



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

SUMMER NEWSLETTER
July 2014

www.egra.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many of you will have already read that this is to be my final year as Chairman. The committee have been discussing the best way forward, and, in the short term how we can streamline the workload and give a re-grouped team the best chance to establish itself and rebuild according to our membership's needs. There will be short survey accompanying this newsletter, for those on email, which will help guide us in the right direction.

We do now live in an electronic age and EGRA needs to embrace that fully to engage with all residents. The number of members without email is falling, and although we will still be here for our members without computers, we may need to look into what we can offer them.

Many of our recent on-going projects have now come to fruition, so with a natural lull, it seemed the right time for me to relinquish the post I have held and enjoyed for what will be eight years.

EGRA's 30th ANNIVERSARY

For a full write up by Linda Glithro, please read the June edition of the Caversham Bridge.

Nearly 80 residents enjoyed the celebration cake and refreshments in St Barnabas Hall on April 10th. After the formal business the Miller from Mapledurham Watermill gave us a captivating presentation on the history, workings and running of the mill, including the new state of the art turbine and how the whole set up was affected by the severe winter floods.

The existing committee members agreed to stand for another year and were re-elected en-bloc:

Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior, Jane Handley, Bill Harper, Liz Lyke, Vera Bodman, Linda Glithro, Mark Hutchings. In July we also welcomed Veronica Leeke to the committee. Her special interest is planning.

OTHER NEWS

TRADESMEN'S LIST

The 2014 listing has had quite an overhaul thanks to the dedication and hard work of EGRA's Jane Handley. Please note this is a MEMBERS' ONLY list and not on the website. Please PRINT IT out, or SAVE IT in a folder on your computer.

MAINTENANCE

EGRA has funded a number of projects over the years. We have already had an offer of help from Chris Balmont who has 'adopted' and refurbished the seat outside the bookies. If you would like to adopt another seat, or help in any other way, do get in touch.

CLAYFIELD COPSE WAYMARKS

The waymarks, completed last summer, have been installed in the woods. We again thank the Berkshire and Mid-Thames Woodcarvers for their craftsmanship and dedication, and EGRA's Barry Prior for his infinite patience.

TREE WALK AT CLAYFIELD COPSE

Jon Stokes from the Tree Council will be leading a walk at Clayfield Copse on Thurs 10th July; register at 5.45pm for 6pm start. To book contact rtwn2011@gmail.com or call 0118 9545796.

BLOSSOM Tree Project

We understand more street tree planting in the roads around Courtenay Drive will be undertaken in the autumn.

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

The school now has a full team in place, a temporary location in the old Caversham Nursery, and the prospect of a permanent location. The latter subject is currently open to debate and consultation. The Heights School development plan states that the permanent site must be within the school catchment area. This rules out many alternative suggestions from the public. EGRA will monitor developments and keep members informed of progress.

BUSES

We are so lucky to have an excellent bus service in this area. There have been several changes in recent years and although it's not always possible to please all, CEO of Reading Buses Ltd, James Freeman has worked very hard to make the services competitive and financially viable. After seven years in Reading, James is moving to Bristol. We wish him well.

POLICE

Upper Caversham Neighbourhood Action Group - meetings are held regularly at The Children's Centre, St Barnabas Road. The next will be held on Thursday 17th July at 7pm.

THIRD THAMES CROSSING

Discussions on the viability of a new Thames crossing have now been taken to Westminster. Following a meeting in June, the two Local Enterprise Partnerships and the affected Local Authorities will commission and fund a high level strategic projection study of the impact on both local traffic patterns and the potential changes to longer distance traffic using a new bridge.

PLANNING

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.

THE WILFRED OWEN TRAIL

The major events take place in the autumn, but on the weekend of 12th & 13th July 'Poetry & Verse' will be celebrated at a special flower festival at All Saints Church, Dunsden. On Sunday 13th you can also celebrate your family's WW1 mementos and memories at Dunsden Village Hall, in preparation for the November event. On Monday August 4th from 9.30–11.00pm, there is a Vigil Concert, at All Saints Church, Dunsden. Full details at <http://www.owenindunsden.org/>

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