



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

SUMMER NEWSLETTER
July 2011

www.egra.co.uk

The AGM was held The Grace Church, Peppard Road on 10th May. Details of the committee are at the end of the newsletter.

After the formal business Chris Aldridge, from the **True Food Community Co-op**, gave a fascinating talk about the history and ethics of their local enterprise. It originated in 1999 as the True Food Club and gradually created a following through local markets. By 2004 it had grown enough to establish itself as a Community Co-operative. The Emmer Green shop runs with the help of volunteers and was opened in 2010. They believe that good food should be accessible to all at a fair price. They stock a wide range of fair-trade, organic and eco products with minimal packaging. Chris concluded by offering members the chance to sample some of the products by way of the refreshments.

www.truefood.coop

Vicki Abel from Friends of Caversham Court gave us an insight into the forthcoming events (see below) from 'Caversham 100 Years On', and a selection of display boards was loaned from the Council showing recent road alterations and bus route changes in the town centre.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A big **'thank you'** to all those who have already renewed their subscriptions for this year. It really makes a difference, and we hope that by paying once every five years it benefits us as well as you. For those few who haven't yet paid you will be receiving another reminder with this newsletter. We hope you decide to renew, but if not do let us know and we can remove you from the list.

TRAVEL

Bus Changes

Due to the station redevelopment the town centre is enduring a transition period. Bus services have undergone a radical change and, Reading Buses and RBC have been listening to your concerns. Problems relating to bus stops in the town centre are being addressed and drivers instructed to ensure destinations are clear prior to reaching departure points. We have also been invited to comment on changes to routes and times of buses serving the area north of the river. Primarily this is being done in order to provide a more economically viable service, but it will consequently improve things for some areas of Emmer Green (such as reinstating the Courtenay Drive loop). A map with the proposals is being emailed to members for consultation, but because of the time limits it's not

feasible to include with the printed newsletter. Cllr Richard Willis continues to press for improvements and will keep us informed.

OUTINGS

EGRA's Barry Prior is organising a rescheduled outing to the Thames Valley Police Museum at Sulhampstead <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/aboutus/aboutus-museum.htm> . We do not yet have a date, but if you might be interested, please email barry.prior@backhouses.co.uk or phone 0118 9461150 to add your name to the list.

CAVERSHAM 100 YEARS ON

2011 marks the centenary of Reading Borough's expansion to include Caversham and areas of Tilehurst. The 'Caversham 100 Years On' project has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to fund various events and exhibitions. In 1911 Emmer Green was still very much an agricultural community and parts of it remained in Oxfordshire until the latter 20th century. EGRA however, to mark the transition anniversary on November 9th, will be joint hosts with CADRA and WADRA, at an open evening at the Baptist Church, Prospect Street. The meeting starts at 7.00pm and there will be an illustrated talk by local historian Margaret Simonds. www.caversham100yearson.org.uk
Leaflets listing various events are available from Caversham Library.

NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

EGRA and CADRA (Caversham and District Residents' Association) www.cadra.org.uk are united in their commitment to the community and we share a lot of ideas and views. As well as WADRA (Warren and District Residents' Association) we now have links with another two neighbouring associations. The Bell Tower Community Association represents an area south of the river, west of Caversham Road. www.bell-tower.org.uk . Caversham Park Residents' Association www.cpva.org.uk/ra , our nearest neighbour, formed in May 2011, and we look forward to working with them on topics of mutual interest.

POLICE MATTERS

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-N130> This is the direct link to the Caversham North neighbourhood section of the Thames Valley Police website. It gives details of our local officers and dates for forthcoming **Upper Caversham Neighbourhood Action Group** meetings at Highdown School. Please support those meetings, the next of which is on 19th July 6.30pm.

Warm summer weather means open windows and a change in behaviour patterns. Anti-social behaviour, albeit from noisy neighbours, or late-night revelling should not be tolerated. Please report incidents: Noise Pollution: Environmental Health Section on FREEPHONE **0800 626540**.

Or non-emergency police, call **0845 8 505 5050**

Please be security minded in your home - residents are reminded to keep valuables safe, and keys out of easy reach.

Have Your Say Meetings

Saturday 23rd July 2.00pm – 3.00pm Chaucer Close, (junction with Scott Close).

Saturday 13 August 11.00am – 12.00noon Bellingham Walk, (junction with Grove Road).

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Verges and Trees

We regularly monitor grass and hedge cutting, and feedback to the Council anything reported to us. Unfortunately grass cuts are now only 5 times a year – effectively halved. Trees planted in early winter, in both recreation ground and precinct, were vulnerable to drought conditions in spring. EGRA managed to assemble a dedicated team of waterers who helped ensure their survival.

Graffiti

Bob Cruickshank currently heads our graffiti clean up team and he asks for you to report to him on 0118 9482900 or email deecbee@talktalk.net . Thankfully things are very much better than they were, but if you would like to help out please get in touch.

Clayfield Copse

The new waymarks project is now in a position to go ahead with designs submitted, and the Berkshire and Mid-Thames Woodcarvers ready to start work this summer. There will be six plaques in total, funded by EGRA.

Friends of Clayfield Copse continue to meet for active conservation work on the first Sunday of each month. They also arrange guided walks through the woods. Contact Anne Latto on 0118 9484454 or email anne_latto@yahoo.co.uk

SNIPPETS

St Barnabas Garden Party. Saturday June 18th EGRA's Cathi Edwards and Andrea Robinson helped man our stall to raise not only EGRA's profile, but £20 for charity too. Thanks also to those who helped with the setting up etc.

Highdown School

We shortly hope to be in a position to present the fourth of our annual book prizes to pupils who have shown an interest in the community, both in and outside the school. This year's tokens go to Aishwarya Shah in Year 7 and Amy Holder in Year 10. Congratulations to them both.

Tradesmen's List

The next complete overhaul will be 2012. Please continue to submit recommendations to Jane Handley at lukdan@hotmail.co.uk or 0118 9484775.

Notice Board Revamp

On the morning of Saturday 13th August (weather permitting) we have small team on standby ready to give the notice board a touch of TLC. If you would like to help please contact Jane Handley at lukdan@hotmail.co.uk or 0118 9484775.

Age Concern 50Plus+

At the time of publication there is no date for the next 50Plus+ Forum at Emmer Green.

Activities Event, Friday 2nd September, 10.30am – 1.00pm: Academy Sports Leisure Centre Northumberland Avenue. Free entry: Includes seated exercise programme, archery, Tai Chi Lunch Time

Financial Planning Seminar, Friday 30th September 10am - 12noon **or** 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Greyfriars Centre. Including wills, power of attorney and long term care.

Basic Computer Skills

There may be a possibility that New Directions (formerly reading Adult College) would be able to run basic computing courses at the newly refurbished Community Centre (now Surestart). Some people have already expressed an interest, so please let us know if this might suit you.

Caversham Good Neighbours. This voluntary organisation based in Caversham helps residents of Caversham and Emmer Green by offering transport to local surgeries, the hospital etc., and home visits. They would like to recruit more volunteers and also promote the service they offer. Please phone the office on 0118 9483466 Monday to Friday 9.30am -11.30am or Secretary Pat Rawlings on 0118 9477778.

DIAMOND PICNIC IN THE PARK

The government has recently announced the diary for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_197517

Following consultations and positive responses from local community groups, EGRA is able to confirm that the plans to hold a 'Picnic in the Park' are now able to proceed. The chosen day is Monday June 4th 2012.

We have already held a meeting with RBC's Parks Department who have offered encouraging advice. A meeting will be arranged in the autumn between the various groups involved, so if you have any ideas you wish to be considered, please send your suggestions in. We would also like to hear from anyone who attended the Coronation celebrations in 1953 and their recollections of the day.

COMMITTEE

Committee - Chairman Margaret Ormonde, **Vice Chairman** Barry Prior, **Minute Secretary** Jane Handley, **Treasurer** Bill Harper, **Membership Secretary** Jill Verran, **General Members** – Andrea Robinson, Richard Hammond, Jenny Leach, Vera Bodman, Doris Hiscox.

Committee Support - Graffiti Bob Cruickshank **Newsletter Distribution** Diana Hartrup **North Reading Youth Project** Tara Taylor **Website Management** Clive Ormonde **General Support** Cathi Edwards

Thanks go our teams of volunteers who help deliver the newsletters and keep an eye on the notice board, clean graffiti and water trees.

WE VALUE ALL HELP AND SUPPORT. THERE ARE VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FIND OUT MORE.

Margaret Ormonde, Chair. Tel: 0118 9470922 email: egramargaret@googlemail.com

www.egra.co.uk