



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

WINTER NEWSLETTER
December 2012

www.egra.co.uk

The EGRA committee wishes all its members a healthy and Happy New Year. 2012 has been eventful and even after the excitement of the Jubilee picnic, there was the Olympic Games to enjoy. I'm afraid EGRA take no credit for their success. However, we continue to support local projects, details of which are outlined below.

COMMITTEE HELP REQUIRED

EGRA NEEDS YOU!



We are very grateful for all the help we receive. Many former committee members continue to offer support in all sorts of ways. We have paradoxically had one of our most successful years, with great examples of teamwork and community spirit. However the committee itself is in urgent need of assistance. Although we began our year with a full house, three members have left due to unexpected increased work commitments. Richard Hammond who has been our Membership Secretary for a year has stepped down. We thank Richard for his input during that time and also other members of the committee who are sharing the role until a replacement comes forward.

In order for the future of EGRA to be sustainable, we do need people to volunteer their services on a regular basis. We'd be delighted to have an informal chat with anyone interested joining the team in any capacity. Margaret Ormonde Tel: 0118 9470922 egramargaret@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

I'm afraid for some of you it's that time of year again. The good news is, if you pay for 5years the cost remains the same as it was in 1984! If your subscription is due in 2012, you will be sent a reminder, either by email, or for those who receive this newsletter in paper form, the reminder will be included. In light of our current membership responsibilities, it would be an enormous help if renewals could be paid by January. Jasmine Waters has kindly volunteered to handle renewals and recruitment in the short term. Queries can be sent to egra.members@gmail.com

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

By the time you read this over thirty trees will have been planted in Courtenay Drive, Burnham Rise and Brooklyn Drive, some to coincide with National Tree Week. EGRA has been more than happy to support and publicise this highly successful project, which has not only revived local streets, but brought communities closer together. Voluntary efforts have included both donations and manpower from residents. Particular thanks go to Bethan Hopkins for her vision, dedication and tenacity. EGRA will be funding a beacon tree, a cedar, earmarked for the island between Courtenay Drive and Burnham Rise.

The Berkshire Wood Carvers have now completed all six of the waymarks destined for Clayfield Copse. Four were on show at the Jubilee picnic. We await the better weather before arranging installation in the woods.

OUTINGS

EGRA's annual outings have proved popular. One possibility for summer 2013 is a weekday visit to Mapledurham House/ Mill. The property would be exclusive to our group, include a guided tour, and cost between £5 and £10 (depending on whether we opt for house, or mill or both) and tea is an optional extra. We need a rough idea of numbers, in order to proceed. Please let Barry Prior know if this would appeal to you. barry.prior@backhouses.co.uk or phone 0118 9461150.

READING RESCUE

Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event. <http://readingrescue.org.uk/>. In 2012, for the first time, EGRA independently participated in this annual event. Teams of volunteers collected 27 bags of rubbish to make our woodlands more pleasant environments. Jasmine Waters hopes to organise the 2013 local RESCUE, over the weekend 21st-24th March. She would like to hear from anyone who is interested in participating. JasWa13739@aol.com or phone 0118 9470785.

SCHOOL EXPANSION

CADRA hosted a meeting in October whereby staff from RBC's Education Department addressed local concerns about the shortage of school places. We learned that whilst there was expected rise in the borough of school age children, in the regions to the north of the town it was levelling off. Many parents at the meeting lived in Caversham Heights/Mapledurham, which had no school within easy reach. Kevin McDaniels, Head of Education, discussed the option of setting up a Free School. This has been taken forward with the proposed name of the new school The Heights Primary. If you know anyone interested, please ask them to contact info@theheightsprimary.co.uk

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Caversham and District Residents' Association (CADRA) has published important news on the Planning Frameworks for Reading and South Oxfordshire. Information can be viewed here <http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php#planningframeworks>

AGM 2013

Scouting in the UK gets ever more adventurous. Many troops might list caving as one of their activities. 89th Milestone at Emmer Green is probably unique in having access to caves directly beneath the scout hut. Chris Butlin, the scout leader has agreed to speak at next year's AGM on their adventures down the mines and other exciting developments over the past year. Many of you who attended the 2012 AGM will appreciate we were overwhelmed by numbers. We have appreciated the use of the hall at The Grace Church, but for practical reasons have decided to return to St Barnabas Church Hall. The date is set for 10th April 2013.

DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC IN THE PARK

Those of you with access to the EGRA website will have seen one batch of photos from the Jubilee picnic <http://www.egra.co.uk/diamondjubilee/index.html> A book has been published using different images and can be browsed online at <http://www.blurb.co.uk/books/3392192> A printed copy is available for viewing at the Parish Centre next to St Barnabas Church, and one copy remains from our summer order. Please phone 0118 9470922 if you wish to purchase it.

FINALLY

Reading Buses won a number of awards at the UK Bus Award Ceremony in London, including Top Shire Operator, and worthy runners up in Bus Operator of the Year. Hearty congratulations.
Clayfield Dragon. Many thanks to Jill and Bryan Verran for rescuing and repainting the carving.
Highdown. EGRA's Vera Bodman presented pupil Ronald Shearman with our annual book prize.
Graffiti. Richard Hammond still heads our graffiti clean up team and you can report to him on 0118 9475372 or email richard.hammond1@me.com .