

From the Lookout Post

CADRA celebrates 50 years



On Tuesday 17 October the Caversham and District Residents' Association celebrated 50 years.

At noon, the team gathered by the Caversham War Memorial to plant a new Copper Beech tree. They were supported by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Rose Williams and by Damian Farmer of Farmer and Dyer who had contributed to the cost of the tree.



Preparing to cut the cake. L to R Helen Lambert, CADRA Chair: Ian Brown, Chair in 1990s, behind – The CADRA team past and present. Photo by Rachel Paton

past and present members of the CADRA Committee. Sadly, Tom Chadwick, who served as CADRA Secretary and as Chair in the mid-2000s, was unwell and unable to take part. Those present signed a card for him with good wishes to accompany a slice of cake.

None of the original CADRA team are still with us but Hester

In the evening the theme of trees continued with an excellent talk on 'Trees in Caversham' from Dr John Evans who traced the planting and care of trees as Caversham grew and examined how we can protect our local treescape and add to it.

Following Dr Evans' talk, thoughts turned to celebration. Ian Brown, CADRA Chair in the 1990s helped to cut a celebration cake, supported by



Planting Copper Beech by Caversham War Memorial.

Casey, daughter of Molly Casey who was a founder member, long-time Secretary and finally President, reminisced about growing up with CADRA campaigning, with some delightful anecdotes.



Helen Lambert, current Chair reflected on the time since CADRA was first formed. The 1960s was a period of great change and concerns grew across the country that insensitive development may destroy historic areas. Reading Civic Society formed in 1962 to fight a wave of insensitive development that threatened

to destroy much of the town's historic centre. In 1967 the first conservation areas were designated under the Civic Amenities Act, and there are now nearly 10,000 in England. (Two are in Caversham – St Peters and Surley Row – both date from 1988.)

It was against that background and with the prospect of considerable change in Caversham village, that a residents group was formed in 1967 which was subsequently formalised as an association. The association developed over the years, addressing new challenges and adopting new means of communication. Throughout, it has depended on a team of volunteers who give their time to support the local community. So, the first toast was to:

"The team – past and present"

There will be new and different challenges ahead that require new approaches, new people, new skills. CADRA cannot and should not stand still and so the second toast was to:

"The next 50 years"

With a glass of fizz and a slice of cake in hand, there was time to enjoy the exhibitions from the Caversham 100 Years On project, to catch up on local news including the recent consultation on Caversham bus routes and to help strengthen that ever-important local network.



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Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

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and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this
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The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the
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TALKING POINT

by Penny Cuthbert

New Year's resolutions...have you made any? Lots of us begin a new year resolving to exercise more, drink less, eat more healthily, get out of debt, spend more time with family, take up a new hobby, be less stressed....the list goes on. Success requires a change in habits. I'm told it takes six weeks to form a new habit, so if you can just push through the pain for a few more weeks you could be on the way to a new lifestyle!

What about spiritual resolutions – have you made any of those? To pray more? Read the Bible more? Go to church more? To love your neighbour more? All worthy ideals, and yet....is there something missing? Is a 'must try harder' ethic a healthy one, or does it lead us into law rather than grace, religion rather than relationship?

In recent weeks the Bishop of Oxford has been encouraging us to listen deeply to the Beatitudes – the verses at the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount that begin "Blessed are the poor in spirit...." He suggests that by focussing on these verses, dwelling in them, we might just discover a fresh vision of Jesus that will inspire us both individually and corporately, and lead us to become more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous – in a nutshell, more Christ-like.

The Beatitudes are a self-portrait of Jesus – we see how he lived them out on every page of the gospels, and they challenge us, as his disciples, to live a radically counter-cultural life: a surrendered life that is utterly dependent on God; a life of humility, of lament over the brokenness of our world, of longing for justice; a life marked by forgiveness, mercy, purity of heart, reconciling grace, perseverance in the cause of good even in the face of opposition. A life like the one Jesus lived.

Becoming more Christ-like....now that's something worth aspiring to.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom

of heaven."

(Matthew 5:1-10)

*Penny Cuthbert, Transition Minister,
St John the Baptist, Caversham*

"Spotacular" for Children in Need at St Anne's School

During November, the children of The School Council at St Anne's School arranged a special day to raise funds for Children in Need.

They asked everyone to try to wear as many spots as possible on that day instead of their normal school uniform. They said not to buy something new but made suggestions such as decorating an old tee-shirt, making a spotty hat or even painting their faces with spots. The school council also made special spotty cakes to sell at the end of the school day.

As well as the pupils, the staff joined in wearing some wonderful spottoutfits.

Between cake sales and the non-uniform donations, the event raised very nearly £200 for Children in Need.



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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 Sunday BCP

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

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)

St Michaels, Sonning Common

5.30pm Saturday

9.00 and 10.30am Monday

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 February 2018 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday **8th January**. The date for the March 2018 issue is Monday **5th February**. Email address is editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the February 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday **5th January**. The date for the March 2018 issue is Friday **2nd February**. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

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REMEMBRANCE AND POPPY APPEAL 2017

On Remembrance Sunday 12th November the sun shone brightly, and the wind was cold and brisk in Caversham

The usual Service of Remembrance took place at Caversham's own War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows. Including the Groups in the Parade over 1000 people attended from Beavers, Cubs and Guides, Caversham Army Cadets, many ex-Service and Community groups

and of course a lot of Caversham Residents.

Caversham Royal British Legion Chairman and President – Mr. Ron Jewitt welcomed those attending and spoke of the particular poignancy of this year's Remembrance as it marked the 100th Anniversary of the Battle for Passchendaele. This Battle was one of the worst and most costly in human sacrifice ever

experienced and epitomizes the futility of War. Dr Alison Johnston led the Prayers and also reminded all present of the need for Remembrance. The Lesson was read by the Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Caversham Army Cadet Force organised the assembling of the Groups at the War Memorial, the marshalling of the Parade and the laying of wreaths. In all 25 wreaths were laid including ones from St. John's Church, the Groups attending, various branches of all our Armed Forces,



Community Groups and Thames Valley Police.

Seventeen Standards were lowered in Remembrance and the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' were sounded by Jason Todd from the Salvation Army. The Lower Earley Salvation Army played the music and Hymns.

This year Caversham had an official road closure for the period of the Service and Parade and a special thank you

goes to the Officers of Thames Valley Police who ensured the safety of all involved.

Lastly, but by no means least, a thank you to Ruairi O'Duill who, at the eleventh hour, came to the rescue of all with a very efficient sound system!

Leading up to Remembrance weekend the usual Poppy Appeal collections took place. Yet again the response from Caversham was fantastic. Grateful thanks from the Royal British Legion

in Caversham goes to all those who helped in any way – placing of tins in their premises, collecting in the street or house-to-house, delivering and collecting tins, counting and or banking the money, to Angela Stargatt for her window display in House of Cards; to the ladies – Mrs. Lavinia Owen and Mrs Eveline Alborough, who knitted and crocheted two different designs of poppies and to Romans for the printing of the Orders of Service – and of course to all who donated!

All but one of our Primary Schools took part in the National initiative using the School packs for children to learn by fun. The slap bands, friendship bracelets, and reflectors were very popular. All the items bore the Poppy symbol and the idea is that the seed sown in this way will mean that the children will remember the Poppy and learn its relevance in the future – and as they grow they will realise that their freedom to learn and enjoy all the things that they now do would not have been possible without the sacrifices made by their predecessors.

YOUNG AND OLD WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM

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CAVERSHAM CHILDREN'S CHOIR

If your child is 8-12 years of age with a passion for singing and the ability to read music, then there is exciting news for half-term in February.

Local musicians Pamela Chilvers (musical director) and Kristen Biles (accompanist) are hosting an opportunity to sing Richard Rodney Bennett's 'The Aviary' and some of Pamela's own compositions for junior choir on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February 2018 from 10am-12.30pm, with a concert at 6.30pm on the 14th; venue to be announced.

For more details, or to register interest, please email pamelachilvers@hotmail.com.

Bible Friends

A message for the wise men

A long way from Bethlehem, there were some wise men.

They were looking at the stars.

"Look at that big, bright star up there," one said.

"It's telling us a king has been born," said another. "How exciting! Let's go and find him."

The wise men chose some special presents to give the baby king. They began a long journey. They followed the star to King Herod's palace. "We've come to see the special baby," they told him.

"What baby?" he asked.

"The new king," the wise men answered.

"But I'm the only king here," said Herod, angrily.

"You will probably find the baby you are looking for in Bethlehem," the king's advisers said. And they were right. The wise men knelt down. They knew Jesus was very special. They gave him the expensive presents they had brought – gold and rich perfumes.

Matthew 2:1-12



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Church House building work complete



The new sign on the front of the building

Church House in the centre of Caversham has now been transformed with two new offices and new toilets, one of which conforms to the latest accessibility regulations.

In 2014 this newspaper recorded improvements to the frontage of the building and the installation of a lift. At the time we mentioned our aspiration to replace the unsightly tin shed at the rear of the building with something more attractive and useful. And now we have done it!

On your weekly drive home from Waitrose during the summer and autumn of 2017 you will have seen the tin shed disappear to be replaced by a handsome two-storey extension, adhering to the style of the rest of the building.



The newly built wing provides symmetry with the original elements of the building.

Inside two new spacious, airy rooms have been created and the two cramped unsightly old toilets have been replaced by beautifully appointed new facilities. There is also a new ground floor kitchenette for general use and the Caversham Good Neighbours office has been fitted with rooflights providing light for office volunteers. All this, along with a remodelled rear entrance providing shallow gradient access for wheelchairs, and new signage on the front and inside the main hall, amounts to a complete metamorphosis for the building.

The project cost £150,000 and was paid for from funds accumulated for the purpose from Church House income over a number of years.

At a meeting in the building in November 2017 representatives of all the Church of England churches in Caversham, along with Methodists, Baptists and members of the New Testament Church of God - 12 people in all - met to discuss a new vision for the building to live up to its new facilities. The discussion was further informed by the fact that a large area of the ground floor will become available when Thames Valley Police move out in March 2018.

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Continued on page 10

History of Reading Society

The subject of the November talk was 'Dicing with Death: Threats to Reading's Health c1550-1900'. The speaker was Joan Dils, the society's president.

Joan quoted the eminent 18th century American statesman and scientist Benjamin Franklin who said "Nothing is as certain in life as death and taxes" and throughout the period covered by the talk the possibility of an early and painful death was a daily fact of life.

As a consequence of Reading's position on an important trade route and commercial centre many

outbreak of plague in St. Giles's parish in 1608 accounted for more than half of the deaths in that year. The death of an infected person was marked by the ringing of a bell in the parish church.

In 1643 during the siege of Reading in the English Civil Wars the victory of the Royalist army, led by the Earl of Essex, was short lived because many of the soldiers, who had endured appalling living conditions and a poor diet for many months, were infected with Typhus or camp fever as it was known then. The disease was transmitted by body lice and so many soldiers were infected that Essex had to abandon his campaign.



Royal Berkshire Hospital



Battle Hospital.

diseases were brought to the town by visitors. Also, bad weather which led to poor harvests and consequently malnutrition among the population, particularly the poor, would weaken people's natural resistance to disease.

In 1563 bubonic plague struck London and the following year it arrived in Reading. Before the discovery of bacteria in the 1670s, it was believed that disease was the wrath of God for mankind's sins. Symptoms of bubonic plague included blackening of the skin and abdominal pain. The treatments included arsenic, eating ten-year-old treacle, and, in extreme cases, self flagellation in public as a way of atonement for one's sins.

The infected were confined to their homes for up to six weeks and their belongings burned. So called 'plague cabins' were built to quarantine whole families. The victims of an

In the 19th century cholera and typhus were a growing threat to public health in the town; the influx of agricultural workers, displaced by land enclosure and the mechanisation of farms, brought in their wake the enormous growth in sewage. These diseases were spread in tainted water drawn from the town's many wells which drew supplies from local rivers. The inadequate management of the town's growing sewage problem led to the establishment of the water works at Bath Road in 1852.

Continued on page 10

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A warm welcome awaits you.



CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Open 9.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesdays
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cakes and biscuits. Takeaways also available

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Gosbrook Road Christmas Fair 2017

Lots of goods were on sale, lovely homemade cakes which looked very inviting, many made by Cynthia Neave. Mary Prior's produce stall is always a success, and was laden with all kinds of pickles, jams, marmalade and apple juice etc. Books, Bric-a-brac and Tombola always keep people busy. Rosemary Johnstone brought her beautiful knitted items with many excellent garments for children and adults, and some very pretty dolls and cradles to sell.

The Raffle is always a success, and Catherine Scott of 'Catherine's Cakes' provided two beautiful cakes. The main prize being the Christmas cake which was won by a young girl for her family. It was a delight to see her smiling face.

Refreshments were busy with plenty of lovely cakes and tea to be had, and time for people to have a sit down and chat. It was a very successful afternoon. The amount raised was £538. Our chosen charity for this year is ODA 'Opportunities of Development through Art' which supports children in school in Cambodia.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the day, provided items for sale and prizes for the raffle and tombola, and for making the Fair the happy success it was.



Eunice Cooper Eileen Herbert on the Tombola stall.

Hemdean House School – in a class of its own

THE TOP 100 INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOLS
Schools are ranked by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children. Where scores are tied, the number of pupils achieving these results is used as a tie-breaker.

Rank	Town	Reading	Grammar	Maths	Age score	Pupils achieving top 100	
1	Guildford High Junior School	Guildford	114	115	110	339	47
2	Notting Hill and Ealing High School Junior School GDST	London W13	115	113	110	338	48
2	James Allen's Preparatory School	London SE22	115	113	110	338	48
4	Seaton House School	Sutton	112	114	112	338	18
5	Alley's Junior School	London SE22	114	111	112	337	47
6	The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' Preparatory School	Elstree	112	111	112	335	53
7	Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Junior School	Elstree	113	111	111	335	50
8	Royal Grammar School Junior School	Newcastle upon Tyne	113	111	109	333	72
9	St Mary's Lower School	Colchester	112	111	110	333	16
10	Reddiford School	Pinner	110	111	111	332	41
26	Nottingham Girls' High Junior School GDST	Nottingham	110	111	107	328	58
27	St David's Prep	West Wickham	111	108	109	328	21
28	Sacred Heart School	Wadhurst	113	108	107	328	12
29	Hemdean House School	Reading	110	110	108	328	10
30	Orchard House School	London W4	111	108	108	327	41
31	Merton Court Preparatory School	Sidcup	109	109	109	327	37
32	Carlton House Preparatory School	Liverpool	108	111	108	327	23

has its own woodland and is equally proud of its outdoor learning programme which is a key part of every child's weekly timetable. It is an accredited Forest School and has achieved the coveted Gold Award status from The Woodland Trust.

Mr Nigel Balchin, Head Teacher says "Whilst we recognise that academic results are relevant, of equal importance is our key focus of centring on each child as an individual, developing happy, kind and respectful pupils that have a love for learning and fulfil their own potential in a welcoming, caring and nurturing family environment".

Hemdean House School, the Caversham based non-selective independent primary school is delighted to be placed as the 29th highest achieving independent prep school in the country ranked by its recent examination results published in the Sunday Times. It is the highest placed in Berkshire, amongst some of the most prestigious schools in the UK.

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Scottish Country Dancing in Caversham

On the afternoon of Remembrance Day the hall at Thameside Primary School in Caversham rang to the sound of jigs, reels, and strathspeys when members and guests of Reading St. Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society attended the society's annual Tea Dance. The music was provided by an excellent duo playing piano accordion and fiddle. All the Scottish country dances were walked through beforehand and were mostly danced in six four-couple sets. An interval with a delicious spread of sandwiches and cakes gave the dancers time to get their breath back, socialise and prepare for the second half of the afternoon's dancing programme.



Scottish country dancing provides an opportunity to make new friends and have good fun and healthy exercise to the accompaniment of lively music with irresistible rhythms and is suitable for all age groups, with or without a dance partner. No prior dance experience is required to get started, and you need no special clothes to join in – just a pair of soft shoes.

Reading St. Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society holds classes for beginners from 8 to 10 pm on Tuesday evenings at St. Andrew's United Reformed Church in London

Road (next to the Royal Berkshire Hospital) and for intermediate and more advanced dancers on Wednesday evenings throughout the year (except the summer months). The society organises an Annual Ball, Burns Night celebration, Spring Ceilidh, Tea Dance and Summer Barbecue with dancing on grass in addition to the regular classes. Come and join us!

For more information see our website <http://scottishdancingreading.org>, email: sascd01@gmail.com or telephone Sara on 0118 947 3207.

St Anne's Well

Since I live very near to the well, it's perhaps surprising that I haven't investigated it before now. It had been forgotten about until 1906 when workmen building a new road from Church Road to Priest's Lane (now Priest Hill) rediscovered it in the hedge on the edge of the large field called The Mount. After the well was re-opened in 1908, it was decided that this new road should have its name changed from Westminster Road to St. Anne's Road.

The stone on the well-head reads: "The holy well of S. Anne, the healing waters of which brought many pilgrims to Caversham in the Middle Ages." I have often wondered how on earth anyone knew that: it could have been any old well that had been uncovered, and the well isn't mentioned in the records of Notley Abbey (near Thame), which looked after the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham and the chapel on Caversham Bridge, nor in the account sent in by Dr London when, after the dissolution of the abbey, he reported on the destruction of the bridge chapel and the shrine.

The man who decided that this was St Anne's Well seems to have been Dr Jamieson B. Hurry, of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He wrote a detailed history of Reading Abbey and was interested in holy wells and hydrotherapy. He had probably come across the letter from John Loveday, the

antiquary, who lived in The Old Rectory (later called Caversham Court) to his fellow antiquary in Oxford, Thomas Hearne, written in 1727. In the letter, Loveday mentions "a well, now in the hedge between the field called the Mount, and the lane called Priest's Lane, which is supposed to have got its name from [pilgrims] going through it to the well. This was formerly St. Anne's Well. There was, in the memory of man, a large ancient oak, just by the well, which was held in great veneration." And so this probably was the well in question, though John Loveday probably knew about the name of the well and the pilgrims only through local tradition.

It was thought that pilgrims would have gone in large numbers to Reading Abbey on July 25th, St. James's day, to view the hand of the saint, and to have gone on to Caversham the next day, St. Anne's day, when they would have visited the bridge chapel dedicated to St. Anne, the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, and possibly the holy well.

There was the proposal to build a monument by the remains of the well, which aroused opposition from people "who didn't want anything Roman Catholic" there. So it was decided that the well-head would be rebuilt, with a drinking-fountain (water supplied from the mains) and capped by an iron grille, designed by local architect William Ravenscroft.

The mention of the veneration of the oak tree is intriguing, when put alongside the 'Celtic' stone head found in a garden in Priest Hill, which is pictured on page 9 of the new edition of Mary Kift's book, *Life in Old Caversham*. It looks as though this site, on the brow of the hill, may have been a sacred site for well over a thousand years!

The photograph of the re-opening of the well comes by courtesy of Reading Borough Libraries.



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Reading Buses – Caversham Routes

Reading Buses launched a consultation on 11 October 2017 with a short closing date. It was proposed to reroute the 22 along Hemdean Road and Oakley Road, remove the 24 service and amend the routes of the 23 and 25. This produced stiff opposition locally and a revised proposal was made.

The second proposal included a new Hoppa service to cover some areas which were to lose their service. This would run off peak only and would not cross over the Thames.

Following continued concern and a second public meeting, a third proposal was made. Revised timetables are expected and may be available when you read this column. They are reported to being introduced from February 2018. The plans are described by Reading Buses as follows:

- Routes 23 and 24 to Caversham Park and Emmer Green will be re-merged into clockwise and anti-clockwise loops every 20 minutes.
- Route 25 will continue unchanged in frequency and route.
- Routes 27/29 will be revised from Lower Caversham to provide a two-way link to and

from Caversham centre (instead of having to travel around loop via Central Reading).

- A through link to the Royal Berkshire Hospital will run hourly Monday to Saturday from Caversham centre by an extension of route 22 from Caversham Heights.
- Caversham Heights route 22 will run on its existing route every half hour during peak time and hourly off-peak and all day Saturday. The Sunday service will be withdrawn. Alternative travel will be on the Thames Travel 'River Rapids' X39/40 (half hourly Monday - Saturday and hourly on Sundays). Reading Buses return tickets are accepted.
- Plans for a Hoppa bus for Albert Road and The Mount have been withdrawn following the retention of the existing 22 route.

While this is welcome and represents a number of improvements to the current service, the reduction of the 22 route to an hourly service off-peak, will impact severely school children, college students and workers finishing their day before the peak service resumes and concerns continue to be expressed. There are also many doubts whether passenger numbers are being captured correctly as some off-peak services are already standing room only. Loss of the Sunday service is also a concern.

It is important to understand the background to these discussions. Reading Transport Ltd is wholly owned by Reading Borough Council. They report that the Caversham routes, and particularly the 22, run at a loss. The intended changes are expected to deliver only half of the planned savings and Reading Buses are seeking to get more passengers on board. Higher usage could potentially mean a better service. It would contribute to keeping cars off the road, reduce congestion and improve air quality. Their message is, "Use it or lose it."

We should recognise the extraordinary work of a number of individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure that local people were kept up to date with proposals and had the opportunity to express their concerns.

Marie Smith



Caversham has lost one of its longstanding residents with the recent death of Marie Smith who was a regular worshipper at St Peter's church for many years and several of her family have been choristers there over the years.

Thanks to Marie's generosity in the more recent times the choir has been able to expand its library of music. Most Sundays after the main service Marie would be at the back of the church with some of her homemade baking for sale. She donated the proceeds to the choir, enabling them to buy more music to enhance Sunday worship.

In 1964, Marie was a founder member of St Peter's Wives. This was a group of women brought together by Canon John Grimwade, Rector of Caversham at the time. Many of the group were newcomers to the area, in need of friendship and contact with others. Some of them still meet together to this day.

It was Marie's idea to further develop the benefits of the group by opening a playgroup which was a fairly new concept at the time. Marie became one of the helpers and the playgroup ran for many years. Marie was also generous with her time and talent in other ways. Some of you may remember, or even be in possession of one of her knitted figures that she called her 'littlies'. The range of her creations was extensive, including Father Christmas, angels, cubs, brownies, choristers and many more. She was always ready to take up the challenge of producing new figures to meet people's requests. Again, the proceeds from the sale were donated to help others, this time to the hospital in London which had given such good care to one of her granddaughters.

Marie will be much missed, not only for her family but by many others in the community.

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The Rake's Progress!

On a bright clear Saturday morning in November St Peter's churchyard was invaded by an army of boys and girls keen to tidy up the place. Eighteen members of 3rd Reading St Peter's Cubs (Tiger Pack) arrived armed with rakes and brooms to clear away the autumn leaves.

Aided by cub leaders and members of St Peter's congregation the leaf-sweepers transformed the churchyard from its messy leaf-covered state into a

pristine and welcoming area for passers-by and visitors. The morning was rounded off by squash and biscuits in church along with thanks and a round of applause for all the hard work. The cubs seemed to enjoy themselves - one cub commented that it was "the best cubs session ever" - and the congregation are very grateful to them and their leaders for giving up their time.

Nigel Smith, Churchwarden, St Peter's Church



The cubs came armed with rakes for the task ahead.

St Martin's Centre

Hermes the owners of St Martins Centre are preparing alternative plans for the position of the new cinema. The intention is to develop above and behind the Superdrug store which would be retained with some alterations. The proposed building may rise to 5 storeys with the upper levels set back. The entrance to the cinema would be from the new Caversham Square on the car park side. The entrance to the new residential accommodation on the upper floors would be from Church Street.

The proposals for Caversham Square with the cinema entrance and a new rear entrance to Waitrose suggest a positive external space. It will be important that the building line and the detailed design of the Church Street frontage is sympathetic and not over dominant and that the height and bulk of any new building are carefully considered. A formal planning application is expected next year.

Now that that the refurbishment of St Martin's Square is virtually complete, it is expected that work will follow on for the new 5 storey block for a restaurant and flats above, adjacent to Marc Antoni Hairdresser, where permission has already been granted. The work for the cinema and Superdrug could follow on.



Workmen plant new tulip trees.

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Gladman proposal for 245 homes off Peppard Road

Gladman proposal for 245 homes off Peppard Road

Although South Oxfordshire District Council had earlier been expected to recommend refusal of this application, the planning officer finally recommended approval. Following substantial opposition from Parish Councils and individuals in South Oxfordshire, Caversham and Emmer Green, the Planning Committee decided to refuse the application. The developer, Gladman submitted an appeal and the closing date for comments passed in November.

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3185997&CoID=0>

CADRA submitted further comments to the Planning Inspector. Reading Borough Council have confirmed they will support South Oxfordshire District Council in resisting the appeal in the light of the inadequacy of infrastructure and services.

The public hearing will be in Henley Town Hall, May 1 to 5, 2018 and we await the next step in the process.

Continued from page 4

Church House building

The building was donated to the Church in 1943 by the Haslam sisters, who specified that it be used for the furtherance of Christ's mission amongst the people of Caversham. It is currently used as the registered office of this newspaper, the Parish Office of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, and the base for Caversham Good Neighbours. It is also the main meeting place of a number of community organisations.



One of the new rooms suitable for use as an office or a meeting room

The two new rooms and the old police offices could be let as commercial premises, raising funds for parish and community projects. But is there another use for them that corresponds better to the terms of the original bequest? It's an exciting thought and one we are continuing to ponder. Perhaps you would like to join the discussion? If you have any ideas of your own, please get in touch at the email address below.

*Nigel Smith, Chairman, Church House Leadership Team
 (Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham)*

nigel@ctmparish.org.uk

Caversham Horticultural Society

For the January talk the society invited Jim McCartney, a multiple award-winning exhibitor at a number of horticultural shows including our own autumn show. He will be giving information and advice on how to grow and prepare fruit, floral and vegetable exhibits.

Secondly a reminder to gardeners residing within the RG4 postal district that membership of the society is open to all. Membership allows use of the trading shed to purchase compost, fertilizer and gardening sundries at competitive prices. The shed reopens on Saturday 3rd February and in addition to stock listed above, several varieties of seed potato will be for sale. The shed is open every Saturday between February and October 31st from 10 to 11.30am and is situated at the Oakley Road allotments next to the veterinary surgery.

Continued from page 5

History of Reading Society

By the close of the 19th century through the organised effort of society a number of institutions were established in the town to promote the treatment and prevention of ill-health. Since 1802 the Reading Dispensary at Chain Street had been administering advice and medicine to the town's poor; its founders would go on to establish the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Later, the town's workhouse on Oxford Road would become the Battle Hospital.

The subject of the next talk will be Georgian and Regency Reading. The speaker will be Dr. Margaret Simons.

It will take place at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm. All are welcome, £2 to non-members.



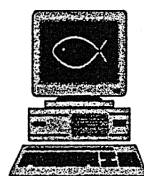
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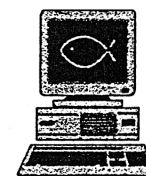
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Chazey WI

The November meeting encouraged our ladies to do some exercise! Valerie Holden, committee member, introduced Debbie Page who was going to take the members through a Tai Chi session! Some members stayed sitting down and the majority took part standing, and it was a very enjoyable evening. Valerie gave a vote of thanks and the members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Voting forms were available for members to make their views known about changing the meetings to afternoons or preferring to stay meeting in the evenings. Also, a coach trip in June instead of August or keep the trip in August. Four of the ladies volunteered to form a team to enter the Berkshire WI Quiz night on 30th January 2018.

Our social events included the Christmas lunch on December 15th at the Highwayman, a visit to the Mill at Sonning on January 6th. Coffee at Caversham Heath Golf Club and lunch at the Reformation. The Book club on 16th November at the Caversham Rose, knitting group on 14th November and the Art club on 15th November made for a very busy month.

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road at 7.30pm. We welcome visitors and ladies who might like to join us.

Rosehill WI

At our November meeting, President Margaret Pyle welcomed all members and guests. Margaret announced that June Fisher had held a very successful MacMillan coffee morning in Sonning Common raising the sum of £1,450. Well done June and friends.

Those members wishing to go to Cardiff for the NFWI 2018 AGM can apply for an observer ticket (closing date 16 February 2018). A Berkshire quiz night will take place on Tuesday 30th January 2018 at Knowl Hill Village Hall and Padworth Village Hall. The cost will be £12.50 and this will include a fish and chip supper. The calendar for 2019 (Berkshire Federation Centenary Year) is now in the planning stage and members are asked to submit beautiful or intriguing photographs of Berkshire by 31st January 2018. Details of this and other events can be found in the Berkshire WI News. Treasurer Judith announced that calendars for 2018 are available at a cost of £4.50. Margaret was pleased to welcome Pat Larkins back to our meeting following her operation.

Margaret welcomed Jill Sawyer who has taken over the raffle table. She also asked for helpers on the day to assist with the raffle, help in the kitchen, and getting out and putting away chairs and tables.

Next, Margaret introduced our speaker, Kevin Little, who gave an informative and amusing account of his life with anecdotes and stories about farm life, and also the fish shop in Smelly Alley (Union Street). Thank you, Kevin.

I now go back to October. We did not have an official meeting, just introductions and then a ploughman's lunch. This was followed by various puddings. A big thank you to all those members especially the committee who put together this wonderful spread. After lunch we had to use our brains to do the quiz that Pat and Richard Denney had prepared.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Village Hall, Emmer Green at 2pm.

Caversham WI

For Caversham WI's November meeting, we welcomed Steve Waite, to tell us all about the wildlife found in our gardens. He showed us some of the beautiful pictures of flowers and insects – even an owl – which he has taken in his garden, along with many interesting details; including their names, habitats and scarcity. We learned the importance of supporting local species and all wildlife as part of the ecosystem (not just the 'lovelies'!).

In December, we were celebrating both the group's 56th birthday and Christmas, with some line dancing and a festive buffet.

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 nearby and a lift to the first-floor meeting room at Church House, Church Street.

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.

Join us at Caversham Park Church

Located at Caversham Park Primary School, Queensway, Caversham Park on Sunday 28th January at 11am, Come and share our Christingle and spread hope.



We have to remember that the Gospel is for everyone. It's not our party, it's God's party and everyone is invited. Jesus died once, and once for all so that we could all be brought out of the darkness and into the glorious light of his hope. There are people in our local communities that need to hear that, and children and young people need to know it too. Call 0118 947 5152 for more details.

Cannot make it and wish to donate to our cause visit: https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/donate?utm_source=www.childrenssociety.org.uk&utm_campaign=WBSITEFooterFeb2017&utm_medium=Website

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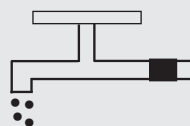
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