



YATELEY, FROGMORE & DARBY GREEN NEWS

SPRING 2021

Mayor's Message

By Councillor Gerry Crisp

Dear Friends and Neighbours,



I hope that you are all keeping well in this incredibly challenging time. As we have found ourselves in another lockdown, we have once again seen the community come together to support one another. Despite the lack of interaction with others and the cold winter weather, there now certainly seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel, with hope that we may soon be allowed to reunite with our loved ones. This hope has been immeasurably augmented by the hard work of everyone involved with the vaccine programme in Yateley. From the fantastic reports that our town has seen one of the most successful vaccination programmes in the country, from seeing our vulnerable neighbours receive the jab, and having been vaccinated myself, it certainly feels that we are coming to the end of this ordeal.

Once we are able to turn the page on what is likely to have been one of the most challenging chapters in many of our lives, I would like to host an event to celebrate the people, our Local Heroes, who have got us through this time. **Is there someone you know who has gone above and beyond to support others over the last year?** An organisation that has helped you while you were shielding? A kind neighbour who has supported you while shielding? Please let me know about them by nominating them for an award, so that we can recognise the amazing work they have done. Email office@yateley-tc.gov.uk with the subject 'Local Heroes'. I so look forward to hearing the stories of positivity that have come out of an otherwise dark time. Take care.

Yateley's National Recognition for Vaccine Success



Photograph by Colin Ive

The success of Yateley's fantastic vaccine programme has recently received national recognition. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, both commended the excellent vaccine take-up and hard work of volunteers in their national press conferences. Jennie Taylor, Business Manager at Oakley Health Group said, 'Across the first four groups, we have vaccinated about 98%, which is one of the highest percentages in the whole country. I am very proud of the whole team. Staff have worked long hours, often across the weekend because we felt passionately that local people needed us to do this for them well. The other big factor has been the amazing support we've had from local volunteers'.

The hard work of those involved was also recognised by the Duke of Cambridge, who called Dr Gareth Robinson (the Yateley vaccination lead) to commend their efforts.

Yateley Town Council would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved. From all of the volunteers to the team at Oakley Health, the hard work of local people has allowed Yateley to have one of the country's most successful vaccine programmes.

Walks in our Community

During this pandemic, the focus has been on maintaining our wellbeing and what better way to do this than by enjoying a walk in the great outdoors. Councillor Tony Spencer has put together a series of local walks, rich with local history, for you to try this spring.

Here's a taster:

'Green Lane and Love Lane walk: This walk almost epitomises "around Yateley", with half in Yateley and half in Eversley. Both lanes, Green Lane, Yateley and Love Lane, Eversley, are similar in size, running parallel north to south. I can only presume about Love Lane, but Green Lane, a continuation of Monteagle Lane, was used to drive cattle and sheep up and back between Moulsham and West Green to the Common for grazing during the spring to autumn months. The lanes were probably wider then and would have been almost devoid of vegetation, due to the "snacking" which the animals would have indulged in at their leisure. Start the walk at Castor Court. There is limited parking there or over the road in Moulsham Copse Lane...'.

For full details of the walk, visit www.yateleycan.org.uk. We aim to feature a new walk each newsletter. If you have any suggestions of local walking routes, please let us know the details. Avid walkers may also be interested in Slowways.uk, an organisation that is creating a network of walking routes to connect Great Britain's towns and cities - they're looking for people to test out walking routes, post COVID-19 restrictions, so visit their website slowways.uk to sign up to help out.

Stop It, Don't Drop It

By Councillor Pam Phelps-Jones



The countryside in winter can have its own beauty, despite the cold.

One disappointing feature, however, is that the loss of leaves can reveal the amount of litter blown into our town's verges and hedges.

This is unattractive to see and could pose a danger to the small mammals that live in our green spots around the town. Therefore, I'm hoping that you will join in Hart District Council's 'Stop It, Don't Drop It' initiative. If you see a lot of litter around the town, please report it on Hart's website www.hart.gov.uk/report-litter-hotspot

Neighbourhood Plan Update

By Richard Quarterman, Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Neighbourhood Plan for Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore continues to make progress. An initial draft has been approved by the Town Council's Planning Committee and the environmental screening by Hart has now been completed. We are currently working to have a final draft ready to present to the Town Council meeting on the 15th March, and assuming that this all goes according to plan, we expect to be able to conduct a 6 week consultation with the community after that. Assuming no major requirements to change the plan, the likely onward timeline is then as follows:

- July/August 2021 – Final submission of plan to Hart for consultation and approval
- September/October 2021 – Hart's public consultation
- November/December 2021 – submission of the plan for examination
- Mid 2022 – Referendum and adoption

The Town Council and the Steering Group are very grateful for the work of the volunteers who have helped us to make such good progress over the past few months, despite the constraints of the pandemic and lockdown. Although this is a long-winded process, it will good to have a robust plan that will help steer good planning decisions for our community in the future.

Green Homes Grant

Make your home warmer and your energy bills cheaper with a Green Homes Grant. Homeowners in England, including landlords, can get up to £5,000 to pay part of the cost of energy saving measures like insulation. Low income households can get 100% of the costs of work covered up to £10,000. Make sure you're one of the 600,000 households who could save up to £600 a year on energy bills by applying today. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2022.

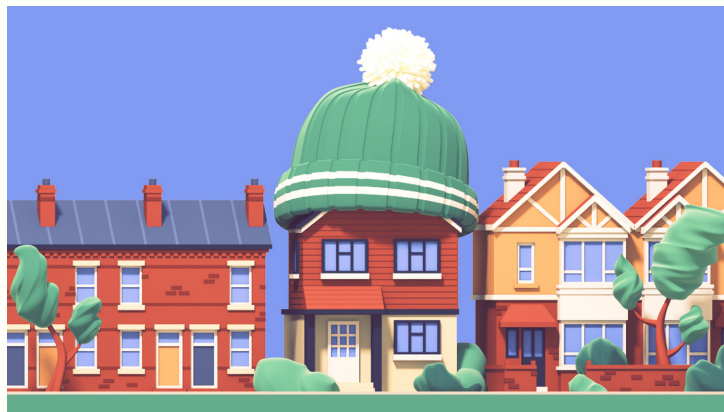
What is the Green Homes Grant?

The government will provide a voucher up to £5,000 that covers up to two-thirds of the cost of energy efficiency and low carbon heat improvements to your home. Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces. You may be able to receive a bigger grant if you are a homeowner and you or a member of your household receives qualifying benefits.

The government will cover 100% of the cost of the improvements up to £10,000.

How do I apply?

To check if you're eligible for a voucher, to see what improvements may be suitable for your home, and for more information, visit greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk (Information sourced from greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk)



Yateley Climate Action Network

Yateley Climate Action Network (YCAN) has been set up as part of the Town Council's efforts to address climate change issues in Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green. So far there is a website (YateleyCAN.org.uk) and the group have been putting up posters in the area to raise local awareness of this important topic. YCAN are currently planning to plant trees at designated locations, and are also looking at working with Hart District Council and local bodies to promote biodiversity through activities like pond maintenance and wildflower seeding. They are looking for volunteers, so please don't hesitate to contact YTC's offices if you want to help!

Wildflower Verges

Building on the great success of the wildflower meadow on Yateley Green, Yateley Town Council is planning to expand the number of wildflower areas in our parish, to encourage more areas rich in biodiversity, bursting with colour and life. The Yateley Society is leading a pilot project, supported by Hart District Council and YTC, to convert three roadside verges into wildflower areas this year. Once approval for the conversion has been provided, more information will be shared about this exciting project. Two further experimental areas will also be seeded by YTC, near Chandler's Pond and on the corner of Vicarage Road and Moulsham Lane.



Photograph by Charlotte Browster

Yateley Town Council Update

Yateley Town Council's office remains closed to public access, due to COVID-19. Officers continue to work hard at home and come into the office on a rota, manning the office 5 days a week to maintain service as usual for the community. For all the latest communications from Yateley Town Council, please visit www.yateley-tc.gov.uk or @YateleyTC on social media. You can continue to contact us by phone and email as well (details at the bottom of the page).

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council has been moved from 24th March to a date in May, still to be confirmed.

In the Winter 2020 edition of our newsletter, we published advice on staying well over winter. As part of this, we shared that Public Health England recommends taking a daily supplement of vitamin D. We incorrectly abbreviated the quantity of the recommended dosage from 10 micrograms (mcg) to 10mg, and this should be disregarded. The statement should read as follows: 'With less sun in winter, Public Health England recommends taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of vitamin D'. We apologise for any inconvenience and confusion caused.

Support Yateley's Markets

Yateley's markets have proven to be a valuable asset to the community, particularly throughout lockdown where it has given the community the opportunity to get essential food and products without having to go into an enclosed supermarket.

The Tuesday market is held in the car park of The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley GU46 7RP from 9am until 2pm every week, where there is usually a greengrocer, bakery, fishmonger, hot Greek food trader, an eco-friendly refill stall, a trader selling olives, baklava, turkish delight and other sweet treats, along with other stalls. The Sunday market takes place from 9am until 2pm every week in the car park of the Darby Green Centre, Darby Green Road, GU17 0DT, and on this day another greengrocer and the bakery are there. To find out who will be at the market each week, please visit www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/Yateley_Market.aspx.

We ask all visitors to wear a mask, maintain excellent hygiene and practice social distancing from others at all times to keep each other safe. We're continuing to run the market as permitted by the government. We feel that this provides residents an outdoor alternative to the supermarkets for essential shopping – for more details visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus.



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