



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

WINTER NEWSLETTER

www.egra.co.uk

DECEMBER 2015

The EGRA committee sends festive greetings and good wishes for a happy, healthy 2016! Next year's AGM will be at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 6th April 2016** in St Barnabas Church Hall. The evening will begin with refreshments and a complimentary glass of wine. Following the AGM, Ken Fostekew, a retired Air force officer, will give an illustrated talk on the fascinating history of Woodley Airfield. Please put the date in your diary now.

Committee recruitment

The welcoming EGRA committee meets four times a year and reports current issues in summer and winter newsletters plus an annual report at the AGM in April. More committee members mean that individuals have less responsibility. Any offers of help are always appreciated but we currently have the following vacancies -

Membership assistant – to help with management of the membership list and spearhead a drive to increase membership

Publicity coordinator – to establish and manage an EGRA Facebook page and use other social media when appropriate

Social secretary – to work with other committee members arranging further local visits, for example to BBC Caversham Park

Daffodil planting

In 2011 residents of Emmer Green were treated to our own "host of golden daffodils" on the green opposite St Barnabas Church as a result of mass bulb planting by Reading Borough Council. Sadly, some three years later these had all but disappeared. No one knows why. In October 2015 Emmer Green Residents' Association decided to replant in a few trial areas. Teams of volunteer members planted a thousand bulbs throughout the day. These are not on the scale of the



initial planting but we look forward to next Spring and will monitor success in the longer term as the plants become established. Thanks go to all the volunteers, Reading Borough Council's Decent Neighbourhoods Fund for providing the bulbs, and Carolyn Jenkins for her support with the project. More photos can be seen at www.egra.co.uk/daffodils

Reading station closure over the Christmas period

Major works are taking place between Wednesday 24 December and Sunday 4 January to continue the improvement of the Great Western Main Line. During this period services will be very restricted (none at all on 25th or 26th) so you are advised to check before travelling.

Friends of Clayfield Copse

Next time you are in the woods look out for the work done by the Friends. Recently the group has cut the wild flower areas near the pond and along the edge of Clayfield Copse. They staked the area of young oak trees in the show field near the dragon to protect them from grass cutting. They have repaired some of the new, but already damaged, wood sculptures. In November they cleared and burned some of the brush from earlier work parties (having first checked for hedgehogs!).

In the next few months the group will coppice hazel and clear brambles from the bluebell area in Blackhouse Wood. If you would like to help, the group meet at the car park, beside the tennis club on the first Sunday of each month from 10.00 to 13.00.

Truefood Coop

Have you ever wondered about the co-op in Emmer Green? Helen Warren from the cooperative describes how the shop works and extends a welcome.



'We are a community cooperative, which means we are owned and run by about 270 members from the Reading area, who work together with the aim of making good quality food more accessible to the people of Reading.

We do this from our shop, tucked away opposite Emmer Green Primary school. True Food employs a small staff team, which is heavily supported by the members, who volunteer in many roles to help run the business. This involvement is one of the things that makes True Food special, but it is also the main way we keep costs, and thus prices, as low as possible.

We sell a full range of organic groceries and source local products wherever possible. Some of our favourite products are produced in Berkshire, including our meat, some fruit & vegetables, honey, Christmas turkeys! Cheeses, soaps, chocolate and all our lovely fresh daily bread and pastries.

Shopping at True Food is not like other shopping experiences! No pressures or gimmicks or confusing offers - just quality products at fair prices sold by friendly knowledgeable members of your community. We love shoppers to stop for a hot drink and a chat in our comfy coffee area. Kids are always welcome and play quite happily with our toys while mum and dad focus on shopping, you may have seen the toy shopping trolleys lined up at our door!

So do pay us a visit, even if it's just for a look around and a cuppa!

Acting Chairman: Annette Fairweather 0118 9462053 email egra.contact@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Linda Glithro 0118 9673976

email linda@glithro.com