

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2013 AGM NEWSLETTER



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 12th June at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Presentation on Cattle Grazing in Sunbury Park by Officers of Spelthorne Council
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 John Hirsh, LOSRA Chairman, whose details are on the back of the newsletter.

Spelthorne Council Officers to give presentation on Cattle Grazing in Sunbury Park at this year's AGM

Although we are very fortunate that our meetings are generally well-attended by residents, usually because there is rarely a shortage of important issues to discuss. However, we always try to have a special feature at our Annual General Meetings to make them something of an occasion and to provide those who make the effort to come with some special insight or interest.

This year we decided to make Cattle Grazing in Sunbury Park our topic for a presentation and discussion, because not only is it clearly an issue which has caused residents some concern but also because there has been a distinct shortage of information and background available to residents.

When this proposal first came up a couple of years ago, as reported in previous LOSRA newsletters, Spelthorne's officers had undertaken to Friends of Sunbury Park that before any decision was taken, a consultation would take place which would involve bringing a couple of the cows in question into the Park for a weekend under supervision, with an associated exhibition of

the proposal's implications and Council officers and someone from Surrey Wildlife Trust, who manage the herd, available to answer questions. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, this didn't happen, and we understand that Spelthorne committed themselves to the scheme because there were deadlines for applying for the funding for infrastructure changes needed in the Park—gates, fences etc..

As a result there have been all sorts of rumours and misinformation flying around, and some worrying indications of shifts in position—for example, where originally the Friends of Sunbury Park were told that the cows could happily co-exist with dogs, story in Sunbury Matters with Spelthorne's Biodiversity Officer referred to restrictions on dog walkers.

We thought it was time to get everything out into the open and make all the facts, timings and implications available to residents, so this is your chance! Jackie Taylor and David Hicks from Spelthorne Council have kindly agreed to come to the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions. We are grateful to them for their input, and we are sure there will be a lively discussion.

LOSRA 40th Anniversary Garden Party Sunday 16th June 12-5pm at The Old Vicarage, Church Street

As noted in our Spring newsletter, LOSRA is repeating the Garden Party which we inaugurated last year in the grounds of the Old Vicarage in Church Street at the invitation of the owners Mr. & Mrs. Michael Heslop, who kindly made it available for a fund-raising event in appreciation of LOSRA's work on behalf of the community, and to celebrate LOSRA's 40th Anniversary.

Mr. & Mrs. Heslop have generously repeated the invitation this year, and since it was so successful, we are doing it again, on Sunday June 16th from noon until 5pm. This is Father's Day, so it's an opportunity for an enjoyable family occasion. Tickets at £5.00 may be purchased at Skinners Post Office in Avenue Parade or by using the secure PayPal facility on the LOSRA website at www.losra.org. Under 13s will be admitted free.

The offering will be similar to last year, with a few other attractions added, with a variety of food on offer, a bar serving Bucks Fizz and a variety of other drinks, tea and coffee. There will be stalls with various goodies for sale, 'live' jazz and classical music. Boat trips on the Thames from the nearby King's Lawn aboard *Jeff*, one of the Dunkirk 'little ships' will be a popular attraction.

The calls on LOSRA's finances have increased dramatically over recent years, primarily because of the need on occasions to call on special legal and consultant's advice and services over major planning and development issues where specialist help and representation was needed.

The opportunity to hold an event such as the Garden Party to raise extra funds is therefore very welcome, so we hope you will want to come and support it and participate in an enjoyable community gathering at the same time.

Please help us continue our work by paying your subscription

As we have pointed out in the article about the Garden Party, although LOSRA is financially in a very sound position, we are increasingly having to find quite large sums from time to time to pay for advice and specialist help in order to fight major planning applications.

We therefore need to ensure we have a solid "fighting fund" to ensure we are able to do this if things arise at short notice. Please help us by paying your subscription for 2013 of £5.00 using the form below or via the web site, or you can become a Life Member for £100.

Are you interested in joining the LOSRA Committee?

Two or three of our Committee members are standing down this year after many years of service, so we need some new Committee members who are interested in carrying on the work, that's now been going for 40 years, of protecting our area from inappropriate development and maintaining the quality of life in our community. This is even more important in the context of the changed planning regulatory environment and the difficult economic circumstances.

It doesn't require specialist skills or knowledge (although it's always useful if you have relevant professional expertise), just the commitment of some time, energy and a preparedness to participate in our discussions and campaigns, as well, of course, as a commitment to our objectives. If you are interested, please contact Colleen Cuthbert at colleen.cuthbert@btinternet.com or by telephone on 783606.

THE LOSRA COMMITTEE

David Banks	38 Kenton Avenue	789652	Jenny Grant	Riverbank, The Creek	780682
Pamela Cabannes-Barrall	4 Forge Mews	761131	John Hirsh (Chairman)		07515 637474
Elleke Carling	3 Croysdale Avenue	882726	George Rushbrook	8 Meadows End	788471
Ziz Coltart (Treasurer)	4 Academy Court, Fordbridge Road	765067	Matt Thomas	7 Nursery Road	787709
Tessa Cook	125 The Avenue	700264	Paul Watts (President)	87 The Avenue	788449
Don Cunningham	2 Parkwood Grove	889033	Muriel Wallsgrove	Weir End, Parke Road	770236
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606	Chris Wills		
Peter Francis	Linden Lodge, Woodlands Drive	770661	David Woods	47 Sunna Gardens	786806

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not paid your subscription for this year, could you please help us by paying your subscription either by debit or credit card using the secure PayPal facility on our website at www.losra.org or dropping your subscription in to one of our two collection points using the tear-off slip below. You can deliver it to either of the following shops : Skinners Newsagents/Post Office in Avenue Parade; Twirltour Travel in Green Street. Our thanks to these businesses for their help in providing this service. As advised in our previous newsletters, the subscription increased to £5.00 from the beginning of January 2008. You can also become a Life Member of LOSRA for £100.

Please find enclosed my annual subscription of £5.00 for family membership of the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association for the calendar year 2013. In addition, I would like to make a donation of £..... (SPR13)

Name:..... Address :
.....Tel. no. : E-mail address.....