

## A season of fun at St Martin's Catholic Primary School

The students, staff and parent community of St Martin's Catholic Primary School in Emmer Green have enjoyed a whole host of exciting activities in recent months, resulting in enhanced playground facilities for the school as a result of some outstanding fundraising efforts by the PSA, supported by family and friends of St Martin's.

A season of fun kicked off with the launch of a playground pirate ship and train, which saw the children and their teachers in Reception Class dress as buccaneers to celebrate the grand unveiling. Parents were invited to the official ribbon cutting, while the children enjoyed an entire day of pirate-themed activities. According to Margot Buller, Executive Head (St Martin's and St Anne's) "Playing outside is fundamental to the social and physical wellbeing of our students and our new play area will help them to thrive and learn in an active environment. We are lucky to have such supportive parents and PSA, it's what makes our school a special place for children, staff and the parent community."

And representing the PSA, Zoe de la Pascua says, "I'm so grateful to everybody who dedicates their time so generously to our events, it's wonderful to see our fundraising efforts come together and I'm thrilled that the transformation of the Reception Playground will benefit our children for years to come." Providing an ideal setting for exercise, fresh air and activity for the youngest pupils at the school, the pirate ship and train will maximise the opportunities to play freely and safely outside, promising many happy hours of sea faring and travel adventures for the EYFS children and their teachers.



Irish dancers at St Martin's Catholic Primary International Evening

The school went on to celebrate the global diversity of its student and parent community with a colourful and fun International Evening event, inviting all nationalities to share their food, culture and costume traditions. A Fashion Show, with students in national dress, exhibition stands - showcasing countries represented at the school - and displays of dancing were all part of the evening's festivities. It was a truly global offering, representing India, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, USA, Czech Republic,

Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ireland and Greece. The evening kicked off with an impressive display of Irish Dancing, followed by a Fashion Show starring St Martin's students in traditional dress. The International Evening was a resounding success, providing a perfect environment for the children and their parents to learn all about each other's cultural backgrounds.

St Martin's Catholic Primary also fielded an impressive team at the Green Park Royal Berkshire 10km Event. Following the success of a smaller team in 2017, the school was keen to take part again this year and, in 2018, was strongly represented

by a total of 60 runners, with 42 children taking part in the Mini Mile, ten parents and children in the 3km run and eight parents in the 10km run. Spirits were high on the day, seeing everyone set out to have fun first and foremost, with the added bonus of raising over £1,000 for the school.



St Martin's Sponsored Walk human rainbow at Clayfield Copse

Most recently, the school organised a Rainbow Sponsored walk at Clayfield Copse, with each year group wearing a t-shirt in a rainbow colour, culminating in the formation of a human rainbow of the school. Money raised will be used for new playground markings to benefit all of the school. KS1 Leader, Rachel Hudson, commented "Our sponsored walk has become a popular annual event in the school calendar at St Martin's and this year, for the first time, we decided to add a theme. Each year group in the school had a different colour and we explained to the children that in our classes we were just a single colour, but when we joined together to form the rainbow we would all create something amazing as a whole school family - an important value we instil in our children.

We enjoyed a backdrop of beautiful sunshine for our human rainbow, whilst raising funds to improve our playground area where many more sunny days will be enjoyed by the school. Once again, the event was a great success due to the incredible support of the St Martin's community, families and friends, who make all of this possible."



St Martin's Glee Club choir at the Hexagon Let's Sing! event

To add to this, the school received some impressive external accolades, with the Glee Club being crowned winners of the Junior Choir category at the recent Mayor of Reading's Choir competition, *Let's Sing!* at the Hexagon. The talented Glee Club took the title for the second year running, against a high standard of competition, performing Gary Barlow's *Sing* and a contrasting piece about *New Beginnings* and *Springtime*. The St Martin's Glee Club

choir began with just eight singers and has grown to a 42-strong group today, of which one-third are boys. The enthusiastic musicians meet every week, singing a repertoire from film and stage to pop, folk and world music and performing in venues from the Royal Festival Hall to our local Forbury Gardens, offering the children from St Martin's some great experience and promoting music to the wider community.

St Martin's has also just received an award from the Local Authority for the most improved attendance in Reading. The school celebrated with a programme of activities in the morning, followed by a special assembly to mark the occasion and the presentation of a trophy in recognition of the award.

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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

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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  
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2 South View Avenue.  
Tel: 947 1787.  
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Com-  
mon  
Tel: 972 3418

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

# TALKING POINT

by Colin Ferguson

As I write this we are at the peak of our summer activities, though active is hardly the word I would use for myself. True my wife and I still play table tennis and bowls with the Firtree Club in Reading, but it is now at a very genteel pace. Wimbledon and Henley are nearly over and the English footballers are doing fantastically well. The question on the radio this morning asked, is it right to pray for the football team to win?

The answer of course is that God does not take sides and whereas it is very understandable that we want our home team to do well we can only pray for a fair and just referee and a good game. It is the same with so many things that we would like to have happen, God is not on anyone's side but is on everyone's side in seeking justice, healing and love.

I am old enough to remember the last world war and the beginning of the National Health Service, for which I and my family have had so many reasons to be grateful. I spent two years of my life in the Royal Air Force and had the privilege of being able to fly until my health let me down. Both have anniversaries this year, both have their great stories of making the world a safer and better place.

This November we recall one of the most important anniversaries, the end of the first world war one hundred years ago. So often God is seen as on the side of the winners but in that conflict there were no 'winners' as such, only the enormous sadness at our human folly. During the second world war, which I do remember, I lived near a prisoner of war camp and met them working in the fields. I recall Richard crying as we bombed his home in Cologne. I heard him singing Silent Night and I knew that God was with him too.

Individuals and nations make war, struggle for power and domination, but God is not on their side because he loves their enemies as well, the ordinary people, like us.

The voice of the church has always been important in the welfare of the nation and those who say the church should not be involved in politics are usually the politicians. But God will surely be with them if they make decisions that are right, just, peace-making and inclusive. Each of the anniversaries have one thing in common – they were looking to a better and safer world, peace, healing and friendship. The great dream was a united and caring society, at peace with one another and sharing a justice which dealt with everyone the same. The voice of self-seeking, prejudice, exclusion, bullying, is not the voice to listen to.

It is true that God does not support any team, but a good game is very satisfying.

Colin Ferguson

# 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, Twiggmoor, 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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### ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre  
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Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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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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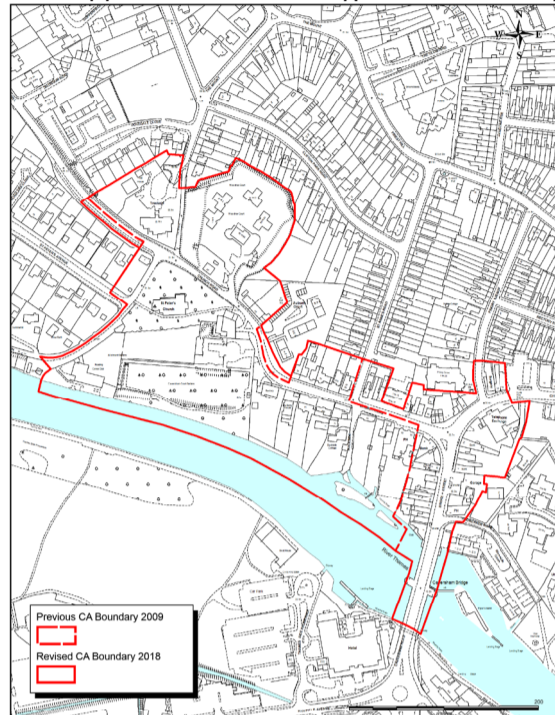
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# News from CADRA

## St Peter's Conservation Area

On 2 July 2018, CADRA and the Conservation Area Advisory Committee presented the *Draft St Peters Conservation Area Appraisal* to the Strategic Environment,



Planning and Transport Committee (SEPT). This document brought together

two years of work starting with a launch event in St Peter's Church in July 2016.

Councillors commended the high quality of the report which is the first to be brought forward in Reading and sets a high benchmark for other Conservation Areas. The draft appraisal proposes an extension of the boundary to take in Bridge Street and Caversham Bridge and Church Street up to and including Priory Avenue and the Edwardian semis and the site of the telephone exchange opposite.

The report was approved by the committee for a statutory consultation to be undertaken by the Council. This will be launched in July and available at the CADRA stall at the Church Fete in Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 14 July. Links to the on-line consultation will be available from the homepage of the CADRA website [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk). The consultation will last ten weeks and then the SEPT committee will be asked to formally to adopt the appraisal to give it the weight it is due.

## Recycling in Reading

The SEPT committee also agreed to adopt the RE3 Strategy 2018-2020 and the Waste Action Plan for Reading. RE3 is a partnership providing waste management services to Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest. Key issues include the quality of recycled material collected and growing concern over wasted food. With fewer countries overseas willing to accept and process waste for recycling, careful sorting within the home will be ever more important. Government plans are anticipated this autumn which are expected to include the issues of recycling in an urban context and give priority to collecting and processing food waste.

Wokingham Council is expected to start collection of food waste from April 2019. However, the situation in Reading is more complex with the high density of flats and HMOs and areas with a transient population including students. Councillors were keen to support development of a weekly kerbside collection of food waste in Reading but were all agreed that the practicalities would need detailed consultation to establish a robust and practical scheme which also took into account issues for older people and those with special needs.

## Historic Iron Lamp Columns

You may have noticed the *Love your Lamp Post* campaign which attached red bows to

many of the period lamp columns. <https://loveyourlamp.post.wordpress.com/> The original fluted patterned posts date from Victorian times and carried gas lamps. These columns were



manufactured in Reading, many of them by two foundries close to Caversham – Samuel Griffith in Vastern Road and H. C. Goodman by Caversham Bridge where the Peter Brett Associates building is today.

Over the past two years the Council has replaced 4,000 lighting columns and 13,500 lanterns with LED lighting to reduce energy and maintenance costs by 50% and ensure the safety of lamp columns. Following discussion with the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, 323 cast iron street lighting columns were surveyed. Many were found to be in good structural condition, other than the 'swan neck' brackets which hold the lanterns in place and which need replacement.

As a result of the survey work, 186 of the columns which are internally wired and have doors, will be fully refurbished over the coming year.

Twenty of the remaining 137 columns directly connected to the mains and which do not have doors, will be refurbished and have external isolators fitted. The Conservation Area Advisory Committee has been asked to advise which 20 of the 137 columns best represent a cross section of historic columns found in Reading. Refurbishment work is expected to begin later this year.

Many of the period columns in Caversham are in private roads and not part of the Council replacement programme.

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."

## New Secondary School

In a statement, Cllr Jo Lovelock, the Reading Borough Council Leader reported that finding a suitable site for a new 900 place secondary school to open in 2021 has proven challenging. A preferred site amongst the possible options is at Richfield Avenue. It has the space to accommodate a six-form entry school with all the supporting facilities a modern school needs: sports hall, car parking, external social areas and playing fields. It needs to be large enough to allow a future sixth-form expansion if needed.

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# One man's triathlon challenge: taking the fight to Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

Scott Milliken (27), from Caversham near Reading, took on his first ever triathlon in aid of MND Scotland. Scott, who is originally from North Ayrshire in Scotland, and works in Medical Affairs for a pharmaceutical company, put himself to the test on 20th May with a 750m swim, a 20km cycle and a 5km run.

Scott took on the challenge in memory of his partner's father, who died of Motor Neurone Disease in March 2018. MND is a rapidly progressing terminal illness, which stops signals from the brain reaching the muscles. This may cause someone to lose the ability to walk, talk, eat, drink or breathe unaided. Scott's partner, Jenny Woolfson, also lives in Reading but is originally from Glasgow and her father, Keith Brassett, lived in Glasgow for over 20 years, where he was self-employed as an engineer.



Keith and Vivienne

Scott said "I completed the Banbury triathlon on behalf of Jenny's dad. He was a kind and generous man, who made friends wherever he went and who had an optimism that not even MND could disturb. He was diagnosed with MND in 2015 after he noticed his leg dragging, assuming it was the symptoms of a stroke or trapped nerve. After

a long battle with MND, Keith passed away in March this year." Inspired by Keith's strength and courage in the face of a devastating prognosis, Scott took on the challenge to raise awareness of, and funds for, MND Scotland.

Talking about the triathlon and his training, he said "I would say I'm fairly fit and active, but I work in an office so I guess I could be much fitter. I go to the gym and take part sporadically in other sports, but I really needed something to focus on and stay motivated for. I have some friends who have completed triathlons and it seemed like an ambitious challenge. So I figured I'd give it a go. Training for one event is challenging enough, so why not train for three separate events at once?"

"Training had its ups and downs. Starting out, I thought 'well I can swim, I can cycle and I can run so this will be a doddle'. But actually, running straight off the bike is a totally different feeling. In the triathlon community they call the cycle to run transition 'BRICK' training – and I think this is because of that heavy cement-like feeling you get in your legs. "For a while the training was going amazingly well but then I started getting a lot of knee pain so had to pull back a little. So, I was feeling pretty nervous, but managed a time of 1 hour, 39 minutes. It's 9 minutes slower than my target place but I'll settle for just having finished."



Scott with his medal.

As well as the personal achievement of completing a triathlon, Scott also wanted to give back to charity MND Scotland, who helped Keith's family through their journey with MND. Scott said "Keith and his partner Vivienne benefited greatly from the services offered by MND Scotland during his illness, and the kindness and dedication of those who work for MND Scotland. Keith was able to borrow equipment such as hoists and eye gaze machinery, as well as holidaying in a fully accessible chalet in Oban".

"Keith was hopeful that a cure for MND would be found to prevent future generations suffering the same fate. So far, Jenny and her sister Deborah have raised over £2,500 for MND Scotland, in the hope that many others will benefit from the services provided by MND Scotland. I completed the Banbury Triathlon with Keith in mind, and to raise as much money as possible for this wonderful cause. Originally my target was to raise £500 but thanks to the generosity of friends, family and co-workers the total raised is now over £1,000! I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who has donated – it really means a lot to me and Jenny."

Iain McWhirter, MND Scotland's head of fundraising, said "We want to congratulate Scott on his triathlon and thank him for supporting MND Scotland in the process. Doing a run, cycle or swim alone would be an achievement in itself but to do all three in a row is just incredible. Without amazing supporters, like Scott, we wouldn't be able to continue supporting people affected by MND in Scotland, and funding research into a cure. Thank you."

You can support Scott by donating online at: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ScottMilliken> (Editor's note: Last month's CB advertised the 6th Caversham Rock n' Ale festival which also raises funds for a major MND charity. Our congratulations to those who take up these challenges.)



Scott at the start

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# Caversham Salvation Army

## (Part 3 of 3)

During 1967 Caversham Corps closed and Mum, Dad and I were transferred to Reading East in Kingsgate St which was a very sad time as there were a good number at the Sunday school and Home league etc. and were all quite well attended so, with me in tow Mum visited all the Hall's locally looking for one that would fit the bill. Eventually St John's Hall was chosen, and the Home league continued for some years after that. The Hall key was obtained from Mrs Jordan who lived opposite in St John's Rd and I often had to put it through the letter box after the meetings had finished.

I was fascinated by the article in the *Caversham Bridge* referring to Baylis Shops. My Mum and I would go to Baylis in Caversham for our shopping from time to time after the Home League/Silver Threads and then catch the Thames Valley Bus outside the Library. On Saturdays, Mum and I would go to town for the weekly shop and either use Tesco in 'Smelly Alley' or Baylis on the corner of the Butts. The shop went back a long way and the floor sloped a bit to the rear. My Mum often said hello to a lady who seemed to be at the shop every time we were there. I said to my Mum "she does a lot of shopping with her basket" It was then explained that she was a 'Floor Walker' looking out for anyone not paying for their goods, so went around the shop looking like a customer. I thought this odd as she towered above us and must have been 6ft 6ins tall and blending in seemed some what strange. Now I have found an old photo circa 1960 which



highlights the mobile Baylis shop that used to come around Mayfield Drive. Home Delivery is nothing new and the Baylis van was a boon along with 'Giles' for

paraffin, two bread companies and Mr Phillips the grocer Tuesday and Thursday. In the photo is my Mum, Ruth Smith and little me seen through the gate.

The group photo was taken somewhere on one of those special occasions organised at the Army. In the picture I'm seat front right with two of my older brothers. These all Caversham folk and some must see their Mum's/Dad's/Grandmothers/Granddads. My mother is back row middle/right.



Other pictures I have are of the Sunday School at



varying times circa 1960 with some in colour at the harvest festival. The coach is outside the Salvation Army at Tadley for the strawberry tea.

The Sunday school class has my father Fred Smith with me sitting next to him and my brothers David and Keith listening intently!

There were other social occasions, Christmas dinners etc and there are photos with everyone tucking in one evening. All Caversham folk enjoying themselves including me and my brother David.

There are two pictures with Mr and Mrs Smith from Gosbrook Road, one at the "bun fight" as they called them in the Army and the other in the beautiful back garden. Lovely people.



The last photo is taken by my father outside the Hall in Prospect Street and has the Salvation Army building in the background. My father would not be able to stand in the middle of the road to take a photo today due to the constant traffic. Dad managed to avoid getting the 'Air Raid' shelter in the photo which stood to the left of all the ladies. Obviously, my Mum is in the front right with Major Bunker in uniform but the names of the other ladies except Mrs Osborne I can't recall.

I really enjoyed going to the SA in Caversham with my Mum and Dad, so when it closed we moved to Reading East, Kingsgate Street. Although sad at the time this move led me to meet my future wife in the new Sunday School 48 years ago. The Caversham SA connection went back to 1940 with my four older brothers and me attending through the years.

Happy Days!

Graham Smith, Mayfield Drive, Caversham.

*Do you recognise anybody in the published photographs or recall the Salvation Army in Caversham, then please let the editors know if you do.*

## Priory Avenue Surgery - patient support continues

The Patient Participation Group has agreed to continue with a focus on the needs of former patients. Francis Brown, the chair, can be contacted by email at [prioryavenuePPG@gmail.com](mailto:prioryavenuePPG@gmail.com). Patients can also call Healthwatch on 0118 937 2295 or the Clinical Commissioning Group on 0118 982 2720.

The surgery closed at the end of June. Most patients are now registered at Balmore Park, Emmer Green, Walk in Centre (Broad Street Mall) or Chatham Street surgeries.

The Walk in Centre registers patients in the same way as a regular GP surgery. There is a concern that the increase in patient numbers might cause significant delays to un-registered patients who choose just to 'walk in'. One unexpected discovery is that the Walk in Centre is not set up to send electronic prescription requests to pharmacies in Caversham, or elsewhere. Some patients have been disadvantaged. The PPG has highlighted these issues to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Contact details

Francis Brown, 185 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7JR

Tel: 0118 947 2500

[francis@fbrown.org](mailto:francis@fbrown.org)

## Caversham buses route 22 update

Since the new timetable for the 22 was implemented in February 2018 there has been no further review of its operation by Reading Buses. The off peak service remains one service an hour. Passengers are still experiencing service delays and overcrowding.

Thames Travel services X39/X40 branded River Rapids commenced a new timetable on 3rd June 2018. Inward journeys passing through Caversham Heights at all times now leave Woodcote Road at Highmoor Road and travel in to Caversham centre before proceeding to town. All outward journeys follow the existing route up St Peters Hill and along the Woodcote Road towards Oxford. Please consult the printed timetable and the website for more details [<https://www.thames-travel.co.uk/>].

Caversham Bridge will continue to provide updates. We urge passengers to make their observations and feedback to the respective bus operators.

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# About Caversham and Caversham Bridge to come!

No doubt that the very fine spell of weather we have enjoyed for some three weeks to mid-July has been something of a tonic for all, even before the start of the school holidays. Meanwhile some sporting events near and further away are (so far) another boost to those who follow them: so the summer goes on and the return to 'a more routine life' as summer fades. But, individuals and families all know that the realities of health, social and community life and economy are never far away and can be accessed through the media whenever we choose or allow them to intrude. In this portrait Caversham is just like every other community across the land, but we also know and treasure the value of local identities and differences. *Caversham Bridge* has been drawing your attention to these for 642 editions over 50 years. Hopefully, we have moved in pace with the times and with our local community. Your editorial teams, over the years and by dint of their tasks may feel themselves a little (or even a lot) closer to wider trends in media and journalism. In the last year *Caversham Bridge* has embraced digital technologies and we now have an online edition. Our print version benefits increasingly from use of digital behind the scenes. Editors produce the print version on a web platform giving speed, accessibility and enhanced collaboration to meet deadlines. The team are always emailing and texting to facilitate the many micro-tasks of production. Indeed this new environment has given editors and board an opportunity to do some strategic reviewing and thinking. In this 'position paper' we would like to share ideas with you to widen our sources and offer more participation to the

reader community (if this might attract). On the other hand, being a subscriber and reader is motivation enough for us to carry on and assure a vibrant focus of local community journalism.

Before our proposals, let's share some core ideas about Caversham: to make us proud of our past and confident to continue as a vibrant community - not only now - but for many years ahead. If we make a sketch now, we may want to come back to it in coming issues to fill in the detail and continue to build. For the back story go to Caversham Gardens, look at the time line set out at the Millenium, take in the view, reflect and enjoy. And go to the railings of the Caversham Library (a fine public edifice) and look at the history panel: you can go back again and again for historical sustenance! Since Reading Abbey was founded in 1121, Caversham has been bound to Reading, and has prospered. Although part of Oxfordshire, until Reading Borough absorbed historic Caversham north of the river in 1902, Reading and the Thames has been the sinew and blood of our combination. Late Victorian suburbs had already formed on the north bank before 1902. Municipal transport ensured a working connection with 'big' Reading and across the two World Wars and in the post-war era the Reading of today has taken shape. In the growth of the UK's South East, Reading has remained a distinct provincial centre, different yet bound to London as every commuter knows! We passed the Millenium and Caversham hosted an overnight stop and start of the Olympic Torch Relay. Now, there is a great and recent memory! Once you start on Caversham there is a lot to say.

Now for our purposes, we suggest that we also turn our gaze into Caversham itself. Sensibly, four parts: Caversham Heights, Lower Caversham and Centre, Emmer Green and Caversham Park. This is the gaze of *Caversham Bridge*, as seen, felt and interpreted by a succession of editors. Readers are familiar with the mix. Here is a proposition: we need to make sure that Emmer Green is as conscious and visible as the 'Caversham' element and that the Park and the East is also equally visible. And of course, the Centre and the Caversham riverside areas. Physical geography is a given: what we are hoping to do by way of our evolving strategy is to tap in to the social, cultural and recreational geographies of each Caversham component.

So, in this issue and over the issues to the end of the year we want to reflect all the best of Caversham in the *Bridge*. We propose to do this by widening our reach to correspondents and sources across the area and will outline plans and initiatives in the next issue. One way to do this will be to identify major themes in areas of coverage. We do this already, but now we hope to be more systematic. We want to encourage 'community journalism' across all ages and experiences, and will provide what support we can to assist. We can expand coverage of schools, sports and culture, as well as business and other public domain projects, whether in transport, environment, services and quality

of life matters. We want to respond to this description of ourselves: '*Caversham Bridge* is a community newspaper produced by Caversham Christian News Ltd on behalf of the Churches of Caversham'. We look forward to hearing from you: email us at: [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org).

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# Tribute to Philip d Ville

3rd April 1937 – 16th April 2018



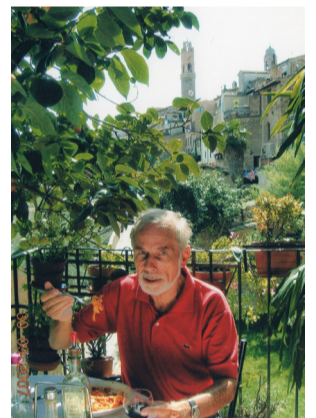
Philip de Ville was a long-standing member of the *Caversham Bridge* editorial team. He died on the 16th April 2018 after a short illness. A memorial service to celebrate his life was held at St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights on Thursday 26th April followed by a reception at the Caversham Heath Golf Club. The service was very well attended, not only by his family, but by many friends from near and afar. Such memorial services often reveal a richness of life and experience which remains unknown to those in the pool of acquaintances who gather for these events. In Philip's case he was no exception, even though the contributors to this memorial developed their friendship through participation in the editorial team of *Caversham Bridge*. Philip was a

journalist by profession and his fellow editorialists in Caversham knew and respected his experience and skill which always supported 'our' attempts to aim to be community journalists. So as we compose this tribute we necessarily draw upon the rich background that his three brothers brought to the memorial address given at the service at St Andrews. Let us reproduce in slightly edited form the address as it was heard at the service and then bring to it some sense of how Philip served the *Caversham Bridge* and the editorial team.

Philip grew up as one of four brothers raised at Honeycroft, Bank Close, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. No house number, no postcode! Philip was the second oldest brother. There were seven years between Philip and the third brother (who narrated the address at the service). So Philip always seemed to be going when the younger ones were coming or staying. All the brothers went to board at Abbotsholme School in Derbyshire. Apart from the regular attainments of education, Abbotsholme gave Philip three enthusiasms. They were music, acting and tennis. Some would say the enthusiasms of a cultured boy. "There was a rather lovely upright piano at home and nobody played it but Philip. I cannot remember now what melodies he played or what happened to that piano, but I do remember his piano playing as a presence in the house. Later, of course, he channeled his love of music into choral singing". Latterly, Philip sang in the Reading Male Voice Choir until the very end. Philip was a regular performer in plays at Abbotsholme. Tennis, of course, is not a team game; largely speaking it's a game of individual endeavour, and this meant it suited Philip's self-reliant character.

So how did journalism enter into Philip's life? On 30th March 1954 Philip's father wrote to the headmaster. This is what he said: "Philip, as you probably know, had a meeting with a *Sentinel* representative during the holiday. He seemed pleased with the result of the meeting and assured me that a journalistic career is what he wants, so I am giving him every possible encouragement. He thinks there is a distinct chance of getting on the staff at the end of next term therefore I shall be glad if you will accept this letter as formal notice of his leaving Abbotsholme then, with regret for happy and full days ended, and gratitude for wisdom and knowledge acquired. I too thank God for the boy he is and shall be mindful always of where and with whom his formative years were spent."

Philip had already sampled journalism as a trainee reporter on the *Burton Daily Mail* in 1954 and 1955. So started a career in journalism. But his progress was interrupted by National Service from 1955 to 1957. Philip spent his time in the RAF, in what was then probably called Signals and would now be called Communications. He was based in Gibraltar where he also helped to run the Forces' radio station. Brother Roger set out in a car with two friends to visit him. This was 1956, and in those days it entailed an epic journey across Franco's Spain, hardly recovered from the Civil War, a decade before mass foreign holidays. Philip was demobbed and after another year at the *Burton Daily Mail* he eventually moved on as foretold to the *Sentinel* as a Reporter. The *Evening Sentinel* was published in the Potteries, and in those days being a reporter based in Uttoxeter must have been like being 'Our Far Eastern correspondent'. People had phones but they didn't use them very much. The house telephone number was Uttoxeter 270. Two hundred and seventy – that was probably the number of phones in Uttoxeter – and district. Brother Tim remembers him on the phone, dictating his stories over the wire. To him this smacked of something very racy, like Dick Barton special agent.



After a spell as Sub-editor on the *Newcastle Journal* from 1960 – 1961 it seemed to be time to move up the career ladder. He moved to Manchester (a great home of the Press) to become a Sub-Editor on the *Daily Express*. In the early 1960s the younger brother (by seven years) came to Manchester with the intention of studying architecture. Not finding this pathway to his vocation Philip was on hand to counsel and dissuade. But both enjoyed rides back to Uttoxeter in a rather mechanically challenged Hillman Minx. There was a diversion for Philip from 1963 – 1966 when he was Art Desk Assistant at the *Daily Mirror* in Manchester. And then it was back to the *Daily Express* for another Sub-Editor stint. By now the peripatetic life of a journalist was well established but he had the sense to come back home and marry a local girl – June - and as they say, the rest has been history.

In 1969, now married, new horizons were opening up. Farewell to the North and the Midlands and welcome to Hemel Hempstead. From 1969 to 1977 he joined the *Evening Echo* and from Sub-Editor rose to Chief Sub-Editor ... almost exactly the role he was to play when retired life pointed Philip in the direction of the *Caversham Bridge*. But there were a few more steps to go in a thoroughly typical journalistic career. In 1977 Philip and family moved to Reading, or more a congenial offer of employment motivated a move from the central Chilterns to the southern edge of the Chilterns. Philip joined the *Evening Post* and served as Assistant Editor, Editorial Manager and Deputy Editor of our regional local paper in its glory years. In 1985, Philip stepped aside from the hectic round of the national and regional press: he became the Editor of *Shop Equipment and Shop-fitting News*.

As the Millenium approached Philip could set aside the daily round of the full-timer and start the retirement that he, wife June and family richly deserved after a full and varied life. At home photographic mementoes point to this diverse familial life. Yet, at the same time, Philip found kinship and fellowship in church and leisure activities. Now we can fully understand the insight and critical faculties he brought to the editors table at *Caversham Bridge*. Wise advice, chuckling humour, the apt word – all these were his hallmarks, and of course, a great family man. Philip's passing will be mourned by many, but he will surely be well remembered in his circle and community. We will go on missing him as the editorial table for he brought the experience and vision of the real journalist to our community journalism endeavours. God bless you Philip!

## ENVIRONMENT

# TARES

A few days ago I was on my way to the pillar-box on the corner of Church Street and Hemdean Road, opposite the library, with a letter. I noticed, growing from a crack on the edge of the pavement, a plant I hadn't come across for some time. It was a Tare.

Immediately, my mind went back to the Authorised Version of St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 13. "Sir," asks the servant, "Didst thou not sow good seed in thy field? From whence, then, hath it tares?" To this the master replies: "An enemy hath done this."

Of course, it doesn't really matter what kind of pernicious weed the gospel writer had in mind, and translators into English have had different ideas at different times. John Wycliffe translated the Vulgate Bible's Latin



'zizania' as 'cockle,' i.e. the Corn Cockle, once a common cornfield weed in this country but now very rare but, in the revised edition (1388) of the Wycliffe translation, this has become 'tares.' William Tyndale, translating from the Greek (1525), also has 'tares,' as does the Authorised Version (1611). The Douay-Rheims translation (1582), once used by Catholics, has 'cockle.' Coming forward, the New English Bible (1961) says that it was 'darnel,' a weed grass which, like the Corn Cockle and the Tare, is not now a problem. The New International Version (1973) has 'weeds,' but Eugene Peterson in 'The Message' (2002) has 'thistles.'

In England in the past, Tares were a kind of vetch, or the name given to the seeds of the plant. In some parts, they were called the 'tare-vetches' or 'tare-fitches.' The Oxford English Dictionary says: 'Tare: a word of obscure origin and history.' The word first appears in literature around 1330.

It was a name given to the Common Vetch, which has much larger and more colourful flowers than what we now called Tares – the Hairy Tare, Slender Tare and Smooth Tare. The Tares have tiny flowers, usually white or pale purplish-blue. They are rampant annuals, straggling over other plants, and binding them together with their tendrils. Not only would they have made harvesting and threshing more difficult, but their tiny seeds would have got among the grains of corn, and been very hard to sift out. And when the seeds of Tares were ground with the wheat, the resulting flour was unpalatable.

But now they have largely gone from our cornfields, though not uncommon elsewhere. I took this photograph near Mortimer in 2007, to show Tares strangling someone's wheat crop. In some parts of the country they were actually known as Strangle-Tares. Why on earth they turned up in Hemdean Road this year I have no idea. But then, for me, the fact that plants can turn up unexpectedly in odd places is part of the fascination of botanising. Maybe the fact that this plant was by the new houses in Rectory Road where the bakery once was has something to do with it!

*Happy Wanderer*

## Caversham Horticultural Society

Calling all gardeners residing within the RG4 postal district to consider exhibiting at the society's autumn show on Saturday September 8th. We have a number of open classes in ornamental, fruit and vegetable categories in addition to crafts, domestic and art classes. For details of the show and instructions how to enter please check the website [www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk](http://www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk) or contact the show secretary at 113 Southview Avenue Caversham.

The autumn show is held at Emmer Green Primary School between 2pm-5pm. It also includes plant and spring bulb stalls and refreshments are available.

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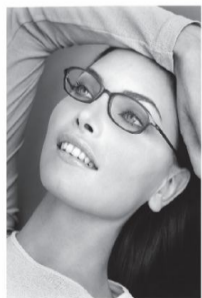
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The Caversham Heights Bridge Club now meets fortnightly on a Monday evening at the Methodist Church in Highmoor Road.

To be honest, some Bridge Clubs can be a bit stuffy, perfect for really good players or people with a very competitive bent, but we know that many people enjoy this marvellous game at a more modest level and that's us! Of course there are some players who are better than others, some improve, and others leave us occasionally to go to more challenging places but we just keep going as a nice, steady, easy club.

We do limit our membership to twenty; in part because it's nice being quite small and also because the room where we meet couldn't cope with more people. As it happens, we are looking for three new members just now, if anyone is interested. The cost is modest, you

don't need a partner, but you would need to know the basics of the game. We offer the opportunity to anyone to come along to a session and give it a try and, if you don't like it, no problem.

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## CLUBS

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Summer is a quieter time for Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild as many members are away. Our Social Studies group does not meet in July or August and re-convenes in September. Nevertheless the main club activities continue. In July we made cards under the watchful eye of Gloria Storer, and the ambling group combined walking with history when we walked along the river from Caversham to visit the newly restored Abbey Ruins.

Our monthly luncheon club continues to be popular despite the heatwave as do scrabble and cinema groups.

In August we are going to a tea party in the garden of one of our members (weather permitting).

We are back at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham on 19th September. New members or visitors will be very welcome, but we are unsure of our starting time. Watch this space!

### Caversham WI

For our June meeting, we welcomed Irene Manson who told us all about the art of flower arranging. She had made a few arrangements prior to the meeting – which offered a range of examples, and were absolutely stunning. We learnt much about symbolism in the choice of flowers, other decorations and colours. Not just the use of flowers in today's world, but also how some of the early cultures used them too.

We take a break in August and hope you can relax and enjoy the summer.

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.

### Chazey WI

Our June meeting was an outing to Waterperry Gardens near Oxford. Fifteen members enjoyed a really good day and not too long a journey. The weather was perfect, and the gardens - particularly the roses - looked great. The membership had voted to change the annual outing from August to June, hoping that the weather would be better and venues not so crowded. This proved to be correct on both points!

Tea was taken at the cafe by the river at Benson

instead of meeting for coffee - again the weather played its part, a stroll by the water for some, all very enjoyable.

The Art Group continues to meet at a member's house, the Book Club at a local hostelry and the needles click along at the knitting group!

Chazey WI meets on the first Wednesday in the month in the Caversham Methodist Church Hall on the corner of Highdown Road and the Woodcote Road starting at 2.30pm. All visitors very welcome.

For more information email [chazeywi@gmail.com](mailto:chazeywi@gmail.com)

### Rosehill WI

Vice President Barbara Wood welcomed all members and visitors to our 55th Birthday Meeting. We especially welcomed those visitors from Caversham and Sonning Glebe WIs. Barbara told us that the record of the May meeting was available for everyone to see.

She also told us that the various clubs continue to flourish, with Scrabble being on the 13th and 27th June respectively. The Book Club meet on Tuesday 12th June. The Cinema Group has seen the film 'Book Club' and those who attended enjoyed it very much. They are planning to see the new Mama Mia film. The Ladies did not lunch this month!!

Margaret Seal then gave out the birthday buttonholes. Barbara told members that our President Arlene Riley's hip operation had been more complicated and it was possible she would be out of action for several weeks.

On 16th June a group from Rosehill went to 'The Mill At Sonning' to see 'The Unexpected Guest' a play by Agatha Christie. This play was directed by Brian Blessed. Another successful outing – can we go again next year, please?

The speaker for our 55th Birthday Meeting was Emma Stiles who gave a very interesting talk (with slides) on nutrition. Emma explained the workings of our gastric system and how we can all help ourselves with sensible diet, and very gentle exercise. Thank you, Emma.

Next year, 2019, will be the Centenary of Berkshire Federation of Women's

Institutes, and it is planned to plant a tree somewhere in the County with a time capsule beneath it so, if you have any bright ideas of what could be placed in the capsule, please contact the Committee.

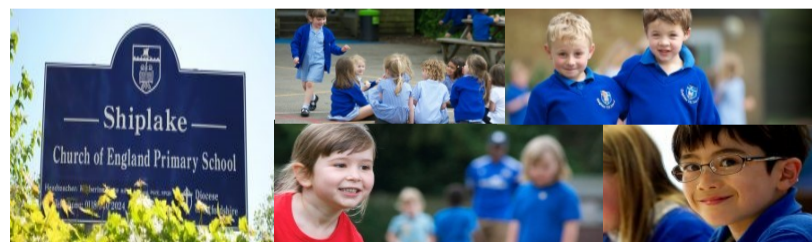
Barbara announced that the monies from the sales table and raffle would be split between the RBH courtesy packs and ACWW – thanks to all who contributed. Just before the meeting closed we had our celebratory selection of delicious birthday cakes. Thanks to everyone who made them. Finally the raffle was drawn and the meeting closed.

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

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## St Anne's Pupils at Douai Abbey

To help prepare them for the transition from primary to secondary school, Year 6 pupils from St Anne's joined those from other Reading Catholic Primary schools for the annual day at Douai Abbey.

The day allows the youngsters to mix with children from other schools and to meet pupils who will be going to the same secondary school as themselves.

Mass was celebrated in the Abbey and, this year, St Anne's children had the honour of bringing up the Offertory Gifts.

There was plenty of time for relaxing and socialising and getting to make new friends who they will meet again in September.



Photo by St Anne's School shows Anne's Year 6 pupils at Douai Abbey with two members of staff

## Confirmation and First Holy Communion at Our Lady and St Anne's church

On 6th June, Bishop Kenney came to the Church of Our Lady and St Anne to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to eighteen young parishioners, thirteen of whom attend St Anne's school. During Mass he Confirmed each candidate with prayers and by anointing their forehead with Holy Oil of Chrism. At the end of his homily, he thanked the catechists and all who had helped in the preparation of the candidates, the music group for providing the music and to all who had helped in any way to make the event such a special day in the spiritual development of the children. As always, Bishop Kenney asked the congregation to please pray for him, promising his prayers for them in return. The newly confirmed were each presented with their Certificate of Confirmation and posed for a group photograph with Bishop Kenney before retiring to the Cenacle for refreshments. The bishop joined them for a short time, greeting as many as he could.

Later in the month, twenty-one slightly younger parishioners received their First Holy Communion. Father Patrick first addressed the adults, saying that they needed to support the children to continue to receive Holy Communion regularly. To the children, he told of his own memories of his First Holy Communion and wished them a happy day that they could remember and treasure.



Photo by Jane Shaw shows Fr Patrick with the new communicants



Photo from St Anne's School shows Bishop Kenney with the newly Confirmed

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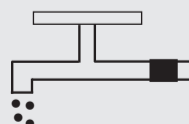
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