



Caversham and District Residents' Association



The Emmer Green Village Sign

You can find the Emmer Green village sign by the Emmer Green Pond, on the grassed area near to the Buckingham Drive junction with Lowfield Road.

The sign was commissioned by the then Emmer Green Residents Association (EGRA), constructed by the Berkshire Wood Carvers Association and [erected in 2003](#).

The pictures on the sign depict early village life in Emmer Green, which has its own rich history. It grew as a separate village until development from the 1930s onwards closed the gap with Caversham.

The north side is based on a photograph taken of a magnificent oak tree which stood in Park Farm, near the current Emmer Green shops. It was felled on 18th May 1900, the date of the relief of Mafeking and was known as the Mafeking Oak. You can find the photo and more information on page 75 of the book 'Emmer Green Past and Present. <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Special-Projects#block842> Above, there is a tractor and haymaking (see page 85) and next to it St Barnabas church. The south side represents a man and horse by the Emmer Green Pond.

The motifs/plaques on the two sides of the post represent local organisations in Emmer Green:

North side:

1. Red kite over the water tower
2. Reading Golf Club
3. Girl Guides
4. Horse heads - Riding stables
5. Rosehill Women's Institute
6. Townswomen's Guild

South Side:

1. BBC
2. Scouts
3. Highdown School
4. Emmer Green Primary School
5. The Hill Primary School
6. Berkshire Woodcarvers Association

The pictures below show the official unveiling of the sign in 2003 by the Mayor, Cllr Jeanette Skeats.



Over the last 20 years the sign has shown signs of weathering and pollution to the extent the Emmer Green wording on each side and the pictures were quite blackened and hard to read and see. Additionally, the base of the support post was beginning to show signs of rot.



When EGRA closed in 2023 and CADRA expanded to cover Emmer Green, one of the first projects was the successful renovation in 2024 of the Emmer Green community notice board in the Milestone parade of shops.

Following this CADRA, with financial support from Keep Emmer Green, began to investigate how the sign could be

cleaned and the missing motifs replaced.

CADRA engaged the Reading Men's Shed, who had carried out the notice board renovation, to take on the work to replace the missing wooden plaques, refix loose wooden plaques and address the post damage by adding a skirting at the bottom of the post

CADRA employed a specialist cleaning company, Blast Away, who had expertise in cleaning oak structures, to clean the sign and brick foundation pad.

The works were completed in March 2025 and hopefully the sign will remain in good shape for a number of years and continue to be a well-known landmark in Emmer Green. CADRA will periodically monitor its appearance should future cleaning and/or treatment be required.

The pictures below show the restored sign:





CADRA

12 March 2025