Students support local children through Food4Lunch

The Food4Lunch initiative has been supported by Royal Holloway student volunteers for the past two years. In partnership with Runnymede Foodbank, the scheme provides eligible children with a lunch bag for every weekday during the school holidays. This academic year the project has been led by our Community Action students, who recruit volunteers, promote the scheme, organise supermarket collections, pack food bags, and arrange distribution to local schools in time for the start of each holiday period. Over 100 children from 12 schools have benefited to date from the north-Runnymede based scheme. By the end of the year over 500 food bags will have been distributed, each containing £15 worth of food and a suggested menu for the holiday period, together with a reusable keep fresh tin lid and a seasonal item such as a chocolate selection box or Easter egg.

This initiative has been supported by North Runnymede Learning Partnership, ACS Egham, Clarke Recruitment Solutions, the Forest Estate Community Hub and Waitrose, with collections at Egham and Sunningdale branches. Royal Holloway Students’ Union Raise and Give (RAG) have nominated it their local cause of the year.

“The Food4Lunch bags have been such a support to me when my children are on holiday. Instead of worrying about how I am going to feed them, I look forward to receiving the bags and cooking the menus provided. My children are well fed because of your efforts.”

local parent

Students support local children through Food4Lunch

The man behind the myth: St George revealed for Songs of Praise

Royal Holloway featured in BBC One’s Songs of Praise last month, when History PhD student Claire Kennan spoke to presenter Richard Taylor about the legend of St George and the dragon.

Clare said: “St George is synonymous with English identity but very little is known about the legend that began it all and how he actually came to dominate English national consciousness in the Middle Ages. Being able to explore these issues with BBC Songs of Praise was a great opportunity to introduce people to the man behind the myth.”

The interview was filmed in the College’s beautiful Chapel, where Royal Holloway maintains a tradition of daily sung morning services (and is the only university in the country to do so), led by one of the finest mixed-voice choirs in Britain.

Chapel services are open to members of the public. For more information about term-time services in Royal Holloway’s Chapel, including Choral Evensong, visit www.royalholloway.ac.uk/aboutus/chapel/

The episode of Songs of Praise featuring Royal Holloway was screened on BBC One on Sunday 17 April and is available to view on the BBC iPlayer.

BBC iPlayer link

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b078hxfz/songs-of-praise-17042016

Songs of Praise on BBC One at 4.25pm on Sunday 17 April

Get involved: National Volunteers’ Week 1st – 12th June

Community volunteers can assist the Food4Lunch scheme through supermarket collections on 1st June and a food bag packing session on 2nd June. If you are interested in supporting this initiative and helping local people in need then please email our volunteering team volunteering@royalholloway.ac.uk.

You can also find out more by visiting our website www.royalholloway/communityaction
Building our student residences

Development of our new student residences is progressing well. Situated on our north campus, adjacent to car park 14 and on land between Harvest Road and Chestnut Drive, the new residences will be an attractive new model for student accommodation. The townhouse construction will encourage communal living, with shared facilities and common areas. The position of the townhouses, among mature trees, will create pleasant green spaces and sheltered paths connecting the residences to the south campus.

On site, the bulk of excavation work is now complete and construction well underway. Following Natural England guidelines, a survey was carried out prior to site clearance and careful monitoring was undertaken by environmental consultants Wardell Armstrong to confirm that there were no resident bats in existing structures before they were removed. All required tree protection is in place across the site. Building work is underway and the task of pouring the foundations for the new student residence townhouses is over 50% complete. Brick work is due to start in early May and in July cranes will arrive on site as the new townhouses begin to rise from the ground.

This project has been procured by Royal Holloway under a special framework, provided by Scape, designed to assist public sector organisations in the procurement of major construction projects. As part of this scheme, our contractor, Willmott Dixon, will be fulfilling various educational commitments. For example, in June they will be visiting a St Jude’s C of E School to talk about construction safety and careers in the industry.

Mike Berry, Director of Estates at Royal Holloway said, “We work closely with our contractors to continue to improve the way that we undertake our works and the way that they are communicated to the local community. The university has registered as a partner with the Considerate Contractors Scheme and we recognise the importance of our contractors working in a considerate way and minimising disruption wherever possible.”

For more information on plans to develop our historic estate please visit www.royalholloway.ac.uk/estateplan

Thank you

Last term we carried out work to make a section of Harvest Road two-way. Royal Holloway is grateful to local residents for your patience whilst this work was carried out. Now complete, the new road layout will help to reduce traffic through Englefield Green village, as students and staff can arrive and depart the north campus via Egham Hill. The work was carried out as part of the planning condition to extend car park 14.

To keep up to date on our plans around the campus estate, please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/estateplan

Considerate Constructors Scheme

This national initiative monitors registered sites, companies and suppliers against the Scheme’s Code of Considerate Practice and commits them to care about appearance, respect the community, protect the environment, secure everyone’s safety and value their workforce. As a Client Partner, Royal Holloway works closely with the Scheme as we continue to develop our historic estate. In addition to contacting us directly with any comments or concerns (estateplan@royalholloway.ac.uk), you can get in touch with the scheme via email, enquiries@ccscheme.org.uk, or calling 0800 783 1423. More information about the Scheme can be found at www.ccscheme.org.uk
As the country celebrates Her Majesty The Queen’s 90th birthday, the College reaches a significant Royal milestone of its own.

On 30 June 130 years ago, Queen Victoria presided over the grand opening ceremony of Royal Holloway College. One hundred years later in 1986, her great, great granddaughter Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came to Egham to open Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (or Royal Holloway, University of London as we are now known on a day to day basis). The new College was formed by a merger of Bedford College, founded in 1849 in central London, and Royal Holloway College.

Find out more about the rich histories of Royal Holloway and Bedford, the founding colleges of today’s university by visiting www.royalholloway.ac.uk/aboutus/ourhistory

A scientist who specialises in finding cures for rare diseases has leapt on his bike to raise money for research.

At the start of May Dr Rafael J Yáñez-Muñoz of Royal Holloway’s School of Biological Sciences will cycle 85 miles to fundraise for the SMA Trust (www.smatrust.org) in their Ride Scorpion 2016 challenge. The charity supports research on spinal muscular atrophy, a devastating genetic disease that, in the worst cases, kills children before their second birthday.

In a virtuous circle, the Trust supports research in Rafael’s Advanced Gene and Cell Therapy Laboratory, where scientists seek effective treatments for neurodegenerative and inherited diseases, including spinal muscular atrophy, spinal injury, Parkinson disease, immune deficiencies and Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

BBC Springwatch came to Royal Holloway to film an hour-long Easter special. Naturalist and presenter Chris Packham enlisted the help of expert Dr Steve Portugal from the School of Biological Sciences to explore the remarkable properties of eggs. Filming took place in our Bourne Laboratory in the company of a brood of fluffy ducklings. The programme is still available to watch online – via the BBC iPlayer and the Springwatch website.

Dr Portugal has written a feature about his research called ‘The Science of Eggs’ on how eggshells work to protect the young inside and present some of the most striking colours and diverse patterns to be found in the animal kingdom.

To find out more about our research here at Royal Holloway go to royaholloway.ac.uk
Upcoming activity on campus

Summer Ball

Friday 3rd June

The Royal Holloway Students’ Union Summer Ball takes place annually in the open quadrangles of our Founder’s Building, to mark the end of another successful academic year. We are very aware of the impact that this type of event can have on the local community. In conjunction with Runnymede Borough Council we will respond to and if possible, take action to redress, any issues which arise. If you feel sound levels on the night are excessive please call one of the following numbers:
07768 972014 - Direct contact to event management
01932 425 725 - Runnymede Borough Council (available until midnight, after which time please contact the event management number above)

If you are unable to speak to the member of event management staff or leave a voicemail message, we would be most grateful if you could please try again a few minutes later. We will endeavour to ensure any noise disturbance is kept to a minimum and would like to thank the Residents Associations and local communities of both Egham and Englefield Green for their continued support.

Graduation Ceremonies

Week commencing Monday 11th July

This is an important time for our students and will see an increase in visitors to campus, as family and friends join them for this very special week in the College calendar. Thank you in advance for your patience during this time when we will be welcoming our graduands and their guests onto campus.

College events

Please join us on campus for our upcoming events.

Magna Carta Lecture

Monday 13th June 2016
Windsor Building Auditorium
Free to attend

In Terrorism and Tolerance, David Anderson QC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, will ask to what extent international law can help us to reconcile free society with the prevention of extremism.

Heritage Open Day

Sunday 11th September 2016
North Quad

Royal Holloway, University of London, welcomes the public to explore its spectacular Grade 1 Listed Founder’s Building, Picture Gallery, Chapel and extensive grounds. Tours of the Picture Gallery and Founder’s Library are free. A small charge of £2 is payable on the day for 45 minute guided tours of campus. No pre-booking is required for this event.

For more information on all of our events please refer to our website: www.royalholloway.ac.uk/aboutus/newsandevents/events/home

Egham Royal Show

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August
Mrs Caddey’s Field, Whitehall Lane, Egham, TW20 9NW

Royal Holloway is pleased to be supporting the Egham Royal Show once again this year. We are proud of our long association with this important event in the local calendar. For more information please visit: www.eghamroyalshow.org.uk

Contact us

01784 276612 / 01784 443394
community@royalholloway.ac.uk
or write to Community Matters, Communications & External Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX.

Our office hours are 9am–5pm, Monday - Friday throughout the year (including out of term time).
If you are passing the College, you could also drop your letter into our main reception.

Please ensure you mark it for the attention of Communications Manager, Estates.
If you would like to receive a digital copy of Community Matters please email us at: community@royalholloway.ac.uk

Community Meetings

In order to provide more opportunities to meet with members of the local community, representatives from Royal Holloway attend a councillor surgery in Englefield Green each term. Local people are invited to come along to discuss topics relevant to the College.

Councillor surgeries are held at the Social Hall, Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QT.

College representatives will be on hand to take your questions from 11am to 12pm on:
• Saturday 14 May 2016
• Saturday 12 November 2016

Noticeboards

To help the community and the College to keep in touch, we’re installing noticeboards in Egham and Englefield Green. These will carry Royal Holloway news, information on events, estate development projects, and a reminder about how to contact the College. The noticeboards will be in place by the end of the summer and located on High Street, Egham and Harvest Road and St Judes Road, Englefield Green.

Car parking when visiting our campus

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our beautiful campus and have provision for visitor parking during College events, such as public lectures or concerts, or for people visiting the Chapel or Picture Gallery. Visitors should park in car parks 12 or 4. These car parks are well signposted and for most events additional signage will be in place. Designated Blue Badge spaces are in car parks 1E and 1W. Please contact our premises team in advance of your visit by emailing premisesadmin@royalholloway.ac.uk if you require any assistance.

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