

EGVRA Newsletter – December 2021

Dear EGVRA member,

I trust this brief Newsletter finds you and those close to you well and safe as we continue with restrictions on our daily lives due to Covid-19 and its variants. Here are a few items which I hope will show we are still operating as normally as possible in our village in these prolonged difficult times, some of which will brighten us as we head towards Christmas and into 2022.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday November 14th a service was held in the cemetery on the 100th anniversary of the first Remembrance service. This was led by John Scott MBE and the Rev. Canon Judith Alford and attended by many villagers and local school children. I laid a wreath on behalf of EGVRA at the Cross of Sacrifice inside St. Jude's Cemetery, erected in 1929 to the memory of the 62 Members of His Majesty's Forces who died in the service of their King and Country during the Great War, and whose bodies are interred in the Cemetery. Other wreaths were laid by representatives of many local organisations, both at the Cross and on the adjacent Village War Memorial, which commemorates all the villagers who have fallen in conflict since 1914.



Village Christmas Tree

You will, I hope, have already seen the beautiful Norwegian spruce tree on St. Jude's Road adjacent to the Cemetery main gates. The illumination took place late afternoon on Wednesday 1st December with a brass band – St. Jude's School members supported by Egham band - and mulled wine, mince pies and falafals generously provided by several local businesses. Two members of the St. Jude's band pushed a button to light the tree, to resounding applause. Around 60 people attended and it was uplifting to see so many of them, a number of whom had young children with them.



Village Fair 2022

The Fair committee are already working on plans for the Fair next year. We are all so very aware of the loss to our community of the event in 2020 and this year and the immense pleasure it brings to our village. Let us fervently hope that the pandemic does not again rob us of this always superbly put together event next year.

The Chapel

As many of you will know, The Chapel in Magna Carta Park (former Brunel University campus) on Cooper's Hill Lane has regrettably been demolished, despite many letters of representation including, as you would expect, one from EGVRA to RBC Planning objecting to the proposal. We have been in discussion with Royalton – the constructors of Magna Carta Park, and managed to arrange for a number of architectural features of The Chapel structure to be kept during a careful demolition. I have paid a couple of site visits to point out which features we may wish to conserve somewhere in our village and am due to visit again soon, to view the pieces of the structure available.

In conclusion, may I and all the members of the EGVRA committee offer you our Christmas greetings and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable New Year.

Keith Bendall – Chair EGVRA