

Chairman's Report to 2016 AGM

This is my second and last Chairman's report as I am standing down this evening. I feel it is time for a more experienced and capable person than myself to take over and give us new ideas to lead us forward. I would be quite willing to stay on the committee, if needed.

Again we have been busy with several consultations to deal with and also organizing the garden competitions, work on Donkey lane and introducing the Fun Day to the Scarecrow weekend.

The weekend started out very wet for the scarecrow judging but the sun came out and the weekend was a great success and a very happy time. The Olympics theme produced some amazing entries the winner being the wonderful showjumping horse, there were many sightings of Tom Daley's, tennis players, gymnasts, skiers and synchronized swimmers to name but a few.

The Fun Day at The Cellar House garden was a huge success with games, tombola and a variety of competitions. Thanks to the Fire service for coming along as the Fire engine was a huge hit! Thanks to Victoria for the use of the Cellar House garden.

It only seems a short time since we were looking forward to our Post Office moving over to the Cellar House. It is now in full swing and feels like a real community hub. We wish to congratulate Victoria and her staff and hope that they continue to be such an integral part of the EVRA community.

The garden competitions were well supported and proved a very difficult job for our judges. Thanks to Diana Missellbrook, Mike Major and Maureen Brookman for giving their time to judge the summer competition it was a time consuming day but a truly rewarding experience. We are lucky to be a part of such dedicated and green fingered community.

The **Spring Garden** competition was won by David Crotch: 2nd Joan Forrest and 3rd Michael and June Woodhouse.

The **Summer Garden** competition one was won by Pat Raby 2nd was Jan and David Smith and 3rd Derek Garood.

Our work on Donkey lane continues each week "Weeding Wednesday" – for anyone looking for some fresh air, exercise and an opportunity to meet new friends. We meet at 1pm and there is always plenty to do so feel free to join us.

Some of the trees that we planted unfortunately have suffered this summer through the lack of rain but the majority have survived and we hope that next spring that the buds and blossom will be evident. We planted lots of bluebell bulbs and spring flowers so we are hoping for a pretty display to brighten our walkway.

If anyone has any spare bulbs or suitable plants to spare all donations would be gratefully received.

Norwich city council gave us a grant of £200 for equipment and we purchased a wheelbarrow, fork, spade, loppers and numerous pairs of gardening gloves and a first aid kit. We still have £60 remaining to spend.

Richard Green from City Council sent a team of men to treat the briars which helped us such a lot on the really difficult area.

The proposed building on Bluebell Road by McCarthy and Stone has still not started but likely to be signed within a month. I understand that the original proposed entrance suggested is now only to be an emergency exit/entrance.

The proposed alteration to Stephanie's has still not passed the planning committee stage.

I was surprised by the display of a sign at the children's playground on Wentworth Gardens saying that it was for the use of residents only. I understood that the Wentworth Green area was to be an open space and allow access to the general public in perpetuity. Judith Lubbock referred this to the City Council and we understand that they confirmed the sign should be removed.

EVRA were invited to participate in the initial stages of consultation on proposed road changes in Eaton and Cringleford. Earlier in the year many Residents participated in the Common Place survey and have now been invited to comment on the detailed design proposals. The changes aim to improve road layouts for cyclists and pedestrians without disrupting general traffic flows. The proposed changes have been posted on our website and members of the project team have been invited to attend the 2016 AGM to answer any questions.

The most recent venture in Eaton is hopefully to create a Dementia Friendly Area. We have had three meetings so far and Caroline Ackroyd will be giving a short update later.

I would like to thank all of the EVRA committee members for all of their time and hard work and for all their support over the last year. I would also like to thank Eaton Golf Club for allowing us to use their club facilities this evening. Thanks also to all our sponsors over the year.

Thank you....

Rosemary Benton

EVRA Chairman

October 2016

Vice-Chairman's Report to 2016 AGM

2016 Scarecrow Festival and Competition: The second week-end in July saw a variety of scarecrows on display around the village. Entries were initially slow to arrive but after several cajoling emails and Facebook postings we received twenty two entries. Several houses also held garage sales during the week end and one cake stall raised £57 and another £86 for the playground fund. The theme was "Olympics" and as usual we had some very inventive and interesting interpretations of this. Several of our "regulars" rested this year but we had many newcomers who went onto achieve greatness and win prizes! Waitrose sponsored the main prizes and RJI IFA sponsored the prizes for the public vote. We are very grateful to our sponsors for donating prizes and supporting our events.

The Scarecrow Trail Map included the gardens entering the Summer Garden Competition and many residents and visitors toured the village throughout the week end. The Family Fun day at the Cellar House contributed to a great week end for the Village. The EDP and Just Eaton Magazine once again gave good coverage of the event.

Marston Marshes Volunteer Group: We have not held any specific work days during the past year. However, several residents regularly volunteer with the Norwich Fringe Project and attend conservation sessions on Marston Marsh and other sites throughout the year.

Our neighbours at Eaton Rise Residents Association have set up Friends of Danby Wood and will shortly be holding their first work day led by the Norwich Fringe Project. Several Eaton Village residents will also be involved in this. Details of these conservation opportunities along with others led by the Norwich Fringe Project are posted on the EVRA website under the Marston Marsh tab.

Dyke Dipping: In May half-term we once again organised a day of dyke dipping on Marston Marsh. We had around 36 children over the four sessions dipping for water mini beasts with some interesting finds. The sessions are always popular and we hope that the Norwich Fringe Project will be able support us again next year. We are fortunate to have local nature sites such as Marston Marsh, Danby Woods and Eaton Common within easy reach.

Website and Facebook: Our Facebook page is well used and usage continues to grow as a means of quickly disseminating information to residents. This is used for posting news of immediate and short term interest as well as alerting residents to website updates. Our website is the main source for local and long term information about Eaton Village and the main issues being dealt with. We have also posted information on the Yare Valley Society campaign on the UEA rugby pitches, Bartram Mowers development, Eaton Primary swimming pool closure, CNS gate closures, Stephanies coffee house planning application and proposed tree work along the yare valley. During

the year the site has been further developed to provide links to clubs and groups in the area as well as Mobile Library services and links to old photographs of Eaton and Cringleford. We will continue to add links and information to the site.

Newsletters: We distribute our Newsletter to all households and businesses twice a year. This covers the main events and activities in which EVRA is involved and enables residents who do not have access to the internet to keep in touch. We thank our band of regular distributors who deliver these to the 1500 households in Eaton Village.

Traffic and parking around Eaton Primary School: In January we sought the views of residents on the traffic and parking issues around the school. The options presented by the City Council included extensive use of yellow line parking restrictions or more targeted restrictions in specific areas. Residents were not in favour of widespread restrictions but did highlight many of the inconveniences experienced. The survey results were published on our website and sent to the City Council and to the school. The school has since altered the layout of their car park to enable delivery vehicles to access the site without having to reverse up Duverlin Close. Whilst this has alleviated some of the concerns we have heard that there are still many instances of inconsiderate parking and driving during school opening and closure times. The City Council had agreed to install yellow lines on the corners of nearby side roads to discourage parking on these but, unfortunately, pressure on funding and resourcing problems has delayed this work.

Eaton Green Playground Project: Eaton Green play ground appeal is continuing and this summer we saw the installation of two picnic benches kindly donated by Jewsons. We have recently received a financial grant and this complete with money already raised should leave us in a position to replace and improve the current fencing and to purchase our first new piece of play equipment.

In the current financial times raising funds can be difficult and due to this we have decided to explore with the council the option of undertaking that work for which we have finance in place while continuing to raise funds. As always we welcome any support with fundraising or helping with the running of events or with grant applications.

Our fundraising events to date have been very well supported and we would like to thank everyone within our community who has contributed in any way, be that through financial donation, through sponsorship or through participation in any of our events. Our family fun day at the Cellar House in particular received a fantastic turnout and we will look to develop this next year.

Our next fundraiser will be on October 31st when a spooky Halloween pumpkin trail will be running. Pumpkin Trail Maps can be purchased tonight at £2.50 each.