



## Egham Town Residents - Please Join or Renew Today!

As ever our continuing aim is to help make our community a better place to live. For nearly 40 years, the Egham Residents Association (ERA) has focused on preserving & improving on the facilities in Egham Town & championing the interests of its residents & visitors.

We recognise that residents can make a difference - by our past efforts on projects such as stopping Runnymede electoral ward boundaries amendments, arresting the development of Mrs Caddeys Field, prevention of gravel extraction at Milton Park Farm (for over 12 years), naming the Magna Square buildings &, of course, the ERA's founding issue in the '80s, keeping Manorcrofts Playing Fields open to the public.

Known issues that are on the ERA Committee agenda for 2021 include :

- ⇒ the implementation of the **regeneration of Egham Town centre** through the Magna Square project at Station Road North & future development of the Precinct ("Gateway East");
- ⇒ **maintaining High Street pedestrianisation** through continued operation of the bollards system;
- ⇒ the never-ending saga of **gravel raising** (at Milton Park Farm & now at Whitehall Farm);
- ⇒ **fighting Heathrow 3<sup>rd</sup> runway expansion** (on economics, noise, air quality & traffic grounds)
- ⇒ **relationship improvement with the 7,500 students** who are in higher education in Egham area, with emphasis on community liaison with Royal Holloway & Strodes College;
- ⇒ the ever-popular Egham Royal Show and Barn Dance, Community Fair, Magna Carta Day, annual coach day trips and other **community events** (see pg4 for schedule). Unfortunately these were all cancelled by Covid-19 in 2020 but hopefully will be back in 2021.

Our Committee do this by:

- ⇒ working in **liaison with our Town's key influencers** e.g. Independent RBC Councillors, SCC Councillors, Chamber of Commerce & community groups e.g. the Egham Town Team
- ⇒ **supporting election of Independent RBC Councillors** & funding their election expenses
- ⇒ actively seeking to **protect our local environment** e.g. flood planning & gravel extraction issues
- ⇒ watching key **planning issues** and raising concerns with RBC & SCC Planners
- ⇒ **supporting local groups and charities** e.g via the @theLit campaign, Community Fair etc
- ⇒ **producing quarterly newsletters** (*N.B only this Winter issue is free to non-members*)

**If you care about: 1) What is going on in our community; 2) Decisions that affect our Town; & 3) Egham continuing to be a great place to live, then please ..... join ERA today!**

**The more members we have the bigger our voice & the greater our chance of success, so please return membership form from this Newsletter or go online at our website**

NB. We have now introduced an online subscription payment option via SQUARE software from our website & on Facebook



**AGM**  
Annual General Meeting

This is advance notice that this year's AGM will be held on

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

in the main United Church, High Street starting at 7.30pm

**Guest Speaker : to be advised**

*At the time of going to press, the plan is to hold the event physically in the United Church but, if the Covid-19 precautions are still in place, then alternative arrangements for it to be held online will be advised.*

**CORONAVIRUS TIER 4**

**STAY AT HOME**

[gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

While all Surrey was under Covid-19 Tier 2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> December, this was belatedly adjusted to the new, harsh **Tier 4 restrictions (with the exception of Waverley) from 20<sup>th</sup> December.**



This means that all non-essential shops, gyms & personal care services have closed. Residents are being asked to stay at home & work from home where possible, not stay away from home overnight, only meet one person from another household outdoors in a public space & will not be permitted to travel abroad. These restrictions are similar to that of the national lockdown during November.

Urging all Runnymede residents to follow the new rules, RBC Leader Nick Prescott said: "These changes will come as a shock but it is vital we all stick to them. I really feel for everyone who was looking forward to a little relaxation at Christmas, but for this year, please do not be tempted to think one little breach of the rules won't matter. We all have to work through this together if we are to get the infection rate down. Parents, please tell your children, especially teenagers, how important these rules are".

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December the UK's medical regulator (MHRA) become the first in the world to authorise use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccination programme will start small and ramp up, saying the vast majority of the vaccines will be given in the New Year. "This will take time to roll out, you've got to have 21 days in between the jabs anyway & we've got to get this rolled out at the speed it can be manufactured. Let's all respect the restrictions that we have to live our lives in for now".

Family doctors opened four GP-led Covid-19 vaccination centres at Chertsey Hall, Epsom Racecourse, Caterham & Haslemere from 16<sup>th</sup> December. Ruth Hutchinson, Surrey's Director of Public Health, said: "We recognise the round-the-clock work of our colleagues in the NHS to make this happen, & for giving us all the hope of returning to normality in the future. But we've got to be mindful that the vaccination programme will take time - now is not the moment to relax and stop following the guidelines".



## **GRAVEL RAISING**

The never-ending saga goes on! SCC has now deferred their planning application review by Hanson's for Milton Park Farm gravel raising yet again until 25<sup>th</sup> March at least - which is exactly 12yrs after the first submission .....nil desperandum.

Despite over a decade of non-resolution of the neighbouring MPF application, CEMEX has decided to bring forward their proposals for Whitehall Farm, which would see a "working wet" approach (which lowers the risk of flooding) for only a 7 year minerals supply. They see a planning application to SCC by the end of December, mineral extraction to begin in 2023 & site restoration by 2031. They held a virtual exhibition with residents on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, as part of their initial community engagement, & we are now awaiting the details of their planning application. While there will be no concrete processing on the site (just basic extraction of sand & gravel), & thus are not dependent on the MPF development, one of the main issues will be the routing of 78x2 HGV movements per day from the site - with 1 option being lorries to go north via the Pooley Green crossing, through Egham to the M25?



Contact : [rage@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:rage@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk)



## **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (March 13<sup>th</sup>)**

The Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) will be back in 2021! Despite the difficulties we have all faced during 2020, the Keep Britain Tidy organisers were blown away by the number of people volunteering & supporting their Great British September Clean last Autumn. They are now planning a revival of GBSC in March - dates to be confirmed but including our planned **ERA litter pick on the 13<sup>th</sup> March** - more details in an EMail Alert closer to the time..

## **ERA COACH TRIP TO NORWICH (April 17<sup>th</sup>)**

Assuming that Covid-19 restrictions are eased in time, this year's trip is again to Norwich, which was cancelled in 2020, & is the most complete medieval city in the United Kingdom. It is also England's first UNESCO City of Literature - the City of Stories - & the only city in a National Park!



Given the longer journey, ticket prices this year are £20 for ERA members (or £22.50 for non-members).

*NB. Ticket prices will be refunded if the event has to be cancelled for Covid-19 or health reasons.*

We only have 50 places available, so book early to avoid disappointment!

To book a place please contact : **Adrian SKELT on 07956 875329**



## EGHAM GATEWAY WEST NAMING

Three blocks of housing are currently being constructed at the junction of Station Road North & High Street (completion end-2021). The RBC Corporate Management Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> October agreed that, once completed in 2021, they will be named Corn Merchant House (occupying a site associated from the 1850s to early 1960s with corn merchants), Gem House (housing a new Everyman cinema & to be named after Egham's first cinema, the Gem Electric Theatre, opened in 1910) & Holloway View (which will have clear views of Royal Holloway). A fourth block will provide accommodation for students at Royal Holloway & will be named Parish Hall (located largely over the footprint of the c. 1910-1969 'Parish Room' building). The proposed names refer back to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Egham in this vicinity, a pivotal time with the coming of the railway in 1856 & Victorian expansion. Overall, to reflect these regional associations, the whole Gateway West development will be known in future as Magna Square.

RBC Cllr Mullens, who provided most of the individual building research, said: "Local people in Egham will be living alongside these new buildings for many years to come, & some may well set up home in them, so it's pleasing that they will see the breadth of the area's history reflected in them. Egham is very famous for its connections with the sealing of the Magna Carta, but it has had a very interesting local history in more recent times. I hope people are inspired to learn a little more about the town they live in."

## ENGAGE WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

RBC Cllr Mullens advises that : "It has never been easier to find out, & influence, what decisions Runnymede Councillors are making on your behalf. Since lockdown started, all Council meetings have taken place remotely. You can view the calendar of meetings at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/article/18687/Calendar-of-meetings>. Agendas are available a week in advance, at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/article/14708/Forthcoming-agendas>. The agenda contains instructions on how to dial in to a meeting. Recently a number of residents have attended Planning, Environment & Sustainability, Community Services, Corporate Management and Full Council meetings, from the comfort of their own homes. Additionally, if you want to address the Council, or ask a question, this is possible at Full Council meetings (& at Planning in certain circumstances). Recently residents asked questions about Runnymede's response to the Climate Emergency, and about Heathrow expansion. I strongly encourage residents to engage the council by these means, to strengthen democratic participation and hold the Council members to account.



Additionally, if you want information on upcoming planning applications, do sign up to the Planning alert service at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/planningalerts>.

You can also contact the Egham Town RBC Councillors directly by using their phone numbers at the end of this Newsletter - they are all Independents with no party political role & are supported by the ERA".

## LIFE OF A PROSPECTIVE RBC CANDIDATE



As you are aware, Sian Williams was endorsed overwhelmingly at our AGM last February as one of the Runnymede Independent Residents Group (RIRG) candidates for RBC's Egham Town ward - which is now being held at the postponed RBC election on **6<sup>th</sup> May in 2021**, with Sian standing again as our Independent candidate.

Sian notes that : "At the time of the first lockdown, along with many others in the Egham area, I joined up with Mutual Aid and made medicine deliveries in Egham and Egham Hythe. I was also able to get involved with the Runnymede Foodbank, which was supported by Councillors across the borough. I am still working for the Foodbank each week. I have found this a very worthwhile way to help others.

In June I organised the Egham Jumble Trail, & in July the Egham Litter Pick Week, to link up with the St John's Eco-Festival. Then in August I was delighted to engage with the **@TheLit** campaign. I was chosen to become Chair of the Trustees during the setup stage. The working group getting all the paperwork together for this includes Egham Town Cllr Isabel Mullens. Following acceptance by RBC, **@TheLit** will transform the ground floor of The Literary Institute into a Cultural and Community Hub. We still have a few more weeks of work to get things ready (inc. finalising the terms of our lease with RBC), but in 2021 we will have art exhibitions, craft fairs, a "refill" pop up shop, a community kitchen, dance, drama, music and comedy - and much more. **@TheLit** hopes to enrich the lives of those who live, work & study in Egham & surrounding area. It will also add to a sense of liveliness, community & general interest in the High Street.

So, even though the elections were postponed, I have had some great opportunities to help others and get involved in the local community during the Covid restrictions".

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) 1/10 Prune Hill Roadworks                 | b) 1/10 EGW Naming Correction            |
| c) 5/10 Egham Vegan Market (10/10)           | d) 5/10 Unitary Authority - SCC Costs    |
| e) 6/10 FLAME AGM Postponement               | f) 9/10 RBC Covid Marshalls              |
| g) 14/10 Gravel Extraction at Whitehall Farm | h) 16/10 NT Runnymede Voices             |
| i) 16/10 Egham Gateway West Renaming         | j) 19/10 Literary Institute Lease Status |
| k) 21/10 Rusham Rd/North St Roadworks        | l) 21/10 Community Schools Consultation  |
| m) 22/10 CEMEX Initial Meeting (20/10)       | n) 3/11 Egham Museum Harvest Corn Dolly  |
| o) 5/11 Community Covid-19 Charter           | p) 21/11 Santa's Workshop at RHUL        |
| q) 21/11 Big Doorstep Sing (17 & 24/12)      | r) 25/11 High Street Christmas Lights    |
| s) 29/11 Egham Choral Carol Singing (12/12)  | t) 1/12 Energy Saving Measures           |
| u) 2/12 RBC & Covid Tier 2                   | v) 11/12 RHUL Autumn Term Report         |
| w) 11/12 Covid-19 & Runnymede                | x) 16/12 Heathrow 3rd Runway Ruling      |
| y) 18/12 Rusham Park Student Village         | z) 18/12 Christmas Bin Collections       |



Contact Glenda Thisdell on 07905 917440 or [glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk) to be sent email alerts

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Assuming 2021 is relatively Covid-19 free!*

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> February | Annual General Meeting (pg 1)     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March    | Great British Spring Clean (pg 2) |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> April    | Coach Trip to Norwich (pg 2)      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> June     | Magna Carta Day                   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> August   | Egham Royal Show Barn Dance       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> September | ERA Community Fair                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December | Egham Christmas Fair              |

Details available in the quarterly Newsletters during the year (which you receive if you join ERA using the enclosed membership form or online)!



## EGHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR

Given the increasingly difficult situation with Covid-19 restrictions,

RBC announced in late October, with great regret, that Christmas Fairs represented "an unacceptable risk to our community & thus will not go ahead in the Borough for Christmas 2020". This is unfortunate as many vendors were still keen but RBC thought that "the mitigation factors practically rendered the fairs inoperable and economically unviable for vendors".



## ERA COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	
Chris Fisher	07837 782012
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	
Graham Basset	07710 841510
<b>Secretary</b>	
Adrian Skelt	07956 875329
<b>Treasurer (&amp; Data Protection Officer)</b>	
Aneesh Gupta	07915 612291
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	
Glenda Thisdell	07905 917440
<b>Webmaster</b>	
Stephen Williams	07876 573660
<b>Other Members</b>	
Bill Bessant	07775 333396
Brigitte Kreuger	07887 891456
Jim Pearcey	432805
Cynthia Reilly	07790 273225
Julian Richardson	435578
Ian Rosteghin	07866 329249
Sian Williams	07704 887892
<b>Social Media Co-ordinators</b>	
Sian Williams (Facebook)	07704 887892
Vacant (Twitter)	

## HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Despite the cancellation of Egham's Christmas Fair, RBC agreed to fund £2,000 for Christmas Lights in the High Street.

Due to the efforts of Egham Town Team, jointly run by ERA & the Chamber of Commerce, improved lights (on the tree outside Tesco's, by the bollards & on various lampposts) were, after some initial power supply issues, switched on fully during 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## Runnymede Borough Councillors

Alan Alderson	07831 441638
Brian Clarke	07767 258997
Isabel Mullens	07562 644057

## Surrey County Councillors

Marisa Heath	07764 247098
Yvonna Lay	457170

Website : [www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk)

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