



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

SUMMER NEWSLETTER July 2013

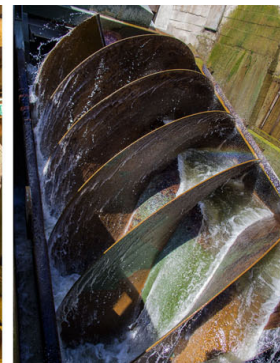
www.egra.co.uk

AGM Report

Despite torrential rain, attendance was very good at the 2013 Annual General Meeting held at St Barnabas Church Hall on Wednesday 10 April. Details of the 2013-14 committee, including three new members, appear at the end of the newsletter and full minutes are available on the website. Following the formal business, the guest speaker was Chris Butlin, Group Leader of 89th Reading Scouts, who gave a fascinating presentation about the Scout Movement, the 89th Reading Scout Group and the chalk mines beneath their grounds in Kiln Road. The group is an extremely active one, with a membership of more than 200, who enjoy a huge range of activities including caving and climbing. A full report of the talk appeared in Caversham Bridge. Refreshments were served at the end of the meeting. Thanks to the organisers and to St. Barnabas Church for the use of the hall.

Jasmine Waters, who joined the committee in 2011 will be moving away from Emmer Green soon. We thank her for her contribution to EGRA and wish her and her family well in the future.

Visit to Mapledurham Mill and House, 13 June 2013



Mapledurham miller, Corry Starling gave twenty EGRA members a tour to remember. We began at the mill, the last working one on the Thames. Mr Starling covered the mill's history from the early prosperity in the 15th century, its latter decline, the rescue in the 1980s and ending with very recent innovations. In 2011, an Archimedes turbine was installed which supplies electricity to the national grid. Once installation costs have been covered, profits will be used to repair current structures and sympathetically rebuild the buildings that have been lost. Mr Starling described the production of flour and its byproducts, all on sale in the shop. The tour then moved across to the house where he showed us part of the original property and the main Elizabethan house. The estate has been in the hands of the Catholic Blount family for over 400 years, and a family trust now safeguards its future. A once wealthy Royalist estate, it suffered misfortunes in the Civil War and beyond. In 1940, the house was inherited by John Eyston, who, with his wife, Lady Anne, lives in the east wing of the house.

Thanks to Barry Prior for organising this splendid outing. <http://www.mapledurham.co.uk/history>

Report by Margaret Ormonde

EGRA Prize to 89th Scout Group

EGRA's five year commitment to a community award to pupils of Highdown School finished in 2012. We would still like to recognise the contribution of our youngsters and in 2013 EGRA will fund a prize of £50 to a member of the 89th Reading Scout Group.

Streetcare and Potholes

Councillor Richard Willis has informed us several roads in Emmer Green are to be resurfaced this year. They include the old Peppard Road, Grove Road and Rotherfield Way. For those of you with Smart phones you can now download an app called **Love Clean Reading** where you can report street care issues, other than potholes.

You can report **potholes** that more than 5cm (2½") deep, either by email to your local councillor or ring RBC on 0118 9373787. Remember to give the precise location and a photo if possible.

Emmer Green Noticeboard Refurbishment

Committee member, Jane Handley, heads a very dedicated team of volunteers who maintain and check the board at the shopping precinct every week in all weathers, keeping it tidy and up to date. The centre of the notice board is being replaced in early August. The marine ply board will be finished in black matt and the work carried out by a local carpenter from the EGRA trade list.

We are very grateful to the notice board team who are totally reliable and cover for each other willingly whenever necessary. Please remember that advertisements should be fixed with drawing pins, not Blutac and certainly not staples, which damage the board.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) Update

Mark Hutchings is now EGRA's NAG representative and has attended recent meetings. Residents from Rotherfield Way raised the issue of speeding traffic. Re-surfacing is due to start shortly and traffic calming measures will be installed at the same time or shortly after. Traffic management have suggested that when the re-surfacing is carried out, no centre line is added, as apparently this drops the speed by about 2-3mph. They are also considering an island or edge of carriageway markings which again narrows the road. (These can be seen on Tilehurst Road - they look like cycle lanes but are not). Traffic management have been invited to attend the next meeting on July 25.

Vehicle activated signs have been requested for the following roads for this year - Lowfield Road, Caversham Park Road, Rotherfield Way, Kidmore Road and Shepherds Lane.

Parking Services have been asked to engage with the neighbourhood police team to visit the primary schools on a regular basis. A request has also been made that the parking camera van be used around all local schools.

The Police reported that all crime was down with only four burglaries since April 2013.

The NAG survey has been finalised and will take place at St Martins Precinct on Thursday 18 July, 11.00 am-2.00 pm. Hopefully, there will be a smaller stand at Budgens, Emmer Green but no date has yet been set.

Planning Issues

The application to demolish and reconstruct Pond Cottage has been passed. Parts of the house, which forms a backdrop to the village pond, are about 500 years old. The proposed

new home appears to be high quality, using environmentally sustainable materials sympathetic to the setting. School Lane is the only access to the property and inevitably, there will be some disruption up and down the narrow unadopted lane during the demolition and rebuild, which is estimated to last eighteen months. Special consideration is to be given to access and delivery during this period.

EGRA continues to monitor any threat to our precious South Oxfordshire Countryside. We listen to what the community wants and liaise with Parish, District Councils and other elected representatives.

Arthur Clark Home & Albert Road Day Care Centre

Despite a vigorous campaign the Council has now voted to close the Arthur Clark Home and its associated Albert Road Day Care Centre. The focus will now be on the Phoenix Centre, Tilehurst, which is located near Prospect Park. Day Care Centres offer high-level secure nursing care, giving respite to carers and in some cases enabling younger carers to continue working. Age UK, Reading churches and other organisations offer activities such as lunch clubs. Albert Road was the only facility of this type north of the river. Most vulnerable people do not like travelling far, particularly into areas with which they are not familiar.

These closures will be a great loss to Caversham and areas north of the river.

The Heights Free School

Campaigners for a new Free School to serve the primary school children of Caversham Heights have been given the go ahead by the government. Congratulations to all concerned. It will give children a school in a location much better suited and relieve pressures on Emmer Green schools. Although a site has yet to be chosen, the school hopes to open in September 2014.

Further details are available on their website www.theheightsprimary.co.uk or on Facebook, The Heights Primary School.

RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event)

Jasmine Waters and Mark Hutchings helped organise the litter pick in March. They were surprised and pleased with the number of volunteers. Despite the dreadful snowy weather, everyone had fun and the helpers were enthusiastic. During a two hour session in Scott Close, they collected ten bags of general waste, five bags of recyclable and some 'unpleasant rubbish'. The landlady of the Gardener's Arms kindly provided sandwiches and hot drinks, which were greatly appreciated. Mark will now be taking over from Jasmine and is keen to generate help for the RESCUE event in October. Details will be posted on the website, but if you would like to help please contact Mark on 0118 9479727 or email mark.hutchings7@btinternet.com

Bus Route Changes & the Station North Interchange

Noone can fail to have noticed the magnificent new northern entrance to the station. When the north entrance to the station opens on 8th July, all buses from Emmer Green (2/2A, 23 and 24) will divert to the station before entering the town. They will have a dedicated bus lane and the extra time involved is estimated to be 2.5 minutes. Buses will still continue to use the stops in Central Reading before and after visiting the Northern Interchange. Details of the new times and routes can be found on the Reading Buses website, www.reading-buses.co.uk.

The Hill Fete, 15 June 2013



EGRA was invited by The Hill Primary School to host a stall at their summer fair on Saturday 15 June.

A quiz on Emmer Green for adults and an Emmer Green Treasure Hunt for children provided entertainment. The winners were Louis from Year 6 at The Hill Primary and Mrs King of Grove Road. Congratulations to them both!

Committee Members, Linda Glithro and Barry Prior, were on hand to talk about the organisation. There was also a display of the association's recent activities and information on membership.

Join EGRA!

With electronic copies of this newsletter, you will receive a membership form. Please pass this on to any of your neighbours who might be interested in joining the association. If everyone recruited one new member, we could double our numbers and increase our influence on local issues.

2013-14 Committee

Chairman	Margaret Ormonde
Vice Chairman	Barry Prior
Minutes Secretary	Jane Handley
Treasurer	Bill Harper
Membership	Liz Lyke
Member	Vera Bodman
Planning	Vanessa Cozens
Newsletter Editor	Linda Glithro
Police	Mark Hutchings
	<i>New members in bold</i>

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Graffiti Removal
Web Management

Diana Hartrup
Richard Hammond
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