

2022
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Egham Town Residents - Please Join or Renew Today!

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

We know that residents can make a difference - through our past efforts on supporting local shops, organising community events, monitoring local plans (including arresting development of Mrs Caddeys Field & the prevention of gravel extraction at Milton Park Farm (for over 13 years)), consulting with Royal Holloway, lobbying to save our Green Belt, maintaining High Street pedestrianisation, actively supporting Independent councillors (who stand for local residents rather than any political party) &, 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 2022 include :

- ⇒ **combatting anti-social behaviour** (including by students) in liaison with the police, RBC & RHUL;
- ⇒ working in liaison with **our Town's key influencers** e.g. Independent RBC Councillors, SCC Councillors, Chamber of Commerce & community groups incl. the Egham Town Team;
- ⇒ **implementation of Egham Town centre improvements** through the Magna Square project at Station Road North & future development of the Precinct ("Gateway East");
- ⇒ **maintaining High Street pedestrianisation** via better operation of the bollards system;
- ⇒ the never-ending saga of **gravel raising** (at Milton Park Farm & now at Whitehall Farm);
- ⇒ supporting **local groups and charities** via the Community Fair etc;
- ⇒ the ever-popular Egham Royal Show & Barn Dance, Community Fair, Magna Carta Day, Christmas Fair, annual coach day trips and other **community events - Covid-19 permitting**;
- ⇒ watching key **local planning issues** & raising concerns with RBC, SCC planners & our MP;
- ⇒ actively seeking to **protect our local environment** e.g. flood planning & climate change issues;
- ⇒ **forming an action group** to pursue the ideas suggested in our ERA Residents Survey in 2021;
- ⇒ organising a **photo competition** to promote & show off Egham at its best; &
- ⇒ **producing quarterly newsletters** (*N.B only this Winter issue is free to non-members*).

If you care about your community, decisions that affect our Town &/or Egham continuing to be a great place to live, then your support makes the difference, so please join or renew 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 now have an online subscription payment option via SQUARE software from our website



AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Tuesday 22nd February

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

Guest Speaker : **Bill Cunningham**, Scam Champion,
Buckingham & Surrey Trading Standards

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 reinforced, then alternative arrangements to held it online will be advised.



ERA PHOTO COMPETITION

We have just launched a photography contest giving you an opportunity to show off your photographic skills and produce some pictures promoting Egham and showing the town off at its best.

We are looking for pictures that we can use on our merchandise & publicity material in each of the following categories:

- Historic Egham
- Egham through the seasons
- Egham Life

The contest is free to enter, and we have a category for juniors and adults with a prize for the best picture in each age category.

The photographer of the best picture in the adult category will win a 3-course meal for four people (excluding drinks) at the Red Lion pub in Egham, while we have a £25 Amazon voucher for the winner in the junior category. And, of course, your pictures will be used to help promote Egham and the activities of the ERA with your name published alongside your picture!

The contest is open now and closes on 3rd June 2022. Winners will be announced by the Mayor of Runnymede at the ERA Stand on Magna Carta Day in June 2022.

For further details, visit our website at: www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk/events/photo-competition.html & click on the links for a copy of terms and conditions & an entry form (or alternatively go to the Events page on the ERA website). **Good luck!**

MAGNA SQUARE

Councillor Isabel Mullens writes : During 2020 we have witnessed new buildings going up on & around Station Road. One of these buildings 'Parish Hall', is now finished and partially occupied. It is named after the building the Parish Room, which previously stood on this site, as recorded in An Egham Scrapbook by Richard Williams, and is remembered by some residents. The stone recording the name of the building above the doorway to the Parish Room is currently stored in the Egham Museum.



The naming of the buildings reflects for the most part the 19th and early 20th century history of our town centre, and we look forward to the opening of Liberty Hall, Corn Merchant House & Gem House within the Magna Square development as the year progresses.

For those who are wondering about the text displayed outside Parish Hall, including the lines: "*No unexpected inundations spoil the mower's hopes, nor mock the ploughman's toil*"; this is an extract from the poem 'Cooper's Hill', written in 1642 by one-time Egham resident John Denham, buried in Westminster Abbey. The poem refers to the River Thames, 'the most loved of all the Ocean's sons', & is the first example in English of a poem devoted to local description. Look out for more quotes from it as the building work is completed early in the New Year.



GRAVEL RAISING

It came as no surprise that SCC have further delayed their review of the Whitehall Farm & Milton Park Farm planning applications until at least 23rd February 2022 - reaching the 13th year of delays! We suspect that these delays will also be followed by many more.....

Further to the Autumn Newsletter, SCC have also now started the consultation process for a new Minerals Plan to replace the old 2011 version. This new, nearly 3yr process started on 15th November, with the commencement of the first phase of the Issues & Options public consultation, **which runs until 7th March 2022** (with the new Plan finally issued in Spring 2024). Much more detail is available in libraries or on the SCC online consultation hub on <https://smwlp.commonplace.is>.

ERA COACH TRIP

After more than 2yrs of cancelling our annual Coach Trip, we have been considering whether to re-establish the event for April 2022? Given that the financial contribution from the trip has not matched the overall cost of arranging it for the last 3 years beforehand, we are currently proposing not to arrange the trip for next April (given the Covid-19 situation) However, if there is sufficient interest from our members/readers on continuing the event (NB. we need c.40 participants), then we shall re-consider & rebook a Coach Trip (probably to Norwich this time) - **please let the Editor know by early March?**



COVID-19 STATUS



Initially 3 cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant were detected in the UK in late November & new measures were then introduced to slow its spread. Early indicators showed it may be more transmissible than the Delta variant & the vaccines may be less effective against it. To slow the "seeding" of the virus, anyone who then entered the UK had to take a PCR test by the end of the second day of their arrival and self-isolate until they receive a negative result. Compulsory mask-wearing also returned in England's shops & on public transport from 1st December but will not be required in pubs & restaurants.

Following the exponential rise in Omicron cases, however, the government moved into Plan B in mid-December, with face coverings being mandatory for most indoor public venues, people should work from home "if they can" from 13th December & people will need an NHS Covid Pass - showing their vaccination status or a recent negative lateral flow test - to gain entry to nightclubs, indoor unseated venues with more than 500 people, unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people & any venue with more than 10,000 people. The government is now focussing on ramping up the booster programme to all 18+ by the end of December in a race between the virus & the vaccines - **GET BOOSTED NOW**.....



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is the largest crime prevention voluntary movement in England & Wales and has more than 2.3 million members. In Runnymede, NHW is managed & administered by a Steering Group made up of 7 Area Coordinators and the Surrey Police Designing Out Crime Officer. Between them, the 7 Area Coordinators cover the 9 Surrey Police crime areas which make up the Borough. There are approximately 120 Watch Schemes in Runnymede which enable us to reach around 7,000 residents. There are also 3 Social Media Watches which have some 6,000 members. In Egham Town, there are currently 11 Watches, & in Egham Hythe & Thorpe there are 12. There are many more roads in these Crime Areas without an active Watch, which means the majority of residents in these Areas are missing out on vital information such as current crime trends and crime prevention advice. Runnymede NHW issue a weekly report covering domestic burglary & car crime. In addition, other agencies issue frequent Alert messages on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB, inc. the national NHW alert on "No to ASB" circulated on 26th October), Scams, Fraud, Cuckooing, County Lines Drug Dealing & Rural Crime. Best of all - all of this information is available for free!!

If you are interested in joining Neighbourhood Watch, or starting a Watch in your road, you can contact Runnymede Neighbourhood Watch by:

Telephone : 01483 639937 - please leave a voicemail message and they will call you back
E-mail : runnymedeneighbourwatch@gmail.com
Twitter : @NHWRunnymede

To check if you have a local Watch Scheme go to www.ourwatch.org.uk & enter your postcode.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

From aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs or animals, anti-social behaviour (ASB) takes many forms. ASB has become a major issue in Egham, with many of the complaints currently directed at Royal Holloway students - but it is not exclusively a student problem. The effects of ASB are wide-ranging, remedial action is not quick at present & more than 1 agency is involved in tackling it - thus it can be difficult to know who to contact & when?

After discussions with the Police, RBC & Royal Holloway, led by Cllr Sian Williams, we have now come up with an ASB flyer, which summarises what you should do in cases in your area, & this supersedes previous advice on this topic. Copies can be obtained from the ERA website or by contacting the Editor. **Please circulate copies around your neighbourhood so that we can access the widest readership.**



RUNNYMEDE FLOODING CONFERENCE

Our MP, Dr Ben Spencer, called a first ever Runnymede & Weybridge Flood Conference on 26th November held @TheLit in the High Street. This brought together constituents from Runnymede & Weybridge, resident-led Flood Action Groups, Borough & County Councils, DEFRA, the Environment Agency, the Local Resilience Forum, the National Flood Forum & other relevant bodies to discuss how to better tackle flooding in a joined-up way for our local communities.

Led by RBC Councillor Mullens, we are also trying to create a group of residents to be an Egham Flood Group to become a two-way channel for information concerning flooding in Egham - **if you are interested then please contact cllr.isabel.mullens@runnymede.gov.uk**.

Alerts on issues that arose between Newsletters this quarter covered :

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) 1/10 Covid Champions Briefing (1/10) | b) 3/10 Runnymede Games @TheLit |
| c) 4/10 Door-to-Door Salesmen | d) 14/10 RHUL Community Drop-in (19/10) |
| e) 15/10 Covid Champions Briefing (15/10) | f) 17/10 Village Centre at Community Fair |
| g) 18/10 Community Fair - Cake Bakers | h) 20/10 StreetSafe |
| i) 25/10 Runnymede JC - Q&A (15/11) | j) 26/10 Neighbourhood Watch - No to ASB |
| k) 29/10 Covid Champions Briefing (29/10) | l) 12/11 ASB Flyer |
| m) 13/11 Covid Champions Briefing (12/11) | n) 16/11 Whitehall & Milton Park Farms & SCC Minerals Plan |
| o) 26/11 Covid Champions Briefing (26/11) | p) 30/11 Flooding Contacts |
| q) 30/11 Christmas & 2022 Bin Collections | r) 1/12 ERA Photo Competition |
| s) 3/12 Egham Flood Group | t) 4/12 Sign Language Interpreter Request |
| u) 6/12 SCC 2022/23 Budget | v) 8/12 Surrey Care Trust Volunteers |
| w) 9/12 RHRCG Minutes | x) 10/12 Covid Champions Briefing (10/12) |



Contact Glenda Thisdell on 07905 917440 or glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk to be sent email alerts

D A T E S

FOR YOUR DIARY

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 22 nd February | Annual General Meeting (pg 1) |
| 18 th June | Magna Carta Day |
| 27 th August | Egham Royal Show Barn Dance |
| Late September | ERA Community Fair |
| 10 th December | Egham Christmas Fair |

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



EGHAM FAIR

Having been cancelled last year, this year's Christmas Fair (organised by the Chamber of Commerce & held on 11th

December in the High Street) was a successful event, despite the afternoon rain showers.

A Santa's Grotto was established at St Johns Church & the ERA stall had a prominent position outside the United Church. Although the footfall was down, the ERA stall made a noticeable profit & thanks go to all those on the Committee that helped manning the stall (& the few regular cake bakers that assisted in our merchandise sales).

ACTION SUB-COMMITTEE



Having reported in the Autumn Newsletter on the results of our residents survey during 2021, & following the terrific response to the suggestions of services & facilities to benefit young people, we're delighted to say we now established a small subcommittee. They will now work out how to realise/prioritise some of the most promising ideas before starting to lobby for the proposed changes. The initial plan is to start by cataloguing what's already in Egham & make proposals for expansions or additions. Please get in touch with glendathisdell@eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk, our Membership Secretary, if you have access to any useful knowledge or resources that we can draw on?



ERA COMMITTEE

Chairman (& Planning Co-ordinator)

Chris Fisher 07837 782012

Vice-Chairman

Graham Basset 07710 841510

Secretary (& Newsletter Editor)

Adrian Skelt 07956 875329

Treasurer (& Data Protection Officer)

Aneesh Gupta 07915 612291

Membership Secretary

Glenda Thisdell 07905 917440

RHUL Relations Group

Stephen Pollard 07949 356537

Webmaster

Vacant

Other Members

Bill Bessant 07775 333396

Brigitte Kreuger 07887 891456

Jim Pearcey 432805

Julian Richardson 435578

Ian Rosteghin 07866 329249

Social Media Co-ordinators

Sian Williams (Facebook) 07783 010121

Vacant (Twitter)

Local Councillors

Runnymede Borough

Alan Alderson 07831 441638

Isabel Mullens 07562 644057

Sian Williams 07783 010121

Surrey County

Marisa Heath 07764 247098

Robert King 07308 954788

Website : www.eghamresidentsassociation.co.uk



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