



ENGLEFIELD GREEN
VILLAGE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



Photo by: Alan Gordon

Dear Resident

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the EGVRA Newsletter and I hope you find the variety of articles an interesting read. We always welcome content from residents and local organisations. Even though I have lived in the village for nearly 40 years I have learned many interesting facts about our village from the articles we have published over the years.

I would like to pay tribute to two former members of our Committee who recently passed away, Alan Fone and Richard Scott. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing either of them but have heard of their valuable contribution to village life from many who did.

Alan Fone was a Committee Member and former Chair of EGVRA. He also served as a Trustee of the Englefield Green Memorial Trust. Alan lived with his wife Di in the village for many years and we are deeply

grateful for his work in the community which has benefited so many.

Richard Scott served as Treasurer under our former Chair Keith Bendall and was a Committee member for a number of years. He also served as Treasurer for the Englefield Green Memorial Trust from 2015 until his death in December 2025. Richard was a long term resident of the village with his wife Janet and was committed to our village and did whatever he could to preserve and improve it.

EGVRA's work would not be possible without residents like Alan and Richard who selflessly give their time to serve on our Committee or help with our projects. If you feel you could contribute to our work we would love to hear from you at contact@englefieldgreen.org.

Best Wishes
Amanda Willis and the EGVRA Team

PARKING MEETING INVITATION

11th May 1900-2000, Village Centre

Dear Resident,

You are invited to a meeting being held by Englefield Green Village Residents' Association to discuss the consultation on parking to be issued by Surrey County Council in mid-May. This consultation impacts the following roads – Alexandra, Albert, Armstrong, South, Harvest, Parsonage, Victoria, Greenacres and Barnway – but of course wider roads may be interested in the discussion too as student parking is increasing around the village. Residents are being offered the option of a permit scheme. No decision has been made and residents are able to put forward their support or opposition in the upcoming consultation. This meeting is to go over the proposals and ask any questions on how a permit scheme would work and what it means for residents in Englefield Green. We will also discuss the issue of capacity on the RHUL site and their plans to attract more commuting students.

Our county councillor, Marisa Heath, will be present to put forward the process on behalf of Surrey County Council and respond to questions as well as setting out any other options for the community to consider. She will update residents on discussions with RHUL to increase their capacity.

We hope you will be able to join us and take part in the discussion on this important issue for the village.

Amanda Willis
Chair of the EGVRA



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THERE ARE ALIENS AMONGST US

Dr Chris Towler, Englefield Green, February 2026

Last year I wrote an essay on a few of the less frequently observed insects living quietly in our environment. This year I have chosen to explore some of the growing numbers of new species appearing here. Perhaps we should all think about whether we welcome such new additions!

New species arrive here for a number of reasons, primarily climate change, deliberate introductions and accidental introductions.

As our environment warms, some birds and insects can simply fly here, extending their normal range of habitation. Similarly new species of sea creatures are appearing in the waters around our coasts. Perhaps you have read about the recent discovery of an octopus species which is new to the UK and the appearance of blue-fin tuna in our waters? And appearing in our gardens in recent years are new types of bee and wasp. One example is the Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*) (Picture 1).

This “new” species of bee was first recorded in Wiltshire

in 2001 and has since spread across England, Wales and parts of Scotland. It is quite easy to identify, having an entirely ginger brown top to the thorax followed by a black abdomen and a white tail. Far from being a troublesome alien, Tree Bumblebees are now recognised as one of the



1. Tree Bumblebee



2. Median Wasp

Big Eight widespread and common bumblebees in the UK. It behaves itself and, in pursuing its life cycle, plays its part in the pollination of plants. Whilst invasion by the Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is feared and will activate serious attempts to eradicate colonies found in the UK, largely on account of its aggressive nature and predation of honeybee colonies, another wasp appeared “quietly” in the UK in the 1980s – the Median Wasp (*Dolichovespula media*) (Picture 2). This handsome, relatively large wasp, is not dangerous

to humans nor overly aggressive to other native insect species. Like the Tree Bumblebee, it is now a part of the ecosystem as a pollinator. We have Median Wasps around here and you may well come across them between June and October. Look for their large size and yellow “tick” on the shoulders. Some “new species” stories are not really stories about new species at all but simply the result of successful re-introduction or conservation programmes. Perhaps the most obvious outcome of successful reintroduction is the

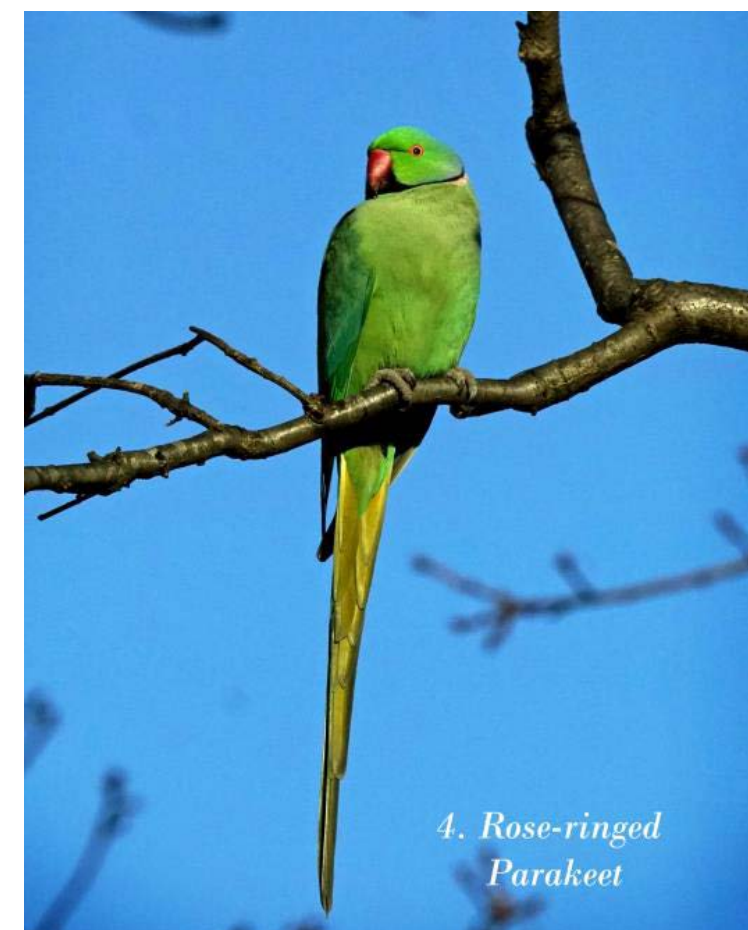


3. Red Kite

large number of red kites (*Milvus milvus*) (Picture 3) we see every day. The reintroduction programme was kicked off in the late 1980s and 1990s using kite chicks from Sweden and Spain. Sometimes I feel there are more kites than aeroplanes above our home! In fact, the programme to save Britain’s Kites was so successful that the species is now thriving across the UK, with estimates of more than 6,000 mating pairs or about 15% of the world’s population. And further, British-born red kite chicks

have now been taken to southwest Spain in attempts to rescue the rapidly-diminishing population there! It would be seriously remiss of me if I didn’t mention two other bird species which can be considered as “aliens” – the Rose-ringed, or Ring-necked, Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (Picture 4) which has become a common sight around this part of Surrey and the Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptica*) (Picture 5). The parakeets, which probably originated in

Pakistan or northeast India, have been popular aviary birds since Victorian times and almost inevitably



4. Rose-ringed Parakeet

birds escaped and became feral. Despite this, the first records of birds breeding in Britain date to as recently as 1969 in Kent. Since then, colonies have become well-established and as we know they seem quite at home in our part of Surrey. Whilst some consider these noisy birds to be a pest, others are less damning. After all, they have been here for over 50 years and no obvious or significant impacts on native wildlife have been reported. Personally, I believe they have found their place in the ecosystem and should now be considered as native birds. The Egyptian Goose which has become naturalised in parts of England, particularly Norfolk and our stretch of the Thames, are descended from imported birds in waterfowl collections. The birds, which are technically ducks rather than geese, being most closely related to Shelducks, originate in Africa. Their breeding habits are interesting; they will nest in holes in trees, under bushes or on islets in rivers. They have been known to hatch their chicks up to a kilometre

from water and escort their young there overland. The family group shown here did exactly that in 2023, setting off from Magna Carta Park. Whether they reached the Thames as a family unit is unknown. But, undeterred, the adults are back again this year. In the UK, Egyptian Geese are viewed as something of a pest due to their aggressive defence of breeding territories and potential for displacing other waterfowl. I'll conclude this short essay by considering one imported mammal which to many is undoubtedly a pest, and one which we have lived with for 2000 years. Yes, it's the "bunny"! It is widely accepted that rabbits are non-native and were brought to Britain by the Romans as a source of food. Well, the rest is history! Enjoy eating your Easter pests!

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5. Egyptian Geese

Fletchers Garage



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150 Years on the Green

The Extraordinary Story of Englefield Green Cricket Club

By Neil Denman

Nestled within sight of Windsor Castle and a short distance from the historic meadows of Runnymede, Englefield Green Cricket Club has been a cornerstone of village life since its official establishment in 1879. While the sound of bat on ball has echoed across the Green since at least the 18th century, with records of royal matches dating back to the 1740s, the club's history is far more than just sport. It is a story that touches Hollywood stardom, aristocratic patronage, and international fame.

General Sir Alexander Taylor: A Man of Empire

At the head of the club's early records stands General Sir Alexander Taylor, who served as President from 1891 to 1907. A distinguished senior officer in the Royal Engineers, Taylor embodied the Victorian ideal of military service. He served with distinction

in the Sikh Wars and the Indian Mutiny of 1857, and later oversaw major engineering works in India, including sections of the Grand Trunk Road. His leadership of the cricket club reflected a time when the game was viewed as a training ground for character and discipline, qualities that were seen as essential to the community.



financially to the building of the club's clubhouse. This uniquely local Hollywood connection remains a proud part of our heritage today.

The Marilyn Monroe Connection

Few village clubs can claim a financial contribution from a global Hollywood icon. In 1956, while filming The Prince and the Showgirl, Marilyn Monroe lived at Parkside House, which bordered Windsor Great Park. She and her husband, playwright Arthur Miller, became familiar faces in the village. Local history records that Monroe herself contributed

From the Green to the England Squad

The club has always punched above its weight, producing world-class talent like Holcombe 'Hopper' Read. A village local who captained the club in the 1940s and 50s, Read was known as one of the fastest and most exciting bowlers England ever produced. In 1935, he caused a sensation by bowling out the legendary Jack Hobbs in his opening over and later took six wickets for England at The Oval.

The Heart of the Green: 150 Years of Community Spirit

While the celebrity stories add glamour, the true backbone of Englefield Green CC has always been its volunteers. Since the Victorian era, the club has relied on residents who give their time to ensure cricket remains a vibrant part of village life.

The Legend of Ralph Hart

The ultimate example of this dedication was Ralph Hart. Starting as a player in 1903, Ralph served the club for over half a century. He was not just a star player with over 1,500 wickets and 3,000 runs to his name, he also served as the club's secretary, groundsman, and umpire. His commitment saw the club through two World Wars and established the community-first ethos that defines us today.

Cricket for All

Today, we are proud to be a club for all. Whether you are looking for competitive play or just a bit of fun, there is a place for you on the Green:

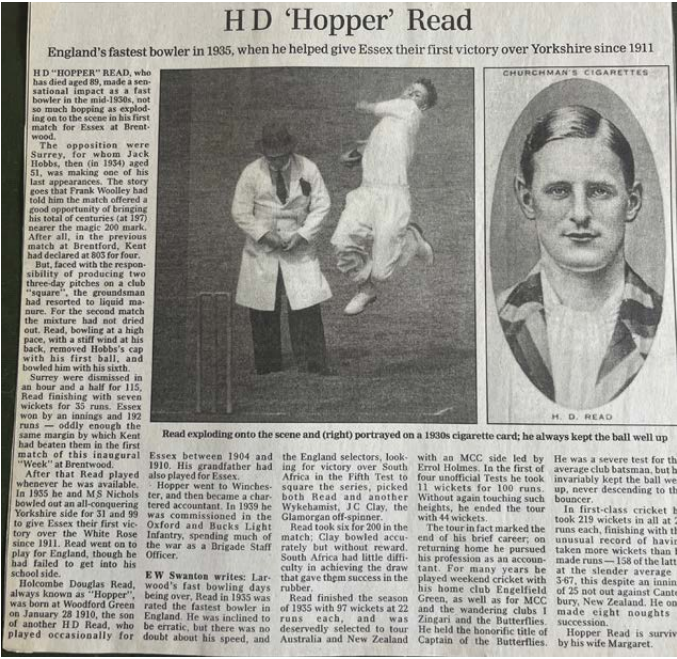
- Juniors: We nurture the next generation of village cricketers in a safe, fun, and supportive environment. 4 juniors have gone into County cricket in the last year alone.



- Seniors: We field competitive and social teams for all skill levels.
- Walking Cricket: Our latest addition is perfect for those who want a slower pace. Often described as 'beach cricket,' it is all about fun, socialising, and staying active, regardless of your fitness level or experience.

Join the Team

The club is entirely run by volunteers, and we are always looking for new faces to join the family. Whether you want to play, help with the grounds, pull a pint, make a match tea, or assist with social events, your contribution helps preserve this 150-year tradition for the next generation. Come and say hello on match day or join us for the Friday night BBQ. The best seat in the village is always by the boundary!



Update From Our SCC
Marisa Heath

OUR VILLAGE ROADS

The issue raised most often—from doorsteps to emails—is the state of our roads.

Many residents understandably ask why they're not in better condition. The reality is that most of the council's budget now goes to social care: about £810 million to adult services and £500 million to children's services. That leaves roughly £260 million for everything else, including highways, waste, environmental services, and planning.

Although highway funding has increased in recent years, it still falls short of what's needed for the large-scale resurfacing many roads require. A further challenge is the way national road funding is allocated—based on road length rather than usage—which disadvantages busy counties like Surrey, where traffic levels are among the highest in the country. Money raised in Surrey is sent to other areas to help fix their roads.

Locally, several roads in Englefield Green need attention, and I'm continuing to press for improvements. Egham Hill has been patched and is scheduled for full resurfacing next financial year. Wick Lane and South Road have recently been resurfaced, and I'm lobbying strongly for Middle Hill and Bakeham Lane to follow.

Please keep reporting potholes and defects at <https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk>. Resident reports genuinely help prioritise repairs. I'll keep pushing for fairer funding and resurfacing of our village's roads.

On other matters, we now have a final draft of the Runnymede Local Walking and Cycling Plan, which includes a route from Egham to Virginia Water. Residents can share their views in the consultation this summer.

The village 20mph consultation is also under way and a decision will be made in the early summer—it's entirely up to residents whether to support it or not.

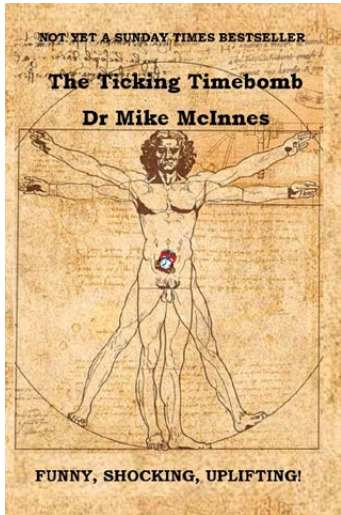
Lastly, the 2026 Surrey parking review is approaching, including a consultation on resident permits. Whatever your view, please take part. Together with EGVRA and the Neighbourhood Forum, we're continuing to urge Royal Holloway to expand parking capacity.



THE TICKING TIMEBOMB

By Dr Mike McInnes

If you have been driving around the village at around 8am or 5pm over the past few years, you will probably have seen me from time to time walking our Border Collie, Jack, on the Green. Sadly, he is no longer with us and we miss him terribly, but he was getting on for fourteen and had a great life, with three walks per day and lots of roast chicken (even if it was the cheap stuff from Sainsbury's).



Jack features prominently in a book I have recently published. I did chemistry at university, and wasn't a particularly gifted chemist, so writing a book wasn't an obvious thing to do. But I had been through two years of cancer treatment and had so many recollections and stories to tell: some funny, some shocking, that friends suggested I should write them down. I probably wrote the book for cathartic reasons, but also to raise awareness about my particular disease, and to give any proceeds to cancer charities.

I first went to the doctors in early 2019 with a change of bowel habit, was told that I probably had IBS and was given appointments to see the dietician. After repeated visits and no improvement, I was given a sample test kit, which came back negative and carried on with the dietary experiments. Finally, in February 2020, with symptoms worsening, I was given a colonoscopy appointment after reporting some bleeding. During the procedure, I had no sedation, and it was a harrowing experience to see the fluffy, cloud-like growths in my lower bowel that indicated stage 3 cancer.

I was told that my cancer had not spread and that it could be cut out, my bowel reattached, and that I should make a full recovery. As it turned out, this was not the case. After multiple scans, blood tests, 25 days of radiotherapy and chemotherapy tablets, I was admitted for surgery and was

told on the morning that my complete lower bowel needed removing and that I would have a permanent stoma. Another shock, but worth it if it was the price to pay for staying alive.

The surgery was difficult, taking eight hours, requiring two surgeons and did not result in the removal of all the cancer. There were three deposits remaining, which could hopefully be dealt with by chemotherapy. I came out of hospital with thirty-eight staples up my stomach, all sorts of needlework around the back which I couldn't see, and my new stoma bag to the left of the staples. Jack didn't understand and just looked imploringly at me to take him out, which after about a week, I was finally able to do. I'm certain that this enforced walking was a big help in my recovery.

My oncologist told me that it was 80% likely that the chemo would get rid of the remaining disease. I had a PICC line inserted into my right bicep and over the next three months had four infusions and eight weeks of tablets with some interesting side effects. Finally, in the spring of 2021, treatment was complete and I could enjoy the summer continuing my recovery and going in for the odd blood test or MRI scan.

I even managed to get back to playing a bit of touch rugby and golf despite all the ongoing COVID restrictions. In November 2021 I received the next bombshell. I had a message on my phone from the McMillan nurse at St. Peters asking if I could come into the hospital the following week. During COVID, most consultations were done over the phone, so I instinctively knew this meant trouble. Unfortunately, I was right. The cancer had returned, in three places, but all localised in the same area of the pelvis as before.

My oncologist told me that I was an unusual case, in that my recurring cancer had not spread elsewhere, and that further surgery was still a possibility, although this next operation would be a "big one".

The team who would carry out this surgery are very specialised and are based at St. Mark's in Harrow. A video call was arranged so that they could introduce themselves and take me through the procedure. This turned out to be even more shocking and worrying than anything I had

been through up to this point. They told me, as nicely as they could, that they would need to remove my bladder, my prostate, the seminal vesicles, a large section of my pelvic wall and even my coccyx. As far as I could remember, from O Level biology, there would be nothing left in there. What were they going to fill the hole with? Squirty foam or bubble wrap?

The team at St. Mark's were very busy and I would need to wait a number of months, so to try to stop the tumours from developing further, I was given another three months of chemotherapy during which time I went to a rugby match at London Irish in Brentford and managed to catch COVID in the bar. Thankfully, I had had a few jabs and was fortunate to have no symptoms, but had to cancel a chemo appointment and isolate for ten days.

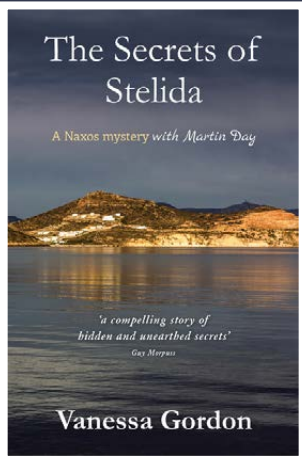
In May 2022, I was dropped off by my wife at the gates of the empty, COVID-restricted hospital in Harrow and made my way along the deserted corridors to the correct department. That evening the stoma nurse came in and drew a big dot on my stomach with a felt-tip pen opposite my existing stoma bag. This was where my new urostomy stoma was going to be sited as a replacement for my bladder. I continued taking the bowel prep. drinks to prepare for this next surgery and was collected at about 08.30 the following morning.

The surgery lasted from 09.00 till about 03.00 next morning. Around sixteen hours, I think. Needless to say, I wasn't in great shape the day after, with more staples, stiches, drains and other tubes inserted into me, but this time the surgery had been successful. A big chunk of me had been removed with the cancer in the middle of it somewhere. The team did a brilliant job for which I am extremely grateful.

I came out of hospital after about seventeen days and started the process of recovery once again. Jack nearly knocked me over as I came through the door and soon had me up and about, taking him onto the Green and trying to hang onto his lead with a crutch on the other arm.

In June this year I will have my four-year CT scan and blood test. Fingers crossed that the results come back negative again. Next year will be five years and I'm not sure if I will get to ring a bell at the hospital. I hope so. My heartfelt thanks go to all the NHS staff who treated and looked after me, everyone else who helped me and especially my wife, Suzy and, of course, Jack.

(if you want to read the book, it is available on Amazon or Books2read and all proceeds are going to cancer charities).



The Secrets of Stelida, the seventh book in the The Naxos Mysteries series by local writer Vanessa Gordon, has just been published (February 2026). This book has an interesting back-story ...

In July 2024 Vanessa was invited by Prof. Tristan Carter to incorporate his real

excavation on the island of Naxos into her next Naxos Mysteries book. Tristan, who is Head of Anthropology at McMaster University in Ontario and originally from the UK, directs the Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project (2013 - present). He offered to share all the information from the project with Vanessa while giving her a free hand in how she made use of it in her fiction. By May 2025, already at work on the book for some months, Vanessa visited the excavation herself when work on the site was in progress.

The resulting book is faithful to the important work being done at Stelida while incorporating the twists and intrigues we are familiar with in The Naxos Mysteries. It will be 'launched' in Greece and London during 2026 in conjunction with Tristan and the findings of the Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project.

A glimpse into The Secrets of Stelida
Professor Tim Lovejoy, an old university friend, invites archaeologist Martin Day to visit his excavation site on the summit of Stelida Hill. On this double-peaked ridge, already identified as a Stone Age workshop, a Bronze Age sanctuary has been found. This is Day's period, this is what excites him, and he joins the team. With the discovery of a piece of bone near the ancient sanctuary, however, the excitement chills into apprehension: could this have been the site of ancient human sacrifice?

Day confronts the criminal underworld of Athens, strives to understand a crime that has lain hidden for decades, and must rely on his instincts if he is to resolve the connection between the traditional island music and the tiny modern objects that he finds buried in the soil of sun-scorched Stelida.

The Secrets of Stelida is available through Amazon, bookshops and as an eBook.

WHAT'S ON AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Here is a selection of upcoming events at Royal Holloway that are open to the local community and visitors.

14 May 2026 | New Sounds: Folk Songs
A programme of contemporary folk-inspired music performed by Royal Holloway musicians, exploring traditional themes through new compositions.

Time: 8–9.30pm

Admission: Ticketed (via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-sounds-2026-folk-songs-tickets-1697740500539?aff=oddtcreator>)

More info: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/new-sounds-folk-songs/>

28 May 2026 | VOCES8 at Royal Holloway
Internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble VOCES8 performs a varied programme of choral music, from classical to contemporary.

Time: 7-10pm

Admission: £5–£35 (via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/voces8-at-royal-holloway-tickets-1980638001580?aff=oddtcreator>)

More info: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/voces8-at-royal-holloway-1/>

Open Stores – Emily Wilding Davison Building
Visitors are invited to explore Royal Holloway's collections through the Open Stores display, offering a behind-the-scenes look at objects not usually on public display.

Time: 10am–6pm daily



Admission: Free

More info: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/the-library/the-exhibition-space-at-the-emily-wilding-davison-building/open-stores/>

13 September 2026 | Heritage Open Day: Explore Royal Holloway
Admission: Free

The Founder's Building at Royal Holloway was home to one of the first higher education colleges for women and was opened by Queen Victoria in 1886. Modelled on the Château de Chambord, it is one of the most impressive university buildings in the world.

On our Heritage Open Day, we welcome you to explore our spectacular Grade I listed Founder's Building, Picture Gallery, Chapel and grounds. Join us for a day of free talks and tours including fun activities for children. All talks and tours are free, and there will be fun activities for children and adults.

Every year Royal Holloway holds a wide variety of public events, lectures and seminars. If you are not able to make our events in person or want to watch an event you attended previously, you can view recordings of selected past events online at <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/past-events>

To find out more about Royal Holloway's upcoming events, please visit: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/events/>

Community Matters
Royal Holloway publishes a regular newsletter, sharing updates on campus developments, upcoming works and local information, alongside stories from research, volunteering and community partnerships. You can sign up here: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/more/local-community/community-matters/sign-up-to-community-matters/>

Alternatively, use the QR code to sign up.



THE CHAPEL AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY – OPEN TO EVERYONE

The Chapel at Royal Holloway is located within the historic Founder's Building at the centre of the campus. It forms part of the University's Chaplaincy.

The Chaplaincy team includes chaplains from different faith traditions who support the spiritual life of the University community. The Chapel is a welcoming space for people

of all faiths and beliefs, and for anyone who simply wishes to visit.

While the Chapel plays an important role in student life, it is also open to the wider community. Local residents are very welcome to attend services, concerts and special events that take place throughout the year.

One of the best known events is the annual Lessons and Carols service, which brings together students, staff and local residents for a traditional celebration in the Chapel.

During the day the Chapel is usually open for visitors who may wish to step inside for a moment of quiet reflection.

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/student-life/our-campus/explore-the-campus/places-of-interest/the-chapel/>



Meet one of Royal Holloway's chaplains

DANIEL WALKER

Daniel Walker is one of the chaplains at Royal Holloway and serves as the University's Anglican Chaplain.

Daniel works alongside colleagues from other faith backgrounds as part of the University's Chaplaincy team. Together they help support the Chapel as a welcoming space for people of all faiths and beliefs. While the Chaplaincy supports students and staff across the University, the Chapel itself is also open to visitors and members of the local community.

Daniel is also a familiar face around Englefield Green. As a Christian priest, he often meets local residents while walking through the village.

"Though my full-time role is being the Anglican Chaplain of Royal Holloway, as a Christian priest I don't ever really 'clock out'," Daniel says. "Whenever I am walking around my local community in Englefield Green, people see my clerical collar and recognise who I am."

Over time he has introduced himself to many of the shops, cafés, pubs and schools in the village, talking with local residents about the University and the Chapel.

Daniel is also involved in the community in other ways. He volunteers with the Charity Book Stall at the United Church in Egham, where local volunteers raise funds for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care.

For Daniel, these connections with the local community are an important and enjoyable part of his role, helping people learn more about the University and the Chapel at Royal Holloway.



THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

Citizens Advice Runnymede was established in January 1986 and merged with Citizens Advice Spelthorne in 2011 to form Citizens Advice Runnymede and Spelthorne (CARS). As a small, independent charity with offices locally in Addlestone and Sunbury as well as 10 Outreach venues in libraries, food banks, community centres and churches across both boroughs, it is part of the national Citizens Advice Network and provides free, confidential and impartial advice on a huge range of issues. Clients can call the free Adviceline or drop in to any of the 10 outreach venues within the local area to speak directly to a highly trained and helpful Adviser about matters as diverse as housing/homelessness, debt and money, employment, consumer issues, mental and physical health, family matters, law and courts, food bank referrals, help in a crisis and much more. Housing Volunteers also attend Staines County Court to help clients who are facing summons for repossession or eviction.

Over 87 Years of Service

The first Citizens Advice Bureau opened in 1939 following a report by the National Council of Social Services (the forerunner of today's National Council for Voluntary Organisations) which identified the need to establish a service to meet the needs of the civilian population during war time. From the start, volunteers ran the service - working from public buildings and private houses, dealing with problems relating to the loss of ration books, homelessness, evacuation, locating missing relatives and prisoners of war. Debt quickly became a key issue as income reduced due to call-ups.

Fast forward to 2026 and CARS is a growing and high performing member of the Citizens Advice Network serving the people of the two most deprived boroughs in Surrey - Spelthorne and Runnymede. Due to its performance record, the charity also holds multiple contracts to deliver services across North West Surrey as well as Surrey-wide. Its work provides a safety net for many of the most vulnerable members of the local community.

CARS has embarked upon an ambitious journey to increase the number of people it supported across Runnymede and Spelthorne and, as a result, now supports over 8000 clients a year with more than 24,600

issues - a 174 % increase over the past few years. During the last financial year, its work resulted in just under £7 million financial benefit to clients in written off debt, avoided home evictions and support to access both ongoing financial and crisis support. The charity contributes £16.49 to society for every £1 it raises by donation or funding.

Volunteers remain the backbone of the service and are fundamental to its success and community purpose. CARS currently has over 40 volunteers supported by 23 paid staff. Volunteers praise the supportive, friendly and helpful spirit of CARS as well as the opportunity to improve CV skills and 'give back' to the community whilst volunteering. The charity has won numerous awards, including 'Volunteer Team Award' and 'Service to the Community'.

Facing Challenges Ahead

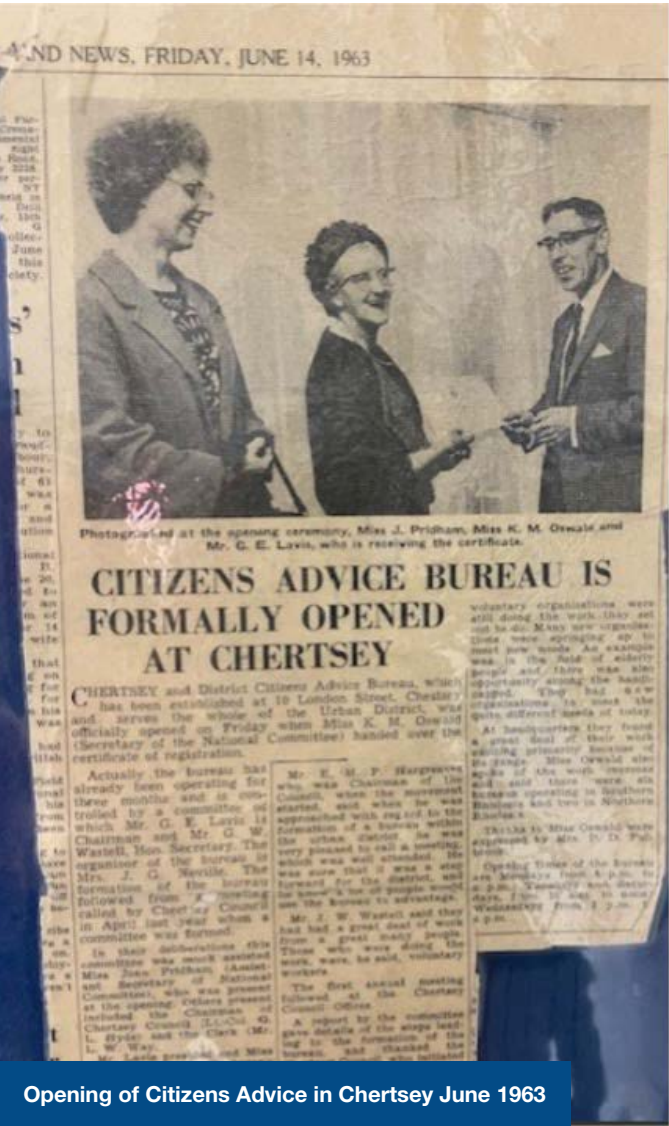
Like many small charities, the funding environment has become increasingly challenging for CARS, and the organization can't always meet demand. The Volunteer Trustee board has worked tirelessly with Chief Executive Becky Whale over the last few years to anticipate and provide stability for the service. CARS now runs 12 projects in addition to the core service, reaching more people and giving them what is often life-changing advice and support. Current projects include a £450k award from the National Lottery to help clients with debt, finance and money matters as well as projects focusing on Poverty Prevention, Mental Health and Food Bank support. Within



Citizens Advice 1939



The CARS Team at their ‘Go The Extra Mile’ Charity Walk in 2025, raising funds for Citizens Advice Runnymede and Spelthorne



Opening of Citizens Advice in Chertsey June 1963

the next month, CARS will launch a new project focusing on supporting Carers and helping them maximize their income.

In addition, the charity is staying one step ahead of local government reorganization, demonstrating across West

Surrey that local branches of Citizens Advice are ready to work together under the new local authority boundaries to ensure residents don't fall through the gaps local authority services transition.

Helping those in need

The charity's team were humbled and proud recently to receive feedback from a client highlighting just how important the service is: "Now there is light, hope, vision, drive - a huge thank you to Citizens Advice for all your help, I can't stress that enough because I was on the edge of taking my own life, now I want to live it."

If you've been inspired or helped by Citizens Advice, the charity is always looking for volunteers and donors from all walks of life – perhaps you or your business would like to hold a sponsored event to raise funds or make a donation, or you'd like to volunteer with the team to answer Adviceline calls, give advice at Outreach, help with admin, research, fundraising or advice support.

Visit www.randscab.org.uk or call 01932 827187 to donate or for more information on how to get involved. If you need advice, call CARS free on 0808 250 5706.

QR code links to CARS Just Giving page for donations <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/citizensadviceunnymedespelthorne>



ENGLEFIELD GREEN
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More than a shop, we're a welcoming space that brings people together, supports wellbeing, and helps protect our planet. Proudly serving our village, we promote sustainability, inclusivity, and community connection while collaborating with other volunteer-led organisations.

1. Eco-Friendly Values

We champion reduce, reuse, recycle, and are plastic-free, using paper bags and minimal packaging. 🌱

2. Upcycling & Creative Reuse

Old materials are transformed into durable, practical, and beautiful items—from jeans bags and cake-plate stands to memory bears and dog toys—keeping waste out of landfill.

3. Wellness & Healthy Living

Thoughtfully selected natural skincare, vitamins, and supplements support wellbeing inside and out.

4. Refill & Reuse

Shampoo, conditioner (including dog-friendly), hand cream, and natural hand soap—simple, affordable ways to cut single-use packaging. 🌿

5. Volunteer-Led & Community Powered

Run entirely by volunteers of all ages, including DoF students, offering skills, experience, and community support. 💚

6. Supporting Local Creators

We showcase unique work from local artists, celebrating creativity in our community. 🎨🌈

7. Community Projects & Giving Back

Projects include Knit for Love, a free essentials basket, and recycled Christmas card crafts—helping people while reducing waste. 💛



8. Affordable Options for Families

Low-cost preloved clothing, prom dresses, children's toys, and board games make everyday life and special occasions accessible. 💙

9. Books & Creative Activities

Affordable books, a £2 student book swap, and arts & crafts to inspire learning and creativity. 📖🎨

10. A True Community Space

More than a shop, we host workshops, events, and community activities—connecting and supporting everyone. 💛



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- ❖ COMBINED ORAL CONTRACEPTION
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- ❖ BLOOD TESTING
- ❖ STREP THROAT TEST AND TREAT
- ❖ EAR INFECTION TREATMENT
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GROWING FOOD AND FLOWERS TOGETHER AT THE HUB, ENGLEFIELD GREEN

The Hub, Englefield Green is a community centre with a garden around the borders of the carpark and building. During refreshments we socialise, share gardening knowledge and experiences in preparing and eating produce. We plan future gardening activity together.

The seeds of community gardening were sown during the covid lockdown in 2020 when the Hub delivered grow- at-home kits to local people on request. Those who lacked outside space to grow on plants were invited to bring them to the Hub, and drop by to water and harvest. As social distancing rules relaxed, we met to garden together.

There are four inter-generational gardening days during school holidays. Children are accompanied by their adults. Gardening and educational activities about nature, wildlife, and ecology are included. Lunch is provided using plants grown in the garden, which the children harvest and help to prepare.

In term- time on Thursday evenings a youth club runs at the Hub for children aged 7-11 years. Once a month gardening activities take place here, including opportunity to plant, harvest and eat food grown in the Hub's garden.

We work closely with the Hub's Community bee- keeping group "Bees at the Hub", promoting local bee keeping in gardens and community spaces.

We participate in the Royal Horticultural Society's "It's Your Neighbourhood" Scheme and been rated as outstanding for the last three years, for community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.

Gardening together sessions are on Wednesday mornings from March-October from 10am -12, and monthly through winter. We are amateur gardeners and welcome everyone, with and without previous experience. Do come along and join in the fun of growing together!

Find us at the Hub, Englefield Green, 57, Larchwood Drive, Englefield Green, TW20 0SL

Or e-mail lindajemmett@aol.com



Happy Man Wins CAMRA Award

The Happy Man pub has recently won the North Surrey Camra Pub of the Year Competition.

Landlord James Olroyd said " A huge thank you to all the breweries far and close to home that allow us to provide a wide range of ale for customers to enjoy. And to our wonderful customers for their continued support . An extra special thank you to the Happy Man Team and to Camra for their recognition of our Hard work".



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