

Caversham Bus Services: update on changes from September 3rd

Early in July, Reading Buses contacted Councillors and then a number of community contacts to advise of planned changes from 3 September 2018 and the reasons for them. For Caversham, these are as follows:

Red 22

Revert to its previous routing as far as the town centre only.

Weekday peak time two buses per hour services to/from Reading to depart from Caversham Heights at 05:50, 06:20, 06:40, 07:00, 07:25, 08:02 08:35, 09:00 and 09:30, and returning from Friar Street at 15:15, 15:45, 16:15, 16:45, 17:15, 17:45, 18:15, 18:45, 19:15 and 19:45.

A new partnership with 'VAMOOZ' will see the cross-town school time links continue to be offered by a new speculative 'V81' route (in addition to the existing Reading Buses 981) should sufficient interest be generated through the VAMOOZ app and book in advance platform.

Sunday service will be reduced to two-hourly.

Pink (soon to be rebranded Berry) 23 & 24

Monday to Saturday frequency of these combined (clockwise and anti-clockwise) services will be reduced to half hourly, still providing up to four buses per hour (every 15 minutes at key points) to and from Reading from alternate sides of the road on these loop services.

Sunday service will be reduced to every hour, so two buses per hour combined (every 30 minutes at key points) from both sides of the road.

Pink 25

Weekday off peak service will be reduced to hourly (but continuing to be maintained with 2 buses per hour during commuter peak times, including with the use of a double deck bus on the busiest school time journeys).

Hourly all day on Saturdays and two-hourly on Sundays

Further cuts to Caversham services are extremely unwelcome and CADRA, EGRA and Concerned of Caversham were busy campaigning together in July, with Matt Rodda MP and local Councillors. Reading Buses explain that they operate as a Council owned but standalone commercial business, with the network self-funded through the re-investment of underlying profits, without any overarching subsidies. They report that Caversham is a challenging operating environment, with far lower bus use than elsewhere across the Borough. Major road works, including those at Cow Lane, have posed particular problems in maintaining a reliable service.

We have been making the case that, after the earlier consultation and the problems introducing the new timetables, more time is needed to rebuild confidence and

encourage more people to leave their cars behind. A new CEO has been appointed from October and we all hope that effective joint working can start afresh. Writing this before the end of July, we do not yet know whether pressure for a delay will be successful or whether the changes listed above will indeed start on 3 September. By the time this issue appears, timetables will be available at <https://www.reading-buses.co.uk/services>

If we are successful in securing a delay, it will need everyone north of the river to come together and support the service. If we are to avoid further increases in congestion and social isolation and halt the problems of air quality, Caversham desperately needs a viable alternative to the private car. To help make that possible, we all need to take the bus.

Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA) www.cadra.org.uk

Caversham bus services: still many unresolved questions and few answers

Matt Rodda MP convened a public meeting in response to Reading Buses latest proposals which was held on the evening of Wednesday 1st August at Caversham Baptist Church. The meeting was very well attended and an overflow room was used to accommodate the maximum number.

Concerned of Caversham (who have provided a focus for residents over the past year) have been very worried about the latest wave of cuts that have swept across North Reading. The group have recently been passed a response from Reading Buses to a Freedom of Information Request made by a member of the public regarding figures on bus usage for the local routes.

Based on that information Concerned of Caversham put the following question to the outgoing Reading Buses CEO, Martijn Gilbert at the public meeting. "On 11 January 2018 Martijn Gilbert stated in a Stakeholder briefing that "Bus use in Caversham has continued to fall year on year"

The group has continually refuted that. Reading Buses even coined a phrase 'Use it or Lose it'. The group are now in receipt of a Freedom of Information request response from Tony Pettit, Finance Director and soon to be interim CEO of Reading Buses. It shows an increase year on year for the 22, 24 and 25 over the past few years.

Concerned of Caversham was interested to hear Mr Gilbert report that the only successful bus route is the 27/29. Given these buses run at a similar frequency to the 22 and fares are just half the price of the rest of the Caversham routes he was asked to explain, given our receipt of the FOI numbers for this route being much lower than any of the other Caversham routes, how he had come to this conclusion?"

The response that night and subsequent communication by Martijn Gilbert has been unsatisfactory. Concerned of Caversham will continue to seek answers to the claims made by Reading Buses and the discrepancy brought by the figures received by the company through the Freedom of Information request.

Fiona Pringle: Concerned of Caversham

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

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

St Andrew

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

St Peter's, St Margaret's, St John's
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
Our Lady and St Anne's
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

St Michael's
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 David Jenkins

Caversham's Unique Perspective

In a previous incarnation I lived in Tilehurst as the Methodist Minister there. Although I was aware of the River Thames, that awareness is much greater now that I live in Caversham. To get from Reading into Caversham you have to cross the river. There are plenty of other parts of Reading and its suburban villages which you can drive through without even having to go in sight of the river, let alone cross it.

So possibly awareness of the River Thames has greater resonance for us than it has for many of our other Reading neighbours.

I am reading an outstandingly good book at the moment called 'Listening' by Robin Daniels. It is full of very helpful insights about the practice of listening to each other. One of the areas he explores is what he calls 'The Hesitant Journey'. Journey is a frequently examined and richly evocative metaphor for our lives and for our faith. It is a metaphor about discovery, exploration, movement, direction, development. There is one particular sentence in the book where he describes the process of listening and uses the phrase 'different types of terrain': jungle (confusion), desert (loneliness), mountains (major life events) and river crossing (change).

Each of those areas are suggestive for further thinking, but it is the final one that may have special appeal for the people of Caversham – river crossing (change).

We, who may cross the river often, how open are we to possibilities of change in our own lives? How prepared are we to be the initiators of change?

Cardinal Newman once said, "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to change often". Perhaps the people of Caversham have a greater potential to be perfect because we make use of the river crossing (changes) more than most!

Being prepared to change our ways and being catalysts of change in the world are vital areas to follow wherever we live.

Rev'd David Jenkins is a member of the Methodist Team Ministry and Co-Chair of Churches Together in Caversham.



CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Are you a people person?

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

www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk
0118 948 3466

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



SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion – BCP (first, second and fourth Sundays)
Matins – BCP (Third Sunday)
9.30am Holy Communion (second, third and fourth Sundays)
Service of the Word (First Sunday)
6.30pm 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 Michael's, 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 October 2018 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 3rd September. The date for the November issue is Monday 1st October.

Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org

Advertising copy for the October 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 31st August. The date for the November issue Friday 28th September. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

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Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS

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

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EDITORS: Dr Alison Johnston, Mrs Janet Offord, Mr Alan Bradbury, Mr Stephen A Roberts, Mrs Heather Gale.
c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX
Tel: 947 1703. Email: editors@cavershambridge.org

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mr A Wright,
Tel: 947 6958.
Email: advertising@cavershambridge.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mrs Carol Moloney.
Tel: 947 1370. Email: circulation@cavershambridge.org

COMPANY CHAIRMAN: Mr Colin Ferguson.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr Tony Holland.

COMPANY TREASURER: Mrs J Belcher. Tel: 947 4772
Email: treasurer@cavershambridge.org

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Moore.
Tel: 947 3713

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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Churches Together in Caversham: Children's Summer Holiday Club 2018

The CTC holiday club drew 175 Caversham children to Thameside School in the first week of August. Thirty-six adult and 21 young leader volunteers from 12 different Caversham churches were involved. For the seventh since it started for the 2012 Olympics, we followed the Scripture Union 'Teambuilders' programme.



"Thank you all so much – my kids have been to loads of holiday clubs, but this is always their favourite," said one of the parents.

The club has a structured day: after registration in year groups and putting on their coloured caps, a different colour for each year, everyone gathers in the main hall for singing and the day's Bible story.

For some, this is the favourite part of the day, it's very moving to see everyone from the youngest to the oldest in the room waving their hands, signing and singing the songs and dancing together.

This year's theme song was 'It's great to be on God's team' and by the end of the week it had become as well-rehearsed as the very popular 'Taller than the mountains' and 'Wow, worship of worth', which we've been singing for seven years now! The story-teller then introduces the Bible story for the day which develops the week's theme. 'Teambuilders' features Joseph and his brothers, Moses, Esther, Jesus choosing his disciples and Paul and Barnabas. Each story covers different elements of teamwork, including learning how to work together, not always in the easiest of situations.

Then it's back to our rooms for snack time and a review of the Bible story, craft activities and puzzles/colouring in a Scripture Union booklet which the children take home at the end of the week. After lunch and playtime, the afternoon starts in the hall with stories told by puppets and then two sessions of other activities ranging from tag rugby and dance through spinning and football to community craft and cookery. Outside providers are used to provide the sports activities and Caversham Church members use their skills running other sessions. There is also a quiet room for those who need space and relaxation.

Wednesday afternoon traditionally is 'Wet Wednesday' and this was as much fun as ever, with the weather being

kind to us this year. The week ends with a family fun afternoon; younger siblings and parents join the children to enjoy bouncy castles, face painting, hotdogs, cakes, including those made by the children during the week, and ice lollies outside in the playground and then come into the hall for singing.



"How have I not known about this club before?" said the mother of one first-timer. "It is so lovely to hear the children talking about what they have done and learnt each evening. My daughter has loved talking with adults about their faith and I can see their depth of understanding of the Christian faith growing each day".

We all go home very tired but encouraged and uplifted by the spirit of teamwork between the Caversham Churches. This was celebrated with a service at Caversham Baptist Church on the Saturday afternoon to which the children and their families were invited.

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A.B. Walker nominated for regional Funeral Planner of the Year Award

Independent Funeral Director A.B. Walker has been shortlisted for an award at this year's Funeral Planner of the Year Awards, run by one of the UK's leading funeral plan providers, Golden Charter.

Taking place on Saturday 15th September at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, the annual event celebrating the achievements of independent funeral directors will be hosted by Scottish radio broadcaster and journalist Ken Bruce.

Julian Walker, Director of A.B. Walker, said: "We are at the heart of the community and delighted that the service we provide has been recognised with this nomination.



Pictured: Julian, Melissa and Matthew Walker

We have seen soaring demand for funeral plans. Death is something that no-one wants to think about, and that's natural. But for many people planning their funeral has brought peace of mind".

A.B. Walker was established in 1826 and has been supporting bereaved families for nearly 200 years. The firm is currently managed by the fifth generation of the family. There are branches in Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham, Henley-on-Thames, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Caversham and Maidenhead.

Suzanne Grahame, Golden Charter's Chief Executive, said: "Since joining the company, I have been humbled by the dedication our full network of independent funeral directors show to their families. This nomination demonstrates the excellent service the team from A.B. Walker has delivered to their local community, by helping individuals through the funeral plan process and supporting families when they need it the most. We look forward to celebrating with A.B. Walker as we host our 25th awards ceremony."

Visiting Savill Gardens

If you are a keen gardener, or simply one who likes to visit gardens and view what is going on then you may have already visited the Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park. On the other hand there are likely to be many in these two 'classes'



The main entrance pavilion

who have not visited the Savill Gardens nor have heard of their reputation and what they offer (your reporter, had not visited, but had heard of them and with very little idea of what awaited!). Eric Savill (later Knighted) became the Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park (1937 – 1959) and remained as Director until 1970. He came to Windsor in 1931 and with the support of George V began clearing the present area of 35 acres in the South East of Windsor Great Park. Tree planting began early on and created the templates for four seasonal gardens bound together by a stretch of lakes and wetland (which was named the Savill Garden in recognition of its creator). The period of the Second World War held back development but Royal patronage and interest continued. In the post-war period the major components were maturing: the Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens, the Summer Woods, the Autumn Wood, Glades, Hidden Gardens and Azalea Walks. Today the Queen Elizabeth Temperate House occupies the South East corner of the triangular shaped garden. So, the gardens offer interest at any season of the year in terms of trees of many species, flowering shrubs, roses, herbaceous borders and in any and every corner specimen plants. As any good garden aims to be it is an ever changing landscape of form, hues and vistas.

The British Isles offer a wealth of garden riches, from the smallest and most humble to the largest, richest and spectacular. Of course, direct experience and visiting has no peer, but in a wider sense gardens and gardening can be enjoyed vicariously through garden supplements in the press, radio and TV programmes, and a host of books and manuals displayed in libraries, book stores (physical and digital) as well as in specialist magazines. From Caversham (and Reading) we can get to Kew Gardens; there is the Harcourt Arboretum near Oxford, and there are still public parks and gardens (not to forget our own Caversham Court). There is the RHS garden at Wisley near Guildford, too. One of the pleasures of an interest in gardens is simply to go out by public transport or car and armed with a bit of information and pre-planning make wonderful discoveries. And not to forget the heritage of National Trust properties and 'Stately Homes' in private ownership, which depend upon public opening and visits: gardens are part of our heritage as well as places of recreation and beauty. Our own Caversham



Parishioners and keen gardeners

Heights Society reflected all this in its recent visit to Woburn Abbey (see this issue of Caversham Bridge). So, there is plenty in 'garden-land' to keep all occupied year-long! Your reporter's visit was another such excursion from Our Lady and St Anne's church in Caversham. Travelling in a group provides companionship and shared experience and can call forth a special lunch and the after lunch speaker too. But going once in a group may well promote an individual revisit. The Savill Gardens encourage this through seasonal planting and provides a very accessible 'Kew Gardens' experience. There are excellent amenities and catering too as well as a garden centre and shopping area. Already planning your trip: go to www.the.royallandscape.co.uk for more information!



A fine herbaceous border and the Temperate House

The Savill Gardens encourage this through seasonal planting and provides a very accessible 'Kew Gardens' experience. There are excellent amenities and catering too as well as a garden centre and shopping area. Already planning your trip: go to www.the.royallandscape.co.uk for more information!

The Caversham Heights Society

On a surprisingly cool and cloudy Wednesday morning, the 11th July, a coach load of members of the Caversham Heights Society set off to visit the house and gardens of Woburn Abbey, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford. Driving through Bedfordshire we were able to appreciate the beauty of the rolling English countryside. This was even more dramatic as we entered the vast estate of Woburn Abbey, landscaped by Humphrey Repton, a disciple of Capability Brown in the mid-eighteenth century, with vast vistas and lakes. Before reaching the Abbey we were treated to a slow drive through a deer park with fallow and red deer and seven varieties of Asian deer all very much at home. Getting off the coach and being welcomed by one of the staff it was surprisingly cold for this very hot July but within a couple of hours of our arrival the sun came out and the normal hot weather returned!

We were allowed to wander through the house and grounds at will without any guide so some opted to see the gardens before an excellent lunch in the Duchess' Tea Room, while others explored this magnificent house first. We were told that Woburn is one of the most visited grand country houses in England and it is easy to see why. One of the main attractions this year is the exhibition of nearly 700 of Repton's drawings, sketches and albums that were produced for numerous clients. Called 'Humphrey Repton: Art and Nature for the Duke of Bedford' the exhibition celebrates the bi-centenary of Repton's death. Repton is mainly remembered for his intricate and less formal natural gardens which we enjoyed despite the heat! Anyone who saw the BBC's Gardener's World on the following evening, the 12th, would have been treated to what we saw.

The Society's programme consists of fortnightly lectures between September and April, interspersed with a variety of visits, the next one being to one of the National Trust's great gardens, Stourhead in Wiltshire on Thursday 27th September. Meetings are held on a Wednesday evening in the hall attached to Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Highmoor Road. Coffee is served from 7pm and talks begin at 8pm. Our next season begins on 5th September with a short AGM followed by a talk on the Modern NHS. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact www.cavershamheights.org or contact@cavershamheights.org for more information.

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'Living Well, Staying Healthy in Body and Mind' event

On Tuesday 18th September Balmore Park's Patient Participation Group are holding a 'Living Well, Staying Healthy in Body and Mind' event at Caversham Heights Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12.30 am.

Our aim is to raise awareness on how much is readily available to help people achieve these goals. In doing so they will meet others and help one another to enjoy the benefits together.

The event will be introduced by Balmore Park GP, Dr Tom Back. He will be followed by Matt and Fiona from Age UK Reading. You will be surprised by how many different activities they sponsor. For starters there are Lunch and Coffee Clubs, Foot Care centres and Befriending services. While on the staying active side there

is Walking Football, Tai Chi and Walking groups. Michelle Berry the Wellbeing Co-ordinator for Reading Borough Council will enlighten us further.

After a break for drinks, cakes and biscuits we will have a speaker from The Shed to tell us about all the equipment available for men to use their craftsmanship with wood and other mediums.

Finally, Sarah Morland will share with us the valuable work that Reading Voluntary Action undertake.

There will be plenty of time for questions and lots of handouts to take home

For further information please email: balmoreppg@yahoo.com or ring 0118 947 0040

Adult Care Forums and Consultation on allocation of neighbourhood funding

Reading Borough Council is consulting on how some of the money that is collected from new developments should be spent within local areas.

Money for infrastructure is collected from new developments through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is a charge based on the floorspace of new developments. The law states that 15% of the money collected must be spent on infrastructure in the local area in which the development takes place. This consultation asks for your views on how this share of the money collected in your local area should be spent.

Reading is divided into four areas for these purposes: Central (Abbey, Battle and Park wards); North (Caversham, Mapledurham, Peppard and Thames wards); South (Church, Katesgrove, Redlands and Whitley wards); and West (Kentwood, Minster, Norcot, Southcote and Tilehurst wards).

To take part in the consultation, please fill in the online questionnaire at www.reading.gov.uk/CILlocalspend by Friday 14 September 2018. The results of the consultation will inform a decision in the autumn on how the money will be spent in each area.

Please contact CIL@reading.gov.uk if there are any queries about the consultation, or about CIL more generally

Pop in for a Poppy
Come along to
Caversham Heights Methodist Church
on
Saturday 8th September
Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.



to make a poppy to be used
in decorating our church
for the
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weekend of 20th/21st October
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Our Lady and St Anne's summer garden party

Father Patrick opened the presbytery garden for the annual garden party after Mass on Sunday 15th July. Many people joined the party after attending the Sunday morning Mass. The sun was very hot and people gathered in the shade of the trees away from the stalls, apart from the BBQ selling bacon butties in the shady corner. There were hot and cold drinks and cakes for sale. Pimms Cups sold quickly as a welcome cooler on this hot day. Nevertheless, stalls were visited and there was a tombola of miscellaneous items to attract the curious and the charitable. A selection of raffle prizes were laid out, for which Margaret braved the heat to sell tickets. This is Father Patrick's first summer in the parish so good memories should see the garden open next year for the same event. Who knows ... it may yet be another glorious summer!



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St Andrew's visit to South Street Mosque

About fifteen St Andrew's parishioners and their friends travelled to the South St. mosque, on Tuesday 17th July. After being welcomed, we removed our shoes and were shown upstairs to witness the 4th prayer of the day, it being 7.00 pm, which was taking place down stairs and being shown on a TV screen for us. After prayers a young 'searcher of knowledge' Mohammed Hussein, (a full time student of Islam), and the Iman of the mosque gave us an outline of the Islamic faith, the 7 pillars of Islam, and the practice of worship by Muslims. There were many questions afterwards and at the end as we thanked them for having us they said how pleased and heartened they felt to have received us there. A most instructive interesting and friendly meeting.

Festival of Flowers at Dorchester Abbey

'Footsteps - Journeys of the Soul' is a Festival of Flowers at Dorchester Abbey to be held between the 28th and 30th September, which will include 54 stunning floral designs depicting journeys of many kinds - real, imaginary, current and historical. The festival is being staged by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies)

Footsteps Foundation is a Dorchester based charity which offers specialist physiotherapy for children and young adults affected by neurological disorders. Around one in 400 children born in the UK has a disability with cerebral palsy being the most common. The intensive three-week sessions at Footsteps are hard work but fun, improving spatial awareness, balance and muscle tone. Small gains like learning to sit, take first steps, or even walk can be momentous for a child with a disability. The ambition of Footsteps is to keep funding life-enhancing therapy for all families that need it and to maintain Footsteps as a centre of excellence. The title of this flower festival is very appropriate since children who attend the Footsteps Centre are embarking on a journey which they hope will enable them to take a footstep of their own at some stage in their young lives.

Proceeds from the festival will be shared between Dorchester Abbey and Footsteps Foundation

Entry is by programme is £8.00, available on the door, on the main viewing days: 10.00 to 6.00pm on Friday and Saturday and 12.00 to 5.00pm on Sunday. For more information visit our website at bbandoflowers.org.uk

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The River Thames – a study of change

CADRA is delighted to welcome Terry Marsh as the speaker for the autumn open meeting to be held at 7.45p.m. on Tuesday 6 November in Thameside School. Terry is a Caversham resident and a graduate of Reading University. He has spent most of his working life on the Thames floodplain – successively at the Water Resources Board, the Department of the Environment, the Institute of Hydrology and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology where he led the National Hydrological Programme for over 20 years. He has authored a very wide range of scientific papers and commissioned reports on water resources, floods and droughts with a particular recent focus on the impacts of climate change.

Terry writes that in global terms the Thames is a mere stream, but it has played a central role in the history and culture of the UK. In a scientific context, it is probably the most extensively studied of all the world's rivers, contributing substantially to advances in river and water management both in the UK and internationally.

The Thames is often considered an ancient and unchanging feature of the landscape but it has undergone major transformations throughout its history. Physically, these changes were most evident through the Ice Ages but in historical times the river has served as a strategic barrier, an important source of food and power generation, a major transport hub (which largely determined the location of Reading Abbey), a focus for commercial development, a primary source of water supply and an important recreational playground. Less beneficially, its use as a conduit for sewage disposal, with attendant health risks which peaked in the nineteenth century, has impacted negatively on water quality and, correspondingly, limited the variety of wildlife the river can sustain. Caversham has been directly, or indirectly, impacted by most of these changes.

Since the early 1960s, a revised legislative framework has enabled a more integrated management of the river, leading eventually to improved water quality and, latterly, greater ecological diversity. But continuing population growth and the threats posed by global warming have become a major focus of concern with a media perception that

flood and drought threat in the Thames basin may increase substantially. In fact, whilst continuing floodplain development has increased vulnerability to flood events, river flow patterns in the Thames have displayed considerable resilience to the exceptional increase in temperatures over the last 50 years. Nonetheless, careful management remains essential to maintain a cherished regional and national asset.

CADRA looks forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fascinating and very topical evening.

Reading Family Aid: can you help?

Our charity is in desperate need of new committee members interested in really taking responsibility for some of their projects and also someone to get involved in the more computer technical aspects of their work.

Reading Family Aid (RFA) provides several outings and toys at Christmas to many hundreds of disadvantaged families across the wider Reading area. We are a small charity run entirely by volunteers and have been going since the 1950s and as a registered charity since 1993. As we have grown so has the need to be better organised and professional and so we need volunteers who are happy to take on the management responsibilities. It would be a real shame if we were unable to continue.

We are currently looking for an Outings Organiser, a Toy Project Manager and a Toy Project Technical Administrator. If you have the time to get involved and have good organisation skills and are comfortable using a computer for email, Word and Excel or you are perhaps a retired IT professional then please have a look at our website page <https://www.readingfamilyaid.org/current-vacancies.html> and contact Ruth-Perkins@ReadingFamilyAid.org providing some information about your interest and any relevant experience.

Rivermead Indoor Bowls Club

Rivermead Indoor Bowls Club, Richfield Avenue, Reading re-opens on 29th September 2018 for our new season. New Members are welcome (no experience necessary) – coaching and help are available.

There are two Open Days – Sunday 21st October – 2pm to 5 p.m. and Saturday 27th October – 10am to 1pm

Bowls are provided, but please bring along your own flat bottomed shoes to wear.

We are a friendly club providing a sport for all abilities from 14 years upwards. A warm welcome awaits you so come along and give it a try.

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ENVIRONMENT

Remembering the Grosvenor

Its very name conjured up wealth and opulence! The Grosvenor family were related to William the Conqueror. They came to own and develop Mayfair and Belgravia in west London in the eighteenth century, and were created Dukes of Westminster in 1874. So perhaps it is not surprising that their name should be given to the hotel that opened on Kidmore Road in 1935. Though you couldn't actually stay the night there, it was always a hotel, and obviously intended to be a cut above an ordinary drinking-house.

H. and G. Simonds, the Reading brewers, knew it would be an uphill task to get the magistrates to agree to the building of licensed premises on Caversham Heights. The farm land was sold off for housing from 1898 onwards, and purchasers were supposed to abide by the terms of covenants, whereby the houses were to be expensive, and they were not to build shops, workshops, or licensed premises.

An article in 'The Hop Leaf Gazette', the monthly magazine of H. & G. Simonds, for November 1934, told how, earlier in the year, six members of staff, armed with electric torches, were paid to go out in the evenings to canvass support for the hotel among local residents. "Night after night, our little band braved the elements, and if it was a cold job, the success obtained warmed us quite a lot. Fortunately, we experienced very little wet weather, for which we were all very thankful. Well, after several appearances at court, everything went swimmingly, and now the work has started and Grosvenor House is on its way."

It opened on 5th July, 1935, and had been designed by Mr. J. J. Cardwell, the brewery company's chief architect. Outside, there was parking for 80 cars, a garden, and four tennis courts. Within was an assembly room with a dance floor (pictured), a sun parlour, a billiard room, and an off-licence which could be reached discreetly, without having to go through any of the bars. Dances on Saturday evenings continued into the 1970s, as I have good reason to remember.

This was a 'classy' establishment, and the sort of place I went to

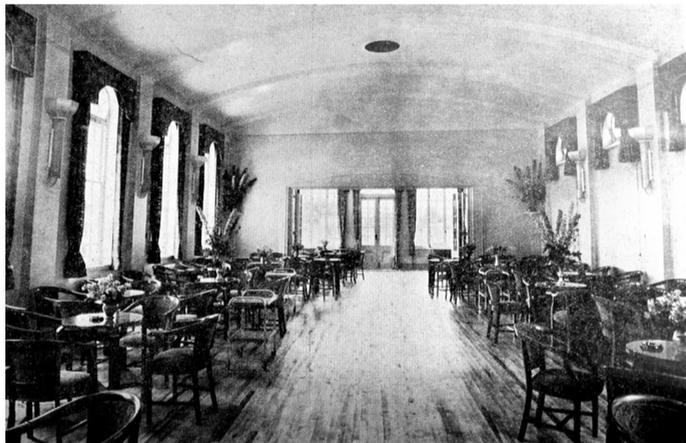
with work colleagues or members of a social club, for a Saturday dinner dance. On the stage was a three-piece band, dressed in flared trousers, with frilly shirts. The evenings ended with something smoochy like 'The Last Waltz' or 'Moon River.'

In 1984, it looked as though The Grosvenor was to be demolished and replaced by houses, but fortunately the houses never materialised.

From some years after this, I have another fond memory of the place. I went with other church members to sing Christmas carols to the drinkers and diners. At first some of them seemed a bit taken aback, but then got into the spirit of things, and started requesting carols, some of which we didn't know. Nevertheless, it went down well, I believe some money was raised for charity, but I don't remember the carol-singing being repeated.

Today, as The Caversham Rose, it's somewhere to enjoy a meal that I can walk to – maybe after a Sunday morning service, or maybe to combine with a walk along Hemdean Bottom. But the days of tripping the light fantastic are long gone, I'm afraid!

Happy Wanderer



'The Ballroom at the Grosvenor as it was'

Bugs Bottom Ragwort

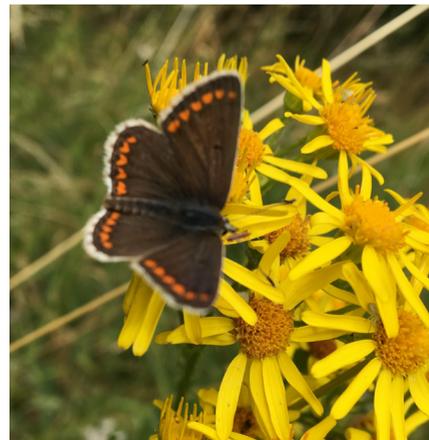
One of the brightest of flowers at Bugs Bottom in July is Ragwort. As Bugs Bottom is adjacent to grazing land it has to be removed for the safety of livestock. Livestock don't often eat ragwort while it is living, the danger comes in cut grass, hay containing cut ragwort. The animals cannot detect the poison in it when it is dried. As ragwort seeds profusely, it travels to the adjoining grassland.

So the CRoW conservation volunteers are asked to remove the ragwort at Bugs Bottom. Not the most pleasurable task during the high temperatures of this July, in fact quite daunting, however at each step in the long grass a wonderful colourful variety of butterflies, bees and other bugs flew up. Long sleeves and long trousers are essential here. Ragwort is the favourite food of the yellow and black caterpillars of the distinctive pink and black cinnabar day time flying moth, so one of us carried a plastic box to rescue some caterpillars

to take them to a site where ragwort can grow freely. Plenty of ragwort remains on site, please feel free to do your own pulling! (Taking away the plants of course so that they do not seed on site). CRoW stands for *Conserve Reading on Wednesday* and are a part of Econet. They work in and around Reading on a Wednesday. See website: www.econetreading.org.uk



Volunteers at work



Brown Argus butterfly on ragwort

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Caversham Rock'n'Ale Festival

On a warm, sunny evening in July, the sounds of the sixties echoed through Caversham as the 6th Caversham Rock'n'Ale Festival got under way on St Anne's School playing field. In anticipation of fine weather, tables and chairs had been placed outside the big white marquee on the field and within an hour of the opening time all available places had been filled. As the evening wore on, more and more people arrived and spread out picnic blankets and family groups gathered to enjoy the atmosphere of a wonderful community event. The event was attended by over 500 people this year and made it the most successful event of its 6 years. People came from far and wide and Parishioners were joined by people from outside the Parish and from other faith communities. This was another opportunity for Father Patrick to experience as part of his first year as our parish priest. He mixed and mingled and we hope enjoyed the event.

Three local bands played covers from the past 50 years. The band 'Not Souled Out' opened the proceedings, their female singer's voice sailing out across the field. They were followed by 'Wardour Street' who played a mixture of well-known 60's hits and then 'Dino's' played for the last couple of hours, by which time the marquee had filled up with dancers as well as those who just wanted to listen to the music.

The Purple Turtle supplied the bar and, as well as a range of local ales and craft beer, cider, wine and soft drinks, they were launching their own beer brewed by a local brewery. Nearly 2,000 beverage orders were taken. The hog roast was supplied by The Crooked Billet and, when it was ready, a queue quickly formed until everything was gone. As well as rolls filled with pork meat, there was sage and onion stuffing, apple sauce and the most wonderful crackling. There was also a vegetarian chilli salad available which proved very popular. Sharon Christy and her team served well over 200 portions of Hog Roast and Vegetarian Chilli. An ice cream van provided ice cream for children and grown-ups alike and the Ice Cream man was stopped 3 times as he attempted to leave the playing fields.

The children were well catered for with an area for games and a climbing frame and lots of room to run around, as well as face painters and a tuck shop. All safely supervised!

After meeting expenses £5,053 was raised and is to be shared equally between the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Our Lady and St Anne's Parish. Just as important, the evening provided an opportunity for parishioners to get to know each other better, to introduce friends from outside the

parish and for all to enjoy a pleasant, relaxing summer evening.

Both the main sponsors of the event, the Jelf Group Plc and Berkshire Mortgage Services attended the event and we are extremely grateful for their generosity as without it the event would simply not take place.

We would also like to thank St Anne's Catholic School whose goodwill and generosity of spirit in allowing us to use their playing field provided the space for over 500 people to enjoy a fabulous evening.

We'll be back next year!

Reportage by Jane Shaw and Mike Ryan



Sharon Christy and her team made easy work of the Hog Roast and served well over 200 servings of Hog and vegetarian chilli.



Not Souled Out opened the evening with a stunning performance



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Caversham WI

For our July meeting, we welcomed Susan Pitts who told us all about the myths and mysteries of pain. It was a good chance to think about how our bodies and brains communicate pain to us, and how we react to the 'messages'. Susan pointed out that the pain we feel, whilst being a very important safety tool, is not always accurate! There are certainly times I can recall – and you can too? – when I haven't felt an injury because I hadn't yet actually realised it was there... and the opposite too, when something felt awful and yet was only a small thing.

Next month we will be taking our usual summer break, reconvening in September for a harvest celebration. As I write this, the sunshine is set to continue, with scattered thunderstorms... so I hope we do indeed all get a reasonable harvest this year; in the gardens, allotments and fields.

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

The President welcomed members and guests and introduced our speaker Reverend Dr Nicholas Henderson who gave a talk on the first two wives of Henry VIII. A fascinating insight followed on these ladies aided by a power point presentation. In her thanks, Carol wondered why her history lessons were not as interesting. Refreshments followed and then the business of the afternoon.

A report was given about the successful outing to Waterperry Gardens, wall to wall sunshine, good food and of course plants! WI Conference feedback was given by our President. Once again the venue for our WI has come under discussion due to events beyond our control. A vote was taken and the majority voted to go to St Andrews Church Hall on Albert Road on the first Friday afternoon in the month at 2.30pm.

Our date for 'Addelaide' and 'Emily' to spend a week with us begins on 28th August, they arrive from Purley WI and we pass them on to Rosehill WI.

Future social events were announced. Our coffee morning was very pleasant at Toad Hall Garden Centre: what a delightful way to spend a couple of hours! Lunch at the Greyhound takes place after this report is filed! In September a visit to the Silk Mill and the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery with 11 members signed up is planned and our trip to the theatre in April 2019 to see Calendar Girls has 12 signatures!

During August a small group will visit *Lady Sew and Sew* in Henley. The Book Club, Knitting Group and Art Group continue.

Caversham Court Kiosk has been given a 5 star rating which Chazey supports during the summer: our date was the first week in August.

A request for more emergency wash bags has been received from the Royal Berks Hospital to be collected at our next meeting.

Our last meeting at the Caversham Methodist Church Hall is on the first Wednesday in August and thereafter on the first Friday in the month at St Andrews Church Hall in Albert Road, Caversham Heights at 2.30pm. For more information email chazeywi@gmail.com.

Caversham Church fete



England's football fans were readying themselves for one last World Cup match, Angelique and Serena were due on court at Wimbledon, yet still the crowds flowed into Caversham Court Gardens.

The annual Caversham Church Fete, on July 14, was another great community day for Caversham. People came from far and wide to enjoy home-made cakes and savouries, afternoon tea or Pimms, coconut shy or hoopla and not one but three tombolas.

As the sun blazed down, the crowds were entertained by the Wright School of Dance, the Tadley Brass Band and the inimitable Fred in the Shed (well, tent this year).

Come 2.00 p.m, all eyes turned to the Western horizon to catch the first glimpse of Sqd. Ldr Mark Discombe AFC in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Spitfire MkXIX. His three sweeping passes caught everyone's attention.

And then it was back to the sideshows, entertainment and children's races. Oh, and scoring goals passed two of the CTM Parish clergy, Mike Smith and Penny Cuthbert.

As the crowds departed, the clear-up began and the workers drifted home for a deserved rest. Takings of more than £11,000 highlight just how much fun and enjoyment the fete brings to Caversham.

Steve Jenkins

St Barnabas summer fair

St Barnabas Summer Fair, held on Saturday 14th July was once again a great success. Over £1,100 was raised to be shared between, 'Education for life', 'Christian Engineers in Development' and 'Masiphumele', the 3 African charities that the church supports. The pictures show the colourful Rainbow Raffle which attracted a lot of attention and one happy family who won on most of the stalls and particularly liked the Surprise Parcel stall. If you would like to help us support these charities, then a date for your diary is Saturday December 1st at 2 pm when we will hold our Christmas Fair. I suspect the Surprise Parcels may make another appearance!

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'Explicit Christian values, understood and used by everyone, create a successful learning environment in which children are nurtured in their academic and personal development' SIAMS December 2016

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'The school's ethos and values of 'mutual respect, good behaviour and high academic standards within a Christian and moral culture' are borne out in all aspects of your work. Consequently, pupils are highly motivated, keen to learn and achieve well' Ofsted December 2016

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End of School Year at St Anne's School

Saturday 23rd June saw the beginning of four busy weeks of events leading up to the end of term with *The Summer Fair – Food'n Fun Discovery Day* organized by the Parents Staff Association. On one of the many sunny days in June, a fantastic turnout celebrated the school community at the Food and Fun Festival. The international food stalls were a huge hit where lots of parents came with food to sell which were typical dishes of their different nationalities. Playing the games, organized by Year 6 and some former pupils, gave the children lots of fun on the school field. Needless to say,

the stocks were a big attraction where plucky teachers were pelted with wet sponges. The PSA expressed thanks to all the local companies who donated prizes and offered other support to the Summer Fair.

At the beginning of July, a Summer Concert was presented and the school sports took place on the field. Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Triathlon event hosted by Queen Anne's School. Despite the heat, all the children made a tremendous effort to complete the three events of swimming, bike-riding and running, and all returned to school proudly wearing their medals. To complete a very busy week, the PSA organized a family camp out night for Friday!!

On 12th July, the KS2 end of term production '*Daniel, a Hard Act to Swallow*', gave the opportunity for all the junior pupils to display their many talents. Year 6 pupils performed the play, an updated re-telling of the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den, with support from Year 5 on the stage. Year 4 Angels helped Daniel in his hour of need, and Year 3 pupils were a choir of Lions who refused to eat Daniel. After the evening performance Years 5 and 6 had a BBQ on the school field

The following week, a Leavers' Mass for the Year 6 children was celebrated in church by Father Patrick who wished them well in their new secondary schools. A Leavers' Assembly took place on Friday and, after lunch, all said their farewells; the Year 6 pupils going on to their new schools in September and the other children returning to St Anne's for the 2018/19 school year in a higher class than the ones they were just leaving.

Photographs by St Anne's School show 1. *The whole cast*, 2. *Daniel is condemned to the Lion's Den*.



50 years of St Andrew's Pre-school

St Andrew's Pre-school are marking their 50th birthday with a celebration on Friday 28th September, in St Andrew's Church Hall, from 2.00 to 4.30pm. Anyone who has had connections with the pre-school is welcome to come along. Whether you worked there, volunteered on the committee, used to come to the pre-school/playgroup or had children who did, the pre-school would love to see you during the afternoon. It will be a tea party with a chance to reminisce, look at old photos and chat to old friends. If you would like to be there, please send a message to the manager Hilary (hilary@standrewspreschoolcaversham.onmicrosoft.com) or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/standrewspreschool50

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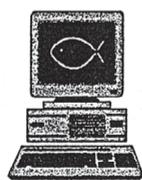
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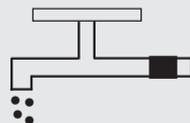
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