

## EGVRA Chair's Report Amanda Willis

Welcome to the Spring 2025 Edition of our newsletter and I hope you find it an interesting read. If you have ideas for an article, our next newsletter will be published in November and we are always happy to receive articles that would be of interest to our members.

At the end of November we held our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event. The Crown Estate were not able to erect the tree but we managed thanks to several of my neighbours, members of the EGVRA Committee and one of our Councillors and under my expert supervision! We also put festive lights on many of the lamp posts in St Jude's Road and hope this year to expand this to Victoria Street and Bond Street. The event was well attended and it was lovely to have the opportunity to meet so many of you. My thanks go to Surrey County Council and Councillor Marisa Heath who provided a grant towards the cost of the tree and the new lights.

Looking forward we are busy with the preparations for the Village Fair. The Fair is always well attended and enjoyed by many but perhaps spare a moment to think about how it happens? It's down to a team of volunteers who freely give a large amount of time and effort into ensuring a great day out for the community. We are a very small team this year and I would be very grateful if anyone feels they could help with setting up on the morning of the fair and helping with clearing up at the end of the event.

The Hub Redevelopment Project is slowly moving forward –there have been a few hiccups along the way but I am hopeful we will see some real progress in the near future.

I have been heavily involved in a series of working groups whose purpose is to explore solutions to some of the issues commonly raised by residents ie. ASB, Parking and HMO's/student accommodation.

These are chaired by three of our local Councillors with representatives from EGVRA, Egham Residents Association, RHUL, RBC, RH Student's Union along with Surrey Police and Surrey Highways as required. All three Working Groups are meeting monthly for six months and I am hopeful that they will produce some meaningful solutions and improvements which will benefit us all.

Having recently been re-elected as Chair of EGVRA I look forward to serving you for another year and working with my great team of committee members to preserve and improve the amenities of our beautiful village.

*How many men does it take to put up a Christmas Tree?*



## 125 years of the Happy Man Pub



Please join us for our celebratory Beer and cider Festival in honour of 125 years of the Happy Man Pub. The festival will be running from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May until Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May with 20 Real Ales, 10 different ciders and festival food. We will have events running throughout the festival such as a quiz, music, bingo and a performance from Royal Holloway Brass Band. We would love to gather the community together and do what Englefield Green does best so please do come along!

## Runnymede Civic Awards 2025

The Runnymede Civic Awards were held in March and we would like to offer congratulations to two of the Volunteers at the Hub in Larchwood Drive.



Richard Emmett won the award in the Environment and Climate Change category and Catherine France was shortlisted for the Volunteer of the Year Award for running the Thursday Club for Children.

Heartfelt congratulations to you both - well done! This highlights the valuable work that the volunteers at the Hub do in the community and how much more can be achieved if our plans for the Hub redevelopment go ahead.





## Manorcroft United Junior Football Club



**Manorcroft United Junior Football Club** were delighted to welcome His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, to Coopers Hill to present the King's Award for Voluntary Service to the club's chairman, Leon Turner.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service recognises outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. Manorcroft United JFC were thrilled to be announced recipients of this award in the King's Birthday Honours on 14th November 2024.



Receiving the award in front of players and parents, Chairman Leon Turner said: "On behalf of the Manorcroft United family, we are overwhelmed to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Our club has grown, and continues to grow, as we look to offer the best possible environment for our fantastic members, children and adults alike. This award is for all those that have taken time to help create the thriving club we have today; and to all volunteers past, present and those of the future, I thank every one of you personally for your efforts. A huge thank you to everyone for attending the presentation of this award. Your support for our club is hugely appreciated."



Other guests, who came to watch the presentation and show their support to the club, included Councillor Elaine Gill, Mayor of Runnymede; Shahid Azeem DL, High Sheriff of Surrey and Chair of Aldershot Town FC; Andrew Dickinson, Ray Lewis and Soye Briggs from Surrey FA; and representatives from Runnymede Borough Council, Coopers Hill Recreational Trust, Coopers Hill Tennis Club and Manorcroft Primary School.







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**DONATE TO  
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VILLAGE FAIR**

EGVRA will be hosting a good old-fashioned bottle stall at the Village Fair this year and we need you to donate your bottles to raise money for good causes. Please have a rummage around and donate your bottles as prizes.

We will collect them from your doorstep so please email your address to: [contact@englefieldgreen.org](mailto:contact@englefieldgreen.org) to let us know there will be bottles to collect on Wednesday 18th June between 6:30 PM – 7:30PM

Donated bottles must be unopened with labels intact.

## THANK YOU FROM THE POPPY APPEAL



On behalf of the Englefield Green & Egham Royal British Legion Branch of the Poppy Appeal we would like to thank all the residents, businesses, schools, community groups and Royal Holloway College for displaying poppy boxes, buying wreaths and for your very kind and generous donations to the appeal as well as prizes given for our tombola in June which raised £1000. Last year for the first time we were able to collect not just cash donations but also had card readers and QR Code online payments. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for all the help you gave us, with special thanks to Rod Pate and friends from Grove Court, Malcolm & Eileen Smith and our newest volunteers Ruth Priestley and Jane Turner. The big count took a few weeks and we couldn't have done this without the help of John Scott and Mark Proudfoot. We haven't been given the final collection figures from the supermarkets, card and online payments but the 2024 appeal has raised over £11,000.

This year's appeal will launch on Saturday 25th October until Tuesday 11th November 2025 and we will be out and about delivering poppy boxes and collecting tins to businesses and schools in Englefield Green and Egham from Thursday 23rd October. If you would like to help with deliveries or to help collect on the poppy stall in the local supermarkets we would be most grateful. Once again we will be holding a tombola at this year's Village Fair and would be very grateful for any prize donations for our stall.

**If you would like to help in any way by volunteering, displaying a poppy box from October to November or would like to donate a prize to our tombola please email Debbie Garland at**

**[debbieann81@aol.com](mailto:debbieann81@aol.com) or call me on 07949 528519. Thank you.**

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on the  
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**Julie Wilding MCFHP MAFHP  
Mobile Foot Health Practitioner**

Mobile: 07946 591200

Web: [footsense.co.uk](http://footsense.co.uk)

**email:  
[Juliewilding@btinternet.com](mailto:Juliewilding@btinternet.com)**

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## Update from Windsor Great Park



I am pleased to be able to give you an insight into just a very few activities that have taken place across the Great Park over the winter months.

Many of you will have seen the work that was taking place on the Causeway at Obelisk Pond in late January and February. There was a requirement to remove an old spillway, but also importantly to strengthen and renew the Causeway, in order to ensure that there were no weaknesses.

Thank you to everyone for their patience which allowed to allow us to complete the work safely. I'm delighted to report that the job was finished on time, and that everything is now back to normal there.

The work was scheduled to take place once the Windsor Great Park Illuminated event was safely taken down. Readers may be aware that the event was given a five-year planning permission by Runnymede Borough Council.

Both The Crown Estate and IMG, the event organiser, remain very conscious of the potential impact that the event can cause on the local community, and have, and will continue to work very hard to ensure that traffic flows smoothly, and that the event not only



gives great enjoyment to the visitors who come each year, but also respects both the landscape, and our neighbours.

The event was well received, visiting numbers were marginally lower than last year, a lot of this brought about by some inclement weather, and the need to close the event for two nights due to strong winds.

Planning work has continued on the very lengthy project of safely lowering the Totem Pole in Windsor Great Park, and although no firm date has yet been fixed, the plan is that the Pole will be lowered in one piece and safely sometime later this coming year. Discussions are continuing with the First Nation community in Canada to determine exactly what happens to the Pole once it is lowered, ensuring that all necessary protocols are respected.

For those of you who walk dogs regularly in the Great Park, you may have noticed that there has been the introduction of a new Code of Practice for Dog walkers. We have always welcomed and will continue to welcome dogs and their owners to the Great Park. In order to ensure that all Park visitors, be they with dogs or without, feel comfortable and safe, the new guidelines do restrict the number of dogs that any one individual can walk together. Full details of the new code of practice can be found on our website at [www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/explore/activities/dog-walking](http://www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/explore/activities/dog-walking) and there are signs at every public entrance to the great park.

The Crown Estate staff take great pride in the custodianship with which we are entrusted. You may well have seen large numbers of new young trees being planted across the Great Park, especially evident on Smith's lawn. This is the first major planting scheme the Great Park has seen in centuries and is exciting to see how the landscape continues to develop.

And finally, after the long grey months of winter we are hoping soon to see a more permanent return of sunshine and warm weather. The Savill Garden and Valley Gardens are ready once again to put on their magnificent spring display of colour. For all of you who will be visiting the Great Park in the next few weeks and months, we do hope that you enjoy and are refreshed by this wonderful green open space.



## WINDSOR GREAT PARK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE



Are you aware of the Environmental Centre in Windsor Great Park? Run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust it offers a range of activities suitable for all ages. Whether you fancy some Forest Bathing or Willow Weaving, a Bat or Ecology Walk there is something for everyone. During the school holidays there are many activities which combine fun with learning and are suitable for children of all ages.

To find out more about upcoming events visit [www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/bbowt](http://www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/bbowt)



## What's on at Royal Holloway?



This spring, Royal Holloway is encouraging residents to come along for a walk through its beautiful Egham campus to see all the spring flowers in bloom and the truly amazing work the gardening team does.

### Forthcoming Events

#### **12 May, Queen's Building Lecture Theatre: Camera geologica: photography and the art of resource extraction**

This lecture focuses on Jonas NT Becker's "Better or Equal Use" series, which documents former coal mining sites in Appalachia redeveloped under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA).

Admission: free, no booking required

To find out more: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/camera-geologica-photography-and-the-art-of-resource-extraction/>

#### **13 May, 6:30pm, Room 2/3, Stewart House (London Campus): At Home in History – reflections on writing the history of domestic life**

The homes we live in have a powerful influence – shaping our behaviour, relationships and values. In this lecture Professor Jane Hamlett will explore how the home has become an important category for understanding the past, drawing on her own research on the domestic lives of women, men, children and animals in 19th-century Britain. Recently, larger numbers of scholars across disciplines have begun to study the home.

Admission: free but booking is recommended (see the website link below for further details on how to book). To find out more: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/at-home-in-history-reflections-on-writing-the-history-of-domestic-life/>



**20 May, 6:30pm, Moore Building Auditorium: The archive in the armoire: rediscovering the global lives of William Macintosh**

During his remarkable and restlessly mobile lifetime, William Macintosh (1737–1813) was many things: colonial legislator, world traveller, prisoner of war, best-selling author, papal advisor, counterrevolutionary spy, and self-proclaimed citizen of the world. His work was read by Thomas Jefferson and Adam Smith, he corresponded with Joseph Banks and George Washington, and dined with Aaron Burr and the Princesse de Talleyrand. Yet, today, Macintosh is almost entirely unknown.

Admission: free but booking is recommended (see the website link below for further details on how to book)

To find out more: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/the-archive-in-the-armoire-rediscovering-the-global-lives-of-william-macintosh/>

**9 June, 6:15pm, Windsor Building: Magna Carta Lecture 2025**

The Magna Carta Lecture 2025 will be delivered by the Rt Hon Victoria Prentis KC, former Attorney General for England and Wales.

Admission: free but booking is recommended (see the website link below for further details on how to book)

To find out more: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/magna-carta-lecture-2025/>

**9 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, 'Mine O' Mine' with the Royal Holloway Brass Band:**

Royal Holloway Brass Band Student Showcase. Join us for an exciting student showcase performance by the Royal Holloway Brass Band, fresh off their success at UniBrass 2025! The concert features two halves: the first celebrates the Welsh Mining Tradition, including a composition by their president, Harry Snasdell, while the second half explores the rich music of Wales through brass band classics and traditional melodies. Don't miss this musical journey inspired by the landscapes and legends of Wales!

**Book tickets (£6):** <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/research-and-education/departments-and-schools/music/events/mine-o-mine-with-the-royal-holloway-brass-band/>

Royal Holloway is looking forward to welcoming the Englefield Green community to its summer Arts and Culture Festival! The festival will run from mid-May to mid-June and will include events for all ages and interests.

Activities will include:

- A talk on creativity in the age of AI with award-winning playwright, digital marketing expert and social media storyteller, Christopher Hogg
- Campus heritage tours
- A demo and workshop in our state-of-the art Virtual Production Studio
- A special biodiversity and creativity walk around the campus
- Choir concerts in the Royal Holloway Chapel
- The premiere of a brand new musical, Alicia's Lost a Pencil, and a Q&A with its creators.
- And much more...

All events are free though booking ahead is required. Stay tuned on Royal Holloway's social media channels for further details. If you would like to receive an email to find out more, please contact: [community@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:community@rhul.ac.uk) or check out <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/>

## New Head of Engagement and Place at Royal Holloway - Minna Ruohonen



Some of you may already know me from my previous role as Public Engagement Manager at Royal Holloway, but I am excited to share that I have stepped into a full-time role as Head of Engagement and Place, which will give me an opportunity to continue strengthening connections with local partners, councillors, and residents, in turn, working alongside you to make a real impact in our community. We've already had a good head start, as earlier this year, Royal Holloway and Runnymede Consultative Group gave the go-ahead to establish three dedicated Working Groups - focusing on antisocial behaviour, transport and parking, and student accommodation. These groups, chaired by local councillors, bring together representatives from Royal Holloway, resident associations, and local government to develop practical solutions that benefit everyone. Another key milestone was the Civic Agreement launch for Surrey last autumn. The agreement will be delivered through a partnership between Surrey County Council, Royal Holloway, the University of Surrey, and the University for the Creative Arts. Now that the foundations are in place, it's time to roll up our sleeves and turn ideas

into action.

This all aligns closely with Royal Holloway's RH2030s strategy, which envisions us as a University of Social Purpose guided by our values of daring, openness, innovation, and respect.

I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with you all and building on the strong relationships we've already developed to create new opportunities to work together.



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THE VILLAGE CENTRE

# The Village Centre



THE VILLAGE CENTRE

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## Community Cafe

The Village Centre is a community charity in the heart of Englefield Green. We offer many activities and charitable services, as well as a Cafe which serves barista coffee, homemade lunches & cakes. Our Cafe also has a children's play area & ball pit which are free to use.

## Monday Lunch Club

Weekly Monday lunch club open to over 55's takes place between 12-2pm with the aim of reducing social isolation, providing a home cooked meal and encouraging friendships.

Places must be booked in advance by Friday at midday by calling 01784 471110 or emailing [manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk)

## Runnymede Foodbank at the Village Centre

The Runnymede Foodbank runs drop in sessions at the Village Centre on a Wednesday afternoon, between 1pm - 3pm. Vouchers to collect food can be obtained via the Village Centre or The Forest Estate Community Hub in Englefield Green, or by contacting the Foodbank directly on [info@runnymede.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@runnymede.foodbank.org.uk) or 01932 943 056

We have a donation point in our foyer where you can donate your non-perishable food items. There is always a Needs List on display so you can see what items are more in demand for the month.

## Baby Basics project

Baby Basics provides the basics needed in life for vulnerable women or families with a newborn. We work with midwives, health visitors and other local organisations to provide starter packs for those in need.

We provide all newborn essentials to these families including newborn prams, baths, clothes, toiletries, changing bags & mats, toys, nappies, bouncy chairs plus more.

A professional referral is required for this service.

## Child Contact Centre

The Centre provides facilities for children to meet with the parent with whom they no longer live due to family break-down. The aim is to provide a warm, friendly, toy-filled neutral meeting place where contact can take place during what can be a very emotional period. A referral form must be completed prior to entry to the Contact Centre.

## Regular Activities

A variety of regular activities take place during the week including Jazz Club, fitness and childrens activities.

Full details of all our activities and outreach programmes can be found on our website:

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)



## Community Fridge & Kitchen

**Monday & Friday 9am - 11am**

Providing access to food and meals is the priority for our Community Fridge and it is a social site of food education and sharing. It is housed at the back of the Village Centre building and fresh food that would otherwise be wasted, is made freely available to the community.

Surplus perishable food is donated by local businesses or members of the public, and collected by the community.

Our Community Fridge exists to reduce food waste and foster a spirit of sharing and mutual support within our community.

A Community Fridge is open to everyone.

For those that are infirm or vulnerable and not able to attend the Fridge, we have a weekly food delivery service on a Tuesday, where meals are delivered directly to peoples homes.

**Contact**  
[communityfridge@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:communityfridge@villagecentre.org.uk)

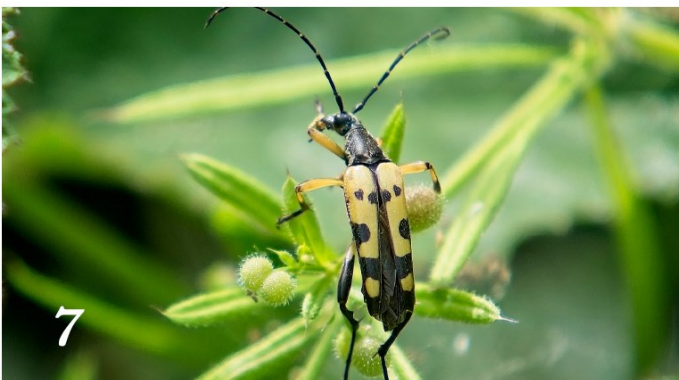
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THE VILLAGE CENTRE, VICTORIA STREET, ENGLEFIELD GREEN, SURREY, TW20 0QX



## The less often seen Wildlife of Coopers Hill

By Dr Chris Towler, March 2025



Retirement brings both challenges and opportunities. For me, it presented the opportunity to revive my lifetime interests in photography and nature. A few years ago, my wife and I moved to a Retirement Village in Englefield Green. We found ourselves living on an Estate of over 50 acres of accessible land, apparently teeming with wildlife. The camera came out as did my wildlife guides. And suddenly 4 years later I had enough material to compile a book - **“the Wildlife of Magna Carta Park”** - covering everything from deer to snails

Whilst this estate is almost certainly not very different from the rest of this part of Surrey in terms of the wildlife it supports, the simple fact that much of it is rela-

tively undisturbed means that some species “hang around”. Not surprisingly, many of my new acquaintances are insects as, across the globe, over 70% of all living species are insects. Not drab, nasty creepy-crawlies but often beautiful creatures living highly-organised lives. Here, I will just focus on some of my favourite insects.



Of the 59 recognised species of butterfly in the UK, I have recorded 22 here and photographed nearly all of them. As well as the more common ones, we are also hosts to some less-often encountered, such as the Small Copper (6), the Silver-washed Fritillary and the Small Heath (8). As I write this in the latter part of March, the first crop of Red Admirals and Brimstones are out and about, having over-wintered here, and soon we should see Peacock, Speckled Wood and Common butterflies. Just occasionally, we spot the migrant Painted Lady (2), whose numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year. The specimen shown here was seen in August 2021.

We are also home to a number of beetle species belonging to the “Longhorn” family (*Cerambycidae*). Most are colourful and as their name implies have long antennae. Having been hatched one or two years previously, the grubs have grown in log-piles or tree stumps until they emerge as beautiful adults in late Spring or early summer, frequently seeking flowers to feed on. Two black and yellow species fairly common at Magna Carta Park are the Spotted Longhorn Beetle (*Rutpela maculata*; 7) and the Four-banded Longhorn Beetle (*Leptura quadrifasciata*; 5), both of which are shown here. Of particular interest is the sighting, in July 2020 of the very rare Large Black Longhorn Beetle (*Stictoleptura scutellata*; 4), with only a handful of sightings, restricted to the southern part of Britain, each year. I was lucky enough to have my camera with me at the right moment to capture this scarce specimen.

Magna Carta Park is also a haven for many wasp and bee species, too numerous to cover in any detail here. However, I have chosen two of my favourites for this essay: The Wool Carder Bee (*Anthidium manicatum*) and the beautiful little Digger Wasp (*Cerceris rybyensis*), both shown here.

The Wool Carder Bee (3) appears in summer and is particularly drawn to Lamb’s Ear plants. The male bee (shown here) aggressively defends his patch against other males and pollinating insects. If you come across this robust little insect, just watch his frenzied attacks at great speed against potential invaders!

The ground-nesting Ornate-tailed Digger Wasp (1) is relatively common in this part of the UK but scarce or absent elsewhere. You may not have spotted one unless you look carefully though as it is pretty small, less than 1 cm in length. Look for it around sandy soils and on plants such as creeping thistle (of which we have a lot!), marigold or hogweed. But please be aware that there are other Digger wasps around and without detailed photographs from different angles or a trapped specimen, identification is not easy.

Of course, I find wonder and beauty in many other mammalian, bird and insect species here at Magna Carta Park but I hope my glimpse into just a few of the less common ones will stimulate some of you to “go hunting” and perhaps even to take a camera with you.

**Chris Towler 27 March 2025 / All photographs  
Copyright of the author**

## Jane Gardiner talks to local writer Vanessa Gordon about her books, *The Naxos Mysteries*

Vanessa was Chairman of Englefield Green Village Association for ten years before its amalgamation with EGRA formed the current Village Residents' Association. She wrote the monthly EGVA newsletter and organised the Village Fair. At the same time she was Clerk to the Governors at St Jude's School and Concert Manager at Royal Holloway. She is now "retired". She is joint chairperson of Virginia Water Art Society, and Chairman of Windsor Writers Group, and in her remaining time she writes mysteries set in Greece.

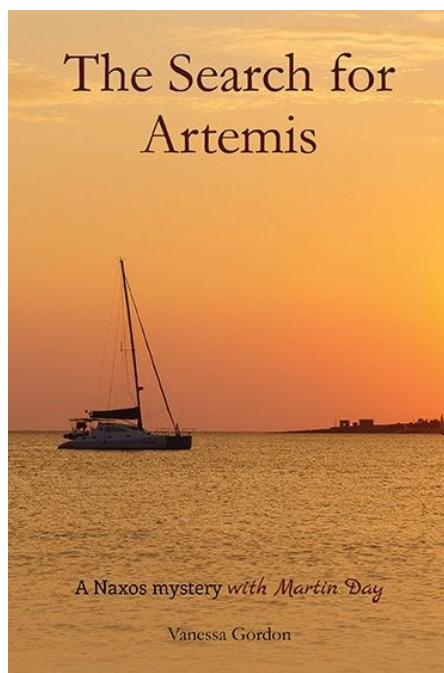
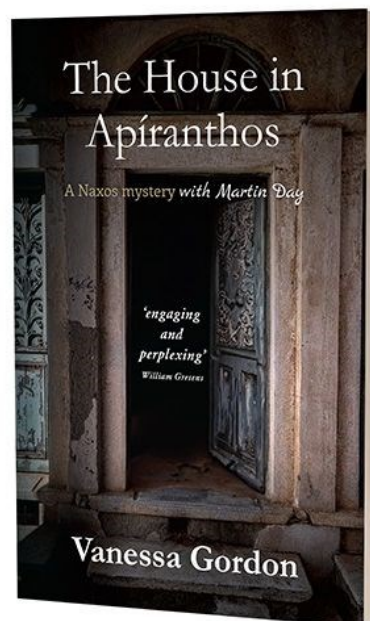
**Jane:** When I was writing your profile above I wondered whether you ever feel you don't have enough to do?

**Vanessa:** No, that's not usually the problem, Jane. My diary – which is a big desk-diary where I scribble all my lists and reminders – looks like the work of a madman, but I do like to be busy.

**Jane:** I looked up your books online and found this amazing review. It's about your latest mystery, *The House in Apiranthos*.

*This is a lovely book - a great read! Vanessa Gordon manages to merge a compelling mystery tale, a coterie of engaging characters, and wonderful insights into the Greek island of Naxos, including its archaeological history, its present-day scenery and its cuisine. I greatly enjoyed the puzzle, but most of all I felt, 'Here's a place I must visit'. Talking of travelling, I shall now travel backwards and read the other books in the series!*

I'm going to do the same, actually, and read the others now. Could you summarise the plot of *The House in Apiranthos* for me?



**Vanessa:** I'll try – my plots are quite complicated. *The House in Apiranthos* starts with a beautiful but ruined old building which is about to be renovated after made decades of being boarded up. The actual house really exists, by the way, in the village of Apiranthos. In the story, the renovators find a body buried beneath the cellar floor, and with it is an astonishing collection of ancient coins. It's because of the coins that the police ask for the help of my main character, Martin Day, because he's an archaeologist. It's all about what Martin finds out.

**Jane:** I finished reading the book at the weekend – it actually made me cry, but in a good way. The end is astonishing. How on earth do you get your ideas?

**Vanessa:** It's different with every book. For example, the first book, *The Meaning of Friday*, grew from finding a humble shepherd's hut on a walk in the hills of central Naxos. *The Search for Artemis*, the next mystery, was inspired by the name Artemis,



which led me to an ancient temple to Artemis called Brauron, and a wonderful potter called Stelios Ghikos on Paros became the model for one of the characters. Black Acorns began when I was picking up acorns in our garden here in Englefield Green, and found out that the black ones are the result of disease or trauma in the parent tree. Every book is different.

**Jane:** How many books have you written altogether? Six?

**Vanessa:** Yes, and a little book about Greek food, which I was asked to write because there's so much eating and drinking in the mysteries.

**Jane:** Your hero, Martin Day, is an archaeologist who has run away from modern life and buried himself on a Greek island to focus on what he loves best, the ancient past. Is that right? He's a great character. He keeps getting mixed up in things that involve crimes, doesn't he?

**Vanessa:** More or less, yes (and I'm glad you like Martin). The crimes vary. Some of the books concern the illegal trade in antiquities, a real problem especially in Greece, while others are about people being driven into situations they can't handle. There's always some connection with the ancient past, although the stories are actually set just before the pandemic, and the reader doesn't need to know anything about ancient history.

**Jane:** How often do you go to Greece?

**Vanessa:** I first went to Greece in 2005, and I've been back 28 times. I'm very lucky to have been able to travel all over the country, including to most of the ancient sites.

**Jane:** Not just Naxos, then. I guess you're famous on Naxos now, though?

**Vanessa:** Not really, but I have lovely friends there, and in May I'm giving a talk there about the books. People are pleased to have the series set on their island, and they're very kind to me, but there's no great fuss. That suits me.

**Jane:** Are you working on another book? Book seven?

**Vanessa:** Absolutely. In fact, that's an interesting one. I was approached last year by an archaeologist in charge of a current excavation on Naxos. He asked if I would include his dig in my next book. He's given me a huge amount of information, and it's a fantastic thing to be building a piece of fiction round an ongoing dig, but it brings added challenges because real people are involved. I'm enjoying it though. The idea is that the book will publicise the excavation, and vice versa. The excavation, though, is absolutely ground-breaking in itself.

**Jane:** Will there be dead bodies in this one, if it doesn't give too much away?

**Vanessa:** Mmm, I think it might be a bit of a spoiler. Besides, I haven't finished it yet. It's plotted, but not written. Books seem to develop a mind of their own. Let's see how it turns out!

***The Naxos Mysteries are available from Amazon as paperbacks or eBooks. Vanessa's website is [www.thenaxosmysteries.co.uk](http://www.thenaxosmysteries.co.uk), and the book series has a Facebook group. Sign up on the website if you would like to receive Vanessa's monthly newsletter. She is available to talk to groups and societies.***

## THE ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMUNITY SHOP



We've been here for a year, but you may not be aware that hidden away at 82, St Jude's Road in Englefield Green is a little gem of a community shop. We're proud to say that we're a non-profit organisation run by volunteers and artists for the benefit of our community.

The shop allows local artists and artisans to showcase and sell their work, including original artwork; framed photography of local landscapes; painted glass; unique greetings cards and bookmarks; jewellery and pottery, and aromatherapy (see further down for spotlighted artists) and secondhand books.

Apart from supporting local artists, our ethos is: re-use, recycle, up-cycle, and wellness.

We're very excited to be stocking [Faith In Nature](#) soaps, body washes, shampoos and conditioners. Faith in Nature is carbon neutral and B Corp Certified: all products and packaging are sustainable and recycled or recyclable. You can buy pre-filled bottles and return them to our shop for refill.

Our preloved clothes rail changes seasonally. We're very fortunate to receive great quality and often high-end clothing donations so we can sell some great brands at tiny prices. We have clothes for all ages and sizes.



We also have a HUGE selection of really beautiful and excellent quality baby and children's clothes. Prices start from just £1.

We feature some of our clothes on our Vinted shop (access the shop via the QR code at the end of this article). Do follow us to see the latest uploads. Stock is usually cheaper in the shop than on Vinted, so take advantage of being a local and get a great deal by popping in!

We regularly hold workshops - usually on a Saturday afternoon. Recent successes range from Willow Weaving to creating a Bespoke Perfume. You can take a look at our exciting workshop schedule and

book online, as they become available, or you can book and pay in the shop during opening hours. Workshop prices range from £20-£35 per person depending on the event and duration.

We're very grateful for support from our community and welcome new volunteers for 2 hour+ shifts. We gratefully accept and curate donations from the community; recent offerings have ranged from toy soldiers to rocking horses; from porcelain and china to newly-upholstered chairs. We're also very thankful for good quality, clean, seasonal, men's, women's, and kids' clothes that we can sell in the shop.

Stock changes frequently, so do make a point of popping in to see what we have in store. We're open Monday - Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. We look forward to meeting you. We're also on Facebook and Instagram: The Englefield Green Shop. Follow us for updates.



## Spotlighted artists and artisans:



**Clarisa Ayllon** is a Certified Clinical Aromatherapist. Her approach is based on a deep understanding of the benefits of aromatherapy as a balancing force in our daily lives. She provides skin, body and essential oils for the shop and offers individual consultations, on request. <https://www.clarisaayllon.com/>

**Melanie Frobisher** produces artwork from her printed photographic images. She specialises in local landscapes, especially Windsor Great Park and Runnymede. Melanie loves colour and depth and achieves both in every image she produces which are then giclee printed and framed. <https://facebook.com/melaniefrobisherphotoart>

**Michele Dias:** a local resident and professional teaching and exhibiting artist who loves to work with mixed media. Michele hosts some of our creative workshops at the shop, where several of her original artworks are displayed for sale, plus cards and bookmarks. <https://facebook.com/micheleleighdias>

**Janet Ludolf:** a local retired teacher who has a passion for various aspects of art. She mainly uses alcohol inks, acrylics and watercolours, but whatever the medium she always includes finger painting as an homage to her inner child! She is happy to accept commissions and orders for her designs on cushions, throws and prints. [pourfect.lyimperfect.com](http://pourfect.lyimperfect.com)

**Jodie Sadler's** creations are mainly smaller gifts and keepsakes, such as bookmarks, keyrings, mini canvases, and the like. Her greetings cards include a hand painted hanging decoration; something new and bespoke to send to a friend.

**Genevieve Neilson** is keen to upcycle and repurpose items as much as possible. A dislike of unnecessary waste and single use plastic inspires ideas for alternative uses. Ice cream tubs become under counter storage. Old crockery transformed into cake stands and cotton shirts into patchwork aprons or other fabric ideas. Any ideas to reduce waste are always gratefully received!



Vinted shop



Ticket Tailor Workshops

## LOCAL AUTHOR ALICE ALLAN TALKS ABOUT HER WRITING INSPIRATION



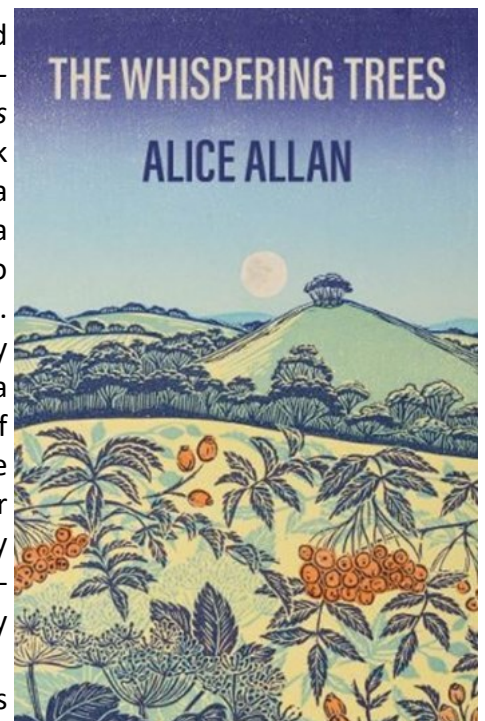
I moved with my family to the area just before COVID-19 lock down. Ironically, we'd moved back to the UK be closer to family, after living for twelve years abroad with the diplomatic service, in Japan, Ethiopia and Uzbekistan. That didn't go so well for those first years of the pandemic! How glad I was to be surrounded by wide open spaces, woodland and wildlife though, and not trapped abroad, unable to get back. Although our arrival back in Britain was a bit bumpy, we were very glad to have found a safe bolt-hole in Englefield Green.

I studied English at university, but have pursued a rag-bag of careers to fit around my husband's job. I started as an actress and narrator, then became a corporate trainer. I later qualified as a lactation consultant, working for years with breastfeeding mums, before shifting to public health communications with the World Health Organization. Looking back, it all connects—every experience has revolved around communication in some way. Whether through writing, narrating, or working in global health, my career has always been about finding the right words to make people feel, understand, and connect.



In Ethiopia, I worked with premature babies, in a big teaching hospital. My first novel, *Open My Eyes that I May See Marvellous Things*, (Pinter and Martin, 2017), which tells the story of a midwife who falls in love with an abandoned premature baby in an Addis Ababa hospital, was inspired by some of those deeply stirring experiences. My next book was for teens. *Sugar, Sugar* follows Scarlet, a dangerously rebellious teen with Type 1 diabetes (which my eldest daughter lives with). Then last year, my Young Adult novel, *The Whispering Trees*, was published by Blue Poppy Publishing. It has just been named The New Statesman Book of the Year 13+, which was a real boost, since certainly you don't write novels for the money!

I first started writing *The Whispering Trees* when I was back in London from a stint abroad, a mother to two small children. Writing was my way of carrying a piece of myself through those crazy toddler years, and a way to keep my connection to my much-missed Devon alive. At its heart, *The Whis-*





*pering Trees* is a love letter—to Devon, to the power of nature, and to the stories that keep us connected to the places we call home. It is also a story about conservation, about the delicate balance of nature and the role of farmers as stewards of the land. These themes feel more relevant than ever today.

More recently, my passion for protecting the environment led me to connect with like-minded villagers, and I helped to found *The Englefield Green Team*. With a band of volunteers, we have planted wildflowers on the bank of the village green, established fruit and nut trees for biodiversity, and even won a Bee-Friendly award for our village! I can often be found exploring Windsor Great Park with my very ancient Ethiopian street dog, Frank. Even in Devon, you don't see the wonder of 900-year-old oak trees.



My day job is writing emergency communications, on complex issues such as the war in Ukraine, and the situation in Gaza. It's challenging, often overwhelming, but it's a way of using storytelling to make a difference.

**Alice's books are available from Waterstones, Amazon, and the Englefield Green Village shop.**

**[www.aliceallan.co.uk](http://www.aliceallan.co.uk)**



# ENGLEFIELD GREEN VILLAGE FAIR

Date

**21ST JUNE**  
SATURDAY  
**NOON-17:00**

**Dog Show | Arena Events | Music**  
**Beer & Wines | Food Village**  
**Stalls | Mini Funfair**  
**Classic Car Show | Donkey Rides**

Place

**THE GREEN, ST JUDES ROAD**  
englefield green TW20 0YX



[www.egvfair.org](http://www.egvfair.org)



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**2, St Jude's Road, Englefield Green, TW20 0DB**

**<http://www.megna.uk.com>**

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## MY MAYORAL YEAR

*Cllr. Elaine Gill Mayor of Runnymede*



2025 is moving along at a fast pace and hopefully we can all look forward to Spring and fingers crossed a lovely Summer which we all deserve.

My Mayoral year has also moved along at great speed but the memories along the way since May 2024 will be treasured and there is still much to look forward to in the last couple of months.

Being out in the Community and meeting residents for me is the mainstay and highlight of the Mayoral role. From visiting nurseries, schools to care homes and chatting with everyone is where I will look back and remember those cherished times.

I have visited Englefield Green area on numerous occasions including Savill Garden for my first Charity event, Fair on The Green, a Classic Car Show, various events at Royal Holloway and also the RAF Memorial which is very special. The D-Day 80 lighting of the torch which then travelled to Normandy and Remembrance Sunday service where

members of Egham Band performed are personal highlights for me. The Egham Band Youth Brass project is one of my charities and there is a strong group of players at St. Jude's School. Also Bishopsgate School performed at my Civic Reception at Royal Holloway.

The Runnymede Civic Awards have just been held at Foxhills and what a magical evening. Having witnessed personally across the Borough the depth of community spirit and volunteering is quite unbelievable and to see so many recognised for their efforts was quite humbling. A great night for Runnymede!

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 VE80 is to be commemorated with flag raising at Civic Offices and Beacon lighting at St. Ann's Hill. 5<sup>th</sup> May, Bank Holiday Monday is a day for many to come together to commemorate VE80 and I hope to carry out some visits across the Borough. I do feel that Victory in Europe should be recognised as Victory for Freedom across the world and I am delighted that our French and German Town Twinning colleagues are coming to Runnymede for that weekend to signify the harmony and friendship between us. It is the first time in 60 years that all three groups have met in Runnymede.

Although only a short time of my Mayoralty remaining, if there are events you feel I could attend, please contact [the.mayor@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:the.mayor@runnymede.gov.uk)



## **Useful Numbers & Information**

### **Surrey Police**

Emergency or crime 999

General Contact 111

Crime stoppers 0800 555 111

### **Surrey County Council**

[www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Pavements, Potholes & Highways 0345 600 9009

### **Runnymede Borough Council**

[www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk)

Customer Services 01932 838383

### **Royal Holloway University of London**

[www.community@royalholloway.ac.uk](mailto:www.community@royalholloway.ac.uk)

01784 276612

### **Dial A Ride**

Runnymede Community Transport, door to door service for people with mobility difficulties.

01932 425050

### **Runnymede Medical Practice - 01784 437671**

Bond Street, TW20 0PF

[www.runnymedemicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.runnymedemicalpractice.nhs.uk)

### **Councillors' surgery East**

2nd Saturday of the month 9am (except Aug & Dec) followed by General Surgery at 10am

Monsell Room, St Jude's Church

### **Councillors' surgery West—one to one**

2nd Saturday of the month @ 3pm (except Aug & Dec)

The Hub, Larchwood Drive

### **The Village Centre**

Victoria Street, TW20 0QX

Cafe, Community Fridge, Foodbank, Child Contact Centre, Kids & Adult Classes

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk) 01784 471110

## **Room Hire**

### **The Edge Venue**

020 8720 7139

<https://edgevenue.uk/>

### **Englefield Green Community Hub**

01784 557040

email: [gulnar@thejourney.org.uk](mailto:gulnar@thejourney.org.uk)

### **The Jurgen Centre**

01784 477620

email: [thejurgenscentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thejurgenscentre@yahoo.co.uk)

### **John Monsell Room**

01784 434133

email: [enquiries@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:enquiries@stjudeschurch.info)

### **The Village Centre**

01784 471110

<https://www.villagecentre.org.uk/>

JOIN EGVRA by completing the form on our website  
[www.engagefieldgreen.org/join-us-or-donate](http://www.engagefieldgreen.org/join-us-or-donate)

# Reporting Noise Nuisance

If you are being disturbed by excessive noise from another property you can ask the council to investigate. They can act where they find the noise to be a 'statutory nuisance'.

Excessive noise at any time of day can be assessed as well as noise that disturbs sleep. Generally, responsibility for following up such reports falls to RBC Environmental Health, but other agencies may be involved depending on the nature of the incident.

In the first instance, and only if you consider it safe to do so, we suggest that you politely engage directly with those causing the nuisance in an attempt to resolve the situation.

## Report noise nuisance to Runnymede Borough Council



[www.runnymede.gov.uk/xfp/form/196](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/xfp/form/196)



[environmentalhealth@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@runnymede.gov.uk)



01932 838383



Reports to RBC outside of working hours will be managed the next working day.

For further information about statutory noise nuisance and for a quick way to report other issues on-line visit: **[www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk)** and follow the link to 'Report It'

## Please report crime & public order incidents to Surrey Police



[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)



999 for emergency crime in progress or 101 for non-emergency



*A joint communiqué from Egham & Englefield Green Village Residents' Associations*

