

# **LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2015 AGM NEWSLETTER**



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

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association will take place at The Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury, on Wednesday 1st July at 8 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chairman's Report**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Election of Officers and Committee**
- 6. Presentation on the Flora and Fauna of Lower Sunbury by Phil Cribb**
- 7. Open Forum**
- 8. Any other business**

Please note that we do not circulate the Minutes of last year's AGM or the Association's audited accounts with this notice, because to do so would generate disproportionate printing costs. Copies will be available at the AGM, and will also be posted on our web site. If you are unable to visit the web site but would like to see the documents in advance of the meeting, please contact Paul Thompson, LOSRA Chairman, whose details are included in this newsletter.

## **Presentation by Dr.Phil Cribb on the Flora and Fauna of Sunbury is centrepiece of this year's AGM**

Regular attendees at LOSRA's AGMs will know that we always like to provide an interesting and informative feature as part of the evening to counter the sometimes rather dry business of the evening, although the Chairman's report and the Open Forum at the end usually also provide some entertainment of their own particular kind.

This year, we are very fortunate that local resident Dr. Phil Cribb, who is a world-renowned botanist and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, has agreed to give a presentation on the Flora and Fauna of Sunbury.

He gave a version of this talk at the Embroidery Gallery last year as part of an exhibition of photographs of The Wildlife of Sunbury Park taken by Phil and local photographer Vic Kettle, and these photographs and more will form part of the presentation. Having seen that talk, we were very keen that Phil should bring it to our AGM.

Dr.Cribb is a botanist who started working at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in 1974, retiring in 2006 as Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium and Curator of the Orchid Herbarium. He currently holds Honorary Fellowships at Kew

and at Royal Holloway College, University of London. Over the past 40 years he has led or participated in many expeditions, written several books and more than 380 scientific papers, and most particularly is a global authority on orchids. He is a member of three committees of the Royal Horticultural Society. Dr. Cribb is also a keen and hugely knowledgeable observer of wildlife, and a walk with him provides insights into creatures and plants of which the layman is totally unaware. He is Chairman of Spelthorne Natural History Society.

Lower Sunbury has a surprisingly rich and varied natural environment, which LOSRA is, of course, committed to protecting for the benefit of residents and subsequent generations, and for those interested in finding out more about it, what to look for and how to see and appreciate it, this is an ideal opportunity to acquire some well-informed insights from an genuine acknowledged expert, who is also a very entertaining speaker.

Dr.Cribb has given LOSRA valuable input over the years where our planning campaigns have needed expert input on environmental matters, and we are grateful that he has agreed to make the time available in his busy schedule to come and talk to us at the AGM.

# Consultation on proposals for a cycle/footbridge over the Thames draws high level of positive response. Have you voted yet?

We are very grateful to all those residents who attended the exhibitions advertised in our Spring newsletter and for their very helpful feedback on our proposal for the construction of a cycle/footbridge connecting Lower Sunbury to the Thames Path National Trail.

You will note that a ballot sheet flier for the proposed cycle/footbridge has been enclosed within this newsletter.

We have had a very encouraging response from those who have already completed the ballot online or on forms supplied at the various drop-in exhibitions, but although the turnout of people at the consultation events was very good, we are not convinced that we have yet reached all residents in the Lower Sunbury Area who might be interested.

If you have not completed the ballot we urge you to do so. If we get a high number of respondents, it will be

very persuasive when it comes to demonstrating our strength of purpose to the various authorities.

If you have completed the ballot please disregard the flier as it will be rejected by the programme for the analysis of results if you have already voted.

The ballot (together with the full report) is still available to complete online by clicking the banner on the top of our website home page at [www.losra.org](http://www.losra.org)

The positive comments we have so far received may suggest a high level of expectation that the bridge will be built within a reasonable time. We cannot, of course, give such an assurance. As mentioned in earlier publications, this is a tentative first step which will allow us to have a plan on the table if and when funding streams become available.

# Surrey County Council rules that EcoPark passes “value for money” test

The saga of this untried, untested, unnecessary and unwanted monstrosity lumbers on, with Surrey County Council (SCC) brushing aside valid technical objections. Delays to the planning process have, however, caused the contractor to call for a revision of the pricing and construction timetable. This, in turn, has made SCC revisit affordability and value for money aspects. Unfortunately this value for money examination was carried out behind closed doors, despite many relevant questions posed by LOSRA and Spelthorne Against the Eco Park (SATEP) members.

The value for money report was reviewed by SCC's Cabinet on 28th April and passed, despite the estimated cost rocketing by £16M in the past 18 months. LOSRA and SATEP believe

there are simpler and cheaper methods of disposing of waste, and so, remarkably, does the contractor SITA – watch their video which is available within this story on the LOSRA web site.

SCC and SITA, its waste consultants, are still insisting that the technology is ‘gasification’ despite Ofgem’s definition that it can’t possibly be. There are two possible reasons for this stubbornness; if the definition is changed to incineration rather than gasification the original planning consent is void and the whole thing goes back to the beginning. Gasification attracts three times the subsidy for electricity generation over ordinary incineration (think windfarms and solar panels).

Gasification is the Holy Grail of the waste disposal business, and at present

# Join Spelthorne’s celebration of the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta on Sat. 13th June

The 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215 is being celebrated in style along the borough’s stretch of the River Thames on 13 June.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a joint river spectacle featuring a flotilla from Sunbury to Staines-upon-Thames, taking in Shepperton Village Fair and culminating in a free Medieval community celebration at its destination.

This is a momentous day in both national and local history, and Spelthorne Council have made sure that there is an opportunity for everyone to have a great day out, with lots of ways of getting involved. You can even join the river flotilla on a boat trip, with pick-up points at Kings Lawn in Lower Sunbury.

The celebrations include a Baron’s Gathering at Lammas Park in Laleham, with a variety of medieval attractions through into the evening.

Full marks to Spelthorne for giving everyone a chance to make the most of the event. You can details by following link from our website story, or at <http://www.losra.org/docs/MagnaCartaeventsSpelthorne.pdf>.

it is just as unattainable especially on a site as small as the Community Recycling Centre at Charlton Lane. Also available via the web site story is a recent Private Eye article giving a whistleblower’s account on the monitoring of highly toxic particulate emissions caused by incineration.

This extraordinary long-running story continues to establish new lows as an example of unsatisfactory governance at Surrey County Council, which regrettably has eroded the willingness of residents to take the pronouncements of both council officers and elected representatives at face value. Issues of commercial pressure and what seems like a perverse determination not to be seen to be giving in to well-informed expert arguments from residents, have prevented people whose role it is to serve the interests of Surrey residents from making the right decisions.

## THE LOSRA COMMITTEE

Shirley Agar	87 Manor Lane	765517
Elleke Carling	3 Croysdale Avenue	882726
Tony Crabb	38 The Avenue	782083
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606
Iain Findlay (Treasurer)	58 Thames Street	783739
Peter Francis	Linden Lodge, Woodlands Drive	770661
John Hirsh (Deputy Chairman)	21 School Walk	07515 637474

Neil Huntingford	Summer House, Wheatleys Ait	783761
Oliver Parr	Orchard House, Thames Street	765229
George Rushbrook	8 Meadows End	788471
Paul Thompson (Chairman)	12 Brackenwood	07788 107500
Paul Watts (President)	87 The Avenue	788449

# Why You Should Be A LOSRA Member

## LOSRA's AIMS

The Association's purpose is to optimise and enhance the quality of life for Lower Sunbury residents by all appropriate means.

In particular, this involves pursuing these key strategies and objectives:

- To stimulate public consciousness and appreciation of the appearance and character of Lower Sunbury.
- To work for the continued maintenance and enhancement of the Lower Sunbury Conservation Area.
- To prevent housing development which is out of character with the area, especially development which increases housing density inappropriately, and which involves demolishing existing good houses and building on existing domestic gardens.
- To press for the preservation and extension of Green Belt and public open spaces, and work to protect the local environment.
- To support the development of Lower Sunbury's commercial life and public services, consistent with environmental objectives.
- To press for appropriate traffic management or exclusion measures.
- To maintain and enhance the strong sense of community and social cohesion within Lower Sunbury.
- To work with other amenity organisations in support of the Association's aims.

## Some of LOSRA's Campaigns & Achievements

Since its foundation in 1972 LOSRA has been involved in many local issues, with its aim always being to promote the local environment and the well-being of Lower Sunbury residents.

- It was originally founded when a proposal was made to build a by-pass taking heavy traffic away from Thames Street but directly through the main residential area of Lower Sunbury. The proposed scheme was finally abandoned and it is now the landmark linear Hawke Park which runs between Oakington Drive across French Street and The Avenue to Green Street. LOSRA was intimately involved during the design phase of what is now recognised as a much valued asset for Lower Sunbury.
- LOSRA also played a major part in the successful campaign to achieve the abandonment of the Heathrow - Gatwick helicopter link. The link involved 24 flights per day at low height and directly over Lower Sunbury.
- The development of the Conservation Area, campaigning for Orchard Meadow to be used as a village green, and opposing building development on the unspoilt Rivermead Island, are all examples of LOSRA's local role.
- It gave financial support to the Walled Garden project and supported the Spelthorne In Bloom initiative.
- LOSRA devised and promoted the idea of the Sunbury Trail and produced the official Trail Guidebook.
- The fight to protect our Green Belt includes protecting the area between Sunbury and Shepperton from being turned into gravel extraction sites and so bringing vast numbers of heavy lorries into the area for many years to come. LOSRA has attended successive public inquiries on the matter and the work continues today.
- LOSRA are currently holding a watching brief on the possible development of any Green Belt areas including that at Kempton Park.
- LOSRA opposed the Council's original decision to demolish the Benwell Community Centre.
- It has supported individuals and groups within the area in their successful opposition to the over-development of sites including the old London Irish RFC site from 300+ proposed units to 194, Lendy Place on Green Street reduced from 57 to 27 units and the old Environment Agency Works on Fordbridge Road reduced from 88 to 37 units.
- Sunbury Health Centre has been a recent concern for local residents and its ability to cope and provide adequately for a growing local population. LOSRA is now actively involved in the Patients' Participation Group which works collaboratively with clinicians to improve facilities and services.
- The commissioning of a feasibility study for the construction of a cycle/footbridge to connect Sunbury to the Thames Path National Trail at Walton, with the help of sponsors, is LOSRA's most recent initiative.
- LOSRA works closely and constructively with the local Council, ward councillors, Surrey County Council, the Police and other bodies, on issues of mutual interest.

**For more information about LOSRA, how it works and how you can help, go to the website at**

**[www.losra.org](http://www.losra.org)**

## LOSRA Membership for 2015 Payment Options

### By Standing Order

We have introduced the convenient option to pay by Standing Order (see the second slip below). This will save you the trouble of renewing each year as it will automatically be done for you until you request it to be stopped. Once we see that your Standing Order has gone through, we will confirm it. We hope this will make the process easier for everyone.

You can also set up your own Standing Order if you use internet banking. If you do this, please put your post-code and house number as the reference.

### By cheque or cash

The annual subscription is still just £5 per household. For payment by cheque or cash, please drop into Skinners Newsagents/Post Office in Avenue Parade, or Twirltour Travel in Green Street

### Via Paypal

This can be done on the website [www.losra.org](http://www.losra.org).

### Life Membership

There is also the option of Life Membership of £100 with a one-off payment.

If you are not sure that you are up to date with your payments or you need further information about membership, please contact Shirley Agar, Membership Secretary, on 01932 765517 or by email [shirleyagar1@aol.com](mailto:shirleyagar1@aol.com) and we will be pleased to advise. Thank you very much for your continued support.

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### Membership payment slip 2015 for CHEQUES OR CASH

I wish to pay the annual subscription to LOSRA for £5.00 per household and a donation for £..... (please enter amount, if you would like to make a voluntary donation)

Name/s. ....

Address .....

.....Post Code.....

email .....

Telephone..... Date .....

Please make cheques payable to LOSRA. Forward to: Shirley Agar, Membership Secretary, 87 Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames TW16 6JA, or to Skinners or Twirltour.

AGM2015

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### Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to Pay by STANDING ORDER

To the manager.....

Bank/Building Society .....

Address of your bank .....

.....Postcode.....

Name of account holder (s): .....

Please make payments to LOSRA at Barclays Bank, Account number: 90581194 Sort Code: 20 4673 detailed below and debit from my/our account:

Your bank account number:.....

Your sort code:.....

Annual membership £5.00:

To be paid on the DDMMYY, then on 1st January annually

Reference: LOSRA

(Please fill with up to three digits of your house number or house name - this will appear on your bank statement)

Signature (s): .....

Please send this portion to your bank or building society – DO NOT SEND TO LOSRA

**Bank Instructions : Please confirm to : The Treasurer, 58 Thames Street, Sunbury on Thames TW166AF**