

# Access to General Practitioner services in Caversham: challenges and responses

**A** General Practice has occupied the corner site on Priory Avenue, Caversham for many years and has provided access to primary care for thousands of individuals and their families. The main responsibility for the provision, organization and strategic management of general practice is the regional Clinical Commissioning Group. In the case of Priory Avenue and other Caversham practices this is now the NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group. In this unit there are 11 GP centres. Their footprint covers Pangbourne, Theale, Mortimer, Tilehurst, Calcot and Oxford Road: seven practices in all and located south of the Thames. North of the Thames, there are four centres (soon to be three): Priory Avenue, Balmore Park, Peppard Road and Emmer Green.



In the late 2000s Priory Avenue Surgery found itself in a transition as the traditional GP lead practices had to conform to new government policies, regulation and financial and administrative processes. New bidders were allowed to tender for services to deliver value for money, efficiency and patient satisfaction. In 2012 the GP lead partnership was dissolved and handed over to the West Berkshire PCT (the predecessor of the NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group). In August 2013 Specialist Health Service Ltd won the contract to run for 8 years (to 2021). In November 2014 it was evident that the new bidders were not performing to the expected level. So the independent regulator, the Care Quality Commission, was asked to intervene and carry out a full functional audit. With hindsight (having read the report when published in January 2015) and re-reading the report now, the inspectors were searching and forthright in applying their tests and collecting the evidence. The overall rating of the service in 2014 was inadequate (red flag), safety was inadequate (red flag), services were rated as inadequate (red flag) in terms of effectiveness. Overall leadership was inadequate (red flag). At the level of care of patients and service responsiveness to patient needs, improvement was required (orange flags).

In May 2018 the NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group issued a statement about Priory Avenue Surgery: *'Since September 2016 GP services at Priory Avenue Surgery have been provided by One Medical Group. There have been ongoing issues relating to staffing and service delivery and whilst some improvements have been made, One Medical Group has found it difficult to recruit permanent GPs and other staff. By mutual agreement Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and One Medical Group have therefore decided to terminate the contract for Priory Avenue.'*

*The CCG's priority is to ensure that patients receive high quality general practice services from surgeries that are large enough to provide modern primary care and be viable in the long-term. The current registered list size of just over 6,000 patients is considered to be too small to attract staff and offer the full range of primary care services going forward. It is therefore with regret that the CCG has concluded that the best option for patients of Priory Avenue Surgery is to close the surgery on 30th June 2018 and ask patients to register with another local GP practice.*

*We (the CCG) have written to all patients to inform them of the closure and advise which surgeries are accepting new patients within their locality'.*

It is very clear that the local GP community is rallying round so as to accommodate the needs of former Priory Avenue patients. However, lessons must be learned from these local impacts of health service reforms. In the space of 6 years two contractors have been 'entrusted' to provide services. At the end of the day both have been dismissed.

So, now Caversham (Reading North of the River) has three GP surgeries and up to 6,000 patients have to be re-distributed. Of the three, Balmore Park has a substantial roster of GPs and support professionals. Emmer Green and Peppard Road provide additional facilities subject to residential postcode.



By the time the July 2018 issue of *Caversham Bridge* is published the 13th June deadline for requests to join new practices will have past. The closure of an established GP practice itself a 'brand' will be felt as a loss, but the remaining GP services will demonstrate their resilience. There may be future announcements of top up funding. In the meantime 'missed appointments' are a wasted resource. GP surgeries urge us to notify any changes ahead of time so they might be re-offered. In Caversham the GPs have good access to central services at the RBH. Caversham is close to central Reading with the NHS Drop in Centre in Broad Street and access to the RBH itself by public transport is possible.

Sources: <https://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/about-us/primary-care/priory-avenue-surgery/>

Care Quality Commission. Priory Avenue Surgery quality report. January 2015. Go to <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-715881521> for download of report in Pdf.

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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.cpv.org.uk

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY  
Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.  
Tel: 947 2223  
Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH  
Revd Colin Baker  
Church office tel 0118 954 5353  
Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.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 Daly, The Presbytery,  
2 South View Avenue.  
Tel: 947 1787.  
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Common  
Tel: 972 3418

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

# TALKING POINT

by Dr Alison Johnston

## Christians are we just an Umbrella

The Christian umbrella has become over-extended. Today, throughout the world, this umbrella covers a lot of things that, according to the Bible, would make God sick at His stomach. Perhaps much of our Christianity has become like the church at Laodicea.

*Revelation 3:14-16 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

One could reasonably assume that the term "hot or old" relates to our relationship to God through Jesus Christ. The question is: "Would God rather us be atheists than lukewarm Christians?" So then, if our agenda goes beyond being centred on Jesus Christ, it could easily be beyond the coverage of our Christian umbrella.

Preachers have a great responsibility. They are responsible to the highest possible authority. It is the one authority that is to be respected by everyone. However, when those whom God has appointed to positions of preaching His word, choose to follow their own agendas from the pulpit, perhaps segregation and condemnation of God's fellow children belonging to various communities, this based on little or disjointed knowledge of the people they are hurting. That greatest trust has been violated. We all like to make ourselves look good even if it takes exaggeration or grandstanding. This can be observed today in many pulpit performances. Hence the migration of people away from the church.

Christianity has been used to justify many things in our differing societies. The Inquisition of the Dark Ages murdered and tortured many innocents who refused to be physically or spiritually governed by the rules established by the papacy at Rome. Today in modern western culture the hoods of "Christian?" white supremacy have now been joined by the hoods of "Christian?" liberation theology. Where do these actions come from? Surely not from God! So, if not from God then from Satan.

The issue is whether Christianity is going to be represented by biblical authority or some sort of social agenda. One is God-led the other is man-led. The Christian umbrella is not that big. When we reject biblical authority, we allow all sorts of things to enter in – things that are centred around man's agenda instead of God's.

It says in: *Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

The truth is that Jesus came to save us from our sins not to justify them or our petty little agendas. Someone wrote that if we are not horrified (terrified) by our own ongoing personal sins or agendas, did Christ really come and save us or was he merely wasting His time?

Of course, as we are all sinners, the differences between us have been abused and used as an excuse to treat various groups poorly; all the more appalling when Bible texts are used as an excuse or justification. Male and female Christians regardless of race, gender, social standing or even LGBT must stand up against these kinds of abuses. Ultimately, it's a great reassurance to know that God sees all and will judge all rightly. His ways are good and perfect, and in Christ he has rescued us all, equally, no matter the differences.

Today particularly the Church of England is looking hard at itself and engaging the differences while putting right the true teachings of Jesus as we see in Matthew 22:37-39 - *Jesus replied: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."* We can now clearly see that churches engaging in change are growing and true Christians are returning to church, or those who do yet know Jesus are enquiring. We can relate this to the symbol that the good Lord has engraved on this earth for us all to see, that is the two seas fed by the river Jordan (the river of life), the sea of Galilee and the Dead sea. The Sea of Galilee full of life and supplying from its base to the surrounding areas life giving substances, enduring constant change embracing new life and growth. While the Dead sea does not feed anything, it is fed by the River Jordan as a sustaining lifeline of God's blessings, but not accepting change (as number of churches have not as yet) is resulting, as it is the Dead sea now, in them shrinking and dying out.

Dr Alison Johnston,  
Caversham Park Church

A community newspaper produced by Caversham Christian News Ltd on behalf of the Churches of Caversham

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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

## 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 Holy Communion with Healing Prayers usually 1st Sunday, Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)

### 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  
6.30pm 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 August 2018 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 2nd July. The date for the September 2018 issue is Monday 30th July. Email address is editors@cavershambridge.org

Advertising copy for the August 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 29th June. The date for the September 2018 issue is Friday 27th July. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

## PARISH OFFICES

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## New secondary school in Reading

RICHFIELD Avenue is the preferred location for a new secondary school in Reading.

Reading Borough Council has been considering possible locations for a new 6-form entry Secondary School needed to cope with the on-going growth in demand for school places in the town. Current estimates are that by 2025/26 an additional 1,000 new secondary school places will be needed in Reading.

Following the exercise, land at Richfield Avenue – west of Rivermead Leisure Centre and bordering Thameside Promenade – has been chosen as the preferred site for the new 900-place free school. It would open in September 2021.

The site comprises a former golf driving range and open land bordering Richfield Avenue. The land had previously been earmarked for a new outdoor activity and education centre, including a high ropes facility. This will now not progress.

In recent years Reading Borough Council has responded to a spike in demand at primary school level with a £61 million investment programme to create 2,550 new primary school places in the town. That growth will now flow through to secondary level.

In addition to a new school, in the shorter term it is predicted that seven bulge classes will need to be accommodated as bulge classes in existing secondary schools from September 2019, and a further six bulge classes to follow in 2020. Initial meetings have been held with secondary schools to discuss the required bulge classes. It is likely that the proposed bulge classes can be accommodated within existing school buildings.

CLlr Jo Lovelock, Reading Borough Council Leader, said:

"Finding a suitable site for a new 900-place secondary school which can open by 2021 has been an extremely challenging exercise, not least in a town as tight and developed as Reading. The Council nevertheless has a statutory duty to meet the demand for school places, which is expected to continue to rise.

"The preferred site at Richfield Avenue stood out amongst all the options. It has the space to comfortably accommodate a 6-form entry school with all the supporting facilities a modern school needs such as a sports hall, car parking, external social areas and playing fields. It is also large enough to include a 6th form expansion in the future if needed."

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## Help our iconic red phone box to save lives!

The red phone box at the top of Courtenay Drive has served the local community for many years. However, in common with other phone boxes across the country, it had been earmarked by BT for removal. Now, to save it, a group of local residents would like to repurpose it to house a defibrillator.

### What is a defibrillator and why do we want one?

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of premature death, occurring when the electrical impulses which control the heart become chaotic and un-coordinated. The best way of saving the patient's life is an electric shock from a defibrillator as soon as possible, ideally within the first two or three minutes. The key element in saving lives is making defibrillators accessible to the public, so they can be used in those first minutes after someone has collapsed, after the ambulance has been called and while it's on its way.

Public access defibrillators are automated, and suitable for use by people with no training. In fact, any bystander can quickly go and get it and take it to the patient. The defibrillator comes with clear instructions. Most importantly, the machine assesses the patient's heartbeat and will only shock if it is needed. It's impossible for the operator to do harm.

If someone collapses with a suspected cardiac arrest, it's still important to phone 999 immediately. But if the ambulance can't get there quickly enough, rapid use of a defibrillator gives the person the best chance of survival.

Defibrillators already exist at several local schools and businesses and at Emmer Green Surgery, but none of those in Emmer Green is available outside of working hours. Several other local communities have installed defibrillators in externally accessible locations, but none is within minutes of Emmer Green.

### Why the phone box?

In a recent survey, the majority of responding residents in Courtenay Drive and surrounding roads said that a defibrillator would be the best new use for the phone box.

Registered charity Community Heartbeat Trust specialises in converting old BT phone boxes into easily recognisable, weather protected housing for defibrillators, and we have asked them to manage this project.

If you just want to find out more, please visit <https://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/>.

In the event that we don't raise enough money for this project, the Community Heartbeat Trust will use donations to purchase life-saving equipment for other communities.



## How can I help?

Phone box adoption needs to be a community effort, and as a community we need to raise about £2000 to make this happen. Donations made to the Community Heartbeat Trust at the address below will be earmarked for the Courtenay Drive phone box. Please give generously – a defibrillator could one day save the life of someone you know. <https://communityheartbeat.charitycheckout.co.uk/>  
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## God Shows his power

There was no rain for three years. No one had any food to eat. Even the king was hungry.

Elijah and King Ahab climbed to the top of a mountain. "Let's have a competition to find out whose god is the most powerful," Elijah told the king. "We will pray and ask them to light a fire. You try first."

Ahab and his followers prayed and danced all morning, but their fire did not light.

"Shout louder!" laughed Elijah. "Perhaps your god is asleep." So everyone shouted much louder, but still nothing happened.

Then Elijah poured water all over the wood for his fire! It is difficult to burn wet wood. But as soon as Elijah began to pray, the wood began to burn brightly. Everyone watching was amazed. "Your God is so powerful. He must be the real God," they shouted to Elijah.

After that, God sent rain once again.

1 Kings 18



# THE CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS SOCIETY

In the third week of May nearly 40 members and friends of the Society went on their annual mini-holiday, this time to the Peak District, under the able leadership of John and Linda Dudley who had organised everything, including an excellent hotel near Breadsall on the outskirts of Derby.

On the way up we stopped off in Leicester to visit the King Richard III Museum and Visitor Centre and Leicester Cathedral, an excellent and informative visit. The story of the Wars of the Roses and how the remains of King Richard III were found beneath a local car park were intriguing and well worth the visit. If ever the remains of King Henry 1 are found beneath the ruins of Reading Abbey the scope for a similar exhibition is considerable.

The second day was spent visiting Chatsworth House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and one of the grandest and most visited country houses in England. We learnt that about 7,000 visitors went each day, amounting to nearly 600,000 a year! The house, the gardens and the knowledgeable guides made this a highlight of the week. Later that evening a number of the group went to see a modern production of Graham Greene's 'Brighton Rock.' Reactions to this controversial production were, to say the least, mixed!

In complete contrast, the next day we visited the interesting and nostalgic National Tramway Museum in Crich Village, where we were able to see a variety of trams, some being repaired, as well as travelling on them through some of England's industrial past.

In the afternoon we went to visit Eyam village, church and museum. Eyam's uniqueness is because it was struck by the Great Plague of 1665-6. The local tailor had ordered some cloth from London but when it arrived damp and it was placed in front of a fire to dry out, the infested fleas from black rats escaped. As more and more villagers were suddenly taken ill, the realisation that the plague had arrived led the clergy to quarantine the village to avoid the plague spreading. Remarkably they were successful, though 20% of the villagers did succumb.

Our return to Derby took us through the beautiful, unspoilt, sparsely populated and dramatic countryside of the Peak District. Interestingly the further north we went

sheep, and some cattle, were the predominant picture. There seemed to be little, if any, arable farming.

Thursday saw us visiting the World of Wedgwood near Stoke on Trent. This consisted of the factory producing Wedgwood's world-famous china and an excellent museum. Both were interesting in their own right. One fact of interest to readers is that the 7%-12% damaged crockery on any one day is bought by the Highways Agency to help fill potholes in our roads!

In the afternoon we visited Sudbury Hall, a lovely 17th century manor house now owned by the National Trust which also houses The Museum of Childhood displaying toys, games and books through the ages. Enjoyable and nostalgic.

As we made our way back to Caversham on the Friday we stopped off for a brief visit to see the Royal Crown Derby Exhibition before heading for Nottingham and the River Trent where we embarked on the Nottingham Princess for an enjoyable river cruise with a roast lunch on board.

Reflecting on the week what struck us, apart from the largely unspoilt countryside, was the excellence of so many of the museums and displays contrasting with the dereliction and wasteland of deserted factories of our once great industrial heritage. The holiday was helped by the glorious weather and the convivial company.

Next year's mini-holiday is being planned for Kent, the Garden of England, during May 2019. The CHS holds fortnightly lectures and offers occasional visits to different places within a reasonable range of Caversham. New members of the Society are always welcome.

Keith Watson

Photographs by Peter Bean and Janet Offord.



Window in Leicester Cathedral



Saint Bartholomew when he was flayed alive. He is holding his skin on his arm.



Lunch on board on the River Trent – on our return journey.



Veiled Vestal Virgin, 1847 by Raffaele Monti (featured in film production of Pride and Prejudice)



Part of the magnificent ceiling at Chatsworth House

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### Letter to the editors

As my term of office is now finished I have time to say 'Thank you' for my monthly copy of your newspaper which has found its way into my Councillors Post. I have found it such an interesting read and enjoy it much more than the Reading Chronicle which has reported this week that I have stood down from RBC as a Councillor, when in fact I still have two years left in office and actually stood down as Mayor.

I was delighted to be invited to BBC Caversham recently for their closing tea party. The event was lovely and I hope the beautiful house and gardens can become a wedding venue or some such to protect it. Former Cllr Marian Livingston, introduced me to the history of William Marshall, Regent of England, who died at Caversham. It's the 800th year of his passing next May and I hope to find some way of acknowledging it. As I am a bit of a relic myself now, I have recently joined the committee of the Friends of Reading Museum and there are exciting times ahead for the group.

Thank you again.  
Rose Williams, Former Mayor of Reading

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# Caversham Salvation Army

## (Part 2 of 3)

We had a dog called Rory who had a habit of escaping and one Sunday managed to do a disappearing



act. While we were walking to the Army the dog reappeared and the only option was to take him with us to the Sunday school. Well, he sat very quietly during the early stages but when my Dad played the intro to the first hymn he looked up and as we started singing Rory started to howl remarkably in tune to be honest, but everyone fell about laughing. It was decided not to have any more hymns during the meeting as the dog was stealing the show.

Dad was also involved with running the youth club and would arrive early to put up the table tennis tables and equipment for the enjoyment of the youngsters. The club was very well attended and formed an important link in the Salvation Army's work in the community. Behind the scenes the corps worked extremely hard to do all they could for local folk of all ages. There was a great 'fellowship' in Caversham and the Salvation Army along with all the other Churches contributed to that marvellous feeling. Being the youngest of the five Smith boys I have to say that we had very little in the way of anything along with most of Caversham but they seemed very happy days I suppose enjoying the simple things in life with friendship uppermost. I do not underestimate the hardship suffered by many and it's only in more recent times through discussions with my contemporaries that those have become more apparent.

My father took some pictures during the Harvest Festival meeting one Sunday afternoon circa 1960 with Brig and Mrs Tilney officiating. I'm



on the stage along with a lot of the junior Sunday

school children with a display of the produce given to the Corps. A number of local families are present and hope that these pictures bring back a few long-forgotten memories of those by-gone days at the Salvation Army.

Another picture actually has the Hall in Prospect Street in the background with a group of the ladies from the 'Home League', including my Mum (Ruth Smith) in the front along with Major Bunker. Mrs Osbourne is second from the right, but I would like to know the names of all the others. As the hall stood back from the Street it is not seen in any of the old photos of Prospect Street.



Mum and I would catch the Thames Valley bus on the Henley Road opposite the Travellers Rest but in those days, the bus would only pick up passengers outside the county boundary, so you had to flag it down by the 30mph sign opposite the Holloways Garage. This would drop us off by the Army in Prospect Street. Mum found it painful to walk and I would have to stand behind her to shove her up with my shoulder as the bus had a high step. Luckily the bus conductors knew Mum and realised that when not there myself they would assist her on and off.

Graham Smith, Mayfield Drive, Caversham  
(Part 3 will appear in the next edition)

## Spitfire to grace Caversham Church Fete with a flypast in RAF's Centenary year

Caversham Church Fete, 1.00pm Saturday, 14th July 2018  
Caversham Court Gardens

In the Centenary year of the Royal Air Force, one of its most iconic and best loved aircraft, the Supermarine Spitfire, will grace the skies above the Caversham Church Fete, on Saturday July 14. The historic fighter aircraft, courtesy of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, will perform a flypast over Caversham Court Gardens, home of this truly traditional fete.

The Caversham Church Fete combines entertainment, refreshments, stalls and sideshows on the banks of the River Thames in the beautiful and historic Caversham Court Gardens. Organised by the Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham (St Peter's and St John's Churches, in Caversham, and St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham), the Fete is sponsored by funeral directors AB Walker and Walmsley Estate Agents.

Entertainment includes a selection of music from the remarkable Tadley Band, a traditional brass band that traces its history back 140 years; an amazing range of dancing from the Joanna Wright School of Dance; entertainer Fred in the Shed, especially but not exclusively for younger fete-goers; and, of course, children's races and a kids' zone.

There are sideshows from hoopla and hook-a-duck to a choice of tombola's, offering bottles or chocolate as prizes. Stalls will be selling everything from cakes, books, plants and bric-a-brac, to crafts, jams and preserves.

When the excitement and activity just gets too much there will be afternoon tea and ice cream available on the lawn all afternoon. Or there is a Pimm's tent overlooking the river.

As tradition demands, this great family afternoon out will be rounded off by the Grand Draw, with a wide range of interesting and valuable prizes, including a £150 John Lewis voucher, a hand-made quilt, meals out and a Tivoli portable DAB/FM digital radio with Bluetooth. The flypast of a BMMF Spitfire is expected at 2pm.



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# History of Reading Society



The subject of the May talk was the history of Greyfriars Church, Reading. The speaker was Malcolm Summers

who has been a member of the church since 1981; in 2013 he published a history of the church.

The Franciscan Order of Monks was founded by St Francis of Assisi in 1209; they were commonly known as the 'Greyfriars' because of their grey robes or habit. The monks were required to live an austere life and go out into the streets to preach, especially to the poor.

The story of Greyfriars Church in Reading goes back more than 700 years to 1233 when King Henry III granted land to the Franciscan Order of Monks, so they could build themselves a monastic house. The church was built on a remote site near the River Thames which was surrounded by marshland where floods would be a constant problem.

In 1282, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Peckham, learned of the Greyfriars' plight, sent a request to Richard of Burgate, Abbot of Reading Abbey, to grant additional land to the Friars nearer the town; accordingly, in 1285 a new Friary Church was built at New Street (modern Friar Street) where it stands today.

In 1536, with the closure of monastic houses ordered by King Henry VIII, the monks were ejected from their church with little more than the clothes they wore. In 1540 the Crown sold the surrounding land to Richard Stanshawe and the building was rented to the town for use as its Guildhall; in 1560 Queen Elizabeth I gifted it to the town.

In the 17th century the building was converted for use as a 'poor house' which could accommodate 14 of the town's 'deserving poor'. During the siege of Reading in the English Civil Wars of the 1640s it was used as a barracks by Royalist, and later



## Reading Probus Clubs



The two Reading Probus Clubs held a joint meeting on 21st May at Sonning Golf Club to celebrate their significant anniversaries: Reading and District Club was celebrating 50 years since its formation and Reading East Club 25 years. Reading and District club was formed in 1968, and by 1993 had grown to such an extent that it was divided in two, with a second club, Reading East, being formed to accommodate all the members. Both clubs have continued to flourish independently since and have maintained a close relationship.

Seventy-eight members of the two clubs met for a celebration lunch, at which the guest of honour was Mr Fred McCrindle. After obtaining his degrees, Fred began his career in the Aerospace industry before moving to lecturing, management and executive roles in Further and Higher education, becoming the chief executive of the Reading College and School of Arts & Design. He was awarded the OBE in 2003 for services to education.

After a 'photo-stop' and a glass of prosecco, members were welcomed by Fred McCrindle, Adrian Bellows, the chairman of Reading East club, and Alan Bradbury, the president of Reading and District Club, which was followed by a two course lunch concluding with a toast to both clubs. An anniversary cake was cut and served with coffee. Everybody was presented with an illustrated souvenir booklet, 'A Tale of Two Clubs', outlining the history of the two clubs. It features cartoons by Ray Jelliffe, a former president of Reading and District club.

After a short break, the members were entertained by Brian Wood, who presented a talk on American presidents. Of course, there is no way he could give a comprehensive review of the 45 American presidents, so he concentrated on the most significant men, or those to whom interesting events occurred. These included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. Four presidents were assassinated while in office, Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy. These post war presidents were the most familiar snippets of information during the talk.

The celebrations continued with a boat trip on the Thames at the end of June.

Both clubs welcome men of retirement age. See the relevant websites for details, [www.probusclub-reading.org](http://www.probusclub-reading.org) or [www.probusreadingeast.org](http://www.probusreadingeast.org)

Parliamentarian soldiers. By the close of the century the building had become the town's prison known as 'The Bridewell': the former nave was used as the exercise yard and the aisles were converted for use as cells; the inmates had only straw for beds.

By the 1840s a new prison had been built along Forbury Road and the Bridewell had become derelict. The vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Reading, the Reverend Richard Whitmarsh Phelps, had the idea of restoring the old building for use as a parish church; he bought it from the Corporation and, through a public subscription fund, raised over £8,000 towards the cost of re-building.

Work began on the restoration in 1862 under a local architect, William Woodman. On 2nd December 1863, the Church of Greyfriars was re-consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford Samuel Wilberforce. In 2000 the church was re-ordered with the pews removed and the east end re-modelled with the pulpit being re-located to a less prominent position. Today Greyfriars is a lively Anglican church in the Diocese of Oxford.

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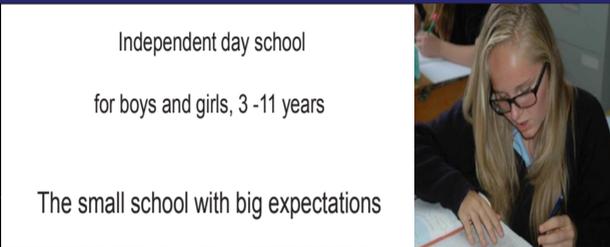
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[www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk](http://www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk)**Tribute to Sheila Eggleton**

15 September 1934 – 23 April 2018



Sheila was born into the Congregational Faith in Bolton in the Douglas valley and was educated at Little Lever school and then at the Royal Northern School of Music. There she studied under Sir John Barbirolli, who detected a beautiful contralto voice. Her favourite song was Blow the Wind Southerly, Kathleen Ferrier her idol.

At the age of 21 Sheila moved to London with her parents, Joseph and Alice Edwards, and became a member of the Ealing Congregational Church. There she met a young man fresh from National Service with the Royal Engineers and from Suez – Michael Eggleton. They married in 1958, 60 years ago.

Sheila at the time was a full-time chorister of the Bach Choir and the Philharmonia Chamber Choir, and 20 years of concerts followed in churches, cathedrals and the Albert Hall. Her mentor became Sir David Wilcox of Cambridge, and this led to entertaining Royalty at Christmas and recording radio and TV concerts, including with the Three Tenors.

In Yorkshire Sheila was a member of many choirs, in Leeds, Harrogate and York. At the 1981 Royal Wedding she sang next to Kiri Te Kanawa. The Brentford FC programme for the last match versus Hull City contained a reference to Sheila's passing after her 60 years as a supporter.

Sheila's failing sight became a great restriction and she memorised much of the great works such as the Messiah and Elijah.

Sheila's demise at 83 is an early loss to us all, with the last 6 months of her life faced with great fortitude and faith as her senses withdrew. She was registered blind for her last 2 years of life.

A great loss to St Peters church, to music, to her friends and to me, Mike Eggleton.

**Westfield Recreation Ground**

According to the little book on 'Caversham Names' by John Malpas, the field was given to the Caversham Urban District Council in 1896. In a way, it's surprising that this corner plot was not built on. To the west, there is a pub and a row of houses dating from the 1860s, but to the east, not much development until later. The Ordnance Survey of 1877 shows that the site of Elizabeth House and the land behind it, was once a small estate with three large houses – The Firs, The Limes, and Caversham Lodge. The recreation ground is just a field, and Westfield Road is 'New Road.'

By the time of the next Ordnance Survey, in 1910, the recreation ground has come into existence.

Regular readers of this column will be aware of my interest in old names. Not surprisingly, the area under consideration was part of the West Field – which stretched up the hill to the Henley Road, as the 1844 title map shows. But was there ever an East Field – or maybe a Middle Field? Maybe it was the West Field of Bryant's Farm. Or maybe it was the westernmost field of East Thorp.

In the Middle Ages, the ecclesiastical Parish of Caversham covered a much larger area than you'd expect now, containing several settlements. Those down at the bottom by the river were West Thorp – the area round the church, the bridge and the shops – and East Thorp, now thought of as Lower Caversham where the mill was.

Curiously, until the 1950s, the stretch of what is now Gosbrook Road, from the mini-roundabout to Westfield Road, was called Gosbrook Street. From Westfield Road to Star Road, it was Gosbrook Road. In the 50s, the whole length became Gosbrook Road and some of the houses had to be re-numbered. I wonder if this old distinction between Street and Road perpetuated the old boundary between West and East Thorp?

The Borough took over the land in 1911 but doesn't seem to have done anything with it until 1930. Councillors decided that it should be a playing-field for children under the age of 16. There would be a sand-pit, a football pitch, a hockey pitch, and swings, with lavatories for the youngsters, and a hut and a lavatory for the full-time park-keeper. The work would be undertaken by men who were 'out of employment,' and it was reckoned that the scheme would give jobs to 50 men for 15 weeks, at a cost of £2,000 – or just over £2 13s. a week for each man.



Part of the field was partly opened (or re-opened) on 6 October 1930, by the Mayor, Councillor R. J. Venner. His family firm made sausages in a factory off Southampton Street, and his portly figure in the photograph suggests he might have sampled some of them. The accompanying newspaper report says he rode on that rocking-horse in the foreground, and that another of the official party slid down the tall slide that can be seen behind the swings.

The rest of the field was opened the following May, when the 'sanitary conveniences' were ready. Since then, many events have taken place there, but that's a story for another time.

Thanks are due to Reading Borough Libraries for allowing me to use the photograph.

Happy Wanderer

## Friends of Clayfield Copse



First Sunday of the month and Friends of Clayfield Copse are in the flower meadow putting in posts to protect the young oaks growing along the eastern boundary. Also, they cleared around one of 'Brian's seats'

on the northern side which provides shade and a lovely view of the wild flowers in the meadow. You know Brian, he is a regular visitor and staunch 'Friend of' he is often up there mending the seats he has installed or walking his Irish terrier around the site. If you can help him with the seats, please do; he is very active but not as young as he used to be!

The young oaks at Clayfield should have a better future than the 28 (yes 28) mature trees, including the poplars, at Mapledurham Playing Field, which are due to be felled to make room for football pitches plus, presumably, the trees on the site where the school is actually to go, that is IF the school is built up there.

RBC has offered an avenue of non-native maples to go across the fields from pavilion to Chazey Road, but this will not compensate the wildlife that is dependant on existing and native trees.

Let's hope there is a rethink and/or justification for this somewhere along the process.

# Caversham Rock 'n' Ale Festival

## Caversham's Rock 'n' Ale Festival back for a 6th year!

The Caversham Rock 'n' Ale festival was first run in 2013 and as a result of its huge success in its first year the organisers were determined to make it an annual event. The event was inspired by the death of Angela Fung from Motor Neurone Disease in December 2012 who was a very close family friend of the festival's organisers.

The festival was started first and foremost as a community event and secondly to raise money for the *Motor Neurone Disease Association* and has been very kindly sponsored by the Parish of Our Lady and St Anne's since its start.



All the organisers, musicians and bands give their time free of charge and all the money raised

goes to charitable causes. Since its start five years ago the festival has grown in size and was attended by over 400 people last year. It has raised thousands of pounds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and is attended by the MNDA.

This year's festival will be held on Saturday 21st July at St Anne's School playing fields on Washington Road in Caversham. The evening will start at 6.30 pm and the music will end at 11.30pm. There are three top local bands playing including *Not Souled Out*, *Wardour Street* and *Dino's*. The bands will play a range of covers from the past 30 years.



This year the bar will be hosted by Reading's most famous venue – The Purple Turtle who will be serving a range of local ales and craft



beers along with cider, wine, and soft drinks. The Turtle will also be using the event as part of the launch their very own beer which has been brewed specifically for the Turtle by a local brewery, also there will be

a Hog Roast for those who feel peckish along with children's entertainment. Why not follow the build up to this wonderful Caversham event on facebook at [www.facebook.com/rocknale](http://www.facebook.com/rocknale)

The event is put together by people and companies from the community for the people of the community.

As well as all those who give their time and energy to help organise such a professional event, there a number of organisations who give more than just their time to making this event happen. They are:

*The Parish of Our Lady and St Anne's, Jelf Group, Berkshire Mortgage Services, PACK & SEND*

Tickets will be priced at £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s and are now on sale. Under 5s go free.

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## Reading St. Andrew's Scottish Country Dancing Society

On Saturday 14th April the society staged its annual Spring Ceilidh at Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common. Some 80 dancers (and non-dancers) came together for an informal evening of dancing and entertainment. The music for dancing was provided by Strathallan, an excellent duo playing accordion and fiddle.

The MC for the evening tailored the dance programme to suit the abilities of those who came. Interspersed between the dances were several musical items providing further entertainment. To begin with, a Scottish piper showed his prowess on the

bagpipes. Later on, during the first half two ballroom dancers from the County School of Dancing in Reading 'wowed' the audience with a demonstration of the waltz and foxtrot.

During the interval a splendid bring-and-share meal was enjoyed by everyone. Then six members of Reading Male Voice choir gave a rendition of three Scottish songs with audience participation. The final entertainment was provided by the Society's own Demonstration Team, who danced a medley of Scottish country dances.

If you are interested in taking up Scottish country dancing, the Reading Society holds classes for beginners from 8-10 pm on Tuesday evenings between the beginning of September and the end of June at St. Andrew's United Reformed Church in London Road (next to the Royal Berkshire Hospital) and also classes for intermediate and more advanced dancers on Wednesday evenings until the end of May.

For more information see our website <http://scottishdancingreading.org>, email [sascdo1@gmail.com](mailto:sascdo1@gmail.com) or telephone Sara on 0118 947 3207.

## SCCS presents 'An Evening on Broadway'

The South Chiltern Choral Society has great pleasure in inviting you to 'An Evening on Broadway' on Saturday 7th July, 7pm at Queen Anne's School, Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DX. The choir will be performing songs from three of the most popular Broadway shows: Porgy and Bess, West Side Story and Les Miserables including favourites such as Summertime (Porgy and Bess), I Feel Pretty (West Side Story) and I Dreamed a Dream (Les Miserables).

The concert starts at 7pm but you are welcome to come along from 5pm with your picnic hampers, for a pre-show picnic in the beautiful grounds of the school. Refreshments will be served free of charge in the interval. There is free parking and wheelchair access.

Tickets cost £12 (under 18s £6) and are available via the choir's website [www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk) or from a choir member.

South Chiltern Choral Society is a large, friendly choir that loves to sing all sorts of music – classical, traditional, easy listening, jazz and contemporary. Based in Sonning Common, new members are very welcome, especially tenors and basses.

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## CLUBS

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

We had an extremely early start in June when, at 6.45am we assembled in Valpy Street to catch a coach to Brighton armed with our passports. There we joined members from other Guilds for our AGM. Our Patron, the Princess Royal, was attending, hence the passports (or driving licences).

Important matters were discussed; raising the age of marriage to 18, The safe management of asbestos in schools, and by way of contrast then entertained and inspired by our guest speakers.

We had a party with cakes and entertainment to mark 57 years since our inaugural meeting. Mr Nick Brazil took the social studies group on a 'Railway Adventure' by means of an exciting presentation.

We have a luncheon club that meets once a month at a local pub/restaurant to enjoy a meal. Also, we have ambling, scrabble and cinema groups.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18 July at 2.15pm when we will be making cards with Gloria Storey. Any ladies wishing to visit or Join us will be very welcome at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham

### Caversham WI

At our May meeting, we held our annual 'WI resolutions discussion'. The National Federation asked whether or not we support having 'Mental Health Matters' as a resolution on which to campaign. A discussion followed, with views given for enabling the WI to lobby government, to act locally to encourage more discussion, and for highlighting the extent of the discussions which are already taking place. There has been a distinct increase in the amount of national conversation over mental health in recent years.

We have just hosted the annual Group Meeting – where we join with our neighbours: Chazey, Rosehill and Sonning Glebe WI's. A motivational evening, with Professor Chris Rhodes, who reminded us all that taking care of the earth (the soil) is critical to our future. It was good to be introduced to some of the local activities and groups which are encouraging us all to make the changes which can lead to regeneration of our natural environment rather than just sustainability. If you are interested, having read this short note, I would encourage you to look up what Transition Town Reading is doing at the moment!

Next month will bring another meeting in Church House, but we are also looking forward to running the Kiosk cafe in Caversham Court Garden over June 7th to Sun 10th.

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, Prospect 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.

### First Holy Communion of St Anne's School pupils

On the feast of Corpus Christi, twenty-one pupils from St Anne's school received the body of Christ for the first time. The girls were resplendent in white and the boys in their best attire. They had made their first confession in preparation for the day a couple of weeks before.



Father Patrick celebrated Mass in a church crowded with many friends and relations of the children – in some cases three generations – and some of the regular parishioners. He addressed his homily mainly to the adults starting with a question, "When did Good Queen Bess become Elizabeth the first?" The answer, "Not until our present

Queen became Elizabeth the Second." Who knew before then if there would ever be a second Queen Elizabeth.

Father Patrick then pointed out that the "First" in First Holy Communion is different because there is surely going to be a second, a third, a fourth and so on. He spoke initially to the adults, saying that they were the ones who would encourage the children to continue to receive Holy Communion for the rest of their lives. He then spoke to those who would soon be receiving the body of Christ for the first time telling them that they should enjoy this day and always



remember and cherish it.

The Mass ended with Father Patrick lighting the children's baptism candles and then presenting them with their First Holy Communion certificates.

After countless photographs were taken of individuals and groups, refreshments were available on the school field. Those who wanted could sit and enjoy a cup of tea and some home-made cakes in the beautiful June sunshine.



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# Caversham Artisan & Farmers MARKET

Local traders and crafters have been excited to be a part of a brand-new market in Caversham centre. Located behind Waitrose on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month there is an amazing market bustling with handcrafted wares and locally produced foods. From fudge, scones and chocolate puddles to furniture handmade from reclaimed wood, eco soy candles and unique gift ideas, it will be hard to come away empty handed.

CAFMarket are proud to support local artisans and encourage local and independent shopping. If you, or a friend, have a local and handmade business and would like to join us then get in touch via the Facebook page. Web: [www.facebook.com/CAFMarket](http://www.facebook.com/CAFMarket)

## ST PETER'S CRAFT GROUP "CAT" QUILT



St. Peter's Craft group has done it again: after the success of the 'Caversham Quilt' last year, they have lovingly crafted a double size quilt depicting cats and, as you can see from the photo, the 'Cats' have been finished by hand!

The Caversham Quilt was made to raise funds for Berkshire Women's Aid. This year, as it is one of the prizes in the Grand Church Draw, the Cat Quilt will be raising money for the work of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Churches.

Raffle tickets will be on sale from the 15th June at £1.00 each (contact Sue McQueen on 0771 520 5823), or at St Peter's Fete on Saturday 14th July when the draw will take place. You need to buy a ticket(s) to have a chance to win this beautiful quilt or one of the other super prizes!

Also, St Peter's day, 1st July, is St Peter's Patronal Festival. This year the Alzheimer's Society has been chosen as the Charity for our collections. Gift Aid envelopes will be available for you to use if appropriate, for those of you who do your Church 'giving' by Direct Debit or Standing Order, please remember to bring real money! Let's do the Society proud – most of us will be affected by Alzheimer's/Dementia sooner or later in some way or other.



### St Barnabas Garden Party

On Saturday 14th July from 1 until 4 in the church hall and grounds on Grove Rd, Emmer Green. Why not start your visit by having something from the BBQ before trying your hand at the various games around the grounds? Tombola, Surprise Parcels or Bottle Stall to name but a few. Beautiful crafts and cakes will also be on sale. There is much more, with the high-light for this year being a 'Rainbow Raffle'. Round off your visit with a beautiful Cream Tea. More information from Wendy Howell 946 1365.

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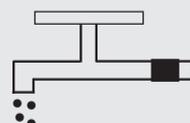
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