

Community Matters

Welcome to the second edition of the Royal Holloway, University of London, Community newsletter – Community Matters – which will be published in October and May each year.

The aim is to keep you informed of College news and developments. The newsletter will keep you up to date with events being held at the College which are open to the public, news of fundraising events and volunteering in the community. The newsletter will also inform you of College initiatives to deal with issues of concern to local residents such as parking and noise.

Students' Big Spring Clean

Student volunteers from Royal Holloway, University of London organised a 'Big Spring Clean' around the local community on 14 and 16 February when members of student clubs and societies, alongside Community Action volunteers, helped tidy areas in Englefield Green and Egham.

The event was in partnership with Runnymede Borough Council and it received input from Englefield Green Village Residents' Association (EGVRA). On both days groups of student volunteers gave up their time to serve the local community through a variety of tidy-up projects. On Wednesday a team of students helped around Egham and on Friday, teams responded to EGVRA requests to tidy around St Jude's Cemetery, the Forest Estate and the Kings Lane sports area.

The Council provided all the cleaning materials and during the two days of litter picking, students filled 25 refuse sacks and even managed to dispose of an unwanted garden bench.

The students were given drinks by grateful residents of the Forest Estate and were also visited by the Mayor of Runnymede, Moreton Moore who said, "Please may I add my thanks to all involved in helping to keep Egham and Englefield Green tidy. This is much appreciated by many."

The event was organised by the College's Community Action Volunteer Office and co-ordinated by Phil Simcock who runs the volunteering team and has 330 students signed up for a variety of projects. Delighted with the volunteers' efforts Phil said, "Royal Holloway takes every opportunity to help out within the community. There are lots of students committed to green issues and it's a

great chance to help improve the local area for everyone to enjoy."

Six of the College's Chinese community also contribute to the local environment with their own regular Sunday litter picking sessions; they clean areas surrounding the College and the walkway along the main road.

Royal Holloway's volunteering programme has several other established projects: 'Reminiscence' in Merlewood residential home; the Christians Together group working with a coalition of faith groups on 'The Noise' project; and students who support Hillingdon Social Services by teaching English to young refugees and asylum seekers amongst others.

If you have any suggestions for future volunteering projects in your area please contact Phil Simcock, 01784 414078 volunteering@rhul.ac.uk



People

Meet Phil Simcock, the College Volunteer Co-ordinator



Q What different responsibilities do you have?

A The role involves being well connected within the College and Students' Union to recruit new volunteers and promote volunteering opportunities, but equally important is building longer term relationships with the local community.

Q What do you enjoy most about your job?

A Seeing the impact the volunteers have on people such as children, youth and elders and watching the volunteers grow in confidence and develop their skills.

Q How keen are students to volunteer?

A Some students volunteer from day one of arriving at university, yet many of them, like most of us, tend to need a taste of volunteering before it becomes infectious and part of their lifestyle choice.

Q What are your interests outside of work?

A I work part-time as a self-employed Charity Consultant. As a resident of Englefield Green I am part of a local Church, The Journey, where I regularly volunteer with the local community IMPACT youth club.

www.rhul.ac.uk/CommunityAction

Community concerns

SSHH! campaign reducing noise

The Students' Union (SU) works very closely with the College and local authorities to help minimise any impact the popular student bars may have outside the campus. Our 'Silent Student Happy Homes!' campaign, or SSHH! for short, has worked well in reducing noise by reminding students to be aware of their surroundings on their way home at night.

The SU also runs a number of drink aware campaigns, informing students that use our bars of the effects of having one drink too many. We believe that campaigns such as this and our recent 'Healthy Living' campaign have had a positive impact on our students, improving their interaction with the wider community.

Monitoring of complaints from residents has shown that the amount of disruption caused by students has gradually decreased throughout this academic year; but this doesn't mean that our work will stop.

The SU is currently making preparations for this year's Summer Ball which will be held on 8 June. We will be sending a letter to local residents in the near future, thanking them for their continued support and understanding during this event.

Preparations are also in full swing for Volunteering Week, which commences on 4 June. Now in its second year, the week provides an opportunity for students to get involved in a number of

projects including: helping a nursery in Virginia Water develop a sensory garden; litter clearing in Englefield Green and Egham; and educational activities run by students for local schools.

The SU takes its work in helping students integrate with life in and around Royal Holloway very seriously. Should you wish to discuss the activities of the Students' Union with a representative, please don't hesitate to contact us. The President, Rob Coveney, is always appreciative of hearing comments from local residents and can be contacted on:

president@su.rhul.ac.uk

For further information and FAQs please visit: www.su.rhul.ac.uk

College news

Runnymede campus update

Unfortunately Royal Holloway has been informed that its first-round bid for the Brunel University site at Cooper's Hill, Englefield Green has not been successful.

The site was offered for sale on the open market by Brunel, and the College anticipated that its bid would be shortlisted for the next stage of the bidding process. However, it is clear that

Brunel has received significant interest in the site and that they found other bids more attractive.

Professor Stephen Hill, Principal, remarked: "This is disappointing news, since it is our firm belief that the site should remain in higher education use for the benefit of both the College and the local community."

Royal Holloway would like to thank all the residents and Councillors who supported their bid, which made a significant difference in building the strength of the College's case.

The College is currently considering other options for increasing its provision of accommodation for students.

Community concerns: anti-social behaviour



Students traditionally have a reputation for indulging in occasional bad behaviour – often linked to alcohol consumption. Universities quite rightly attract local criticism if they fail to address the involvement of their students in poor behaviour or are reluctant to co-operate with the Police over such matters.

The College is extremely keen to be a good neighbour. We inform students about the importance of considerate behaviour and work closely with the Students' Union to maximise harmonious local relationships by encouraging students to socialise on our campus and by ensuring their departure at the end of evening events is well-managed.

Statistically our students are very law-abiding - the Police and local authority rarely report severe anti-social student behaviour to us. Where minor incidents do occur, the College works closely alongside the authorities to put matters right. We have a dedicated College Officer to address such concerns, and in the vast majority of cases student misbehaviour is resolved amicably by apologies and agreements to behave appropriately.

Occasionally incidents are more serious, or misbehaviour is persistent. Then we are resolute in addressing it. The College's powers are not unlimited in this area; we cannot level disproportionate

punishments on our students or require from them a standard of behaviour greater than that of normal citizens.

When there is an allegation concerning student misbehaviour off-campus, we must rely on the Police and the local authority to corroborate that there has truly been anti-social conduct. However, students in these situations generally prefer to be disciplined by the College rather than through the Courts, since, although College fines tend to be greater, no criminal record is involved and so the College takes a resolute line.

Hopefully we will continue to avoid seeing manifestations of the poor student behaviour that is reported elsewhere in the country. If however you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the College Community Liaison Officer at community@rhul.ac.uk / 01784 443394 who will take every appropriate action to resolve matters.

For further information: www.rhul.ac.uk/For-Students/Community.html

In the next issue... How the College deals with bad behaviour on its boundaries

College news

Royal Holloway helps cut queues

Royal Holloway recognises its contribution to congestion in the local area and has launched a car sharing scheme in a bid to cut traffic and improve travel around Egham.

"We have joined forces with surreycarshare.com to provide a car sharing scheme for both staff and students. Car sharing is a cost efficient and easy way to reduce congestion and pollution," says Anna Coates, Sustainability Officer at the College, "If Surrey motorists received a lift one day a week, congestion and pollution could be cut by as much as 20% and they could also save money."

Access to the scheme is through a link on the travel section of the College website. Staff and students can register themselves as either a passenger requiring a lift, or a driver offering a lift. By allowing people to share vehicles easily, the scheme helps reduce traffic queues and minimise pollution.



Multi faith facilities



This academic year has been very busy for the Royal Holloway Chaplaincy. Lectures and talks were organized covering a wide spectrum of moral and social issues such as 'Women and Social Capital' by Baroness Uddin, and 'Religions and Sexuality', a panel discussion with the popular journalist and author Abdul-Rehman Malik. In addition to regular chapel services, two performances celebrated women's spirituality in different religious and secular traditions.

In February the College appointed a new Chaplain, the Reverend Sally Rogers (pictured), a priest of the Church of England, who had filled the post on a temporary basis since last September.

In order to accommodate better the needs of the College's growing population of Muslim students, the College Council recently took the decision to support the Islamic Welfare Association of West Surrey in its proposal to improve prayer facilities for students and members of the local community.

College news

Raising and Giving campaign

Royal Holloway's Raising and Giving (RAG) campaign encourages students to raise money for charity by holding a variety of events within the College and the local community. This year the main charities are The Willow Foundation and The Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign.

Students held regular street collections in Staines and Windsor, a Cabaret and Fashion Show and several fundraising nights in

the Students' Union. One of their more daring achievements was the kidnapping of David Sweeney (Vice-Principal Communications, Enterprise and Research), who was ransomed for charity. This year's Pantomime, *Aladdin*, raised £1,400 and RAG has more events planned for next term aiming to raise a total of £20,000.

What's On 2007

Garden Party

Sunday 10 June 2007

South Quad, Founder's Building

1pm – 5.30pm Admission £1, Children under 10 free.

An annual event in aid of local charities. Craft and local community stalls, children's activities, shows, music, raffle and talks. Tours of the Picture Gallery and campus. Cream teas and BBQ. Alumni Reunion Tea (only by ticket from the Alumni Office). 6pm Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel.

'Magna Carta & the New Europe' Lecture

Wednesday 13 June 2007

Professor The Rt Hon Shirley Williams,
Baroness Williams of Crosby.

Run in association with the Magna Carta Trust.
Windsor Building, Royal Holloway, 5.30pm

The lecture will examine the legacy of Magna Carta in the context of globalisation and the close interweaving of English and European political destinies.

This is the third lecture in a series to be delivered annually until 2015, the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

Sergei Dukachev

Evening recital and wine reception

Sunday 24 June 2007

Picture Gallery, Royal Holloway, 7pm, £12 (£10 concessions)

Sergei Dukachev won many prizes in the former Soviet Union, including First Prize in the All Russia Piano Competition in 1985. In 1989 he reached the semi-finals of the International Beethoven Competition in Vienna. He is currently Professor at the State Institute in Ufa, Bashkortostan.

Heritage Open Day

Sunday 9 September 2007

North Quad, Founder's Building 11am – 5.30pm

Campus Tours free. Picture Gallery tours £2. An opportunity to visit the former Holloway Sanatorium.

Further information contact:

Events Office – Debbie Bennett, 01784 443004,

external-relations@rhul.ac.uk

Spring Rise gate opening times

After considering feedback from local residents and students during a trial period of new opening and closing times of the Spring Rise gate, the College has decided to continue with these times for the foreseeable future. The situation will remain under review.

New Times:

Opening Times:

6.45am Monday–Friday, 8.00am Saturday and Sunday

Closing Times:

11.15pm Sunday–Thursday, 12.45am Friday and Saturday

2007 Term Dates

Mon 30 April - Fri 15 June 2007

Mon 24 September - Fri 14 December 2007

We value your comments and suggestions. Please write to:

Community Matters, External Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX or email community-matters@rhul.ac.uk