



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 16

February 2024

**All residents are invited to the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
at
ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL
on Monday 26th February at 7.45pm**



**With an illustrated talk
Digging Roman and Saxon Effingham
by Les Capon, Project Manager, AOC Archaeology
on the results of the archaeological dig at
Church Street Field
Followed by wine and nibbles**

Chairman's Report

The EFFRA Committee wishes residents a happy and successful 2024.

Residents are invited to our AGM on Monday 26th February followed by a talk on Digging Roman and Saxon Effingham by Les Capon, a Project Manager at AOC Archaeology. AOC Archaeology carried out archaeological investigations on the Church Street field site before development work began and Les will explain the evidence of Roman and Saxon settlement in the centre of Effingham and show some of the finds. We hope you will stay to socialise with a glass of wine afterwards.

In 2023 EFFRA committee's main focus was on community activities, but we still spend a great deal of time on Effingham planning matters. Below is an account of our activities in 2023.

Litter Picks

EFFRA organises regular litter picks with the parish churches of St Lawrence and All Saints. As a result some residents have been encouraged to do individual litter picking. Both have made a big difference to the cleanliness of the village. My thanks to Committee member Phil Palmer for organising the litter picks.

Why not come along to the three litter picks planned for 2024? The first is on Saturday 9th March meeting at the KGV from 1.45pm and will be followed by well-deserved refreshments. The remaining litter picks on Saturday 6th July and Saturday 12th October will start from St Lawrence Church Hall.

Heritage Open Day and Barnes Wallis Exhibition

EFFRA continues to co-ordinate Heritage Open Day in Effingham and Little Bookham to encourage visits to all participating properties. In 2023 EFFRA organised the third exhibition in five years on Sir Barnes Wallis at the Tithe Barn to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of *the Dambusters' raid*. A new edition of EFFRA's sell-out book *Not Just Bouncing Bombs! The Life and Career of Sir Barnes Wallis* was published for the event and is now available to purchase at Brooklands Museum, at Parker & Sons in the village and via the EFFRA website.

This year participating Effingham and Little Bookham properties will welcome visitors for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 14th September.

The KGV

The KGV is very important to the village and EFFRA now uses it as its official address. We are pleased to see the new initiatives benefiting Effingham residents. The Effingham Festival of Christmas was a great success with most village organisations involved. EFFRA contributed a Gingerbread Decorating Stall which welcomed over 100 children. We congratulate the organisers and hope it will become a regular event.

Effingham Churches

In 2023 the priests in charge of our three churches – Anglican, Catholic and Methodist moved on. EFFRA had contributed to community projects run by them such as the Reverend Mandy's last Open Gardens for which we ran a donations bar. We look forward to supporting the new incumbents in their community initiatives.

Planning

In 2023 EFFRA Committee continued to review planning applications that affect the village. EFFRA does not normally comment on individual householder's planning applications unless they contravene 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 submitted sixteen letters of objection and comments to Guildford Borough Council (GBC) in 2023. Five related to applications where decisions are still awaited due to GBC's continuing staffing problems. Of the other applications EFFRA commented on, two were agreed and two refused with a further three having been appealed and the decisions awaited. A number of the cases are regarded by EFFRA as applications for inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In 2023 only one application was from Berkeley Homes related to the Howard of Effingham School site with a decision from GBC currently awaited. EFFRA understands that work is unlikely to start imminently on Effingham Lodge Farm if approval is given due to Berkeley Homes needing main board sign-off.

EFFRA together with the Parish Council and a number of residents also made a complaint in November 2023 to the Chief Executive of the Council regarding the removal of the beech hedge on the corner of Beech Close and Beech Avenue. The Head of Planning attended a meeting at the KGV to listen to our concerns. We hope that a suitable replacement hedge will soon be planted.



Work on the noticeboard area

EFFRA Website and Noticeboard

A big thank you to Harry Clarke who continues to do a great job as editor of the EFFRA website and Facebook page which continue to be the best source of news and information for the village. Harry can be emailed at: editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk.

The EFFRA and Community noticeboards installed in 2022 outside Laylas on the shopping parade are being well used. EFFRA has been working with the Parish Council to improve this area. A small grant from Surrey County Council (SCC) supported by Dennis Booth, our SCC councillor, will pay for some work to improve the planting beds and stop the soil washing onto the pavement. EFFRA will then replant the beds which it has already cleared. EFFRA has also been involved in the production of a heritage panel with a grant from Guildford Borough Council matched by Parish Council funding. This will be installed soon on the central grassed area and will complete the noticeboard project.

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 and we continue to press GBC on them.

Traffic Tables at St Lawrence Primary School

Following the petition which EFFRA helped to organise on measures needed for pedestrians to cross safely to St Lawrence Primary School, the traffic tables outside St Lawrence School were finally installed in February with further remedial work carried out in late October. Whilst the new refuges on the tables offer safer places to cross, the tables themselves do not appear to be very effective in slowing speeding traffic. SCC Highways will monitor the effectiveness of the traffic tables and take more measures if necessary.

Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in the village at peak times, with parking a contributing factor. EFFRA continues to press SCC Highways to look at ways of relieving this.

Mole Valley

Mole Valley borders Effingham and its decisions can affect our village. EFFRA values having a Bookham resident on its committee and we are fortunate that Diane Poole brings her expertise to our meetings. Mole Valley District Council's draft Local Plan is still not agreed and EFFRA has particular concerns about the possible development at Preston Farm on the Effingham boundary.

Juliet Newton-Smith Stands Down as EFFRA's Honorary Treasurer

Juliet has been EFFRA's Honorary Treasurer since May 2014 and will stand down at the AGM as she has moved out of the village. The EFFRA committee will miss her valuable contribution and we would like to thank her for her excellent care of the association's finances.

The committee is pleased that local resident Phillipa Birks has agreed to be nominated for the Honorary Treasurer role, but EFFRA is still looking for a replacement Honorary Secretary. Nominations can be made

for the Honorary Secretary or committee roles until 16th February. However, committee officers and members can be co-opted by the committee at any time and so please feel free to contact me at chairman@effinghamresidents.org.uk if you would like to know more.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their work and support in 2023. Many thanks also to road wardens for their work over the last year and to Bhupinder Mahi for acting as their coordinator.

I look forward to seeing residents at our AGM on Monday, 26th February.

Vivien White
Chairman

The following committee members are offering themselves for re-election at the AGM on 26th February 2024.

Harry Clarke has lived in Norwood Road, Effingham since 1999. He retired early from the IT sector and 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 has been on the committee since 2020. He is married with two daughters and has lived in Effingham since 2007. He runs a specialist software company and is interested in climate change and the environment. He is currently EFFRA's road wardens' co-ordinator.

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

Phil Palmer joined the committee in 2022 and has a particular interest in helping with community activities. 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 is currently EFFRA's Litter Pick Organiser.

Diane Poole has lived just over the border in Little Bookham for 17 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 Little Bookham boundary 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 Treasurer

Phillipa Birks has lived in Effingham since 2015. She was Manager of the KGV for almost 3 years and now works in events management. Phillipa also has over 29 years' experience in book keeping.

Thank you to the following local businesses for supporting EFFRA. Find out more about them by clicking their adverts at www.effinghamresidents.org.uk

Bevan's - Fine Foods and Butchery

Layla's Coffee Shop

The Bakery

Cedar Nursery

Loolabell's Outdoor Kitchen

The Plough

Effingham Golf Club

MPS Garden Machinery

The Queen Stage

Elizabeth Hunt & Associates

Manor House School

The Vineries Garden Centre

Fetcham Park

Parker and Son

Village Supermarket

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