



THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PRODUCED BY THE CHURCHES OF CAVERSHAM

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ON THE BRIDGE [3rd July 2017] Hello Caversham BRIDGE THE GAP

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Headlines for November Issue

The Weller Centre opens with a host of community activities.
Saturday 9 September, the ribbon was cut to open the Weller Centre named after much-loved local postman, Martin Weller, who sadly died earlier this year. The community had voted in a poll to name the Centre after him. The Amersham Road school achieved the top ranking in all areas following the inspection in May. School leaders, governors and staff were... (more)

We have done it

From the beginning of November, you can find the Bridge on-line at www.cavershambridge.org, Our contact email addresses are also changing, and you can subscribe to the paper via the website to read the full edition on-line or order your printed copy for home. See page 7 for details...

The Weller Centre opens with a host of community activities

On Saturday 9 September, the ribbon was cut to open the Weller Centre named after much-loved local postman, Martin Weller, who sadly died earlier this year. The community had voted in a poll to name the Centre after Martin and his wife Carol, who cut the ribbon, said: "We are so honoured and proud that the centre will be named after him. Martin always had time for people." The whole family joined her for the opening together with Mayor, Councillor Rose Williams, and MP Matt Rodda.



David Sutton, chair of The Earley Charity, spoke about its £500,000 investment in the extension and refurbishment of the former Amersham Road Community Centre. The Earley Charity has taken a 30-year lease from Reading Borough Council and has appointed Tina Ford of Catalyst Housing Association as the Centre Manager.

The Earley Charity is one of the largest local grant-making charities in central southern England. Its object is

the relief of need among the elderly, disabled or poor people living in its area of benefit which includes lower Caversham. Previously it funded the building of the Earley Crescent Community Resource Centre which is now a thriving hub within the local community.

The Weller Centre opening event was well-attended by hundreds of local people enjoying the many activities on offer. These were just a taste of what the Centre will offer the local community.

All parts of the Centre hosted a range of activities, such as an over-60s exercise class, many types of dancing, including belly dancing, and Reading Rockets taster sessions in the main hall. There were also



many information stalls there for local organisations, including ARENA (Amersham Road Estate Neighbourhood Association), RVA (Reading Voluntary Action) local Churches, Caversham Muslim Association and advice organisations.

Outside in the garden, Sandra Gough of Food4Families was giving away the crop of grapes which had thrived during the closure of the garden for the refurbishment; the Conservation Volunteers did a brilliant job removing all the weeds ready for the re-opening. The Men's Shed organisation showed their work and talked to people interested in joining them.



Caversham Children's Fund ran a bouncy castle and hot dog stall. More food was on offer from a fish and chip van. Coffee, tea and cakes were served in the new café area by the Amersham Road Cooking Club (ARCC) in the new bright and welcoming entrance area. Advice sessions were given in a more private setting in the new one-to-one room. Yoga sessions and children's activities made use of the meeting room.

A group of drummers and other

musicians enjoyed the new decking area overlooking the garden to provide entertainment during the four-hour opening event. This was a great example of what has already been happening in the Amersham Road area and a taste of new activities starting up as a result of this new stage in the community centre's life.

Sue Jenkins



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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN
St Barnabas
Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrews
Revd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788
www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Revd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Revd Marion Pyke Tel: 947 5834
Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265
Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810
Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (LEP)
(Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and URC)
Contact: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152. www.cpsc.org.uk

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY
Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
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
Mgr Patrick Dahey, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.
Deacon: Hugh Anscombe
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Common
Tel: 972 3418

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

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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TALKING POINT

by Dr Alison Johnston

We are in November again a time that is very special to a number of us, a time to remember and reflect on the duties undertaken for Queen and Country in the recent past. But still we find in Church that our duty to lead a service is much tougher than some of the duties undertaken on active service, as Remembrance Sunday is a challenge for those of us taking a service where children are present. Many people in the congregation have no experience of living through a war; while at the same time there will be of course a mix of members of the church family for whom this can be a very poignant and emotional occasion. Increasingly such services include mention of wars more recent than the two major world wars of the 20th century, Falklands, Yugoslavia, including present-day fighting in the Middle East. It also includes prayers for those members of the armed forces, who are part of peacekeeping initiatives in a number of world trouble spots. Although it is called Remembrance Sunday there is also an increasing desire to complement the looking back with prayers for peace in the future.

For a lot of children Remembrance Sunday will be identified most easily as Poppy Sunday. Both in church and perhaps in school at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month and the two-minute silence to remember those who died during wars. Thankfully at least two generations in this country have not been part of a war that affected lives as directly as did the First and Second World Wars and therefore it is useful to direct their thoughts and prayers towards the theme of 'making peace'. I can say that through God's grace and from personal experience that great friendships are born out of getting to know former foe after hostilities ended and we now share experiences and look forward to a peaceful and long-lasting future in friendship and regularly meet at this time of year alternately in each other's countries.

Many see the poppy as a sign of hope, inspired as it is by the poppy fields in Belgium, where the flowers grew on the very land that had during the First World War been battlegrounds. From this we got to know the traditional poem 'they shall not grow old'. We can supplement this very special poem with a few words from the Bible for example as from Psalm 46: 9-10:

(It is God, who)... makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear.

He burns the chariots with fire.

Be still and know that I am God.

I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth.

As for us as Christians each Sunday is a Remembrance Day. It is the day when we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, who won for the entire world a different and deeper kind of peace. God's peace gift to us is Jesus. He is God's gift to all who will receive Him. Jesus makes peace with God for us and as we learn how to pass this gift on, we become peacemakers and peace-givers too. He empowers us to be peace-bringers. When generally we think of peace we think of peace with the other side, but there is a battle here at home, here around us. It is one undertaken by former service personnel who gave everything for their country and after being injured physically or mentally and discharged are left abandoned, without recognition. So, on this Remembrance Sunday may your prayers of peace be for all in need. Prince Harry gave us the Invictus Games which has highlighted the need and brought peace to those who have been given a chance. What can you do to be a person of peace and as we learn from Matthew 5: 9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.'

Dr Alison Johnston
Caversham Park Church



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Caversham Good Neighbours is a group formed to offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled in our neighbourhood. If you would like to give to the community by joining us as a volunteer driver or helping in our office, then please do get in touch with us.

www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk
0118 948 3466

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 11.30am
Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX



SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion – BCP (first, second and fourth Sundays)
Matins – BCP (Third Sunday)
9.30am Holy Communion (second, third and fourth Sundays)
Service of the Word (First Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

St John's, Gosbrook Road

9.30am Holy Communion (first, third and fourth Sundays)
9.30am All Age Worship (second Sunday)
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.15am Holy Communion (first, second and fourth Sundays)
Morning Worship (third Sunday)
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

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 December 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 6th November**. The date for the January 2018 issue is **Monday 27th November**. Email address is editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the December 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 3rd November**. The date for the January 2018 issue is **Friday 24th November**. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

Vivace Voices ladies' choir

The choir who sing for fun are gaining a reputation for good quality singing, under their musical director, Ian Westley.

In September, they invited along friends and past members to a party to celebrate 25 years of music-making.

Norma Crockett (chairman) presented Ian, who has directed the choir since its start, with a long-service medal to mark his achievement. The choir

sang some of their favourite songs and the afternoon finished in traditional style with tea and a celebration cake.

Vivace Voices meet on Wednesday afternoons at St Catherine's Church in Tilehurst.

Every year they give three concerts and donate all the proceeds to charities. Last year over £2000 was raised for Sue Ryder, Daisy's Dream and the Rosemary Trust.

Visit the website www.vivacevoices.org.uk for more information.



VV sing under Ian Westley

Caversham Horticultural Society

The world-famous Chelsea Flower Show has a long history as its origins began in 1862. Initially held in Chiswick, after several moves the show ended up on the current Royal Hospital site in 1912. Considered the most prestigious and famous horticultural show in the world, it is as you might expect a major feat of organisation. You are invited to the society's November talk when Gill Cheatham will discuss the show's success and the logistics to create this.

This talk will be held at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road on Wednesday 8th November starting at 7.45pm. Refreshments offered after the talk. Entrance fee for non-members £3.00.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

Presents a floral Christmas demonstration by Jane Haas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Wednesday 22nd November 2017, 6.30 for 7.30pm

Refreshments included, Tickets £12 in advance, £15 at the door

At Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG

Contact Tricia Toogood 0118 947 6811 or Lorna Levett 0118 947 5683

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NETWORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Thursday 2nd November
Members Afternoon

Thursday 16th November
Games with Val Keating

Thursday 30th November
Thames Valley Air Ambulance
Speaker: Selina

Thursday 14th December
Music and Readings
Speaker/Musician: Rev'd David Jenkins



Ian Westley leads the finale

Consultation on Caversham Bus Routes

Reading Buses are carrying out a review and consultation on Caversham bus routes. There are substantial implications for Caversham residents. These include major route changes on the 22 route in Caversham Heights and the abolition of the 24 route along Hemdean Road to Emmer Green. Please make your views clear by engaging in the consultation.

For more information check <http://www.reading-buses.co.uk/articles/consultation-on-caversham-routes/>

Send your comments and views to ideas@reading-buses.co.uk by 31st October.

Caversham Bridge will report on these proposals in the December issue.

Bible Friends

A man at work

Matthew was collecting money from the people in his town. He was counting the money on his desk. "Next, please!" called Matthew. He liked his job because he could get rich by asking for more money than he really should.

"Next, please!" he called again. When he looked up, he saw Jesus. "Come with me," Jesus said.

Matthew knew he had to change his life if he went with Jesus. He remembered all the money he had cheated out of people – even very poor people. He thought about the big house he had and all the treats he could have.

Jesus smiled and Matthew knew he wanted to change the way he lived. Matthew wanted to learn to be more like Jesus.

Matthew left the table and the money. He went with his new friend, Jesus, to learn to live his way.

Matthew 9:9-13

From The Big Bible Storybook © 2006 Scripture Union Illustration © 2006 Mark & Anna Carpenter



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SMALLBONE'S

Before coming across this picture on an advertising postcard, if someone had mentioned the name *Smallbone* I would have thought of the building firm, Smallbone of Streatley, or of the firm supplying fitted kitchens. It is an unusual name. Here is another 'Smallbone' establishment, on the corner of Caversham Road and Northfield Road. There is a companion postcard, with the same view but taken at night, with the neon signs declaring Smallbone Ltd and Dunlop Tyres.

The building, with its unusual roofs and window arrangement, is immediately recognisable – it's now Drew's, the ironmongers. I used to go past it ten times a week when I worked in Central Reading. Round the corner in Northfield Road are more of the unusual roofs, showing that these buildings were built as malt-houses. Modern maltings tend to look like huge towers which dominate the skyline for miles around: these Victorian ones are more human in scale, where you can imagine maltsters going in with malt-shovels to turn the grain on the malting-floors.

Old street directories show that the business started around 1880. The



stretch of Caversham Road near the railway bridge was prone to flooding, and slow to be built up. Dowson's the maltsters were there until about 1904. Then malting came to an end, and the premises were occupied by Stransom and Cheney, corn, hay and straw merchants. They had offices in Broad Street, and were in Caversham Road until the time of the First World War. Afterwards, in the 1920s, a manufacturing chemist, G. W. Harrison was there, and the premises were shared with other firms – Album and Solomon, tailors, and Read and Partners, electrical engineers.

Percy H. Smallbone, motor engineer, came onto the scene in 1925, and his firm was there until 1947. Then came Brown Brothers, described as motor accessories factors, and later as electrical wholesalers. They were there until 1976.

Drew's moved in the next year. Percy Drew started the firm in 1925. He was a plumber, who left his employers, Callas, Sons and May in Oxford Road, to start up on his own in a yard off Minster Street. He moved to a bigger yard in Queen's Road, when he was employing 50 plumbers, and eventually the firm moved to the shop on the corner of Friar Street and Greyfriars Road. This was probably in 1930: they first appear in Friar Street in the old directories in the 1931 edition. By this time, they were concentrating on ironmongery business. Percy's son Archie took over the shop, and then came Archie's son, David Drew. David retired in 2006, and his children took over.

The move to Caversham Road, well away from the main shopping area, must have been a risk, but one that paid off. Drew's reputation went before them, and they always seem to know what you want in the ironmongery, hardware and do-it-yourself line, and to stock it.

Incidentally, if you look at the brickwork near the corner in Northfield Road, you can still see the 'ghost' of the Smallbone name, painted on the wall.

Happy Wanderer

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Funeral Director Pedals to Paris for the Royal British Legion

Funeral Director Julian Walker has cycled from London to Paris in just four days, in a bid to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

The 48-year old, who started cycling only a year ago, is a director of A.B. Walker, which has a branch in Caversham, and is one of Berkshire's oldest family businesses.

Julian was coping with a cold and lack of sleep during the epic journey. But he said the best part was sharing the experience with the others who took part. "It's an experience I will not forget" he said.

Julian joined hundreds of other cyclists in London at the start of the Pedal to Paris bike ride. During the challenge he cycled almost 300 miles through London, Kent and Northern France before finishing in Paris where a service of Remembrance was held at the Arc de Triomphe.

"Whenever we went through a village in France people were hanging out of their windows cheering. It made the hills feel slightly shorter to have that local support," he said.

Julian raised over £2,000 for the legion, the nation's biggest Armed Forces charity, which delivers through life support to serving personnel, veterans and their families.

"I served as an infantry officer before joining the family business and I know the importance of the support offered by the Royal British Legion," he said.

Julian enjoyed training for the ride and plans to continue cycling. He said: "It is a healthy and very friendly sport, and it has also given me the opportunity to see more of the area where I live."

Funeral Directors A.B. Walker has been supporting bereaved families for more than 200 years, and is now run by the fifth generation of the same family.



Thames Valley Animal Welfare

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Since 2011, Thursday is Fisherman day.

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2-6pm
St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road

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Reading Family Aid

Thursday 19th October saw the launch of the 2017 Reading Family Aid Toys and Teens Appeal. This annual appeal brings a little hope and happiness to local families living in desperate need, at a time of year when many feel lost and forgotten about.

The charity's Toys and Teens Appeal collects and redistributes new or as new toys suitable for ages 0 – 16 to disadvantaged families at Christmas. All families have been nominated by social workers and support organisations across the Reading area. The toys are generously donated by individuals, businesses, schools, faith groups etc. and dropped at local donation points; from Theale to Twyford and from Winnersh and Emmer Green to Shinfield.

Donation points covering the local area opened on Thursday 19th October and will remain open until Sunday 4th December, after which scores of volunteers will sort, pack & deliver over 10,000 donated items to their grateful recipients. None of this would be possible without the support of local volunteers and businesses such as Big Yellow who provide free storage facilities and Rabbits who provide vans to deliver all the gifts.

In 2016, Reading Family Aid's Toys and Teens Appeal delivered gifts to 1,350 disadvantaged children from over 600 local families, and with the help of the local community it aims to extend its reach even further this year.

For more information on how you can support Reading Family Aid's Toys and Teens appeal, including where to donate, please visit www.readingfamilyaid.org or follow us on Twitter @RdgFamilyAid or on Facebook www.facebook.com/readingfamilyaid

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Probus

At the September meeting of the Reading and District Probus club, the speaker was Duncan Brown, who gave a talk entitled 'Adventures of a 30-something mayor'.

Duncan was elected mayor of Abingdon in 2012, while still in his 30s, becoming the town's youngest ever mayor, with his girlfriend (now his wife) taking the role of mayoress. He had been a councillor for six years, and was deputy mayor in 2011.

The most important function is to stand still and smile, as everybody wants a photograph, with the mayor wearing his chain of office. Among other things, the mayor has to present certificates, open 'stuff' (sometimes with his own scissors and ribbons!), attend charity functions, judge competitions, hold a charity ball, meet other civic leaders (he even met people from Hiroshima in Japan). He also presented campaign medals to soldiers returning from Afghanistan. He attended street parties for the royal wedding, attended a civic service for the mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, and also had a glider flight with the air cadets.

This was an interesting insight into the many and varied experiences of a mayor of an English country town during his year in office.

The subject of the talk at the November meeting will be 'Thames Crossings'. In December members will be accompanied by their wives and other guests for a Christmas lunch, with a talk on 'Amy Johnson, an enigma in the sky'.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of other retired men. Lunch is followed by a talk, which may be on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club on the second Monday of each month. 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 947 0709.

Reading Gardeners

We have three meetings in November in Caversham Primary School Hall, refreshments from 7.15pm talk begins at 7.45.

November 1st - *Soil Safari*, a talk by *Lois Philipps* a Fellow of the Institute of Soil Science.

November 15th - *Jerusalem Botanic garden* by *Neil Miller* the Head Gardener at Hever Castle.

November 29th - *Happy Houseplants* by *Geoff Hodge*.

Please consult our website for more information readinggardenersclub.org.uk



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Caversham Bridge Website

We are happy to announce that our new website is going live from the 1st November, as a result our contact email addresses will change, please see our contact details on page 2. Additionally you will be able to post items on line via our contact page or direct to the editors via the publishing tab selection. Further to this we have also added a comments facility for you to be able to comment on items in the paper or post new articles for the website all of which are moderated.

The greatest benefit is now you can subscribe to the paper on-line either to order a printed copy for delivery or read it online via your subscription on either a PC, tablet or mobile phone. We would be happy to see your comments as to the current format and what you would like to see available via the website, this is a new adventure for the Caversham Bridge and we will consider feedback re the website and where possible, change it accordingly.

The editors

New ARSM Diploma for local Pianist

Local pianist Kristen Biles recently celebrated passing the newly launched ARSM Performance Diploma (Associate of the Royal Schools of Music). A student of Pamela Chilvers, a local advanced piano tutor who has been an ABRSM examiner for the past 18 years, Kristen gained a Distinction and was one of the first candidates in the country to sit the exam.

Intended as a post-grade 8 qualification, the ARSM is a 30-minute recital of varied repertoire without sight-reading, aural, scales or viva, and can precede the DipABRSM, which has, up until now, been the first diploma after grade 8.

For more information on ABRSM diplomas, please email pamelachilvers@hotmail.com.



Reading Düsseldorf Association

70th Anniversary Celebrations – 5/9 October 2017

A delegation including myself (Robert Dimmick) and the Revd Margaret Dimmick; Councillor Sarah Hacker, and others went to the Gerhard-Tersteegen-Grundschule to see the video link with Thameside School. We saw Rose Williams and Maria Hackemann over the Skype link

and watched the videos that each school had shared, followed by a live conversation and singing together. The children seemed extremely enthusiastic and interested in contact with those from another country. A tour of the school followed with head teacher Holger Thrien.

A formal reception by Oberbürgermeister Thomas Geisel at Rathaus was held with the delegation and many friends from Düsseldorf. Speeches were presented by OBM Geisel and Cllr Sarah Hacker, who also exchanged presents, and by the Consul and Richard Thom. OBM Geisel said they also plan to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the formal twinning next year.

Following this at the Junges Schauspielhaus a joint dramatic presentation "How to live" was given by students of the Theodor-

Fliedner-Gymnasium and the John Madejski Academy. This was based on extracts from King Lear (Shakespeare), Faust (Goethe) and Galileo (Brecht) exploring the question of "what is truth". This included music and ballet, performed to a very high standard.

Later at a cocktail evening organised by the Purple Turtle, a blue and white concoction was presented as the Reading Cocktail. Which was received as excellent.

On Sunday a church service at the Heilig-Geist-Kirche, conducted by Michaela Nieland-Schuller who is a member of the Churches' Exchange was held. The service was bilingual and many of the congregation were also members of the Churches' Exchange.

Later the visit revealed a possible exchange by a Düsseldorf choir. This choir is named "Rückenwind" and sings frequently with the Salvation Army and has travelled internationally. They propose to come to Reading in about a year's time, if we can find venues for them to sing in. Their repertoire is modern church and secular music.

Finally, a visit was made to the Goethe-Gymnasium with its head, Ralf Schreiber, to discuss possible exchanges with Queen Anne's School and maybe a boys' school in Reading.

Robert Dimmick
Reading Düsseldorf Association



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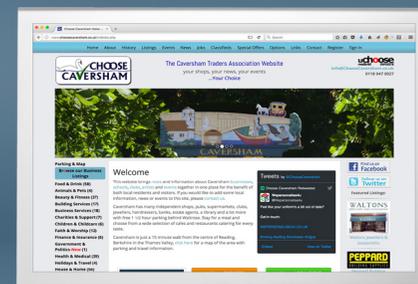
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The Caversham Heights Society

Our first meeting of the season began with the Annual General Meeting chaired by Jill Hodges, who is standing down, and thanked colleagues on the committee who had helped so much. Carol Cozens, the Treasurer, reported the Society was in a much healthier position than last year. Keith then re-iterated Jill's thanks and thanked her especially for her long service to the Society. She had been a member since the Society first started in November 1975. A proposal for making her an Honorary President was agreed by members. Peggy Pusey, as one of the longest serving members, was then invited to present Jill with a commemorative plate and a bouquet of flowers.

The first lecture of the season was on 'The History of Thames Water' which was given by Rob Casey, the Director of Water Strategy Management at Thames Water. Rob gave a clear and interesting overview of the water needs and services in London from Roman times until the present day. He showed that while the Romans were experts in water supply via their many aqueducts these were not needed in London because of the plentiful supply of wells though it was only in 2001 that the Museum of London discovered how water was pumped up from these wells. In 1245 a Great Conduit of lead and earthenware pipes was developed in Stratford Place just outside London's boundary at the time. Then, in 1582, the London Bridge Waterworks began pumping water directly from the River Thames but with the rapid growth in the population, and the inevitable rise in raw sewage, a solution was needed to separate fresh water from the sewage. This was found by building a 40-mile long 10feet wide channel from Ware in Hertfordshire into London. In 1609 Sir Hugh Myddleton got royal approval from James 1st to develop this channel, thus providing a water supply into London for the next 300 years. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the issue of water quality was becoming acute and between 1830 and 1860 40,000 Londoners died of cholera caused by polluted water. In 1829 the first sand filtration plant was established as a means of removing much of the bacteria affecting the water supply. This system is still in use today. During this period a Dr John Snow showed that cholera was linked to the water supply, which was still essentially drawn from the Thames. In the 1850s Michael Faraday argued that something must be done to improve the quality of drinking water. In 1858 such was 'the Great Stink' that MPs could not sit in Parliament, it was then, and only then, that they decided pass legislation to deal with the issue. This resulted in the passing of the 1858 Sewer Act. Even so because of the many different water companies at the time it proved difficult to police them all. It was not until the creation of the Metropolitan Water Board in 1903 that this was sorted out though it was only fully completed when the 1974 Water Act brought water supply, sewage treatment, and waste disposal under one overarching body. In 1984, under privatisation legislation, Thames Water Utilities was created thereby bringing in much needed investment. In 1994 the 54-mile ring main tunnel around London was built for a cost of £250 million; in 2010 the huge desalination plant was begun; and in 2015/16 the massive sewage disposal tunnel was begun.

Rob conceded that Thames Water does suffer from a poor image, but he pointed out that it was not always fair. One of the reasons for burst pipes, for example, is that there are so many miles of Victorian pipes that are not easy to locate and replace; another is because of the public flushing wet wipes and disposable nappies down the toilets and restaurants flushing down oils and fats with the result that enormous fat balls build up and block the pipes.

The CHS meets fortnightly at 8pm on Wednesdays in Caversham Heights Methodist church hall on Highmoor Road. New members are always welcome. Further details can be found on our website cavershamheights.org or by email to contact@cavershamheights.org

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News from St Anne's School

Parents from St Anne's School took part in the Macmillan Coffee morning at the end of September. They provided cakes and buns and the first ones to consume them were the parents who had just dropped off older children at school. During the morning, other groups of friends called in and enjoyed the chance for refreshments and chat.



Sharon with friend and parents (right) – "School Grand-Parents"
Photo by Jane Shaw

As a joint effort for the church and school, the coffee morning was held in the Cenacle meeting room and was organized by Jo and Sharon both of whom have (or have had until this year!) children at the school. They supplied tea and coffee to go with the cakes and generally kept things running along.



Sharon and Jo behind the counter Photo by Jane Shaw

Nearly £250 was raised for the wonderful Macmillan Nurse charity.

Earlier in the month, the children had said goodbye to Father Paul at the New Term Whole School Mass as he celebrated his last mass as Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Anne's church.



The Macmillan Event held at 26 Lylefield Court on 21st and 22nd September from 10-12 and 2-4 each day, raised £577 plus an estimated £50 in Gift Aid. Many thanks to all who came to support this and those who provided cakes and raffle prizes.

ALL ABOUT DEMENTIA



The Balmore Park Surgery PPG invite you to this free event Thursday 23rd November 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church RG4 7BG (corner of Woodcote Rd & Highmoor Rd)

Items include:

A talk on the role of the Memory Clinic GP talking about Diagnosis, Well Pathway and Risk Reduction

Help available for young people with Dementia and their Carers

End of life planning

The role of Dementia Action Alliance Help available from the Alzheimer's Society

Carers UK talking about Berkshire Carer's Hub

Questions to the Panel

Refreshments will be provided, for more information or to register please email balmoreppg@yahoo.com

Caversham Park Church

In September Caversham Park Church members completed another of its welcoming prayer walks around the village. This time we concentrated on the South West area of the village starting at the Milestone centre along Milestone way up to the top shops and back. The walk was very successfully received meeting people along the way and inviting them to pray with us or for us to pray for them. The Holy Spirit was with us on this journey as all involved felt fulfilled and those we had never met before especially thankful and overjoyed that we took time to be there with Jesus for them.



Further activities this month involved Macmillan Coffee morning events held at the Milestone Centre and at the home of one of our members Pat Gray, which raised a combined total of over £450 for this wonderful valuable cause. Our harvest service provided food brought to the service for the Women's centre.

I would like to thank all involved with organising the above with God's blessings for your time and effort.

Dr Alison Johnston
Caversham Park Church
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Stay-a-while Lunch Club

The club, which meets on
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If you can help and for more
information please call Kathy
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CHURCHES

St Andrew's Autumn Fair

You are invited to St Andrew's Church and Pre-school Autumn Fair on Saturday 18th November, 2 - 4 pm at St Andrew's Church, Caversham, RG4 7PL.

Join us for an entertaining afternoon, to include fun and games, a good range of stalls, delicious teas and cakes. Proceeds will be shared between Pre-school and St Andrew's Charity of the Year.

St John's Christmas Fair

A Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 18th November at 2 pm at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham. Books, Christmas decorations, jewellery, handicrafts and toys will be on sale. The homemade cakes and preserves are always popular. Try your luck on the tombola, buy some raffle tickets and then relax with a cup of tea or coffee. Free admission.

Harvest at St Barnabas

The season of Harvest was celebrated recently at St. Barnabas Church. The Parish Centre was full for the Harvest Supper and the following morning a Family Service took place. Several schools visited the Church during this period to take part in services. Tins of food brought to the church from all the different groups were given to Churches in Reading in Drop Centre and Churches in Reading Women's Aid.

An All Souls Service is being arranged for the 5th November at 4.30 pm. It is an occasion to remember family and friends who have died. This year the customary Remembrance Day service will take place on the 12th November at 9.30 am.

Caversham Good Neighbours

Fifty two years transporting the housebound to and from appointments. We are under enormous pressure to recruit more volunteer drivers for our service which over the last calendar year undertook 1394 journeys. Please can you help? See our website at www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk for contact details.

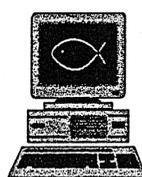
Caversham Heights Methodist Church

On Saturday 4th November Caversham Heights Methodist Church is holding its Autumn Fair from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. Stalls will include homemade cakes & bread, jam & chutney, craft work, gifts, plants, toys, books, games for the kids, raffle, competitions and more. Light lunches will be served, or you can feast on cakes with tea or coffee.

All proceeds will go to local charities and this year we are supporting the *Ridgeline Trust* and the local *Alzheimer's Society* branch.

The Ridgeline Trust provides horticultural therapy for people with experience of learning, mental or physical disabilities, whether temporary or permanent, and for others with particular needs. Through gardening and related social activities, they help people to learn new skills, improve communication and social skills and build their self-esteem and confidence.

The Alzheimer's Society supports sufferers of all ages together with their carers with a range of local services including dementia advisers and dementia support workers. In Emmer Green a 'Singing for the Brain' meets and a support Group has sessions at Rivermead. In Reading an Activity Group meets and there is also light gardening, craft activities, a befriending service and support for carers.



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Christmas Market

At St Peter's Church in the Warren, Caversham. Wonderful Crafts, Christmas Stalls, Homemade produce. Fun and games for all, seasonal refreshments. Saturday 9th December 10-12.30pm.

Proceeds to Myanmar Refugees Emergency Appeal.

Partnership for Missional Church Update



Having learned much in the first two years in-regards to self-discovery and experimentation, the last cluster meeting on Friday and Saturday 13th/14th October has seen our Caversham churches move into phase three of our program on Partnership for Missional church. This turns us towards the development of five specific documents that will help our steering, ministry and governorship teams shape and guide our congregations into the future. The congregation will then carefully take up the planning and implementation through developing their own:

- Missional Vocation Statement
- Vision for Embodiment
- Long Range Plan
- Smart Plans of Action
- Formation Plan

For this phase and to aid us in God's work we have been charged with another passage to discern and to hear what Jesus is saying to us. Our new *Dwelling in the Word* passage is Acts 6:1-7 (NRSV).

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Caversham WI

We enjoyed serving over two weekends, at the Caversham Court kiosk during the Summer break. The weather was, thankfully, very good to us and we enjoyed talking with the many visitors to the gardens. At the end of the weekends, the remaining cake was taken down to the Salvation Army, for the homeless.

Our September meeting was very social

with lots of news to catch up on together (s u m m e r holidays and the like!), with a harvest auction.

It was nice to have been able to share what we have been growing in the garden. This year, it seems, the apple trees have done very well! During October, we welcomed a visitor from the Air Ambulance and held a cup cake competition.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 pm. There is usually easy parking and a lift to the first-floor meeting room at Church House, Church Street (building works may be temporarily affecting this). More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for "Caversham WI".

For enquiries please contact our Secretary, on 947 5176.

Rosehill WI

At our September meeting President Margaret Pyle welcomed all. She went on to thank Judith Sharp for the flowers.

Then secretary Mary Robinson told us that the Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes will be celebrating its centenary in 2019 and plans are in hand to organise celebratory events. Photographs will be needed for the 2019 calendar and pictures (of places in Berkshire) should be submitted by 31st January 2018 for possible inclusion.

Calendars for 2018 are expected to be available from next month. Margaret Stet gave out the birthday buttonholes including one to Phyllis Clinton who is celebrating her 90th birthday this month – well done Phyllis. On Monday, 4th December 2017, a trip is being organised to visit the Houses of Parliament, with time for lunch and to visit other close by attractions including Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church. Coaches will leave Newbury at approximately 8.30 am with pick-ups being arranged according to numbers. Ticket price will be £22.00 – for

further information see BFWI News. There are several other days out and craft days, including 'Nepal – A Constant Backdrop of Mountains', 'Cyber Security', 'Paper Craft Taster Day' and 'Autumn Art Day' and details of these can also be found in BFWI News.

An appeal has been received from RBH for more twiddle muffs, so get those knitting needles moving. Now we come to clubs: Scrabble, Book Club, the Cinema Club and the Lunch Group have all been active.

Margaret then introduced our speaker for the afternoon, Richard Anderson, with his Antiques Quiz 'What Is It?' Richard first told us about his life, he had been in the Army, was a member of Pangbourne Rotarians, and had also spent time in India working on a programme to eradicate polio. He then went on to show us various items for us to identify. He would tell us what each item was made of, its approximate age and value, but we were not allowed to touch. The various items included butter pats, a cylinder record, a tool for ear-piercing, a coachman's hot water bottle, a tool for castrating bulls, a manilla (this being the currency for buying and selling slaves) etc. This was a very entertaining talk.

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

Chazey WI

September saw our members coming together again at the hall after our summer break, greeted by our President, Hilary Morrison. Tea, coffee and biscuits were ready to enjoy and Hilary introduced our guest speaker, Toni Kent. We were entertained by a very amusing lady talking about her life from a council estate to the present time. Hilary thanked Toni and appreciation was shown by members in the usual way.

The business of the meeting followed, then dates for coffee, outing to the John Lewis Heritage Centre, Kensington Palace, knitting group and the Book Club were given.

The coffee morning was well attended at the Topsy Bean and the Heritage Centre visit was very interesting followed by lunch at a local pub. The Book club met as usual at the Caversham Rose on 21st September, the knitting group had its first meeting on 10th October, and our Kensington Palace visit was on 4th October. Quite a busy time for our ladies who meet at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30/7.45pm. We welcome ladies who would like to 'dip their toes' into the WI - our contact for more information is chazeywi@gmail.com

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Red Kites in the Chilterns was the subject of an interesting presentation by Mr David Glover to start our Autumn programme.

The Social Studies group were taken much further afield-to Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara in Kenya, by Mr Nigel Glover-Wright. We also took part in an inter-guild quiz in October, a fun event between local guilds. The cinema group enjoyed a trip to the Vue cinema to see *Victoria and Abdul*. All the other groups, luncheon, scrabble and ambling continue to be active.

Our next meeting will be on the 21st of February at 2pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road. We would welcome any ladies who wish to visit or join our guild. Please note the change of date and time, as we will be an afternoon guild from February 2018.

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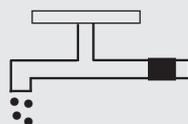
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