

1. Evington Park House Neighbourhood Centre

The Friends of Evington and the Neighbourhood committee continue to look at ways to encourage community useage of the house, and thank the ward for £1000 grant to enable this process to happen. The following new groups (new since the grant) are running:

Community lunches - Saturdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Food is free and people may also join in with other groups that meet at the same time (or just a little earlier)

Craft group - Saturdays 11.30 onwards.

Cartoon drawing group - Saturdays 11.30 onwards, starting 21st June.

Yoga group – now back in the house on Wednesday evening.

History and Heritage group (monthly)

Also next Saturday, there will be a big picnic in the park, see enclosed poster. There will be sport and other fun activities as well as usual Saturday activities.

I have been in correspondence with Environmental Health people concerning the kitchens in Evington Park House and they have kindly agreed to come and give Friends of Evington help so that we can progress from having to bring in ready prepared food for the community lunches to being able to prepare food on site. We are grateful for the £500 grant from Evington Ward to help with upgrading the mini kitchen in Evington Park House. Once the city council have repaired a rotting beam, then this can progress too. I hope that initially changes to the larger kitchen will be small and just about following the food and hygiene legislation.

In the future, Friends of Evington will be providing free tea, coffee, sugar etc. in the 'community kitchen' so that all groups using Evington Park House can access this to make their own refreshments. (There isn't enough storage space for all the groups to have separate cupboards. We hope to continue to organise fair ways of sharing with existing and new groups.)

2. Evington in Bloom. The Evington in Bloom team are responsible for leading on the presentation of the judging days. The various 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups and community groups do the work in their areas, supported by the various City Council staff. There are the following 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups: Friends and Neighbours Downing Drive, It's Your Neighbourhood Evington Village, Grace Works (based at Wycliffe United Reformed Church) It's Your Neighbourhood, Goodwood and Friends of Piggy's Hollow. The community groups helping with the 'In Bloom' project are too numerous to list, but if Friends of Evington can develop an Evington in Bloom Information Centre, more information will be available.

The East Midlands in Bloom judges will be coming in the afternoon of Tuesday 8th July. Last year they were introduced to too many people on the route, so I am sorry there will be less opportunity to see the judges as they go round this year, and of

course in 2 hours, they can't see everything. Things we know they won't see will be presented in pictures in our portfolio. At the end the people involved in helping will have the opportunity to come along for refreshments in Evington Park House and meet the judges informally after the judging. This year, Chris Hossack will be acting as the guide and taking the judges around.

On the 8th July we will ask the judges for feedback for our judging in the national 'In Bloom' competition in the morning of Friday 1st August. They will follow the same route (could be subject to change).

The big developments for our 'In Bloom' project this year have been: The refurbishment of the War memorial as a combined project between Leicester City Council and the community, through the War memorial project committee chaired by Cllr. Baljit Singh. The refurbishment project is going well and nearly complete. For the social side of the project, we await on the outcome of a bid to the Heritage Lottery people, and I have been promised news on Wednesday, tomorrow.

3. Evington Echo

The June/July 2014 issue of the Evington Echo in print is now available and gives lots of information about things that are going on in Evington and future events. As the paper only comes out once every two months, it obviously doesn't include everything. In order to focus clearly on the aims of this community newsheet, it is now under the umbrella of Friends of Evington to promote Community capacity building, sustainable development and helping socially and economically disadvantaged communities in and around Evington. In effect, this makes very little change to the Evington Echo in print which has always had news articles and about groups and events in Evington.

The change that will soon happen will be to have a better Evington Echo website so that news, community activities, etc. can be shared straight away. (Evington Echo on line). The Evington Echo has been fortunate to be accepted as a Media hub by the Media Trust and have been having training sessions with them. The Media Trust "support charities and communities to use the power of the media to change lives." They help communities with training, consultancy, film production and volunteer services. Echo people have been involved in consultancy and our next training session will be to help volunteers who wish to be involved in our information gathering/interviewing about the impact of war on their families. (Part of our WW1 project).

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