

NEWTOWN NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Street Clean Saturday

Join your neighbours to help spruce up the area! After a delay due to the pandemic, our Street Clean Saturday will now be happening on 25th September.

Residents' Meeting

Vote for the NRA Committee, meet other residents, and find out how to get involved in projects to improve the area. We hope to see as many of you as possible on Thursday 7th October.

Eastleigh's Swifts Need You

Find out how you can help this charismatic bird in trouble at our special meeting this winter.

The current Committee is Nick Tann (Chair), Liza Martin (Secretary), Adrian Martin (Treasurer). Contact us by email at newtown-ra@googlegroups.com



Hello!

Hello to everyone living in Newtown - we hope you are all keeping safe and well during this time. It's been a while but we are now keen to restart a few Newtown Residents Association (NRA) activities.

The current Committee are all standing for re-election. We are keen to bring a bit of a fresh approach and would love to have more people involved. The residents' meeting in October will be a chance to share ideas and hopefully entice more people to get involved. We hope to see many of you there. If you would like to stand for election to the Committee, please let us know on the email address below.

But before that, we have just organised the overdue street clean. Although delayed due to the pandemic, we are pleased to let you know that a date has been organised with the Council. The street clean is a great chance to smarten up the neighbourhood and catch up with your neighbours so please do come out and support it.

Read on for more information...



Eastleigh's Swifts Need You!

I am sure many of you enjoy hearing the uplifting screams of swooping swifts that fill our skies in the summer months. Did you know they migrate all the way from the Congo in West Africa to nest and breed right here in Eastleigh?

These beautiful and charismatic birds are totally site faithful. They return to breed in exactly the same place every year once they have established a nesting site. Thousands of years ago they would have bred in holes in trees but they have adapted to live alongside us, and now nest in roof cavities, under eaves and in other small gaps within buildings.

Sadly, swifts have declined across Hampshire and the UK by more than 50% over the past 25 years and they are rapidly becoming a bird in trouble. But it's really easy to help them because the key factor determining their survival is the availability of nest sites.

Eastleigh is quite a stronghold and we have been in discussion with Hampshire Swifts about installing swift nest boxes on as many houses as possible throughout Newtown to try and boost their numbers.

Nest boxes are inexpensive and volunteers can fit them, and we may be able to get grant funding to help subsidise the costs.

There will be a special meeting and presentation on this subject this winter to gauge interest and talk about the potential for this exciting project further!

Street Clean Saturday

From 8am on 25th September

This year's street clean will cover the whole of Newtown on one day rather than splitting the area into two separate days.

As usual please move your cars, ideally the night before, so the Council can sweep the streets properly without cars blocking the way. Free parking will be available at the Council's Dutton Lane car park.

In an attempt to cut down plastic waste we would encourage you to use your green & brown garden bin (if you have one) for any overhanging vegetation or weeds you remove from your kerbs and pavements. Please dig them out or cut them rather than using chemical weedkiller, especially if next to trees. Such chemicals can also be damaging to bees and other pollinators. Plastic bags will be available on the day for those that want them and the Council will collect those. Smaller weeds, leaves and other debris can be swept into the road for picking up by the street clean vehicle.

Residents' Meeting

7pm on Thursday 7th October at The Bandstand in the Park in Eastleigh town centre

This is your chance to meet the Committee (and hopefully vote us back in) and is a great opportunity to meet other residents.

Voting for Committee positions will be the first order of business at the meeting. The current Committee are all standing for re-election and if you would like to stand as well, please let us know on the email address below.

Do come along, get involved, and play your part in making the Newtown area an even better place to live.

About the NRA

The Newtown Residents Association has been going for many years and the current Committee were voted in at the last meeting in 2019. The pandemic ceased all NRA activities for a while but we are now keen to restart and refresh the association with a focus on improving the local environment in a positive way.

If we are re-elected, some of the projects and activities we would like to do include:

- * Nature projects to help wildlife - including a project to increase nesting opportunities for Swifts (see article).
- * Gardening projects - seed swaps, plant swaps, etc.
- * Social events - talks and activities to build a sense of community.

The current Committee is Nick Tann (Chair), Liza Martin (Secretary), Adrian Martin (Treasurer). Contact us by email at newtown-ra@googlegroups.com