



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

www.egra.co.uk

Summer 2018

Data Protection regulation

All members should have received either electronic or paper copies of agreement forms and EGRA Privacy Policy with this mailing. We encourage you to return the agreement to EGRA as soon as possible to comply with the new legislation. Any questions, please let the committee know.

Communication with members

EGRA aims to send out paper newsletters twice a year. We have about 100 members who prefer paper copies and over 400 who receive email news. We can communicate with our email members more regularly and let them know of events and issues at short notice. If anyone would like to receive their EGRA paperwork electronically, please email us on egra.members@gmail.com

Committee news

At the AGM we are pleased to report that several people joined the committee. The AGM was well-attended, and the focus was on local planning issues. People have strong views on both sides. EGRA seeks to represent the whole community, keeping you informed of developments and news. The Residents Association is not a campaigning organisation but there are other groups you can support and join if you are minded to.

Name	Role
Annette Fairweather	Chairperson
John Winstanley	Treasurer
Christine Moore	Secretary
Neil Tayler	Membership
Liz Lyke	Events
Clyde Garrett	Transport and GP liaison
Linda Glithro	
Vacancies	<i>Facebook co-ordinator, Tradesmen list, Newsletter</i>

This summer we say farewell and thank you to Bill Harper after 16 years on the committee. He has done a great job representing EGRA and Emmer Green from co-ordinating consultations on buses and planning issues to painting the village sign. He has been the Treasurer, Secretary and filled in on many other roles too.

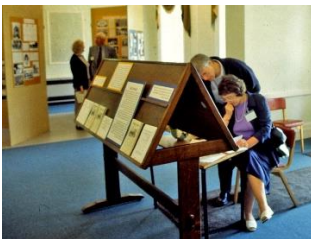
Obituaries written by Margaret Ormonde

Two former EGRA committee members have sadly passed away during the summer of 2018.

Mrs Sue Ballard, who lived in Brooklyn Drive, served on the committee from 1999 – 2003, and was Vice Chairman for two years during that period. She was involved in both the Millennium Exhibition at Highdown School, and research for the book *Emmer Green Past and Present* that followed.

Mr Brian Warren lived with his wife Jane in Highdown Avenue and was a very early member of the EGRA committee. Following on from active campaigning against over development of the Hemdean Valley, Brian joined the committee in 1987 and remained a dedicated member until 2007, frequently talking an interest in planning issues.

We thank both for their contribution to the local community and send very best wishes to their families.



Sue and John Ballard at the Emmer Green exhibition.

The 2001 committee. Brian, back row, second right, Sue, front left.

Local bus routes

The 24 and 23 bus routes have been retained with the services running on circuits through Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village down to Reading Station. Reading Buses will continue to look at how well the services are used and will make further decisions in future, but for now, we have kept the bus services. Our thanks to Bill and Annette for representing us on this important service.

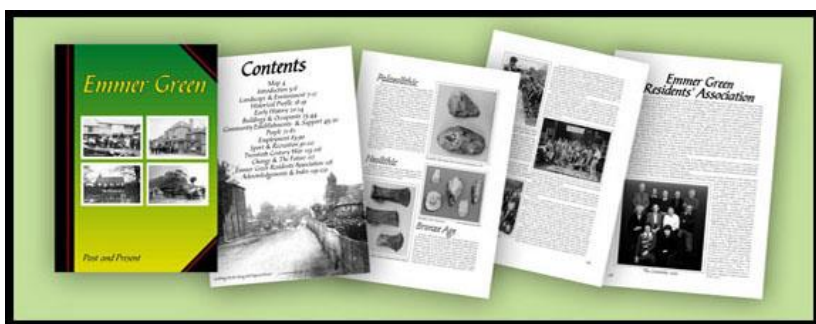
Further changes to bus timetables are due in September. Annette and John have attended meetings and liaised with other local groups to try to persuade Reading Buses to run more frequent services but the company maintains it is driven by economic pressures. Look out for the new berry coloured livery for north of the river buses.

Planning issues

1. **The development of 245 houses on farm land on the northern boundary of Emmer Green.** A Public Enquiry was held 1st to 4th May in Henley. Many local people, including EGRA members, spoke on environmental, heritage and infrastructure issues. Annette put forward the views expressed in our consultation last year. The Enquiry was adjourned until August for further consideration of planning issues. You may have seen flyers from CAGE, *Campaign against Gladman in Eye and Dunsden*. The South Oxford district Plan has been published this summer.
2. **BBC monitoring station at Caversham Park.** The BBC has moved out of this site. We understand it is 'Under Offer'. Housing development is limited to around 40 properties on the site as much of the grounds have protected status as historically important gardens.

3. **Reading Golf Club.** Golf Club members voted to look at development of the first and 18th greens and replace the club house. These ideas are in the early stages and no plan has been put forward yet. Reading Golf Club are keeping EGRA informed of progress and contact Annette with updates. EGRA will consult our members when a plan for the site is published. We are aware that some residents are opposed to development whilst others, who are also members of the Golf Club, may well have voted for building to go ahead.
4. **Highdown Avenue.** Another plan has been submitted to build 39 houses on the fields at the end of Highdown Avenue. The houses will be in South Oxfordshire, but the access is through Reading. Neil is tracking this application.

A group of residents called KEG, Keep Emmer Green, are mobilising to oppose excessive development of the Emmer Green and South Oxfordshire boundary.



Emmer Green Book

People contact us to ask for a reprint of the Emmer Green Book produced for the millennium. It is full of local history and photographs. The authors investigated and found costs were prohibitive (£50 a copy) so there are plans to make the material available online through the Library Archives. We will pass on the links when the material is ready. If you have copies you no longer need perhaps you can donate them to Emmer Green School or we can pass them on to the people who have made requests.

Other Local issues:

Love Clean Reading: If you notice fly tipping, graffiti, flyposting, broken street lights, dead animals or any other unpleasant mess on the streets, you can report this to the Street Cleaning Team at Reading Borough Council. There is an online report form at Love Clean Reading on the council website.

<http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/reports> You can download apps to track the progress of your complaint. People without access to the internet can ask for help at the library or phone the main council switchboard.

You can volunteer with RAYS and look after your road. You will be given litter pickers, sacks and high visibility vests. Anyone interested in participating in the programme

Reading **Adopt Your Street** programme should **call** (0118) 937 2551 or email

<http://news.reading.gov.uk/rays-2/>



Grit bin removal: Reading Borough Council voted to remove all grit bins in the borough to save £16000. Each bin costs £340 to maintain each year. EGRA members who live in Bugs Bottom have been in touch to say this will leave them stranded in icy weather as they are not on the main gritting routes. Bin lorries, ambulances, delivery vans prefer not to come down Tredegar Road and Gravel Hill when the roads are too icy.

Local councillor Ed Hopper said there is another opportunity to persuade the council to reinstate essential grit bins when they discuss Winter 18#19 provision in September. Please get in touch if this concerns you, EGRA can help co-ordinate responses or contact your local councillor directly. The more people who speak out, the more likely favourable decisions will be made.

Your local councillors following the May elections:

Peppard Ward: Clare Grashoff Jane Stanford-Beale Simon Robinson

Thames Ward: Ed Hopper Jeannette Skeats David Stevens



Caversham Court Heritage Open Day

Saturday 8th September 14:00 to 17:00

There will be guided tours and the tea kiosk will be open. There will be an exhibition on Extraordinary Women of Caversham in the 17th century summer house throughout the weekend.



Reading Town Meal

Reading International Solidarity Centre are running a Town Meal on 29th September, 12:00 to 16:00 in Forbury Gardens. It will be cooked by students from Reading College and is free. They would love donations of vegetables that people have grown. The aim is to promote sustainable food production

If you would like to 'pledge your veg', please complete an online application form found on the website at www.readingtowntownmeal.org.uk.

Edited by Christine Moore

Please contact us on egra.members@gmail.com if you have any comments or speak to a committee member.

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