THORPE TOGETHER

The quarterly magazine for Thorpe Ward residents





Above: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Runnymede, Independent Thorpe Ward Councillors Elaine Gill and Margaret Harnden.

Below: Signs of spring around the ward, in the TWRA planters near Wavendene Avenue and violets in the Frank Muir Memorial Field.







Edition 24 Spring 2021



RALG, WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

RALG is an entirely voluntary group of Runnymede residents.

The "A" in RALG stands for Access, always working to improve physical access to the services and amenities in Runnymede.

How do we operate?

We accept queries about any problems which anyone with a disability might encounter. We can go to look at the site issue or contact the service provider.

We deal with public services and amenities such as parks, roads, town areas, railway station facilities and we try to liaise with anyone who can help improve things.

Sometimes, we are asked to offer suggestions on new developments like The Orbit leisure centre and swimming pool complex in Egham or currently the council's plan to create "Wheelchair Trails." Two Trails have been created, one in Hythe Park, Egham Hythe, the other in Chertsey at Gogmore Farm Park.

RALG has 8 members on its committee, and most of us have some form of impairment. Current committee members come from Thorpe, Egham, Englefield Green and Chertsey but RALG serves the whole borough of Runnymede.

How can I help RALG?

RALG needs a Secretary.

We need someone with computer and basic secretarial skills, making notes of our half dozen meetings a year & writing letters and e-mails - that sort of thing. If you have never done this before, we will help you learn.

How much time will I be required to devote to the job?

About two hours a month. RALG will pay your out of pocket expenses and £15 for each hour you work for us. Meetings currently are held in Egham or Englefield Green.

RALG began in 1991. Runnymede's Council staff set it up and we are still granted some money every year from them. In fact, since 2008 RALG has always had two serving councillors in its ranks.

We are a friendly group who will be pleased to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Our full title is: **Runnymede Access Liaison Group** We have a web site: www.ralg.org.uk

How can I make contact?

Call, 01784 435622 or e-mail: <u>ilf@runnymede-court.com</u> Jonathan Fisher, RALG Chairman.

The photo, right, was taken at the official opening of the Gogmore Farm Park Trail in Chertsey on 5th Oct 2020, attended by the then Mayor and Mayoress of Runnymede, Parshotam and Davinder Sohi.





This is again a reduced size edition of Thorpe Together as many regular contributors have not been able to plan any events due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in place. We hope to be back to normal by the summer issue. Please contact Margaret Harnden, 01784-432992 or Sharon Young, info@thorpevillagehall.org 07973-710228 if you wish to publicize your event or organization in the next edition.



THE INDEPENDENT



Newsletter of THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Website: www.ThorpeWardResidents.org.uk Email: Contact@ThorpeWardResidents.org.uk

TWRA on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thorpewardresidentsassociation/

Our thoughts are with those who have suffered during the pandemic and we send every one of you our best wishes for the future. Let's hope we will come through these difficult times soon.

The future of your association: Resident Survey

Unfortunately, the recent lockdown has meant that we have not been able to distribute our Resident Survey forms. We will therefore be sending all households a survey to ask for your feedback on the future of your association. We will deliver out the survey forms to households in the ward as soon as this can be achieved. For those of you who can, we welcome comments via the survey on our website. The link to the survey can be found on our home page using the above website address. If you can spend a few minutes completing the form electronically that would be appreciated. Apologies to any residents that may have wanted to complete the survey as a result of notification in the previous edition of Thorpe Together.

This is a reminder that any previous cookies you may have saved prior to April 2020 will not work and you should please delete the prior cookie for SurreyCommunities.info, enter our new website directly in your browser and re-save this. Please also note our new email address.

Committee members: We are always ready to welcome new Committee members. We are particularly interested in anybody wanting to help us in a Secretary role and to support on social media. Alternatively, please offer your help to support on an ad hoc basis.

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer to improve the community where you live. Do contact myself or any of the Committee members. Our contact details can be found on our website (ThorpeWardResidents.org.uk) We are now on Facebook by searching for Thorpe Ward Residents. Your help would be truly appreciated.

Subscriptions: May we also remind you that the annual subscription was due for renewal on 1st January. We have notified members of the subscriptions via our Newsletter. We kindly ask that all who have not renewed, or those interested in joining, contact us through the website or complete the form for download on our website. Our charges remain unchanged as we endeavour to keep our out-goings low. We would like to also thank those that make donations which are financially vital to us. Please consider setting up a Standing Order if you have not already done so. Details can again be found on our website. We hope you will continue to support your local residents' association in 2021, in what will be a challenging year.

Other news:

- Muse Development (RU.21/0192): A new planning application has been received for the development of 144 dwellings and 2 Traveller Pitches in Thorpe Lea located west of the B388. At the time of preparing this news update, your association is preparing its response. Although part of the approved Local Plan, if you will be affected by the proposals, we encourage you to write to the local authority prior to the March deadline. Following a request from the local councillors, the deadline for comments has been extended from the 9th to the 19th March. The details of the proposals can be found on the planning search section of RBC's website at:
- https://planning.runnymede.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/GeneralSearch.aspx

The TWRA & FMMF AGMs

• The AGMs of both Thorpe Ward Residents' Association and Thorpe Field (FMMF) Charity would normally take place in early April but, due to Covid-19 government restrictions, it has been decided to postpone both until later in the year. Please see the TWRA website for further details, which will also be sent to TWRA members via Mailchimp.

- **Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan:** The Plan was approved by Runnymede Borough Council and a referendum will be held at the same time as the May elections to vote for the Plan. The Plan can be read at ThorpeNeighbourhoodForum.org.uk. We encourage all to read the Plan. If the Plan receives more than 50% of the votes, it will become a full part of the planning process.
- **Flooding and River Thames Scheme (RTS):** Your association continues to push for strengthening of local and national guidance and stronger adherence to existing guidance. We have been lobbying your MP, planners at Runnymede Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

We have recently responded to a proposal for changes to the National Policy and Planning Framework (NPPF), arguing the need for stricter controls on development in the flood plain. We now understand that the RTS has received funding approval from Surrey County Council and Runnymede Borough Council will be the lead authority in progressing planning matters in relation to the scheme.

- **Thorpe Park:** The association thanks the efforts of a local resident (who will remain nameless but will know who he is) for bringing attention to the weir board having been left in Thorpe Park near the A320. Thorpe Park had removed it at the end of the park's season, but it appears to have been re-introduced without Thorpe Park's knowledge. The Environment Agency have confirmed the board is now removed and the lake levels will start to adjust accordingly.
- **Elections:** Elections of councillors for Runnymede Borough and Surrey County Council, as well as Police and Crime Commissioner are currently planned to take place May 6th. We are pleased to say that Independent Thorpe Ward Cllr Margaret Harnden (currently Deputy Mayor) has agreed to stand for reelection, with the support of TWRA.

Take care and stay well, Nigel Robbins, Vice Chairman, Thorpe Ward Residents' Association Borough Council Elections
Thursday 6th May
vote for RIRG candidate
MARGARET HARNDEN
Keep Thorpe Ward
Independent



For those not familiar with THS, we are a small and enthusiastic group of singers based in the Runnymede area of Surrey. We usually perform three concerts a year, spring, summer, and autumn but sadly, as regular attendees to our concerts will be aware, we have been unable to give any live performances for the last year.

You can find more information about THS on our website – thehythesingers.com; and some recent recordings on You Tube. We are currently looking for new members, in particular, bass, tenor and alto.

This term we are rehearsing, via ZOOM, Brahms Requiem and some Brahms songs; and, following the recent lockdown update, we plan to perform a live concert in the summer, possibly outside (bring a picnic!) on 10th July. No venue as yet. The Autumn concert will be the well-loved Handel's Messiah. Music to lift our spirits after almost two years of not being together and sharing our voices with others.



Thorpe Community Contacts



Thorpe Ward Councillors	
Linda Gillham	cllr.linda.gillham@runnymede.gov.uk 01932 564834
Margaret Harnden	cllr.margaret.harnden@runnymede.gov.uk 01784 432992
Elaine Gill	cllr.elaine.gill@runnymede.gov.uk 01932 562441
Thorpe Ward R	esidents' Association
Treasurer	twra@patenall.org.uk
Ian Patenall	The state of the s
Circle Dancing	Thorpe Community Hall 7:30pm – usually 1st Tuesday of the month. Phone/email for details
Susi Thornton	susi@thorntonclan.com 01784 433480
Five Pennies	
Joyce Williams	joycehwilliams@me.com
Hythe Singers	
Susi Thornton	thehythesingers@hotmail.co.uk 01784 433480 / Box Office: 07968 325636
St Mary's Chur	ch
The Rev'd	stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com
Damian Miles	01932 565986
Tea and Talk at	Thorpe – over 50's Club
Sharon Young	info@thorpevillagehall.org 07973 710228
Thorpe Players	
General Enquiries	info@thorpeplayers.co.uk
Box Office	boxoffice@thorpeplayers.co.uk 07923 583295
Art Classes – Art in The Village	
Kay Young	01784 452589 or email kvyoungarca@gmail.com
Thorpe Pre-Sch	
01932 569592	info@thorpenurserypreschool.co.uk
Thorpe Primary	<u> </u>
01932 562329	admin@thorpe.surrey.sch.uk
Thorpe Village 1	
Enquiries / Clubs	info@thorpevillagehall.org /www.thorpevillagehall.org
Bookings / Events	bookings@thorpevillagehall.org / 07539 528654
Thorpe Commu	ity Hall
Joan Curran	joan@thegower.plus.com 01932 561429
Surrey Country	
Surrey County (Mel Few	mel.few@surreycc.gov.uk
Yvonna Lay	yvonna.lay@surreycc.gov.uk

St Mary's Church, Thorpe



Quarterly News

Welcome St Mary's Church is to be found at the heart of Thorpe Village in Church Approach beside TASIS England off Coldharbour Lane. Our Village Church has been a central presence for Thorpe and surrounding communities since early medieval times and continues to offer a very warm welcome for all. We are open for Communal Worship every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday this March at 10am and we hope you can join us in church or online soon. Visit: www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchThorpe



A Message from the Fr Damian Harrison-Miles, our Vicar. Spring has sprung early this year, with beautiful daffodils surrounding our Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are blessed that over the years more spring bulbs have been planted creating a beautiful display. If you haven't seen it yet it is worth a visit, and the churchyard is open for recreation and prayer every day during daylight hours. The change in



the season, the additional light in the mornings and the first hint of warmth all hint at new life, and hope - spring. Many of us are looking forward to another change, with the easing of lockdown restrictions from 29th March, when we will be able to spend some time with family and friends outdoors, for the first time in many months. For Christians, spring is also the time when we give thanks for our Mothers (Sunday 26th March) and then in April we recall the events that led up to the death of Jesus on the Cross (Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday 28th March) and his resurrection – Easter Day (Sunday 4th April). Life is a gift, but it is also fragile, and not always easy. Life is a miracle! As we see the beauty of spring unfold around us, may we reflect upon God's gift of new life to us through Jesus Christ who died on the Cross that we may have the hope of new-life, heaven! This spring, I hope you will be able to safely meet those whom you love, but I am mindful of the many who still live with Covid, and those whose other conditions mean they live in fear. The lockdown has left some fragile, not least those who have experienced deep and painful loss, bereavement and much more. If you need a minister to talk to, please just get in touch. Likewise, if you are struggling with the idea of mixing with others, of being out and about, then ask for support. With every blessing this spring and Eastertide from your friend and parish priest, Fr Damian Harrison-Miles.

Lent Course 2021 – "Out of the desert into hope" ALL WELCOME Wednesday's 2pm & 7:30pm via Zoom. For more information visit our website today:

www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW LIVE FROM YOUR OWN

HOME AT: www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchThorpe

PALM SUNDAY 28th March 2021

Sorry, no 8am Said Eucharist until Easter Day.

10am Parish Eucharist

with Palm Procession, short Passion Reading and Holy Communion.

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday - 10am Said Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY 1st April

7:30pm THE EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER

followed by a watch of prayer until midnight in the Benedict Chapel. (Drop in online via Facebook until midnight for silent prayer by candlelight. Concluding prayers at 11:45pm.) =

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April 11:30am FAMILY SERVICE 'Children at the Foot of the Cross'

1pm LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

A very moving service with Sermon, Passion Gospel, meditation before the Cross and Holy Communion.

HOLY SATURDAY 3rd April

7:30pm EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

with Holy Easter Fire, candles & readings outside followed by renewal of our baptism promises, homily and Holy Communion in Church.

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April

Bring hard stem flowers with you for the Cross – Easter Eggs for all 8am Said Eucharist (Holy Communion)

10am Parish Easter Eucharist (MASS) 11:30am Easter Family Service

7pm Easter Compline by candlelight

Please note that entry numbers allowed in Church are restricted due to Covid-safe protocols being in place. To book a place at the Palm Sunday, Good Friday or Easter Day Services visit:

https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/register-to-attend

WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, THORPE

Sundays 8am Said Eucharist (from Easter Day April 4th)

10am Parish Eucharist

7pm Compline

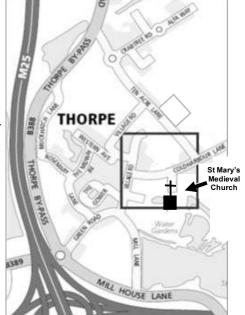
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 11:30am Family Service 4th Sunday monthly 12noon Holy Baptisms

Wednesday & Saturday 10am Said Eucharist

Worship is live streamed to our Facebook page every day at 10am. There is Always a <u>Welcome</u> for <u>All</u>

We serve Thorpe Village, Thorpe Lea, Thorpe Green, Chertsey Lane and surrounding communities. Visit our church website for more information about your local village church. www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

For support with planning a wedding, funerals at the crematorium, church, and graveside, to have your child baptised (christened) or just to chat please contact the Parish Office on 01932 565986.



Socially distanced Summer Fair! Saturday 19th June

Please put this date in your diary now and keep the day free. We need your help!

Contact: Susi 01784 433480 Email: stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com

St Mary's Faith & Fun Club

for children aged 4-11 years,
Sunday 10-11am, Monday at Thorpe
Primary for those in years R, 1 & 2.
We hope to resume these groups asap
and by September at the latest!



Would you like to know about Christianity? Do you have questions about bereavement, loss and heaven? Has Covid made you ask questions about life, health and faith? ...then..

PILGRIM AT ST MARY'S IS FOR <u>YOU!</u>

Our PILGRIM course 'Follow' offers an introduction to the Christian faith and an opportunity for existing Christians to reconnect with the Church.

Whether you are new to the Christian faith, or you already have an established faith, you can join in and be a part of this exciting programme. If you simply want to find out about the Christian faith, without any pressure to commit, that's fine too. Discussion, hope, acceptance – you are **Welcome**.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 2pm & 7:30pm (2 groups) starting 14th April.

WHERE: Via ZOOM – code available from our newsletters and website.

Visit: www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk TIME: 7:30 – 9pm. FREE!

From St Mary's Church Registers December 2020, January & February 2021

Funerals: Joan Rollason 03/12, Samuel Thornton 10/12, Patrick George Harnden 22/12, Ronald Charles William Goodman 22/12, Franco Focosi 23/12, Sylvia Rose Smith 01/02, Thomas Cooke 02/02, Joseph Perrin Stevens 26/02, Alan Robert Porter 24/02. *No weddings, baptisms, or burials of ashes due to Tier 4 & Lockdown.*

MILTON PARK FARM - Decision Postponed Again!

Surrey County Council has announced that the decision on whether Hanson can quarry Milton Park Farm for sand and gravel will now not be taken on March 25th. The planning meeting has been postponed until **Wednesday 16th June**.

From your Thorpe Ward Councillors

Linda Gillham, Elaine Gill, and Margaret Harnden

Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan

The Forum are delighted to report that following the examination in the Autumn, the Examiner's final report was sent to the Council on the 6th November 2020 The Council carefully considered the recommendations in the examiner's report and the reasons for these. The Council and the Forum agreed with all the recommendations made by the examiner.

Now the Council has issued its Decision Statement detailing its intention to send the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan to referendum on May 6th, 2021. The plan can be given "significant weight" in decision-making, so far as the plan is material to an application which means that it is almost part of the policy that a developer must take notice of when applying for planning permission

So, what happens now?

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan can now progress to a referendum. Runnymede Borough Council will produce further details on this referendum, but we know it will happen at the same time as the RBC elections, the SCC and the Police Commissioner elections on May 6th. You will have 4 ballot papers to complete either by postal vote or in the polling station.

All those eligible voters who live in the designated area of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan will be asked to vote for the plan. It needs more than 50% of those voting to approve the plan and make the policies it contains binding.

Once the plan has been approved and "made" by the Council the Forum will receive 25% of all Community Infrastructure Levy that developers must pay to be allowed to build out their sites. This money can then be used to improve the Thorpe area and we have lots of ideas to use this funding in the village and beyond.

Why is the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan important?

Not only will the plan bring funds to the village and Norlands Lane area, but it has designated where and what type of houses we want for our children and sought to preserve and improve the open spaces, footpaths, cycleways and historic hedges.

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan is the first plan to be produced in Runnymede and it is also the first to use an innovative clause in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2019) to adjust the Green Belt boundary to allow some small family houses to be built in the centre of the village in exchange for a car park, sports facilities and a new park. This application will be out for consultation soon but will be based on the old landfill site between the cemetery and the roundabout at the end of Ten Acre Lane.

The forum are very proud that not only is this the first plan to do these things but because of that it has been noticed more widely and was featured in the planning press and on a programme called "Have I got planning news for you" It has also been quoted by Inspectors of planning appeals in their decision making.

If you would like to read the examiner's report and see the final plan it is available on the Runnymede Borough Council website under "planning policy and local plan" or you can see it on the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum site at Thorpeforum.org.uk

Cllr. Linda Gillham - Chairman, Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum

From your Thorpe Ward Councillors (cont.)

Linda Gillham, Elaine Gill, and Margaret Harnden

Well here I am, nearly five months into the Mayoral term with very little activity unfortunately. The majority has been online with the exception of laying poppy wreaths at Thorpe and Chertsey back in November 2020. I also attended St. Mary's Thorpe on 27th January for a short service to recognise Holocaust Memorial Day. Very poignant.

I am hopeful with restrictions being slowly lifted that we can all look forward to a more positive Spring and Summer.

I have recently attended online a Reception for the Nominees for the Queens Award for Voluntary Services 2021 and the winners will be announced on 2nd June, which is the annual anniversary of HM The Queen's Coronation.

There was a video message from The Earl of Wessex to all the Surrey nominees stating the importance of all the volunteers and this has been highlighted even more due to the pandemic.

I assisted with the nomination for Egham & Thorpe Royal Show, so keeping my fingers crossed that they are successful.

I am also delighted that Cllr Margaret Harnden is the Deputy Mayor. It is a wonderful achievement for Thorpe Ward for both of the roles to be women from the Runnymede Independent Residents' Group.

We both look forward to serving not only the community of Thorpe but representing the Borough of Runnymede.

Please all keep safe and keep well.

Cllr Elaine Gill, Mayor of Runnymede

As many of you will know, Covid -19 surge testing took place in Thorpe in early February, as the South African variant of the virus had been detected in the area. St Mary's church offered its Rutherwyke Room space as a 'pit-stop' area for the many test kit distributers. Cllr Elaine Gill and myself were able to help man the RRoom, serving drinks and snacks, in a Covid secure way, to the RBC and SCC staff who had to brave the elements to get the kits out to residents. Although sunny on some days, they also had to contend with snow, ice and wind on others but all went well and a higher percentage of people than expected returned their kits for testing. We have not yet heard the overall test results.

At the last Full Council meeting at RBC, Cllr Elaine Gill and I were confirmed as Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the municipal years 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively – a huge honour for us both. For my part, there is the matter of the upcoming local election on May 6th and Thorpe Ward Residents' Association has asked me to stand again as an Independent councillor for Thorpe Ward which I am delighted to do. The range of issues that a ward councillor has to deal with is vast, ranging from flooding issues to fly tipping and green spaces upkeep to major planning applications, licences and much more. I will always do my best to rectify problems where they exist if possible or advise on the best course of action if not.

The Muse development along Thorpe Lea Road, the B388, is the current issue causing much concern to local residents. I urge any residents who wish to comment on the application, RU.21/0192, to register their views with the RBC planning department, <u>planning@runnymede.gov.uk</u>. The deadline for submission has been extended to 19th March. The link to the planning applications page is given in the TWRA report.

Cllr Margaret Harnden

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sarahfrippmorris.etsy.com

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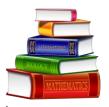
Thorpe Parochial Charities Giles Travers Educational Charity

Can!we!help! you?!



The Trustees of Thorpe
Parochial Charities invite
applications from young
people for support with
the cost of further
education from the
GilesTravers Educational
Charity

Small grants are available from the charity to assist students with the cost of books, equipment, travel expenses etc while in further education



To qualify, applicants must be under 21 years old and a resident within the ancient parish of Thorpe

Applications!should!be!made!in!writing!to:!
The!Clerk!to!the!Trustees,!Thorpe!Parochial!Charities,!!
21!The!Gower,!Thorpe,!Egham,!Surrey!TW20!8UB!

stating!what!the!grantlis!needed!for,!yourlage!and!the!educational!!!! establishment!(to!be)!attended!



Faith, Love and Excellence

A Heartfelt Thanks

Like everyone at the moment, we have been challenged by changes to our everyday life at school. Each member of our school community very quickly adapted and worked hard to ensure our children continued to flourish.

We are immensely proud of our families for the way they have stepped up to care for each other during this difficult time.

We are also very grateful to our Senior Leaders and Board of Governors for their unwavering support and vision.

We cannot praise our school staff highly enough; the teachers have worked tirelessly to deliver live lessons to children both at home and at school; the teaching assistants have supported children in school and kept them safe; the admin & site staff have kept the school running and even overseen improvements; the kitchen staff have continued to provide hot school meals and sports coaches have ensured our children keep moving. Heartfelt Thanks to you all for keeping everyone safe, healthy and learning.

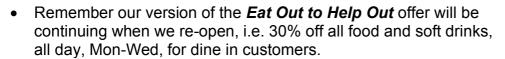
Our wonderful children have shown us how resilient they all are by continuing their learning with enthusiasm and passion. We have been so impressed with how much they have achieved.

Please visit our web site <u>www.thorpe.surrey.sch.uk</u> to see more about our wonderful village school.

Mrs Helen Southgate MA Headteacher

The Bence, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe TW20 8QD t. 01932 562329

The Red Lion Thorpe Public House & Restaurant





- We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back from 12th April.
- We'll be open for outside drinking and dining in groups of up to six people in our newly redesigned garden.
- New summer menu with some dishes appearing on the menu for the first time such as our new fish sharing platter, nachos, jambalaya, and chicken Milanese to name but a few.
- Drinking and dining inside will hopefully be allowed from 17th May.
- Our takeaway service will continue to operate as it has throughout lockdown.

And don't forget our ongoing 15% off food for all TWRA members offer!

Regards

From All at The Red Lion, Thorpe

Please see our website for more details, or to book, www.theredlionthorpe.co.uk

Or phone: 01932-563350

