



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 14

February 2023

All residents are invited to
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
at ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL

on Monday 20th February at 7.45pm

With an illustrated talk by Gordon Jackson, Chairman of The Surrey Hills Society on Celebrating Effingham's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Followed by wine and nibbles.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

The EFFRA Committee wishes residents a happy and successful New Year.

2022 saw the EFFRA Committee again meeting in person instead of by Zoom which has made meetings more enjoyable and productive. The AGM in February will be the first not held on Zoom since 2019 and I hope many residents will attend, listen to the talk *Celebrating Effingham's AONB* and stay to socialise with a glass of wine afterwards.

EFFRA focused on a number of community activities in 2022.

Barnes Wallis Exhibition on Heritage Open Day

EFFRA continues to co-ordinate Heritage Open Day in Effingham and Little Bookham. Sadly Her Majesty the Queen died only two days before this event and, as a result, the two parish churches did not participate but five properties were open and welcomed many visitors. The theme this year was Amazing Inventions; at the request of the Mole Valley District Council, EFFRA organised an exhibition at Little Bookham Tithe Barn about Effingham's Amazing Inventor, Sir Barnes Wallis, aptly called *Not Just Bouncing Bombs!* which built on the popular 2019 exhibition. The exhibition which attracted some 800 visitors was held in association with the Brooklands Museum with support from The Barnes Wallis Foundation as well as the family of Sir Barnes. It is hoped a new edition of EFFRA's book about Sir Barnes will be published in 2023 following the sell-out of the first edition. A short account of his life is available on the EFFRA website. 2023 will see Sir Barnes again in the public eye as it is the 80th anniversary of Operation Chastise, also known as the Dam Busters' Raid, for which he invented the bouncing bombs.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

EFFRA contributed to the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by running a popular donations bar in the Jubilee Gardens where the churches were serving teas. Despite the poor weather it was a very enjoyable day. Residents were very generous with their donations which help fund EFFRA's activities for the village.

Litter Picks

Thanks to support from residents, EFFRA has been able to re-establish litter picking events in the village in association with the parish churches of St Lawrence and All Saints. 20 residents had a productive and enjoyable afternoon in early December followed by tea and mince pies in St Lawrence Church Hall. Guildford Borough Council (GBC) has now donated litter picking equipment to EFFRA and we plan three litter picks for 2023 and hope that even more residents will join us. The next litter pick is on Saturday 11th March meeting at St Lawrence Church Hall from 1.45pm.

EFFRA Website and Noticeboard

A big thank you to Harry Clarke who continues to do a great job as editor of the EFFRA website, Facebook and Twitter page. They continue to be the best source of news and information for the village with the number of regular subscribers to the news posts continuing to grow. Harry can be emailed at: editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk

Thanks to a grant from GBC and matched funding from the Parish Council, EFFRA now has its own noticeboard outside Laylas on the shopping parade. This noticeboard is between the Community and Parish Council Noticeboards. All news and posters of events in the village are now easily accessible in one area.

Planning and Development

In 2022 EFFRA Committee continued to consider planning applications. EFFRA reviews applications that affect the village as a whole or affect the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan, the Guildford Local Plan, the Effingham Conservation Area, the Surrey Hills Area of National Beauty (AONB) or the Green Belt. EFFRA only comments on individual householder's planning applications when they contravene one of these policies.

EFFRA made eleven planning submissions to GBC in 2022 and submitted four representations to planning appeals against refusals by GBC and Mole Valley District Council. Seven of these applications are still undecided which reflects the lack of staff at GBC or ongoing discussions with the applicant. Two were refused (with one later agreed at Appeal) and one was agreed.

Effingham Lodge Farm/Howard School Development

It is deeply disappointing that the Inquiry Inspector allowed the Appeal by Berkeley Homes for 114 additional homes on a new site next to that approved at Effingham Lodge Farm as enabling development for the new school. This was against the wishes of the local community and despite the best efforts of the Parish Council, EFFRA and local residents including those in neighbouring Bookham. So much for local democracy. I would like to thank the 800 plus residents who took the time to object to the planning application – over 600 being made through the EFFRA website. EFFRA does not feel that Effingham has been well supported by GBC on this matter. The Planning Officer's recommendation to agree the application (even though over-ruled and refused by the Planning Committee) was important to Berkeley Homes' case at the Appeal. GBC's initial loss of over 200 objections made by residents through the EFFRA website was similarly unhelpful. I would also like to thank the residents who, under the leadership of EFFRA's Vice Chairman, Ian Smith, reviewed the financial viability case of Berkeley Homes and produced an analysis debunking many of the claims that was critical in the GBC Planning Committee refusing the application.

However, the refusal of GBC to the reserved matters application for the existing Howard School site was upheld at the Inquiry. This was due to the damage caused to the Little Bookham Conservation Area which was strongly argued by EFFRA and the church. Berkeley Homes will now need to submit a new application to GBC.

Conservation Area Appraisal and Designation of Effingham Common as a Local Nature Reserve

These two initiatives to which EFFRA has contributed are still stalled because of lack of resources at GBC. Both are important for protecting our precious Conservation Area and Common.

Traffic Tables at St Lawrence Primary School

It is four years since EFFRA helped organise a petition to improve road safety outside St Lawrence Primary School. It is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there. Road tables to calm traffic approaching the mini roundabouts from Lower Road and Effingham Common Road were due to be installed in October. They were delayed by the emergency gas works on the A246 but EFFRA has been advised that installation will take place over the February half term. EFFRA also asked for the white lines at the roundabouts to be repainted as soon as possible and this has finally just been done.

This area of the village, and in particular The Street, continues to suffer from traffic congestion at peak times, with parking a contributing factor. EFFRA continues to press Surrey County Council Highways to look at ways of relieving this.

Mole Valley

EFFRA has also submitted representations on the draft Mole Valley Local Plan, being particularly concerned about the proposed development on Green Belt at Preston Farm on the Effingham boundary.

We are lucky to have the expertise of Diane Poole, a Bookham resident, on the Committee. Mole Valley District Council has now unanimously voted to take all the Green Belt sites, including Preston Farm, out of the draft Local Plan and it will be up to the Inspector whether she accepts this modification during the examination phase.

Retirement of David King as EFFRA's Honorary Secretary

David King retired as Honorary Secretary of EFFRA in October 2022 but agreed to serve on the Executive Committee until the forthcoming AGM to share his experience. David first joined the EFFRA Committee in 1998 when he retired from work and then became the Honorary Secretary in 2001. He has been a stalwart officer of EFFRA and it is largely due to him that EFFRA still continues and thrives. It was David who persuaded me to join the EFFRA Committee in 2014. We will miss his experience and enthusiasm and thank him for his outstanding contribution over the years. A presentation will be made to him at the AGM and the EFFRA Committee is proposing that he should become EFFRA's Honorary President. EFFRA is looking for a resident willing to take over the Secretary role.

It continues to be a privilege to chair EFFRA. This has been my seventh year as Chairman and I really would not have been able to do it without the support and expertise of other Committee members. I also thank the road wardens for their work over the last year. I look forward to seeing residents at our AGM on Monday, 20th February. Keep safe and well.

Vivien White
Chairman

The following officers and committee members are offering themselves for re-election at the Effingham Residents Association AGM.

Treasurer

Juliet Newton Smith has been Honorary Treasurer of EFFRA since May 2014. She lives in Fetcham but is eligible for re-election as she previously lived in Effingham for 13 years. Self-employed for 29 years with a background in financial research, she works closely with householders and businesses to reduce utility costs. She has two grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Committee Members

Harry Clarke has lived in Norwood Road, Effingham since 1999. After retiring early from the IT sector, he takes a keen interest in nature conservation, and is County Butterfly Recorder. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and edits the EFFRA website.

Bhupinder Mahi is EFFRA's road wardens' co-ordinator. He is married with two daughters, two dogs and two guinea pigs, and has been a committee member since 2020. He has lived in Effingham since 2007 and runs a specialist software company. His interests, apart from IT, are climate change and the environment, English Literature and discovering new eateries in the area.

Howard Manton has lived on Browns Lane for eleven years. Married with three sons, he works as an insurance broker. He has been a committee member since April 2015.

Phil Palmer was co-opted on to the Committee during 2022. He has lived in Effingham since 1982 and with his wife Lesley worked for many years as a solicitor from an office in the village. He was strongly involved with St Lawrence School when his kids were there and now he's retired he is particularly keen to help with EFFRA's contribution to village events.

Diane Poole has lived just over the border in Little Bookham for 16 years and joined the EFFRA committee in June 2018 to cover Bookham matters that affect Effingham and liaise with relevant Bookham and Mole Valley organisations. She is married with an adult son.

Ian Smith is a resident of Orestan Lane and has lived in Effingham for the last 36 years with his wife, Jill. They have three grown up daughters. Ian retired from a private accountancy practice in 2014. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and is currently Vice Chairman.

Vivien White has been a committee member since May 2014 and is the current Chairman. She has lived in Effingham on the boundary with Little Bookham for over 20 years. She is married with an adult son. A qualified historian, she researches local history and co-ordinates Heritage Open Days in Effingham and Little Bookham.

Nomination for Honorary President

David King was EFFRA's Honorary Secretary from 2001 to 2022. He first became an EFFRA committee member in 1998 after retiring from working for Babcock & Wilcox. He has lived in Orchard Gardens in Effingham for over 50 years. He is married with a son, two daughters and six grandchildren. The retiring 2022 EFFRA Committee is nominating him to become the Honorary President of the Association to mark the steadfast work he has done for EFFRA and the village.

Thank you to local businesses supporting EFFRA by advertising at www.effinghamresidents.org.uk

Bevan's - Fine Foods & Butchery

Cedar Nursery

Effingham Golf Club

Fetcham Park

Layla's Coffee Shop

Loolabells Outdoor Kitchen

MPS Garden Machinery

Parker and Son

The Bakery

The Plough

The Queen Stage

The Vineries Garden Centre

Village Supermarket

Effingham Residents Association

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