

The Eaton Village Residents Association

Spring Newsletter 2024

www.eatonvillage.co.uk



Welcome to this EVRA Spring Newsletter in which we cover local issues and events. We also warmly welcome to Eaton Village all those residents who have recently moved into the Village.

The EVRA AGM held in October 2023 elected the Committee as follows: Chris Stebbing (Chair) (Tel: 503301, Email: evra.vc@live.co.uk); Vic Flute (Vice-chair) (vicechair.evra@gmail.com); Vacant (Treasurer); Patricia Seadon (Secretary); Sharon Atkinson, Fiona Bradshaw, Natasha Simpkin, Kristina Everett and Adam Everett. Siv Sears was co-opted onto the Committee in November. Draft minutes of the 2023 AGM have been posted on the EVRA website under the About EVRA tab. City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd also attends our Committee meetings as a representative of our local Councillors. Unfortunately we did not get a volunteer for the post of Treasurer which will present issues for the Committee at the start of our new financial year in April. Any questions regarding items in this Newsletter can be addressed to the Chair by email or by letter posted in the EVRA box by the check-outs in Waitrose or delivered to 54 Greenways.

Church Lane crossing: EVRA has been working with our County Councillor and Highways for a zebra crossing/raised table to assist pedestrians crossing near the shops on Church Lane. A funding package was agreed to deliver this by end of March but Norfolk Highways belatedly raised safety concerns about the narrowness of the road and providing single lane working during the works. Highways proposed an alternative scheme using speed humps but EVRA does not consider that this would provide a safe crossing point. EVRA requested a zebra crossing back in 2018 during discussions on the implementation of the 20mph Zone which is still our preference. EVRA and our Councillors have urged Highways to reconsider options for a zebra crossing. Around 5000 vehicles a day use this section of Church Lane between Greenways and Eaton Street with speeds of over 40mph regularly recorded by the SAM sign.

Parking along bus route: We are fortunate to have a regular bus service to the City but there are times when inconsiderate parking causes delays to the service or problems for the bus drivers and those of other large vehicles negotiating tight spaces. A particular problem area is the Lindford Drive/Abinger Way junction where cars sometimes park both sides of the narrow road. The top of Greenways/Bradeham Way junction can also be a problem largely caused by school traffic during drop-off and pick-up times. Could we please request that residents and their visitors park considerately ensuring clear access for other road users.

St Andrew's Church Hall Refurbishment: EVRA have been invited to join the Steering Committee for the refurbishment of the Church Hall to represent the views of the community. EVRA use the Church Hall for some of our events and are aware of the current limitations of this. Consideration is being given to updating the facilities at the hall to make it an attractive, flexible, multiuse space for a wide variety of different groups and activities. St Andrew's Church will seek residents views on the outline proposals via an article included with their Parish Easter Card delivered to all Eaton households. We will include a link on our website and Facebook pages. It would be good to have a more flexible community space in Eaton Village.

Friends of Donkey Lane: We established a new group of volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the banks and verges on Donkey Lane to keep these under control but in an environmentally friendly way. The group meets periodically for a few hours on a weekend. Tasks include cutting back overhanging branches, sweeping leaves from the path and other jobs. In February we planted 125 new hedging trees to add to the 1000 trees planted back in 2015. We have tools such as loppers, rakes and brooms and a wheelbarrow. We aim to make this a family friendly and sociable work session so why not join in and bring the family. Work sessions are publicised on the EVRA Facebook and website events pages. You can register your interest by email to: evra.vc@live.co.uk or phone Chris Stebbing on Norwich 503301. See the EVRA website for more information at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/local-issues/donkey-lane-management/>

Eaton - a pilot Net Zero Community: EVRA recently met with the City Council and Norfolk Climate Change Partnership to hear about a project working with communities across Norfolk to help reduce emissions in homes and travel in way that benefits residents. Many Eaton residents have installed solar

panels, heat pumps and insulation, but many more have the potential to act. The project wishes to engage with Residents' Groups such as EVRA to identify and overcome the barriers to take-up of measures through better advice and support. EVRA has offered to help publicise the project and assist through our website. Further information will be published by EVRA on our website in the coming months.

Speeding around Eaton Village: EVRA continue to monitor vehicle speeds around the Village via the Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) acquired by our County Councillor. We now have around 30 months of data which highlights that the speeding hot-spot is Church Lane by Eaton Burial Ground where 30% of vehicles exceed 25mph compared to fewer than 20% in other locations. Here, fifty or more vehicles a day exceed 30mph with speeds of 40 and 50+mph not uncommon. The summary data is posted on the EVRA website at: <https://eatonvillage.co.uk/local-issues/eaton-speed-awareness-monitor/> and is shared with our Councillors, the Eaton Beat Police Officer and Highways officers at County Hall.

EVRA Events for 2024: Below is a summary of the forthcoming events organised by the EVRA Events Planning Team. Further information on these and other items in this Newsletter can be found on the EVRA website at: www.eatonvillage.co.uk. EVRA also has a Facebook page which is used for posting items of immediate and short term interest and is a great way to keep in touch with local events. You can find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/eatonvillageresidentsassociation> You can also email the Events team at: events.evra@gmail.com for more information or offer to help with an event.

St. Andrews Eco Day Saturday 11th May: – EVRA has organised two events as part of the Church's Eco Day –

- At 7am Phil Atkinson (Lead Ecologist at BTO) will lead an early morning Bird Walk along the Yare Valley to the UEA. Meet in the Cringleford Meadow car park opposite Waitrose entrance on Eaton Street at 7am. Location: <https://w3w.co/cope.deed.steep> Please wear appropriate footwear.
- At 7pm in the evening in St. Andrews Church Hall, Helen Baczkowska from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust will give a talk on "Bringing Back Norfolk's Wildlife - what is happening and how you can help"

Scarecrow Festival and Garage Sales - Saturday 6th July – Sunday 14th July This year the EVRA Scarecrow festival theme is: A character from a children's book (As voted for by our 2023 Scarecrow makers!). This will be held around Eaton Village from Saturday 6th July to Sunday 14th July 2024. A trail map and voting form will be published nearer to the event so that residents can vote for their favourites with prizes for the winners. We will also run a Garage Sale on Sunday 7th July. For this we ask a £5 donation for which we will add your sale on to the trail map. Further information will be published on the EVRA website and Facebook page nearer the time. Please let us know at: events.evra@gmail.com if you are planning a scarecrow and/or a garage sale.

Marsh Day at Marston Marsh – August: Something to keep the little ones busy during the summer holidays! We are looking into organising an activities day at Marston Marsh. More details on this to come.

Art and Crafts Exhibition at St. Andrews Church Hall: – Saturday 12th October Local Residents Paula Smith and Vicki Bailey will be holding an Art and Crafts Exhibition, supported by EVRA on the 12th October in St. Andrews Church Hall. Likely pieces available to view and buy on the day may include paintings, jewellery, ceramic sculptures, stained glass, prints and more! EVRA will also be selling refreshments and cakes! If you are interested in exhibiting, please email the EVRA events team and we can pass on your details to Paula and Vicki.

Summer Family Fun Day and First Aid Training: Unfortunately this year we have decided not to run our much-loved Family Fun Day. This is due to several factors including not having enough volunteers to help throughout the day, and uncertainty because of the Cellar House changing hands around the same time. We will review this again for 2025. In addition, due to lack of interest we have also cancelled the first aid training sessions.

EVRA Subscriptions: We include an envelope for your EVRA subscription which remains at £1 per household or business but welcome additional donations to support our activities and projects. You will note that we have updated the envelope following a review of what personal information we require to hold on residents. We concluded that it is only the house address that is required except where you have offered to help and we need other contact information to get in touch with you. We are extremely grateful for your continuing support which enables EVRA to pay necessary expenses such as insurance, the cost of printing our Newsletters and fund projects such as the Village Sign and Playground equipment for Eaton Green.

Payment Options - Many residents choose to pay their subscriptions directly into the EVRA bank account including 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.) Payments in cash/cheque can be posted in the EVRA post box by the check-outs in Waitrose or delivered to 54 Greenways or 21 Ebbisham Drive.