



June 2023

# NEWSLETTER

*Egham Gardens & Allotments Association*



SUMMER  
2023

## WELCOME TO SUMMER!

Welcome to summer and I hope you are all enjoying the sunny days of late and are looking forward to holidays and good times with friends and family during the long hot days to come.

## SPRING PLANT SALE - SATURDAY 21 MAY

The Plant Sale was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May outside the United Church in Egham and was quite a successful day raising in excess of £400 for the Club funds (subject to some deductions for expenses). A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the day and who donated plants and other items for sale.



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## MAGNA CARTA DAY 2023

Our next fundraising opportunity is Magna Carta Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June and I understand Janet has a list of volunteers but if you feel you can help in any way please let her know – or just turn up on the day.



## A REQUEST BY A LADY IN ENGLEFIELD GREEN

I have had an email from a lady in Englefield Green who has a large garden with 3 neglected raised beds and has asked if any of our members would like to take them over.

She would only ask for an occasional share in the produce and a formal arrangement for access to her garden. There is a shed which can be used as well.

If you are interested please let me know and I will pass your details to her.

## BOOK WORMS



For the bookworms amongst us I saw a book advertised entitled “To Stand and Stare: How to Garden While Doing Next to Nothing” by Andrew Timothy O’Brien. I’ve not bought it yet but it does sound like my kind of gardening.....!

The latest book I have bought and can recommend is “Why Women Grow” (Stories of Soil, Sisterhood and Survival) by Alice Vincent. Within this book the author goes on a quest to understand what encourages women to go out, work the soil, plant seeds and nurture them, even when they have so many other calls on their time. She has gathered stories from far and wide just by asking the question “What drew you to gardening?”

## THE RUNNYMEDE IN BLOOM COMPETITION

The Runnymede in Bloom competition (previously known as Greenfingers of Runnymede) is now open for entries.

There are six categories being :communal or community garden; front garden; school garden; allotment; wildlife friendly; best newcomer.

The competition is organised by Runnymede Borough Council and sponsored by Squire’s Garden Centres and is an opportunity celebrate the dedication and hard work of those in the Borough who take great pride in showcasing what can be achieved in a diverse range of spaces.

Entering is quick, free and easy, just visit [www.runnymede.gov.uk/inbloom](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/inbloom) and fill out the application form. Entries close midday on 16<sup>th</sup> June with judging taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> July and the awards evening being on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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## THE SPRING SHOW 2023

The Spring Show was well attended back in April and our congratulations to Jean Bristow who won the Arthur Hampton Challenge Place for Best Exhibit in narcissus classes and to Brian Austin who won the Joan Abbey Challenge Cup for Best Exhibit in horticultural classes.



JEAN BRISTOW  
WON THE  
ARTHUR  
HAMPTON  
CHALLENGE  
PLATE

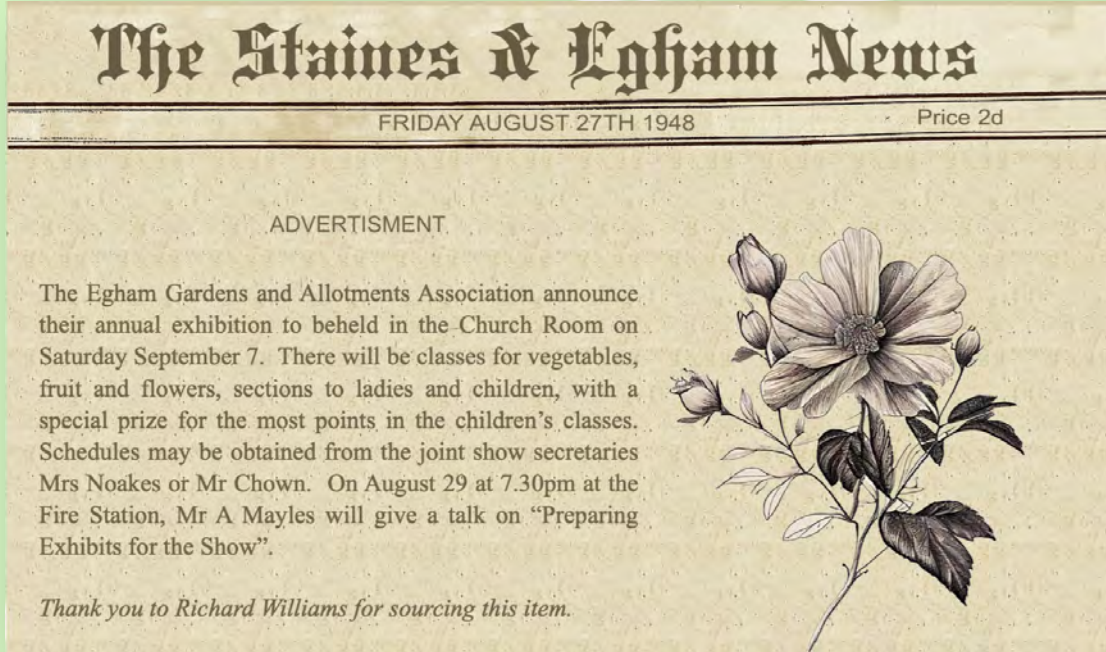
BRIAN AUSTIN  
WON THE JOAN  
ABBEY  
CHALLENGE  
CUP



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## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS.....

A scanned clipping from a newspaper titled "The Staines & Egham News". The date is "FRIDAY AUGUST 27TH 1948" and the price is "Price 2d". The main heading is "ADVERTISMENT". The text of the advertisement reads: "The Egham Gardens and Allotments Association announce their annual exhibition to beheld in the Church Room on Saturday September 7. There will be classes for vegetables, fruit and flowers, sections to ladies and children, with a special prize for the most points in the children's classes. Schedules may be obtained from the joint show secretaries Mrs Noakes or Mr Chown. On August 29 at 7.30pm at the Fire Station, Mr A Mayles will give a talk on 'Preparing Exhibits for the Show'." To the right of the text is a detailed botanical illustration of a flower with several buds and leaves. At the bottom left of the clipping, it says "Thank you to Richard Williams for sourcing this item." The background of the page features a faint white silhouette of a person's hand holding a plant.

## THE KING JOHN OAK AT RUNNYMEDE 2025

For those who don't remember, the Magna Carta Barons Association was formed by the 22 villages and towns associated with the rebel barons in 1215 so they could celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015. The Association was dissolved after the anniversary.

One of its projects was to plant oak saplings from the King John Oak, which grows on privately owned land in Devon. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible at the time because there were no viable acorns and grafts failed to take. To mark the anniversary of Magna Carta's reissue in 2025 another attempt is being made to grow a sapling from the King John Oak. The Savill Garden took twenty cuttings in February this year and they have now been grafted onto new oak stock by Savill's propagators, and will be looked after by them for the next two years. The cutting and grafting were filmed, and when the saplings are planted out next year, their continuing growth will be recorded using a time-lapse camera. The planting on 2025 will also be filmed. The result should be a valuable record of what may become an iconic Magna Carta oak.

As luck would have it, a tree had to be removed recently at the Magna Carta memorial in Runnymede and the National Trust has offered the resulting gap in which to plant the King John Oak sapling. The strongest sapling will be chosen for planting on the anniversary date of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025. If it doesn't survive the Savill Garden will hold at least one in reserve with most of the others likely to be planted at Windsor Great Park. One sapling will be given to the local community in Devon, which cares for the parent tree. More information to follow in due course.



Website Address: <https://www.egaa.org.uk>.

Scan the QR code (QR - Quick Response Code) below:



This can be done using your iPhone or your Android mobile phone. You can also download the QR reader software from the iPhone App store or Googleplay

