

Caversham Nursery School 'outstanding'

Children and staff at Caversham Nursery School are celebrating after Ofsted inspectors increased their rating from 'good' to 'outstanding'. The Amersham Road school achieved the top ranking in all areas following the inspection in May.

School leaders, governors and staff were all praised for their outstanding contributions, as well as the pupils and their parents. The effective support of Reading council was also highlighted by inspectors.

The Ofsted report says: 'Senior leaders, governors and staff are committed to ensuring that every moment matters for every child. Leadership is shared widely so that this excellent provision is continually developing. Continuous training and development for staff have secured very high standards in teaching, learning and assessment. As a result, children's outcomes are outstanding.'

Inspectors also noted that children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities make excellent progress and additional support matches their individual needs very closely. Parents are

described as 'very effective partners' in developing children's learning, and inspectors say that pupils' personal development and welfare are at the heart of the school's work.

The report continues: 'Leaders, governors and staff are committed to ensuring that children receive personalised care, teaching and support that meets their different needs extremely well. Staff celebrate differences and give children the confidence to pursue their interests so that all children are very well motivated and flourish.'

The council's commitment to continual improvement in education for all children and ongoing support for all schools is also reflected in comments made by the inspectors. They said: 'The local authority has provided a very effective challenge and support to senior leaders, reinforcing their high expectations of children's achievement. This has facilitated further improvements to teaching, learning and assessment.'

Councillor Tony Jones, lead member for education,

said:

"I would like to congratulate the executive headteacher, staff and children at Caversham Nursery for the 'outstanding' judgement received from the inspection. This is a reflection of the dedication and professionalism of the staff and leadership at the school, along with the hard work and commitment of the children at the school. I would also like to congratulate the parents who have been so supportive of the school and their children. They have been a credit to the community."

Lisa Bedlow, executive headteacher of the school, said:

"We are delighted to have the full recognition of the outstanding commitment of all staff, as this follows our rating of outstanding for the 0-3s extended care provision in December 2016. We strive to give the children the best possible start to their early learning as we possibly can, creating independence and a love of learning that will stay with them as they continue on their education journey."

Oakfest Saturday

Residents of Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village came together on June 17th for Oakfest at Clayfield Copse, celebrating one particular oak tree and all the beautiful trees around it. The sun shone, and in the shade of the tree, picnic rugs and folding chairs came out, Readifolk and Readipop musicians played, a 'Green Spirit' which reminded everyone of our relationship with the natural world, a story teller told tree tales and children raced their freshly made hobby horses around the oak. It was a simple, peaceful and relaxing afternoon. Thanks to Friends of Clayfield Copse and Econet, Outrider Anthems, Reading Scouts, the community police, the Lions, RBC parks dept. and the Island Bowling Club, who all contributed to the day.



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Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810
Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

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METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY
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Tel: 947 2223
Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist
church.org.uk

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)
www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

GRACE CHURCH
(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)
www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk Tel 9474529

ROMAN CATHOLIC
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2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.
Deacon: Hugh Anscombe
Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

TALKING POINT

by Colin Ferguson

It says 'August' but it is still the end of June when I am writing this and the music playing in the background is a new version of *Bridge over troubled waters*. I still prefer the Simon and Garfunkel version but it is certainly a most appropriate song for this time. It has always been a song that spoke to me as I have spent most of my life trying to bridge the troubled lives of those I worked with, including the last 12 years of my working life as a family mediator.

One of the first things you learn as a mediator is that there are lost causes. One party is intransigent. "I am right and everyone else is wrong" is their attitude. They tend to be the bullies and the abusers of relationships. In the extreme they are called Isis, there is no give or take, only take. Yet even here the individual can be saved if they are caught early on.

The church cannot be too complacent in this as we too have our extremists, not so much these days but our history is spattered with the blood of martyrs who dared to stand up to the bigotry of past dictators. There are still Christians dying for standing up for justice and equality throughout the world.

It is therefore deeply troubling to find the hatred this attitude spawns here again in the terrible actions in Manchester and on London and Westminster Bridges and Finsbury Park. What has been so moving is the response of the community shown even more after the devastating fire in North London. The sight of that conflagration will be difficult to ever forget. I remember working with families in the tower blocks of South London and the fear a young mother had as she watched her children playing in the yard below and then running across a road. The council had a solution. They moved the families out and did all the repairs they had wanted then sold them privately. So much of what is done to save or to make money has an underlying immorality, a carelessness of other people's lives. When people feel powerless to change things for the better, mediation struggles to help.

If anything needs mediation now it is in our political system, especially with the Brexit changes. The recent election made matters worse but at the same time emphasised the fact that one party does not have all the answers. The one thing that is absolutely clear is that we are separating ourselves from the European Council and Court controls. The 'how' needs a lot of negotiation and mediation and a working together so that the result can be seen as bringing the country together.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has called for just such a united front. Mediation is about finding a just resolution and not just one telling the other what to do or waving a flag of defiance. The time for posturing is gone, now we need to be bridging the troubled waters and having a united approach that does bring people together and doesn't just talk about it.

Colin Ferguson is a Christian writer and an accredited lay preacher in the United Reformed Church

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st
Holy Communion 2nd 3rd and 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays
Service of the Word other Sundays
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays
9.30am All Age Worship 2nd Sunday
Fifth Sunday Services as advertised

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.15am Morning Worship 1st Sunday
Holy Communion 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist first and third Sundays
only, first Sunday BCP
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Said Communion (BCP)
9.30am Parish Communion
9.30am COGS for all ages (1st Sunday of Month)

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham
10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP Meeting at Caversham Park School

11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH South Street

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday
8.00pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) –
2nd Sunday each month
3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family
Fourth Sunday of the month

GRACE CHURCH Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)

Gosbrook Road

10.30am
Woodcote Parish Church
9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Church Street, Reading

10.30am
(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the September 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 31st July**. The date for the October 2017 issue is **Monday 4th September**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the September 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 28th July**. The date for the October 2017 issue is **Friday 1st September**.

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Since starting our Partnership for Missional Church scheme, activities enabling the church to reach out to the community have gone from strength to strength. We now have regular input from the Children of Bubbles pre-school who come along and share a little sing-song.

During our June coffee morning, we had a special visit and a short talk from the ladies who made the Caversham Community Quilt, which was brought along and displayed.

You are invited to join us at our coffee mornings which are held at the Milestone Centre, Milestone Way, Caversham Park on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next will be at 10am on 22nd August.

Caversham Community Quilt

The quilt, which took 22 women from Caversham five months to make, now has a proud owner. It has been on display at St Peter's church, St John's church, St Andrew's church, Caversham library, the Milestone centre and Reading embroiderers' guild.

Donations were requested and the winner, drawn at the Caversham Mapledurham and Thameside church fete on July 8th, was The Rocking Horse Montessori Nursery School of Caversham. The quilt was the brainchild of Pat Jones, a member of St Peter's church. It raised £1145 for Berkshire Women's Aid, and this will be used to support the building of a new refuge in the town.

News from St Barnabas Church

The date of our Patron Saint is the 11th June. This year it fell on a Sunday and the service reflected many aspects of the meaning of Barnabas as 'the son of encouragement'. It contained challenges for everyone to be daily encouragers in their Christian lives.

Over the next few months several guest services will take place. These will include an update from Glyn and Jane Davies who founded and work for 'Education for Life' in Mombasa – a charity supported by the congregation of St Barnabas Church. We are also looking forward to hearing about the Gideon's International organisation and also the role of a Reading street pastor.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
METHODIST CHURCH
NETWORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Thursday 7th September

Annual General Meeting led by Rev'd Jenny Dowling

Thursday 21st SeptemberSpeaker: Peter Holman
'The Thames from Oxford to Windsor'**Thursday 5th October**Speaker: Ann Smith
'Shopping history throughout the ages : 100 years of Reading shops'**Thursday 19th October**Speaker: John Brierley
'The Foundling Hospital'**Thursday 2nd November**

Members Afternoon

Thursday 16th November

Games with Val Keating

Thursday 30th NovemberThames Valley Air Ambulance
Speaker: Selina**Thursday 14th December**Music and Readings
Speaker/Musician: Rev'd David Jenkins

Children from the Children of Bubbles have a sing song



Three of the ladies who made the Caversham Quilt visit the Milestone centre.

Bible Friends**Noah and the rainbow**

Noah was in the boat, with his family and all the animals, for a very long time. At first it rained every day. When Noah looked out he saw more and more water covering the earth. Then it stopped raining but they still had to stay on the boat until all the water had dried up.

One day, at long last, Noah was able to get off the boat with all his family and all his animals. They were so glad to be on dry land again!

But Noah was worried. Would it rain so hard again? Would there be another big flood? He looked up at the sky. He wondered if it would soon be full of dark clouds bringing rain again. But instead he saw something wonderful! A rainbow arching across the sky! "I'll never flood the earth like that again," God told Noah. "When you see the rainbow in the sky, remember my promise to you."

Genesis 8:13 – 9:17



From the Lookout Post

CADRA AGM and Open Meeting

Following a brief AGM and round up of the year, CADRA welcomed Dr Megan Aldrich, architectural historian, to give a personal view of the history of architecture in Caversham.

Megan highlighted the traces of Tudor architecture in Caversham from the cottages in Caversham centre and in Surley Row, the remaining elements of St Peter's Church and the influence of Mapledurham House – a classic example of Tudor domestic architecture. The original Manor House at Caversham Park from the 1600s, designed by Robert Smithson who also designed Longleat, will also have influenced local building.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, building was limited to the small, domestic, vernacular with no grand architecture similar to that of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Early in the 19th century, Caversham was influenced by the Picturesque Movement and paintings by Turner and Havell give an artist's view. Caversham started to become popular as a leisure destination and villas were built as a summer house away from London. Towards the end of the century, Victorian streets were designed with delightful elements of design in polychromatic brickwork. These important streetscapes remain as one of the most important features of Caversham. However, they are fragile and easily lost. They need to be nurtured and protected.

The Arts and Craft 'umbrella movement' can be traced in many areas of Caversham with the influence of Voysey, a leading architect of the movement. There is a mix of gothic and other elements and important reference to the Tudor past and we can trace the Tudor influence in many aspects of 19th century building.

Megan concluded with her three favourite buildings.

1. St Barnabas Church

The first corrugated tin church with gothic detailing remains as the Church Hall. The existing church built in the 1920s is a fine example of Arts and Crafts with gothic style and has some lovely detail.

2. Chiltern Court

Originally named Warren Court and built in 1879-80; by William Ravenscroft of Reading, for George May, this reflects the High Aesthetic movement. It is Grade II listed.

3. Caversham Library

One of the libraries built by the Carnegie Foundation, the library is sometimes referred to as being in the Free Renaissance style. But arguably it is influenced by

Voysey and by John Ruskin, professor at Oxford and a regular visitor to Venice. In Megan's view it belongs to the Arts and Craft movement and looks back at the Tudor style.

The meeting concluded with a retiring collection for the Society of Protection for Ancient Buildings, which was founded by William Morris.



Caversham Library



Hemdean Rise



Chiltern Court

CADRA celebrates 50 years

CADRA was formed in 1967, initially around concern over the building of the new precinct. Across the country, it was a time of change with a growing awareness of the need to recognise and protect local heritage and for local communities to work together. Since then, CADRA has followed and sought to exert a positive influence on progress and change in Caversham. Around 2000, a review was completed, including adoption of a new constitution. Since then, the newsletters have developed, a website and Facebook page have been established and the informal network, locally and across Reading, has continued to develop.

2017 is a year of golden anniversaries and CADRA joins, among others, the creation of Conservation Areas, the Watermill Theatre near Newbury and the Beatles album *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. So CADRA will welcome everyone to celebrate '50 years ago today' at the open meeting on **Tuesday 17 October**. Dr John

Evans will talk about 'Trees in Caversham' before we cut a cake and drink a toast. There will be a 50th anniversary extended issue of the CADRA autumn newsletter for CADRA members. Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Waltons Jewellers or you can join online at www.cadra.org.uk

St Peter's Conservation Area

The new draft appraisal for St Peter's Conservation Area was launched at the Caversham church fete on the afternoon of Saturday 8th July. Leaflets and the full appraisal document are available in Caversham Library or at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>

A key proposal is to extend the Conservation Area to include the Church Street/ Church Road/ Bridge Street junction, Bridge Street, and Caversham Bridge, and this proposal has been incorporated into the appraisal. It is hoped that the appraisal will eventually be adopted by Reading Borough Council as part of its formal planning policy. The engagement of residents and building owners is key to its credibility and acceptance by RBC, which will have to undertake its own formal consultation to give the document full legal force.

This consultation closes **Saturday 19 August**. Please take the opportunity to comment now. It will be important to be able to show that the appraisal has public support.

You can comment: online via the CADRA website <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>, or by emailing appraisal@cadra.org.uk, or by writing to: St Peter's Conservation Area Appraisal Comments, 121 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7LB

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Mapledurham Playing Fields Consultation

A 10 week public consultation exercise on proposals for the future use of Mapledurham Playing Fields (MPF) is being carried out by Reading Borough Council (RBC) and began on July 14th.

As trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity at Mapledurham, RBC's role is to provide and maintain MPF for the benefit of residents of the Parish of Mapledurham, and of the Borough of Reading as a whole. RBC has received two separate proposals relating to the future use of MPF. They are:

1. An EFA proposal to provide £1.36 million in funding which could be used to improve leisure facilities on the playing fields. This forms part of the EFA's proposal to lease 1.231 acres of the 27.35 acre MPF site to build a new school for the Heights Primary School.

2. A proposal called 'Fit4All' – put forward by the MPF Foundation – to lease the playing fields for fundraising purposes and to manage the grounds

without any loss of open space.

Details of both proposals can be found on RBC's website at www.reading.gov.uk/mapledurhamplayingfields. Residents can have their say at the same location. The closing date for comments is 25th September, and the consultation results will be reported back to a meeting of the MPF Trustees Sub Committee for consideration.

The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of the residents of Mapledurham and Reading (the beneficiaries) on four key issues, which are:

1) If the Council were to grant a lease to the EFA, how should it consider applying the premium of £1.36 million in funding in order best to enable the charity to use MPF for recreation?

2) Is the grant of the lease to the EFA likely to enhance the amenity value of MPF for the charity's beneficiaries?

3) Or should the Sub Committee prefer

the Fit4All proposal made by the MPF Foundation?

4) If the lease is granted to the EFA, should RBC as trustee take steps to impose a legal restriction on the remainder of MPF in order to ensure that it can only be used by the charity for recreational purposes in the future?

RBC as trustee will be publicising the consultation by distributing leaflets to residents living in Mapledurham Parish and within 400m of MPF, which will direct residents to the online consultation. Leaflets will also be available at council buildings and amenities in Caversham, including Caversham Library, local community and children's centres, and advertised in parks and playgrounds. Details will also be circulated to all schools in Caversham, and the consultation will also be publicised through local media and through RBC's own social media platforms.

Amersham Road Youth and Community Centre (ARYCC)

The centre is to be renamed The Weller Centre in honour of a local postman who died earlier this year. Local households voted for the new name of the centre, which is currently undergoing a major renovation, in honour of Caversham resident Martin Weller who was a familiar face in the Amersham Road area.

The centre closed in March for a £540,000 extension and refurbishment and is due to re-open in autumn 2017. Residents were invited to choose a new name for the centre when it reopens.

Martin Weller attended The Hill Primary School and Highdown School and joined Royal Mail at the age of 18. He would always give a wave and a smile as he delivered the post along Amersham Road whatever the weather. He was an active volunteer with Caversham Children's Fund, a resident-led group on the Amersham Road Estate that hosts activities for children aged 5 – 11 and their families. In his spare time, he loved music, especially reggae, and could be found DJ'ing at local bars and at family discos at the centre on Amersham Road.

Mr Weller's widow Carol said, "We are touched and so pleased that the community thought so much of Martin that they would want to use his name for the centre. It's truly an honour for Martin, our family and friends. Thank

you all for doing this in his memory."

Cllr Liz Terry, Reading's lead member for Neighbourhoods, said, "It is fitting that the new community centre will carry the name of someone who was so special to the people in the area. Mr Weller will be remembered for years to come as people enjoy using the fabulous modern building for a wide range of activities."

Deborah Jenkins, chair of the Earley Charity's Community Development Committee, said, "The Earley Charity has high expectations that the Weller Centre will be all about looking out and caring for neighbours and providing a safe place for people to meet, learn and have fun together – things that were important to Mr Weller. In choosing to remember Martin in this way, the people of Amersham Road have also set down their hopes for the centre in an evocative way."

An innovative partnership between the Earley Charity, Catalyst Housing Association and Reading Borough Council will enable the old ARYCC to be transformed into one of the finest community centres in the area.

The Weller Centre will include a spacious lobby with reception desk, café with free Wi-Fi, and a space to host private events such as birthday parties. Access to the community garden will be improved and bicycle and buggy parking made available.



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Corpus Christi at Mapledurham

The annual open air mass to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi took place at Mapledurham on Thursday 15th June. This year Father Paul from the church of Our Lady and St Anne celebrated mass. The children of the First Holy Communion class from St Anne's school attended with family and friends, the girls in their long white dresses and the boys elegantly dressed. Many parishioners from Our Lady and St Anne's and elsewhere joined the congregation.

The customary procession of the Blessed Sacrament, ably led by Stephanie Fox, took place round the large lawn in front of Mapledurham House. Girls from Blessed Hugh Farrington School carried the canopy over the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction followed and then those who wished could remain for picnic lunches on the grass.



The procession rounding the lawn



Fr Paul carrying the Blessed Sacrament

First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Caversham

On the solemnity of Pentecost, eleven children celebrated their First Holy Communion at the church of Our Lady and St Anne. The girls in their long white dresses and the boys smartly dressed made a splendid sight as they went down to the altar. They were accompanied by their parents and other relations and friends, many of whom also received Holy Communion. At the end of Mass, Father Paul presented them with certificates as a memorial of the occasion.

The following Wednesday evening, Bishop William Kenney C.P. came to Caversham to confirm seventeen young people. Each candidate for confirmation was presented to the Bishop with his or her sponsor and was marked on the forehead with Holy Oil of Chrism. After mass, Bishop Kenney posed for a photograph with all the children and then smilingly watched as they received their certificates from Father Paul.

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Bishop Kenney with the newly confirmed.



11 FHC children on Pentecost Sunday, and two girls from the previous week.



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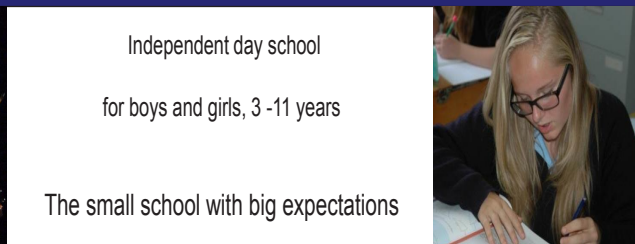
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CHURCHES

Ordination of curate

The Revd Judith Ryder, curate in the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, was ordained at Reading Minster by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud, on 24th June. Judith arrived in Caversham to take up the post of curate in June 2016, having the previous day been ordained as a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and to begin her practical training as a priest. She has now been ordained as a fully fledged priest in the Church of England, and will continue her training in Caversham

for the next two years.

The following day, Judith led the communion service at the St Peter's patronal festival, assisted by the Revd Marion Pyke, acting as deacon, and by the Revd Penny Cuthbert, who preached the sermon.

Following the service, a reception was held for Judith, with a celebration cake, in the rectory garden, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch attended by members of all three churches in the parish.



Judith with the Bishop of Reading



Revs Marion Pyke, Judith Ryder and Penny Cuthbert

Reading Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met at St Barnabas church in June. It was an evening of elections and this proved to be a good day for Caversham residents.

Caversham members who were elected for positions with the deanery for governance are: mission and pastoral committee representing north Reading: Revd Mike Smith, lay member: Steve Jenkins; treasurer: Mark Burton; lay chairman: Mark Hinckley; assistant lay chairman: Dr Alison Johnston; NSM/PTO voting member: Rev Margaret Dimmick.

Included in the meeting was an inspiring story from Sam Moore, of Beech Hill Church, who gave a presentation on how, from an idea six years ago through many negotiations over a two-year period, a shop was opened in the Butterfield-designed church. The opening received much media coverage.

Ownership is by members who paid £25 per share. The shop is run by two part-time managers and 20 volunteers, one of whom is blind and another partially sighted. The shop is positioned in the north aisle, an area previously used for storage, now housing specially designed cupboards which can be completely closed off when the shop is closed. The renovation project included a barn behind the church to include toilet facilities and newly laid paths. The shop is open six days a week from 08.30 to 18.00 hours and is well used by villagers and people from surrounding areas.

As far as possible local produce is sold, thus ensuring freshness, and reducing the detrimental effects on the environment by travelling fewer miles. The grounds around the church are kept in good order by local sheep, which are owned and loaned by a young farmer who started out with two sheep when he was 20 years old and now has 65.

Events in the church are themed to the church calendar and seasonal produce as far as is possible. A recent animal service was linked with pet grooming at the shop as well as the promotion of pet products. A craft group meets at the church, and has provided twiddle muffs for those with dementia and clothes for premature babies, also courses such as a Lent course. A tea room provides refreshments (cream teas a speciality), and provides lunches for special groups such as Thrive (a gardening charity for people with disabilities) when they hold training days.

The shop is considered to be in the top 12 of its kind in the country. It has enabled the church to become the centre of village life, offering not only a peaceful shopping experience, but also affording time of quiet and prayer and an opportunity to talk to others. The project has also been recognized as providing experience for those undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Dr Alison Johnston
Reading Deanery

David Jenkins in Concert

On Saturday July 8th at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church David Jenkins gave another of his wonderful musical concerts. This year he was joined by Rachel Scarlett (soprano) and Renato Fonseca (flautist)

The programme was a delight with a good number of well known pieces, including *The Legend of the Glass Mountain*, the theme tune from the film *Ladies In Lavender*, *Moonlight Sonata*, and favourites from Paul McCartney and Andrew Lloyd-Webber. The programme was interspersed with some of David's own compositions, including some which were 'World Premiers'. One of these was *Domine Jesu*, a Requiem Mass sung beautifully by Rachel Scarlett. Both Rachel and Renato joined in some of the items with David singing and playing the piano as well. This made up a beautiful 'quartet'. Renato also played some solo pieces which had been written by one of his Brazilian friends.

The concert was very well attended, a supper was provided in the interval.

The concert raised £320 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance. David had his CDs on sale and proceeds from these will also go to the charity.

Many thanks especially to David for arranging the concert, and to Renato and Rachel for their talented input, plus the 'back room staff' for all the catering.

Eunice Cooper

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Annette Hendry



Former Reading councillor Annette Hendry (nee Booler), aged 74, passed away peacefully at the Sue Ryder home, Nettlebed, in May after a brave battle with cancer.

Annette Hendry will be remembered as a tireless campaigner for the greater good of the community in Caversham, where she lived for over 40 years, and Reading as a whole, where Annette had first made her home in Woodside Way, Shinfield with her husband Alan in 1969.

After the birth of her children Douglas (1969), Anne (1971) and Neill (1975), and following a period living in Nairobi, Kenya, Annette settled into life in Blenheim Road, Caversham. She began a long and distinguished career selflessly working with a variety of organisations and in job roles where she was able to work with, support and help people as a teacher, social

worker, volunteer, councillor, school governor and trustee member of the Reading Citizen Advice Bureau and Reading Dispensary Trust, among others.

Annette was born in Langwith, Notts in January 1943 to Lesley and Joyce Booler. Following the end of World War II the family moved to nearby Mansfield Woodhouse, where Annette's father took up a position as a chemist.

After a very happy childhood alongside her two sisters Elaine and Judith and formative years spent in Mansfield, Annette was the first in her family to go to university at University College London, where she read English.

While in London, Annette met her future husband Alan, and after a brief period of work as a teacher in London, together they made the move to Reading for Alan to work at ICL. After teaching came children and Annette's lifelong dedication to civic service began when Annette volunteered to teach English as a foreign language to new arrivals in Reading. Once her family was established and the children a little older, Annette took on a full time volunteer role with Homestart in Reading as one of the founder organisers in 1984.

In this role working to support families in difficulty or crisis, Annette developed a life-long interest in supporting families with compassion, support, friendship and practical help which encouraged her to return to university and begin a second degree in social work at Oxford Brookes University as a mature student in 1988.

After graduating, Annette took up a role at Bracknell Social Services in 1991 within the children and families division, working with troubled teenagers, dysfunctional families and children in care which, while challenging, Annette found incredibly rewarding and life enriching.

After the death of her husband in 1996, Annette continued her work as a social worker and became more heavily involved in a variety of local charities and organisations. However many local people will most fondly remember Annette for her local political career, which began as a Liberal activist in the late seventies in Caversham, and later ended with her being elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor for Peppard ward in Caversham Park Village, where she supported many local causes and always found time to listen to and help deal with local people's issues and problems.

In later years, and following retirement, Annette's life didn't slow down as she took on more and more voluntary positions with the Reading Citizen Advice Bureau, Reading Dispensary Trust, as a long-term governor at Emmer Green Primary School, volunteer driver at Caversham Good Neighbours and supporter of a number of over 10 charities from Oxfam to Plan International. Annette's life was cruelly cut short by a cancer diagnosis which everyone thought she had beaten in 2014, but sadly this returned at the end of 2016.

An incredibly compassionate, humane and patient person, Annette was also a person of immense grace and generosity, a true example of how to lead a selfless and dignified life. Annette was fun, kind hearted and had a special skill for making people in her presence feel at ease and relaxed.

A wordsmith, booklover, would be pianist and enthusiastic traveller throughout her lifetime, Annette will be missed by a great many friends, family and associates in Reading and well beyond its boundaries.



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ENVIRONMENT

In Praise of Thistles

If you have Creeping Thistles in your garden, you probably won't have a good word to say about them – though they do attract the bees and butterflies if you let them flower.

But there are many other kinds of thistle that are most unlikely to trouble gardeners. Often tall and handsome, they are choosy about where they will grow, and you find different species in different parts of Britain. For instance, you'll find Marsh Thistles all along the Thames, but you won't find the Melancholy Thistle, which grows



farther north. The so-called Meadow Thistle likes damp and peaty places, but only where the ground water is alkaline. There are a number of places in the Thames Valley which have the kind of fen vegetation that it likes. I usually see the Milk Thistle only by the sea: it has milky marblings in its dark green leaves, and has an odd name in botanical Latin, Silybum.

If you go to go to continental Europe, there are even more thistles to find, including some that are yellow, rather than purple.

I took this month's photograph on the downs, above the River Thames, in August a few years ago. This is perhaps the most handsome of all the thistles, the Woolly Thistle. The "wool" round the buds and bases of the flowers is pretty obvious. I had walked from Dorchester-on-Thames along the river towards Day's Lock, crossed on the footbridge, had a look in Little Wittenham Church, and then climbed up towards the Wittenham Clumps, the two rounded hills which are otherwise known as Mother Dunch's Buttocks, or more politely as the Sinodun Hills. And there it was, just as I had remembered, in profusion.

The name 'thistle' is so ancient that no-one seems to know what it signified, apart from this group of plants. The name goes back to the time of the Anglo-Saxons, but it is a plant which is particularly associated with Scotland. The story explaining why the thistle is the Scottish emblem is supposed to go back to the eighth century. A party of Danish marauders was creeping up on Stirling Castle, by night (I didn't think that there were castles as early as that, but never mind!). The forward party was approaching, barefooted, which turned out to be disastrous for them. Unsuspecting, they trod on thistles and cried out in pain. The Scots were alerted, and slew their would-be attackers. This gave rise to the Scottish motto, 'Nemo me lacessit impune', which, translated, means something like 'No one interferes with me without feeling the consequences'. It was the motto of the Order of the Thistle, and of the Stuart dynasty.

So, if you are out on the downs this month, you might just find the Woolly Thistle. You might also find the Carline Thistle – the one which,

even when dried, can be used to foretell the weather, or so they say. Supposedly, the dried flowers still open out if it's going to be fine, but close up if rain is on the way. But the one to look out for is the Dwarf, or Stemless Thistle. It grows in the grass, close to the ground, it's hard to see, very prickly, and is sometimes known as the Picnicker's Nightmare!

Happy Wanderer

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Caversham Royal British Legion

The last few months have been very busy for the branch.

Members have enjoyed regular coach trips, the latest being to Dorchester market – where the 50 members were lucky enough to enjoy the only dry day of that week!

The usual monthly socials at the Caversham Working Men's Club have continued to be well supported – supper for £1, bingo and a raffle. Other members who enjoy our monthly supper clubs have visited many local restaurants, and, indeed, the Casino!

On a more serious note, the money collected by the branch and its friends for the Poppy Appeal continues to add up and to date the total collected for last year amounts to over £53,000.

On Saturday 24th June the branch held its usual fund raising event in the centre of Caversham. Members were joined by officers and cadets from the local Army Cadet Force and the Sea Cadets.

During the day's proceedings the branch president, Ron Jewitt, presented an honours board to the secretary of Nettlebed Village Hall. This board was rescued from the

now defunct Caversham Conservative Club (the board dated back to the early 20th century when the club was Caversham Constitutional Club). It named Capt Valentine Fleming, the then MP for Henley, as its president. Capt Fleming was killed in action in France in 1917, so Armed Forces Day this year seems an appropriate time to present it to his family. Sue Worth, secretary of Nettlebed Village Hall received it on behalf of the Family. Capt Fleming's father presented the hall to the village when he bought Joyce Grove, now the Sue Ryder Home. Capt Fleming was the father of Ian Fleming – the creator of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and James Bond.

Another presentation was made to the branch president. This time the retiring president of Maiden Erlegh Inner Wheel, Margaret Adams, a branch member and great supporter of the Poppy Appeal, donated over 70 handmade poppies to the branch to help with the fund raising for this year's Poppy Appeal.

Anyone wishing to join the branch or help with this year's Poppy Appeal please contact either Ron on 0118 9481147 or email Pauline on porkypeppard@hotmail.co.uk.



Ron Jewitt presents the Caversham Constitutional Club board



Ron Jewitt makes a presentation to Margaret Adams

Heritage Open Days 2017

Caversham Court Gardens and St Peter's Conservation Area

Walking Tours Saturday 9 September at 11.00 am & 2.30 pm

To mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Conservation Areas, join architectural historian Megan Aldrich for a one-hour walk on Saturday 9 September (11am and 2.30pm) looking at the highlights of St Peter's Conservation Area. The tours will include a visit to St Peter's church, and will start and finish at Caversham Court Gardens. The tours are free, but numbers are limited. Please book using the following link:

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Guided tours of the beautiful riverside gardens and the 17th century summer house are also available on the same day on request, no booking required. Sensory tours for visually or hearing impaired people can also be provided. All tours will be run by the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, from 11am to 4pm. The charity-run tea kiosk will also be open on site, serving refreshments from 11am until 5pm.

Enquiries to the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, by email friends@fccg.org.uk or write c/o the Head Gardener, Caversham Court, Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AD. There is a mail box in the stable yard.

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CLUBS

Probus

At the June meeting of the Reading and District Probus club, members were joined by partners and other guests. The speaker was Dr Christopher Corti, who gave a talk entitled 'Gold: past, present and future'. Unfortunately, no samples were available. Christopher is a metallurgist with nearly 40 years experience in precious metals.

Gold is a heavy metal, and is one of only two coloured metals. Its atoms are smaller than silver atoms. It is the most ductile of all metals, a conductor of electricity, with a melting point of 1064 degrees Celsius. It occurs naturally as a native metal, often in combination with silver, and was first discovered in the early bronze age.

Gold is prized for its beauty and value, and is used as an adornment. The best known gold artefact is probably the mask of Tutankhamun, which weighs about 27 kg, and dates from around 1320BC. Christopher showed pictures of gold artefacts from four continents, with castings, including a wild ass from Mesopotamia dating from 2600BC. Gold does not corrode, and is malleable: gold leaf can be beaten to a thickness of three millionths of an inch.

Gold has been used for coinage from 7th century BC. To counteract debasement of coinage, assaying has been used to measure the gold content. There are now four assay offices in UK, in London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh.

Between two and three thousand tonnes of gold are freshly mined annually, mostly in USA, Australia, China, Russia and South Africa, but in smaller quantities all over the world. The quantity of gold ever mined is around 172000 tonnes, mostly in the 20th century. One tonne of ore gives rise to around five grams of gold. A standard gold bar weighs 400 troy ounces, equal to 27 lb or 12.4kg.

Most gold is used for jewellery, but there are many industrial and other applications, in such fields as electronics, dentistry, electroplating, architectural glass, gold leaf, pharmaceuticals, and medical implants.

The current price of gold is US\$1200 per ounce, around £33 per gram.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men. Lunch is followed by a talk, on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club. For further information visit the club's website www.probusclub-reading.org.uk If you are interested in joining, please contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

Rosehill WI

Happy Birthday Rosehill – 54 in June.

President Margaret Pyle welcomed all members and visitors to our birthday tea in June – there were representatives from Chazey, Caversham and Sonning Glebe WIs – and thanked those who had sent birthday cards. Apologies were received from Marlene Voke, Berkshire Federation chairman and Wendy Robinson, our WI Advisor who were attending the NFWI AGM in Liverpool.

Margaret thanked Jean Hewitt for the table flowers and all members for the cakes and goodies that would be devoured at the end of the meeting. Treasurer Judith Sharp told us that our finances are in a healthy position.

The film club went to see 'My Cousin Rachel'.

Arlene Riley will arrange a visit to Riseley Village Hall for a cream tea in September, plus the possibility of forming a lunch club in the future.

We then came to our speaker – in fact there were six of them – together known as 'The Tuesday Girls' who entertained us with a medley of songs, some serious and some comical. One of the ladies also played the guitar. We were asked to join in at any time if we knew the words. At one point someone made a mistake and this was put down to the fact that they were performing on a Wednesday!! Well done, ladies, we all enjoyed it very much. After all the singing came the very welcome cup of tea and some of those cakes.

In May, a group of us from Rosehill attended the Caversham Group Meeting, it being our turn to act as hosts. The speaker for the evening was Phillipa Bilton who gave a very interesting talk about the Suffragette Movement. Phillipa dressed herself in a costume of the time, with the suffragette colours, and brought with her documents and books about the movement.

In June 26 Rosehill members attended The Mill At Sonning for lunch and a matinee performance of 'Don't Dress For Dinner'.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm at St Barnabas Village Hall, Emmer Green.

Caversham WI

At Caversham WI's June meeting, we welcomed Keith Beasley from the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Coincidentally, this was a timely talk, and reminded us of many things we could be doing to keep ourselves safer at home. We found out that it takes just four breaths of the toxic fumes from an overheated phone charger to make you unconscious (and unable to react to the fire alarm!), so we won't be sleeping beside our chargers from now on!

The WI national resolutions for campaigning to alleviate loneliness and keep microplastic fibres out of our oceans were both accepted – so watch this space: we will be planning a few activities around both subjects soon. Next month, we will be welcoming a true local to share his experiences as a fishmonger!

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 in the evenings – which helps avoid child-care issues. There is usually easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, (some building works may temporarily affect this though). More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for 'Caversham WI programme'.

For enquiries please contact our secretary, on 947 5176.

Caversham Heights Society

It is 42 years since the Caversham Heights Society was founded by Martyn Allies. It held its first meeting on the 7th October 1975, and has continued since then with fortnightly lectures on topics of general interest, historical, geographical, cultural, or local, interspersed with visits to places of interest such as gardens, National Trust properties, theatres, the proms and the Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall. For many years one of the highlights of the year has been a five-day mini-holiday held during May. This year we went to Herefordshire and Worcestershire, a write up of which was published in the July issue of the Caversham Bridge.

The last visit of the season was on the hottest, and longest, day of the year, the 21st June, when a coach load of us went to Compton Acres, a series of amazing gardens ranging from Italian to Japanese, from heather to woodland, all within 10 acres of land overlooking Poole Harbour. Because the day was not rushed and because there was plenty of shade at different points within the complex, none of us was overcome by the heat! The general feeling was one of gratitude to Christine Bradbury who organised the visit, and a desire to return again some day!

Despite the society's name, membership is not confined only to people living in Caversham Heights or Caversham. New members are always very welcome from wherever they happen to live. Further details can be obtained on the society's website cavershamheights.org or via email to contact@cavershamheights.org or by phone to Carol Cozens, our membership secretary and treasurer, on 946 1509. The next season begins on Wednesday 20th September with a talk on the 'History of Thames Water', followed on 4th October by one on 'Trooper Potts VC'. Do come

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

In June this year the guild was 56 years old! We had a party to celebrate with cakes, sandwiches, jelly and ice cream. We were entertained by Rebecca Holmes with well-known songs - and we all joined in.

The AGM took place in Sheffield this year. A group of us from Berkshire attended. Those remaining in Reading were kept 'fit for life' with Pilates by Christine Brook.

The Social Studies group were told of the rescue of hostages from Magdala in Ethiopia in the 19th century, a story researched and told by Richard Snailham. Lunch club, Scrabble, ambling and cinema clubs continue as usual. There will be a social evening at our chairman's house in August.

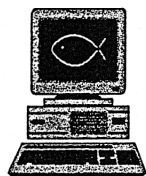
The next meeting will be at the Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road at 7.30pm on 21st September.

Caversham Horticultural Society

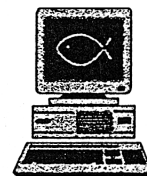
Saturday September 9th sees the society's annual autumn show, held at Emmer Green Primary School, St Barnabas Road. The show runs between 2 and 4pm, displaying plants, floral art, domestic classes and handicrafts grown and created by members. However, the society is keen to include entries from anyone residing within the RG4 postal district. These include the domestic, floral art and handicrafts classes within the show schedule. A number of separate children's classes are also available so if your child is keen to create a vegetable monster, enter a self-grown vegetable, display a vase of flowers to name a few of the junior classes, do please encourage them to enter.

For details of the show schedule either consult it on the society's website www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk, or contact the show secretary at 113 Southfield Avenue Caversham RG4 5BB or email gmr113@hotmail.co.uk

Consult the show schedule for entry instructions in addition to discovering the classes that are open to non-members of the society.



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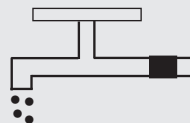
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