

ELTHAM PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

No. 220 April 2018

EDITORIAL

The sun is attracting families and friends back into the park to enjoy its greenery and open spaces. Hopefully, it will disperse the gloom of the recent weeks of murky and misty weather. The Japanese cherries are now in full blossom, following the colourful displays of crocuses and daffodils.

We can look forward to a summer of culture and music with the tenth season of PARKSfest. Do come along to make the concerts a success! It is also time to book your place on the coach trip - this year, to Hastings.

Time is running out if you want to support the campaign to save our Victoria trains. Sign the petition now if you have not already done so!

We hope to see many of you at the AGM in May.

The Editor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's AGM will be held on *Tuesday 15 May 2018* at 7.30 pm at the White Hart Pub and Carvery, 2 Eltham High Street (just before Eltham Hill begins and opposite the church). Nomination forms for the election of officers can be obtained from elthamparkra@btinternet.com or by ringing **07530 528069**. They should be returned by *Tuesday 8 May 2018*, along with any items that members want to have included on the agenda. Agendas for the meeting will be available at the meeting.

We are intending to have an informal discussion about local issues following the formal business, and we are offering a free drink (beer, wine, soft drink or coffee/tea) for those who attend!

SCRAPPING OF TRAINS TO VICTORIA

Despite 90% of respondents to the Department of Transport's rail franchise consultation objecting to any reduction in the number of existing London mainline destinations, it is now the Government's intention to eliminate all trains to Victoria on the Bexleyheath Line after the South Eastern Trains franchise is awarded later in the year. This decision will have a significant effect on the quality of services from Eltham to central London. To help help prevent this from happening, you can sign the online petition:

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<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/206880>.

The deadline for signatures is *6 June 2018*. 10,000 signatures are required to force the Government to respond to the petition. 100,000 are needed to trigger a debate in Parliament. On 17 April 2018, the petition had attracted 5,643 signatures, so prompt action is needed!

PARKSFEST 2018

Continuing Council funding will mean that this summer will see the tenth year of live entertainment in the parks. Eltham Park South will be one of eleven parks across Greenwich participating in the programme. There will be three events in the park:

Sunday 17 June at 3 pm: Greenwich Youth Band
Sunday 8 July at 3 pm: Greenwich Concert Band
Sunday 22 July at 3 pm: Los Dawsons

SUMMER TRIP

The annual EPRA excursion will be to Hastings this year on *Sunday 1 July 2018*. The coach will leave from Eltham Park at 9 am and will depart from Hastings at 5 pm. The cost is £10 per person, and residents who wish to come on the outing should call Terry on **07530 528069**.

Hastings, given its name by the 1066 Battle of Hastings which took place nearby, has recently developed a strong artistic identity. It has become known as the Shoreditch of Sussex because of its museums and galleries, and it has sea and sand as well! The Jerwood Gallery exhibits contemporary British art, and the Fishermen's Museum and the Shipwreck Museum recall the maritime history of the town. In fact, Hastings remains the home of the largest beach-launched fishing fleet in Europe.

ELTHAM SOCIETY

Have you ever wondered about some of the names now appearing on benches and stone seats along our new High Street? The Eltham Society's recent Eltham in Pictures event at St Mary's Community Complex in the High Street entitled *Sitting Pretty in Eltham* had potted histories and photographs of all 33 individuals. The event was opened by local international Paralympic athlete and wheelchair rugby player, Andy Barrow, and proved to be a great success. A follow-up booklet is

proposed.

In addition to its quarterly newsletters and monthly meetings at the Christchurch Centre, to which visitors are welcome, the Eltham Society also arranges visits to places of interest in and around London and welcomes new members of all ages. Visit the website www.theelthamsociety.org.uk for further information.

John Yeardley

ILLEGAL AND ROGUE TRADERS

There is a continuing problem of illegal and rogue traders operating in the area. Often, they appear at the doorstep and offer their services in a forceful way. It is best to avoid agreeing to have work done on the spot. But, if traders are pestering you or threatening to return later, you should immediately contact the Council's Trading Standards Neighbourhood Response team, which works closely with the police to disrupt the activities of illegal and rogue traders.

The team can be contacted on **020 8921 8223** or tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. You should be particularly wary of callers who are insistent in their manner, who quote a low price without looking at the proposed work and who do not give their address.

ELTHAM PARK 5 MILE RACE

The 21st annual New Eltham Joggers Running Club's 5 mile race will take place in Eltham Park South on *17 June 2018*. There is also a 1 mile family fun run prior to the main event. This year's event will be supporting the local Demelza Children's Hospice charity.

The event is best described by one of last year's competitors: 'Lovely course with a mix of park and woodland, plus a very short pavement section. A couple of inclines add a bit of interest but not enough to wreck your legs. Lovely atmosphere, helped by including the family fun run beforehand. Tech t-shirt with early entry and local beer on finishing made price tag very reasonable. One I really want to return to.'

The run starts promptly at 11 am and will be chip timed with all race bibs, t-shirts to be collected on race day. Race entries are through <https://ep-5.eventbrite.co.uk>. For further details of your local running club, go to <http://nejrunningclub.co.uk>, or check us out on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/ElthamPark5/>.

EPRA ROSE SHOW

Do you remember the EPRA Rose Shows? They were held in St Luke's Church every year. What a lovely sight it was as you entered the church hall. Can you imagine the scent and the colours of the roses? There were many categories to enter, such as One Rose in a Vase, Three Roses in a Vase, Stem of Floribundas, Gent's Buttonhole and One Bloom Fully Open, to name but a few.

I am not sure how long it ran for, but I have unearthed my winning certificates from 1984 to 1992. I managed to get 6 Firsts, 8 Seconds, 9 Thirds and 1 Highly Commended over the years. Cups were given out to certain category winners, and these were retained for a year until the next competition.

There was keen competition amongst the rose growers of Eltham, and in those days roses were a very popular shrub. Fewer cars meant that residents still had front gardens planted with shrubs and roses.

In the spring/summer, have a look around as you walk through Eltham, and see how many gardens you can spot with roses growing in them. I bet you won't find many.

Len Faulkner

THE HISTORY OF ELTHAM PARK

Republican Eltham 1

In the autumn of 1649, a Parliamentary survey of Eltham was interested in those trees of Eltham which were fit for timber for shipbuilding in the dockyards at Deptford and Woolwich. 4,000 trees were felled for the national shipbuilding yard at Deptford., and 4,000 for firewood. Oak, elm and ash trees were felled until 1657.

In his diary, Evelyn noted on 26 April 1656: 'I went to see his majestie's house at Eltham, both palace and chapell in miserable ruins, and the woods and parks destroyed by Rich the Rebel.' In 1652, Evelyn had been robbed at Blackheath on his way home from Tunbridge Wells. He informed the JP, Blount, who raised the hue and cry. By the time Charles II landed at Dover on 25 May 1660, Eltham Palace was in ruins, its buildings destroyed, its hall a barn.

Sarah Newman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

16 May 2018 - 19 May 2018: the Bob Hope Theatre presents 'A Trip Across the Universe', with music and lyrics by the Beatles. Tickets at £14 each can be obtained on **020 8850 3702** or at bobhopetheatre.co.uk.