

The Eaton Village Residents Association

Autumn Newsletter 2021

www.eatonvillage.co.uk



Welcome to this EVRA Autumn Newsletter. We also warmly welcome to Eaton Village all those residents who have recently moved into the Village.

EVRA Annual General Meeting 2021

The EVRA Committee has decided that the Association's 2021 AGM will not take place this year because the Covid threat has not yet gone away and many residents wish to avoid public indoor meetings. The Committee elected at the AGM in October 2019 has continued in post and the members are: Chris Stebbing (Chairman) (Tel: 503301, Email: evra.vc@live.co.uk); Vic Flute (Vice-chairman); Naomi Godding (Treasurer); Patricia Seadon (Secretary); Sharon Atkinson, Carol Plunkett, Kathleen Westwell, and Bernard Godding.

In lieu of the AGM we have included below the Chairman's report for the past year and also attached the audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2021. The draft minutes of the 2019 AGM and reports from 2020 and 2021 can be read on the EVRA website at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/about/reports-to-evra-agm/>. Any questions regarding the report and accounts can be addressed to the Chairman by email or by letter posted in the EVRA box by the check-outs in Waitrose or delivered to 54 Greenways.

EVRA Chairman's Report for 2020/21

During the past year we were subject to Lockdowns in November 2020 and from January to March 2021. Various restrictions then followed which impacted on when and how people could meet up. As these restrictions eased we were able to organise a socially distanced Easter Trail in April. Social distancing guidance continued to have an impact but things eased considerably in late July enabling EVRA to hold our Scarecrow Festival and garage sales, the Environment Day on Marston Marsh in August to celebrate ten years since the accessible path was opened and hold our Family Fun Day at the Cellar House in September. We have thus been able to provide a fairly full programme of events during 2021 which were very well supported by residents. We have continued to hold our bi-monthly Committee meetings via Zoom which has enabled us to deal with the myriad of local issues and matters and arrange events.

Eaton Green Playground Project: The accessible roundabout was finally installed in March 2021 and has been a great addition. It has been well used and is very popular with the children. Remaining funds in the playground project account will provide a starter for any further expansion to the range of equipment.

Village Sign refurbishment Project – Our 65 year old Village Sign is in need of a major overhaul to replace the post and refurbish the sign itself. An inspection by a specialist workshop quoted around £3000 for this plus costs for transportation and refitting. We established that the City Council owned the sign and EVRA has taken the lead on raising funds for its refurbishment. At the time of writing we had raised around £1600 from generous donations from residents, events and local businesses and are confident of reaching our target to enable the work to be undertaken in 2022.

2021 Scarecrow Trail: We had 17 scarecrows on display around the Village for a week in July giving residents an extended opportunity to view these. Our theme was "Discovery" to celebrate what our scientists and others have achieved over the centuries and, in particular, during the past year. As ever, the entries were inventive and colourful with one achieving the attention of the national media! Thank you to all our scarecrow builders and hope to see you all again next summer for what will be a Jubilee year and our thirteenth Scarecrow Festival. Thank you also to residents who raised money from cake and other sales during the festival and to all residents who toured the scarecrows and made the event a great success.

Barclays Bank Site: Clearance of the site took place during 2021 but construction work has not yet started. EVRA has established a liaison point with the construction company to get an early sight of plans and discuss how these might impact on residents and traffic flows on Church Lane.

Speeding around Eaton Village: Our County Councillor purchased a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) for Eaton and EVRA are managing this on behalf of the community. We have a small team of volunteers to help with moves of the sign which will be shared with Judges Walk and Bluebell Road as well as locations around Eaton Village. Data from the sign has shown that average speeds on Sunningdale and Greenways exceed 25mph in the 20mph Zone with some drivers exceeding 30mph and 40mph at times. The sign also counts the number of vehicles heading in a particular direction with 400 a day travelling along Sunningdale and 1400 on Greenways. The 20mph Zones were implemented across Norwich by the City Council as a road safety measure so it is disappointing that some drivers think it is ok to drive at excessive speeds around our residential streets. See the EVRA website for a summary of the reports.

EVRA Accounts: The audited EVRA Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 are attached. The EVRA accounts remains healthy, in part because many residents have made further donations towards EVRA projects and also supported our fund raising events. Within the bank account we have ring-fenced donations made for specific projects such as the Eaton Green Playground Fund and the Village Sign Refurbishment Fund. The EVRA Community Account also holds money on behalf of the Eaton Defibrillator Fund managed by Councilor Caroline Ackroyd and the CAMEO support group in which EVRA Committee Members take a leading role. The accounts include the payment of £8909.50 to the City Council for the delivery and installation of the accessible roundabout.

EVRA Subscriptions: The EVRA subscription remains at £1 per household or business. Many residents are now choosing to pay their subscriptions directly into the EVRA bank account via online banking and include additional donations. (The account details are: Sort Code: 20-62-53 Account No. 90029262 Account Name: Eaton Village Residents Association. Please include your address as the reference so that we can note which households have paid.) We also continue to accept payments in cash which can be posted in the EVRA post box by the check-outs in Waitrose or delivered to 54 Greenways or 21 Ebbisham Drive. We are extremely grateful for your support which enables EVRA to pay necessary expenses such as insurance and the printing costs of our Newsletters and fund our other projects.

EVRA Committee: The current Committee is prepared to carry on for a further year until an AGM can be held where we will hold elections and seek endorsement of our annual reports and accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The support for vulnerable people provided during lockdowns highlighted that the younger members of Eaton Village are very community minded and we would like to capture that enthusiasm to help the Committee organise and run events and support our work within the community. Under the EVRA Constitution the Committee can co-opt residents to assist with the work of the Association and we would be pleased to hear from you if you are interested in helping. Contact Chris Stebbing at: evra.vc@live.co.uk or phone 503301.

Being a member of the EVRA Committee or helping to organise our events is not too demanding and is worthwhile as this contribution from Sharon explains: "I joined EVRA ten years ago when I was relatively new to the village. When I joined I was very noticeably the youngest member of the team, but everyone made me feel so welcome and it was great to meet people within the village that I might not get to know. During my time I have been involved in different projects, most notably our successful project to revamp the local play park which I helped to initiate several years ago at a point when I had time to spare. The great thing about being part of EVRA is there is never any pressure to do everything, and at the present time while my work commitments are greater my participation is mainly attending a few meetings a year. Eaton is a great 'village' to live in and EVRA is a key part of this. From making sure the village residents are kept informed of issues which may affect them to organising events which bring the community together."

Finally, may I thank the Committee for all their hard work during the past year and also thank residents for their support which has enabled EVRA to continue supporting our community and run events throughout these difficult times.

Chris Stebbing – EVRA Chair – October 2021

Forthcoming events: Halloween Pumpkin Trail around Eaton Village – Sunday 31st October 2021 from 4pm. Pumpkin Trail Maps will be available to download from the EVRA website by 29th October.

Spring/Easter Trail around Eaton Village during Easter holidays 2022. Further information will be available on the EVRA website in due course and in the next EVRA Newsletter.

EVRA WEBSITE & FACEBOOK: The EVRA website is regularly updated with local events and information. Take a look at the website at: www.eatonvillage.co.uk for more information on any of the above items. Our Facebook page is used for posting items of immediate and short term interest and is a great way to keep in touch with local events. <https://www.facebook.com/eatonvillageresidentsassociation> Email contact: evra.vc@live.co.uk