



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

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Chairman's Report

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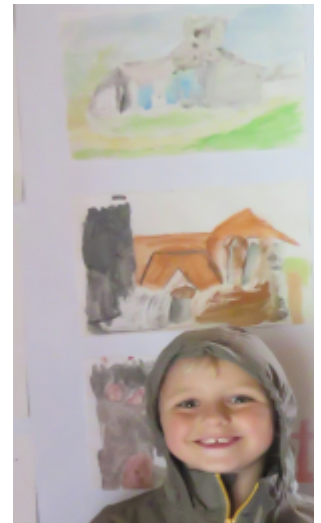
Lodge Farm

About us

In May I was elected by the Committee as chairman following the resignation of the previous chairman, Chris Dick, who worked enthusiastically and modernised EFFRA. It is a great privilege to chair an organisation that has represented and furthered the interests of residents of Effingham so well for over fifty years and to lead such an able and dedicated committee.

Effingham is a great place to live. We have the best of all worlds. We live in a beautiful rural location, we have the historic county town of Guildford close by and London is within easy reach. But we all live such busy lives and perhaps a close sense of community is the sufferer. As chairman I will work to improve this. My great interest is in local history about which I research, write and give talks. This year, EFFRA sponsored Heritage Open Weekend with support from the Parish Council's Community Fund. Despite the poor weather it was very well attended as was Commoners' Day on Sunday 2nd October. (See overleaf).

Such events are important for developing a sense of community. The summer village fete and November fireworks are also popular and important community events and we know that residents are disappointed that they are not being held in the KGV this year. We hope the



A young villager in front of his painting at St Lawrence Church on Heritage Day

Village Recreation Trust which runs the KGV can resolve the problems so that they can be held again next year, particularly as the KGV was given to the village for such community use.



Reverend Mandy MacVean

Two positive, but different events for the village that have happened in the last few months are the inauguration of a new, enthusiastic rector, the Reverend Mandy MacVean in March and the other is Bevan's Butchers and Delicatessen taking over the lease of what was Gibb & Evans in The Street. The shop has been there since 1959, and the village was in danger of losing a butcher's shop. Their leaflet is enclosed and we wish them every success.

We would like to thank residents for responding to both EFFRA's and the Parish Council's questionnaires on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This has been a difficult year. Whilst EFFRA and the Parish Council agree on many aspects of the Plan, we have had differences of opinion on the important housing policies and site allocations. EFFRA strongly supports a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and indeed three committee members have been members of working groups involved in its formulation. We believe that the difficult debate with the Parish Council has been worthwhile as the site allocations in the latest draft are a vast improvement on earlier drafts, although we still have some reservations on some technical aspects that we are seeking to resolve.

On 9 March 2016, Guildford Borough Council's Planning Committee rightly refused the planning application (14/P/02109) from Berkeley Homes to rebuild the Howard of

Effingham School on Effingham Lodge Farm and increase its size to 2,000 pupils, financed by an enabling development of 295 new homes, all to be built on Green Belt land. An Appeal has now launched against this decision and a Public Inquiry will be held from 7th March 2017 for an estimated twelve days. Our Parish Council has appointed a barrister to represent it and has been accepted as a full party to the Inquiry. EFFRA will be strongly supporting the Parish Council in this fight and we urge villagers to do the same. Effingham is characterised by its historic Conservation Area and rural setting and defeating this proposal is crucial to maintaining the special character of Effingham valued by villagers.

I would like to thank Committee members and Road Wardens for their help and support over the last few months. With their and your continued support I hope that we can ensure that Effingham continues to develop as a thriving and integrated community that also values and conserves its historic and rural legacy.

Vivien White

Heritage Day in Effingham on 10th September



St Lawrence Church



All Saints Church



Tithe Barn

Heritage Open Weekend is a national initiative to encourage people to visit heritage properties that are often not normally open. This year for the first time, five historic properties in Effingham and Little Bookham linked up to encourage people to visit them on Saturday 10th September. This initiative was organised by EFFRA with some funding from the Parish Council's Community Fund. The day was a great success despite the poor weather, with many local residents visiting the venues and other visitors coming from places including Kingston, Billingshurst and Weybridge.

A new edition was available of the Effingham Heritage Trail first published by EFFRA in 2015 to encourage residents and visitors to walk around and appreciate Effingham's historic Conservation Area, giving information about the historic properties in it. A new leaflet on the Bishop's Walk, which joins the two sister churches of St Lawrence in Effingham and All Saints in Little Bookham, encouraged visitors to walk to both Conservation Areas and visit all the open properties. Despite the rainy weather on the day some hardy individuals did the walk.

All venues had interesting displays about their history. St Lawrence had a record number of attendances. Of particular interest to visitors was the story of the Reverend John Miller, Effingham's vicar in the eighteenth century, who had spent time in the new colony of New York and been involved in stopping the Salem witch trials. His Bible has recently been acquired for the church and is on display there. Two classes at St Lawrence Primary School also had their pictures of the church on display. Children particularly enjoyed the dinosaur and geology exhibition at the Methodist Chapel.

In Little Bookham the impressive Tithe Barn had over 300 visitors who appreciated the displays on the history of the Barn and the village and also enjoyed the home made cakes and refreshments on offer. Manor House School (the former Little Bookham manor house) also attracted many visitors as did All Saints Church.

Sizeable sums for the upkeep of the fabric of both churches were raised from donations. It is intended to use the same format next year and if we are lucky enough to have a sunny day we hope to attract even more visitors.

Commoners' Day



Commoners' Day was held on Sunday 2nd October to celebrate the Common and exercise the rights of Commoners which was important in saving the Common from development in 1976. The event was opened by the Mayor of Guildford, a record 480 people attended including many families with children and the events were enjoyed by all in the bright afternoon sunshine.

Bryan Mizen's Recollections of Effingham Lodge Farm as a Working Farm

Bryan Mizen, an Effingham resident of forty years, very kindly talked to EFFRA about the years between 1939 and 1985 when his family owned Effingham Lodge Farm, where he himself worked from 1959 to 1978.



Bryan Mizen

Purchase of the Farm

In 1939, when Bryan was five years old, his father, Lewis George Mizen, bought the farm from the executors of Mrs Pauling. She was the widow of the railway engineer, George Pauling, who had bought Effingham Lodge (now Marlborough House and St Lawrence House in Effingham Place) in 1897 and the land which became known as Effingham Lodge Farm in 1906, before dying in 1919. The family's horticultural business which was called F & G Mizen Ltd. was run by Lewis and his two brothers. They had another farm called Bonseys in Woking. Bryan's family lived in Sutton and his father used to drive each day to Effingham on a motorbike. No staff lived on the farm, although there were four semi-detached farm cottages in Water Lane built on rafts because of the flooding.

The eighty acres of land is a mix of good and poorer soil. The northern half is heavy clay, which is often water logged and was generally used for grazing. Water flows through the chalk from the Surrey Hills and after meeting the clay drains back through the southern field towards Lower Road. The southern half is good soil known as Reading bed. On this three and a half acres of glasshouses were built. A source of water was identified one hundred feet down in the chalk which was drilled and a sumo pump fitted that could pump the water as far as the northern field.

The War Years

The outbreak of the Second World War in late 1939 changed the direction of the business. By 1941 the resulting problems of importing sufficient food for the population meant cultivating as much land as possible, including normally uneconomic land. The heavy clay in the north of the farm was treated with huge quantities of shoddy, a fertiliser of wool-waste from the carpets and cloth industries. It was then able to support vegetable crops, whilst the bottom field and the glass houses were used for peas, beans and salad crops. About ten men too old for National Service were employed, together with twenty to thirty land girls who would drive the lorries full of produce to London.

Bryan was at boarding school during the War, but used to work in the glasshouses in the school holidays. He remembers trimming cucumbers and running for the air raid shelters when the air raid sirens went. Luckily the Germans thought the glass houses were lakes and they did not get bombed.

Post-war Years

Following the War it was again uneconomic to grow crops on the northern field, so it was fenced off and used for cattle grazing and hay making. Bryan remembers the wonderful birds and animals that could be seen there as a result of this use of the land. Skylarks, lapwings, grouse, pheasants and hares were plentiful. After leaving school and training, he joined the family firm. The glass houses, which were rebuilt in 1970 by the best Dutch manufacturers, came into their own for salad crops and the fertile land in the southern field was used to supply Harry Wheatcroft with 40,000 rose bushes a year for a time when demand was high and then for vegetable crops. Herringbone drains were installed in the southern field to improve drainage and Bryan emphasised the importance of proper drainage and management of this land.

The business was successful and well run but in 1985 the two surviving brothers decided to retire and sold the business. The Van de Bergs bought Effingham Lodge Farm, but were less successful in running the farm, and the horticultural business there did not survive many more years.



The Effingham Residents Association was formed in the 1960s to:

- Safeguard and promote the interests of residents
- Assist the just, efficient and economical government of Effingham
- Render assistance in all matters for the benefit of the residents
- Encourage residents to take an active part in local affairs
- Investigate reasonable complaints regarding village related matters
- Secure the return of members to the Borough Council and Parish Council who support our aims and objectives
- Communicate directly with Councillors and Councils on a range of village related matters.

All Effingham residents over the age of 18 years are considered to be members, unless they decline membership. Currently membership is free of charge. A company with premises in Effingham is also entitled to nominate a representative to become a member by applying to the Executive Committee via the Secretary.

An electronic copy of the Constitution is available free of charge by email upon request to the Secretary or can be read on our website. The EFFRA website is at www.effinghamresidents.org It is dedicated to everything Effingham and is the place to go for information and find out what is on. To submit articles, comments or request advertising the editor can be contacted at editor@effinghamresidents.org

The Secretary can be contacted at 01372 454003

EFFRA Committee

Vivien White *Chairman*

David King *Secretary*

Juliet Newton-Smith *Treasurer*

James Brennan *Road Wardens Co-ordinator*

Harry Clarke *Website Editor*

Howard Manton

Roland McKinney

Ian Smith *Press and Advertising*

James Wettenhall

Three new Road Wardens are required for the following roads. Road Wardens deliver EFFRA communications to residents approximately 2 to 5 times a year and act as a conduit to the Committee from their roads. If interested telephone the Secretary or email roadwardens@effinghamresidents.org

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Effingham Common | 2. Norwood Close
Champions Way | 3. Outdowns
Salmons Road, Guildford Road |
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