy and Jo who “retired” from the EC at the AGM for their work on behalf of the Society over many years. Trudy had been Chairman before me, and then Vice-Chairman when we swapped roles. She had grappled single-handed with the on-going task of finding new speakers and events for our monthly programme of meetings, as I do now. Jo had

been Newsletter Editor for a number of years before adding Treasurer to her “portfolio”.

I am pleased that both Trudy and Jo will continue to help the Society by remaining on the PR sub-committee.

Welcome to Graeme Tucker as our new Treasurer, and congratulations to Abby and Mike, our co-opted members of recent months, on being endorsed by the membership at the meeting. Welcome to Chris – you are now reading this in his first newsletter – and a special “welcome back!” to Jean McIlwaine, one of the founder members of the Society. If you are now thinking that you can sit back and let this team get on with running the Society let me correct this assumption! We still need a few more members who might be willing to help in a number of different ways, such as joining the sub-committees mentioned above, and also the Events sub-committee (which is non-existent at present - with everything falling by default to yours truly!).

Similarly, any members who would like to become involved with local history would be very welcome. We continue to receive requests to speak about Yateley’s history in local schools, which we now have to turn down because we no longer have enough active members to do so. This is very sad because young people are our future, and if they can be inspired to be interested in the history of their town and community when young we ought not to pass over the opportunity to educate and enthuse them. **Roger Coombes Chairman March 2014**



## Odiham Society plans to celebrate 800 years since the Magna Carta.

A very informative and entertaining talk was given to us at our March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting by the Chairman of The Odiham Society, Mr John Champion.

The first part of his talk was about life 800 years ago when King John used to visit Odiham, stopping there as a half-way point on his regular travels on horseback between Winchester and Windsor. He had finished building Odiham Castle in 1212, the year his daughter Eleanor was born, and three years before the Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede. He gave the castle to Eleanor when she was 21, two years before she married



Simon de Montfort. Parts of the building are still there, looking like this. John then went on to describe the 5 plans that are now being made by people in Odiham to celebrate the events and to encourage other nearby towns and villages to take part.

1. There is to be an Embroidery Exhibition including a 6-ft square embroidery showing 800 key historical facts, the work of 50-60 local stitchers, now in course of preparation.
2. Between 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 there will be a Magna Carta Festival in Odiham, with concerts, morris dancing, clog-dancing, mediaeval archery, flower festival, canal-boat rally, mediaeval markets and lots of period costumes.
3. A 2-day 'Magna Carta Journey' is to take place on 6th-7th June from Odiham along 40 miles of canal to Weybridge.
4. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June plans are being made for church bells to be rung along a line from Odiham to Wraybury and Windsor, the day finishing with a 3pm "Liber Tea" at Odiham parish church.
5. There will be various 'Trails' described and followed, centering on Art-trails, Cider-trails, Ale-trails etc.

The whole celebration will focus on Commemorating, Involving, Welcoming, Informing, Educating, Discovering and Enjoying. And it is hoped that other local villages and communities will catch the spirit and join in.

*Philip Martin*

### **YATELEY HALL – WHAT NEXT?**

A planning application has been submitted for Yateley Hall to change its use from offices to a Nursing Home. The proposal is to create single-room living accommodation with en suite facilities for 38 residents.

While the Society welcomes any long term sustainable use for this Grade II\* listed building, we cannot give unconditional support, or accept that the historic features of the building have to undergo permanent damage to achieve that use. We are also concerned over the matter of long term sustainability of the building if used as a Nursing Home bearing in mind the high maintenance costs attached to listed buildings.

*Barry Moody*

## ANGRY RESIDENTS AT PLANNING MEETING

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March we attended a planning meeting at the Basingstoke Country Hotel which was arranged by the Hook Action Against Over Development Group. It was quite an occasion, with about 300 people squashed into the Woodland Suite with many standing and some sitting in the aisle.

The meeting was hosted by local MP James Arbuthnott supported by Stephen Parker Deputy Leader of Hart Council, Ranil Jayawardena (Tory candidate at the next election) and Maria Miller MP for Basingstoke. The meeting gave residents the opportunity to quiz their elected members over the unacceptable over development in Hook/Hart which has been driven by the failure of the council to produce an approved Core Strategy.

There were no magic solutions provided but the main theme that came out of the lively Q & A session was the need for the existing local plan to remain in place until the new emerging local plan is produced. This would be later this year according to Stephen Parker. James said he has had discussions with the Chief Whip about further government changes over this issue. He also committed himself to try and arrange a further meeting with planning minister Nick Boles in attendance to address residents concern.

*Barry Moody*

### **My Role—a new era!**

If you were at the AGM, you will have heard that I (Chris Willis) have taken on Jo's mantle

I have been a member of the Society since at least 1999. It seems that the WEA course that led to a "Village through Six Centuries" finished in 1983, the year I arrived in Darby Green. I attended at least the end of the course. I have organised delivery of the paper newsletters since 2006.

I have encouraged two of our new committee members to introduce themselves.

### **Abby Boles** writes:

"I joined the Yateley Society in 2011 when we moved to Darby Green, although we have been familiar with the area for much longer as my husband's family are in Yateley and he attended Frogmore Sixth Form College. My spell as an active member attending the monthly meetings was very brief before family commitments took over. Then when Roger said last year that he was looking for new committee members I saw it as an opportunity to get more involved with the running of the Society and offered to become Membership Secretary. Our little girl is now 18 months old, and as we have household membership she is likely to be the Society's youngest member!"

### **Graeme Tucker** writes:

"My wife (Jenny) and I moved to Yateley in the late 1980's and we were immediately impressed by the excellent local walks available on our doorstep on Yateley common and the Moor Green Lakes area. We have never tired of walking these lovely areas.

Our two sons were born at Frimley hospital, and went to Newlands school, Yateley school and then Farnborough Sixth Form College. When they started to do some community service with Mike Mann's conservation group I joined them, and we all found it rewarding. So my contact with the Society started from enjoying the conservation group Sunday sessions and it is only this year that I formally joined the Society and was elected Treasurer. I'd like to thank the outgoing treasurer Jo Hill for her friendly welcome and advice I'm looking forward to finding out more about the good work the Society does and I hope that I can also play my part in spreading the word and encouraging other people to join."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

*Our monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane, Yateley, GU46 6LU (Unless otherwise stated). Members and non-members welcome, admission free.*

Wed, 16 Apr 2014	Note Wednesday instead of Maundy Thursday. Frances Rogerson is to talk about the Yateley Country Market telling us what they do, their history and their connection with the WI.
Thu, 15 May 2014	To be arranged
Thu, 19 June 2014	Visit to St Peter's with Jean McIlwaine. Provision will be made in case it rains



*Picture by Peter Tipton*

### **The Chairman's Dinner, 7th March 2014**

Excellent food, and excellent company - what could have been better? Our Chairman had chosen a new venue for his annual dinner, the Magic Chef in Aylesham Way - it was the first visit there for many of us, including him! We certainly were not disappointed! Thanks to Ann Knott's negotiating skills, and the lively and friendly service provided by the lovely lady who runs it, the Magic Chef gave us a memorable evening. And a record number of members enjoyed it - there were 22 of us! Starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 11.30pm, we had plenty of time to meet and chat with each other, to admire the Chinese lanterns swinging in the ceiling, to enjoy the unexpected additions to the menu, and to win one of the four raffle prizes donated by the Magic Chef's owner. A very successful evening, Roger. Thank you.

*Philip Martin*

### ***EXERCISE THE BODY AND CONSCIENCE!***

*The Conservation Group normally meets at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill 10 am— last Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. The aim is to help the Yateley Rangers in all sorts of tasks in the upkeep of Yateley Common. To find out more, please call Mike Mann on 01252 877741*

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