

# Caversham Bridge

No 650

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April 2019

## Marking the 650th issue of Caversham Bridge

The tens, the fifties, the hundreds and the thousands are considered significant markers of whatever it is needed to commemorate, celebrate or remember! From issue number 1 in September 1964 we celebrated issue number 500 in September 2006: that is 42 years old! In January 2015 we reached our 600th issue. This coming September will be our 55th birthday and with the current issue we publish our 650th issue. Hopefully, we can find no fault in increasing (slightly) our rate of celebration, so we say 'Happy Issue day to Caversham

Bridge' and we thank all our loyal readers over the years. It can be said that over the last five years journalism and print media has continued to change rapidly as it has had to accommodate to other media platforms like online and social media. We are tracking the changes ourselves, but still strongly believe in the presence of a regular printed community newspaper to be a source not just of information but of community and social cohesion. *Caversham Bridge* is here to support you and to respond to you as best we can. Our door is open!

**A very joyful and fulfilling Easter to all our readers**

**from the *Caversham Bridge* team.**

**May the celebration of Lent and Eastertide bring**

**spiritual refreshment and hope to all.**

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# Caversham Clergy

## ANGLICAN

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

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

Caversham Thameside Ministry -  
St Peter, St Margaret, St John  
Rev'd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505  
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Marion Pyke Tel: 947 5834  
Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265  
Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810  
Rev'd 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**  
Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.  
Tel: 947 2223  
Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev'd 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  
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,  
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

St Michael  
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels,  
Sonning Common Tel: 972 3418

**NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD**  
Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

# TALKING POINT

by Revd. Judith Ryder



I offer here the message of a sermon I preached in February.

Normally I concentrate on the gospel reading in my sermons, but that day, unusually, I decided not to, because I felt that there was an important message that needed to be heard. The response to what I said convinced me I had made the right decision, and now I have been asked to offer it to a wider readership in *Caversham Bridge*. I hope this will help others in their lives and their faith.

What difference do you think it should make to our lives if we believe in God?

What spurs me on to ask this is a recent encounter with someone who told me how they lost their faith and gave up going to church. It would be wrong for me to go into that conversation in detail, but it was a familiar enough scenario. This person had known good faithful churchgoing Christians to whom bad things had happened like illnesses and early deaths for example, and out of that trauma they had lost their faith.

These kinds of things of course often challenge people's faith, unsurprisingly. But equally often they do not – paradoxically, it can be precisely these kinds of things that *bring* people to faith. What makes the difference?

What struck was that there was a basic reason why this person's faith had been so challenged: because of what they had learnt, at some point, about what faith was about. Their understanding was that faith was supposed to protect you, in the sense of stopping difficult and painful things happening.

This was something I had never learnt; and therefore traumatic events in my life have not shaken my faith.

As Christians, we do of course often pray for God's protection for people, and it is an important part of our Christian discipleship that we do. But then bad things do happen. So what is God doing? What's the point of all this praying and believing?

*Jeremiah 17:5-10* gives us a way into understanding this, through a word picture.

Jeremiah describes two different plants. One is a small plant struggling in a dry, salty wilderness. The other is a tree planted near water, so its roots can draw upon that water.

The difference between the plants is not the weather all around. The weather all around is the same for them both. In fact, v. 8 talks about *'when'* the heat comes, when the drought comes – because they come, for both plants. The difference for the tree by the water is that its roots are always able to draw on the water that gives life. Even in the hardest times they still reach out, reach down, and find that life-giving water. And the passage goes on: even in the time of drought, that tree shall not cease to bear good fruit.

And this is of course about the difference God makes in our lives. Even when our faith is unsteady, God is faithful. Even when we are not sure we trust, God is trustworthy. What we have to deal with in life does not necessarily change (although it *'can'*, sometimes, very dramatically). But there is a deep source of life we can draw on to help us through; and, indeed, even more than that, a source of life that can help us continue to make a difference ourselves, to bear fruit. *'That'* is the difference faith makes in our lives, that is the protection faith offers. If we understand that we can be assured that God will help us weather all storms.

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

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ANGLICAN

**St Peter, 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, 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, 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, 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, Southview Avenue  
Saturday 5.30pm,  
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm  
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

**St Michael, 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 2019: Copy price and subscription price

Caversham Bridge is sold at £0.40 per copy. The subscription price which includes delivery to your home address is increased to £5.00 / year (for 12 issues) from January 2019.

## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the May 2019 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 1st April. The date for the June issue is Monday 29th April. Email address is: [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org)  
Advertising copy for the May 2019 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 29th March. The date for the June issue Friday 26th April. Email address is: [advertising@cavershambridge.org](mailto:advertising@cavershambridge.org)

## PARISH OFFICES

**PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM**  
St Peter, St Margaret, St John  
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX  
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**ST BARNABAS**  
St Barnabas Centre  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am  
Tel: 947 6310 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

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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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## Caversham Centre replacement sub-Post Office update: progress on the horizon?

Caversham Bridge has been in contact with the Post Office, following on from our previous coverage on the matter of a replacement sub-Post Office in Caversham Centre (Caversham Bridge, January and February issues on front page and in the March issue on p.14).

We report here the response to our most recent inquiry: 'We (the Post Office) received a resignation from the Postmaster for Caversham, and, as a result, the premises, that we did not own, were withdrawn from Post Office use on 30th January 2019. The pharmacy, where the branch was based, also closed. The nearest alternative branches are at Henley Road (Henley Road Post Office, 124

Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DH) and the brand new branch at Caversham Road (Caversham Road Post Office, Caversham Convenience Store, 163 – 165 Caversham Road, Reading, RG1 8BB). The main Reading Crown Post Office is at 21 -22 Market Place, Reading, RG1 2DQ'.

'We (The Post Office) apologise for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of Caversham Post Office. We understand how important a Post Office is to a community and we would like to reassure customers that we are working hard to maintain a Post Office in that area. We have an interested retailer and we are progressing their application'.

Readers may take some encouragement from this

statement and we hope there will be a successful conclusion and a new office opening in Caversham Centre. Caversham Bridge will continue to report on this important community issue.

A Post Office is an 'anchor point' for any significant commercial centre of whatever scale. Caversham Centre has been going through a period of some retail 'turnover' during the last six months, and we hope whatever emerges will add to the value of the Centre, notwithstanding any more ambitious developments envisaged in the main retail area.

[With thanks to the Post Office for providing an update following our inquiry]

## Heights Free School

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has completed work preparing for the construction of the new Heights Free School on part of the Mapledurham Recreation Ground this week, after full planning consent was granted on February 25th 2019.

A lease of part of Mapledurham Recreation Ground was granted by Reading Borough Council – in its capacity as trustee of the Mapledurham Recreation Ground Charity – in favour of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on February 18th. The lease has been entered into in accordance with a decision taken unanimously by members of the Mapledurham Playing Fields Trustees Sub-Committee, which has delegated authority from the Council to make decisions in relation to the Charity. This lease follows the ESFA's amended planning application, which was approved by Reading Borough Council Planning Committee on February 6th.

With site clearance undertaken the ESFA contractor, Kier Construction Ltd, is proceeding with the main construction

work for the new school. The clearance work includes the removal of all the trees within the school site. Soil investigation work within the playing field car park and entrance road will also take place. For safety, Kier has confirmed they will cordon off the area with temporary fencing whilst the work is carried out. Site clearance was completed by the week ending March 8th.

At the same time, the Council was removing 15 trees in the middle of the playing fields in preparation for landscape enhancement work later this summer. This work will improve the quality of the football pitches and provide a greater flexibility and more sustainable use of the area, as unanimously agreed by members of the Mapledurham Playing Fields Trustees Sub-Committee. There are plans to plant 57 replacement trees in the area.

The ESFA's amended planning application approved on February 6th can be found at this link: <https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/documents/s1962/MAP%20182200%20The%20Heights%20School%20MPF%20s73.pdf>

## New Neighbours'

If you are new to the area or moving home 'New Neighbours' have a free Information pack that they will deliver to you. Please email us on: [newneighbours@talktalk.net](mailto:newneighbours@talktalk.net) to arrange a visit or call our local Caversham Visitor on 07756 347025.

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## Beanpole Day is April 13th: Get your garden ready for summer!



Econet's annual gardening event takes place on Saturday April 13th at Caversham Court Gardens by the River Thames from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Come and buy very reasonably priced plants and plant supports whilst

assisting local charitable organisations. You can enjoy the views and learn something new from interacting with environmental organisations, including beekeepers and wildlife gardeners with encouragement to 'grow-your-own'. Vegetables, wildflowers and ornamental plants are all available and this is THE place to buy a large range of tomato plants and grow on the assortment of shapes, colours and flavours promoted by chefs. The beanpoles, pea sticks and plant supports come from locally managed coppiced woodland and wetland and your purchase helps maintain these traditional techniques.

The local beekeepers, Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth, Food4families, RSPB and others will all be on site to answer questions you may have on environmental matters. There are a number of fair trade products to buy with a clear conscience. Home-made cakes and jams are on the menu, and there are a range of activities all day including demonstrations of products made using traditionally managed wood and waste wood. Bring your blunt tools for sharpening by our expert from Reading's repair café. The garden kiosk will be open for light refreshments.

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## Caversham Royal British Legion: Poppy Appeal awards and thank-you party at the Griffin, Caversham, Thursday 7th February

Helpers met for drinks and nibbles and to receive awards for their help in collecting for the Poppy Appeal. The help they give takes many forms: not only the street collections themselves, but also making poppies in various materials, arranging window displays, being involved in special church services and handling the proceeds from the collections.

The Poppy Appeal organiser, Pauline Palmer, announced that the Caversham Branch had already collected over £53,000 for the 2018 appeal. She also announced that since she 'took over temporarily' from Trish Gregson, who died twenty years ago, the Caversham Poppy Appeal has raised over £500,000. Pauline said that raising this substantial sum could only have been achieved with great team work by the collectors and with the generous support of the donating public. Four ladies who collected for Trish are still collecting and this is something for all to be proud of in terms of constant and devoted service to the cause.

The Appeal is very grateful to the Oracle shopping centre in Reading where due to the good offices of the Centre Manager, Andy Briggs and his staff, Caversham helpers are allowed to collect. Andy presented the Appeal with an illustrative cheque to the sum collected this year (the money has already been banked!). With the sum collected in 2018 added to the collections over the last five years a grand total of nearly £100,000 has been collected at the Oracle

We are pleased to list in full all those associated with the Awards.

**10 year certificates** awarded to Sean Brennan, Jacqueline Summers, William Summers, Gordon Hayes, Janet Hayes and Frank Millgate.

**15 year certificates** awarded to Ian Adams, Margaret Adams, Diana Hartrup, John Rowe, Ian Lowry, David Mills, Robert Houseman, Teresa Houseman and June Wise. June deserves a special mention as she collects from her wheelchair with her family. A friend, Lavinia, who accompanies her knits 100 poppies which are in great demand and are sold at the House of Cards shop in Caversham.

**20 year certificates** awarded to John Rowe, Jeffrey Goddard, Jennifer Goddard.

**25 year certificates** awarded to Chris Manning and

Kenneth Poley, Jack and Brenda Stanford (who help with counting and banking money), Howard and Mai West, Desmond Goddard and Jean Goddard.

**30 year certificates** awarded to Jane Havelock, Pat Melling, Liz Cheyney and Susan Smith. These are the four ladies who worked with Trish Gregson and who have continued for twenty more years. Pauline is very proud to have worked with these collectors and to have kept them as part of the team.

**A forty year bar** goes to President and Chairman, Ron Jewitt.

**A forty five year bar** goes to Mick Stinton, who also organizes the September sponsored walk.

Awards and recognitions were made to Clubs and Associations, as well as to business and commercial organisations.

The Rotary Club of Reading; The Rotary Club of Maiden Erleigh; The Reading Lions; The Caversham 9th Platoon Army Cadets (who help at Remembrance and Armed Forces Day, especially by collecting, marshalling the parade and organizing the standards at the War Memorial.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church held a 'Pro Patria' event and shared the proceeds between the Legion and Help for Heroes: the Legion received a cheque for £695.00.

St Peter's Church ladies made delightful felt poppies to boost the collection.

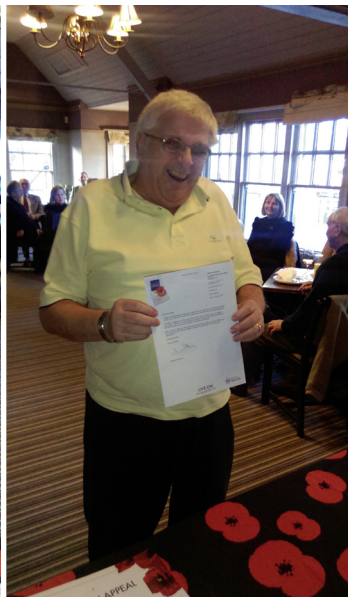
Reading Railway Station and the shops on the concourse were recognised for their contribution to fundraising, and Bill Waldron achieved an outstanding amount.

Out of many shops and offices which received certificates Pauline Palmer mentioned the House of Cards in Caversham for its window display, and Angela Stargatt the manager received a special award. In addition Pauline mentioned Adrienne Henry (Milliner) who collected for the first time and achieved impressive results.

And, s s last but not least, we must mention all the schools, shops, clubs, bookmakers, garages, GP surgeries, churches, funeral parlours and many more who facilitated collecting. All these points were serviced by tin deliverers and collectors: many undertook this but a special mention was made to Bill Kukstas.



Angela Stargatt – House of Cards



Nick Stinton – Caversham RBL



Ron Jewitt and Andy Briggs present a 'cheque'



Jane Havelock – Friend of Caversham RBL

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# The Caversham Heights Society: talks on public libraries in Caversham & on the Thames Valley Police

There were two meetings held during February. On 6th February David Cliffe, a former Librarian at Reading Library, gave an informative and amusing illustrated talk on *'the development of public libraries with particular reference to Caversham.'* Most of the photographs came from the Reading Library archives.

Although the Public Libraries Act was passed in 1850 and there had been library provision on a subscription basis at the old Atheneum since 1807, thanks to the generous provision of William Palmer (of Huntley and Palmer's), no public action was taken in Reading until 1855 when, after a public consultation, the first public library was opened at the bottom of London Street next door to what is now the *'Great Expectations'* restaurant. It was open six days a week from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

David then went on to discuss how eight different libraries developed around Reading beginning with Battle in 1908 and finally Whitley in 1935. The first library to open in Caversham was in 1883 in a room provided by St Peter's church and staffed by volunteers. The present library opened in 1907, thanks to funding from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Currently, despite the cuts from central government Reading Borough Council is determined to keep all eight local libraries open, albeit with reduced opening hours, though some have also now become community centres as well.

Much of the talk centred on the library development in the Old Town Hall with its cramped conditions, antiquated equipment, mice and cockroaches, a far cry from the new Library on King's Road which came about because Reading Borough Council refused to hand over its responsibilities for library provision to Berkshire County Council following the 1974 Local Government Reform Act. All in all this was a most fascinating and interesting talk which was enjoyed by all.

The second talk on the 20th February was very different. Anthony Stansfeld looked at *'Crime and Punishment in the Twenty-first Century'* from his

perspective as the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner for the past seven years. The role of Police Commissioner is to hold the Chief Constable to account through scrutiny, support and challenge. He promotes engagement with local communities, overdees the budget and develops a Police and Crime Plan.

We learnt that the Thames Valley Police Force is the largest non-metropolitan force in the country both in numbers of police officers as well as in geographical area, spreading as it does from Milton Keynes in the north-east to Hungerford in the south-west. With a population of 2.3 million it is exceeded only by London, Birmingham and Manchester, although its funding per police officer is well below any of these. In fact Anthony Stansfeld estimates a shortfall of between 1,500 and 2,000 police officers.

He has had numerous battles with the Government over funding and resources because of the specialist work that his authority has to do. The Thames Valley Police are linked in to the counter-terrorist specialists in the Metropolitan police and undertook much of the forensic work in Salisbury following the Novichok attack. They are also heavily involved in dealing with fraud in the financial industry and with drug gangs, especially in Newbury. It was the Thames Valley police who decided to prosecute the sex gangs in Oxford and who decided to name and shame Asian men involved in grooming young girls for sex. While burglaries are now no greater than they were 45 years ago the crimes that are now growing are knife crime, cybercrimes, domestic abuse, fraud, drug related and terrorist related crimes. Unfortunately the prison service and available punishments are unable to cope and many police forces are over-stretched for what they are expected to do. Again this was an informative and thought-provoking talk, leaving the hearers with much to mull over.

Future meetings are on *'Plastic'* and the *'History of RAF Greenham Common'*. Meetings are held on alternate

Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, after coffee, in the Caversham Heights Methodist church in Highmoor Road. New members are always welcome. Further information can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org) or by email: [contact@cavershamheights.org](mailto:contact@cavershamheights.org)

## Caversham Horticultural Society

The Society's April talk is on the subject of *'therapeutic horticulture'* provided by the charity Thrive, who have their local centre at Beech Hill. This talk will be held at Caversham Primary School on Wednesday 24th April at 7.45pm. Non-members are welcomed. The £3.00 admission fee includes light refreshments.

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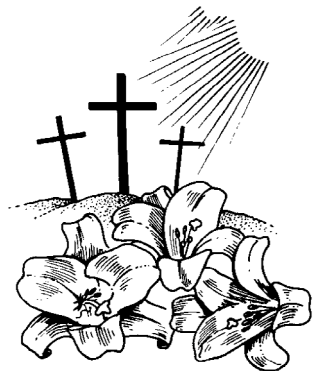
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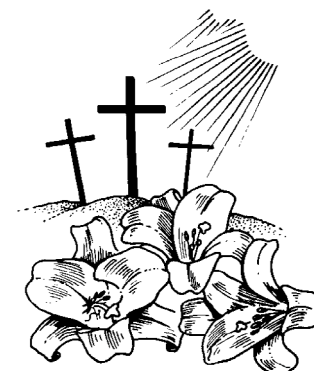
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# Easter Services



**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:  
"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his  
cross and follow me'. Mark 8:34**

## **St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 9.30am - Procession with Passion Reading

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 6.30pm - Fellowship Meal with Agape in Parish Centre (Please contact the vicar beforehand)

**Good Friday, 19th April:** Reflections around the Cross

**Easter Sunday, 21st April:** 5.00am - Easter Dawn Communion then light breakfast; 8.00am - Said communion; 9.30am - Family Communion

## **St John the Baptist, Gosbrook Road, Caversham**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 9.30am - All Age Worship; 3.30pm - Donkey Walk from St John's to the Weller Centre

**Tuesday, 16th April:** 2.45pm - Mother's Union Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - Agape Meal and Vigil

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.00am - Children's Activities

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 9.30am - All Age Easter Celebration

## **St Peter, St Peter's Hill, Caversham**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 9.30am - Blessing of Palms and Procession from Caversham Court; 6.30pm - Entry into Holy Week Choral service

**Monday, 15th April:** 7.30pm - Compline for Holy Week

**Tuesday, 16th April:** 7.30pm - Compline for Holy Week

**Wednesday, 17th April:** 9.30am - Holy Communion; 7.30pm - Compline for Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - Eucharist and Vigil

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 12.00pm - Three-hour devotional service

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 5.30am - Caversham Court for Easter Vigil; 9.30am - Festival Communion

## **St Margaret, Mapledurham**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 11.15am - Communion

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - Holy Communion and Supper at Trench Green Hall

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.00am - Stations of the Cross

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 11.15am - Festival Communion

## **St Andrew, Albert Road, Caversham**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 9.30am - Procession with Donkeys - departs from Copperfield, 10.0am - Parish Eucharist; 3.30pm - Messy Church

**Tuesday, 16th April:** 7.30pm - Stations of the Cross

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - Eucharist of the Last Supper and Vigil until 11.00pm

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 2.00pm - Hour of the Cross

**Holy Saturday, 20th April:** 8.30pm - The Fire, the vigil and the First Eucharist of Easter

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 8.00am - Said Eucharist; 10.00am - Sung Eucharist

## **Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 10.30am - Rev'd David Jenkins; 6.30pm - Mr David Munns

**Monday, 15th April:** 7.30pm - Walking with Jesus: Worship and Reflection for Holy Week

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.30am - Service at Caversham Baptist Church followed by 'Walk of Witness' to Caversham Court

**Saturday, 20th April:** 7.30pm - Gospel of Luke - come and read right through the Gospel

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 6.00am - Sunrise Worship with Holy Communion. 36, Chazey Road

## **Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 10.30am - Local arrangement

**Maundy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - A service of Light and Darkness with Holy Communion

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 10.30am - Holy Communion - Rev'd James Mather

## **Our Lady and St Anne Roman Catholic Church**

**Thursday, 11th April:** 7.30pm - Lenten Penance Service

**Saturday, 13th April:** 5.30pm - Mass with Blessing and distribution of Palms

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 10.00am - Mass with Blessing and distribution of Palms; 6.30pm - Mass with Blessing and distribution of Palms

**Holy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Watching at the altar of repose until 10pm

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.00am - Children's Stations of the Cross; 12.00pm - Stations of the Cross; 3.00pm - Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday, 20th April:** 9.00pm - Easter Vigil

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 10.00am - Mass of the Resurrection and Children's Liturgy; 6.30pm - Mass of the Resurrection

## **St Michael Roman Catholic Church, Sonning Common**

**Saturday 13th April:** 5.30pm - Vigil Mass and Blessing and distribution of Palms

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 10.00am - Mass with Blessing and distribution of Palms

**Holy Thursday, 18th April:** 7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper with foot washing of 12 people

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 3.00pm - Solemn Passion of the Lord

**Holy Saturday, 20th April:** 8.00pm - Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 9.00am and 10.30am - Mass

## **Caversham Park Ecumenical Partnership, Caversham Park School**

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 11.00am - Morning Worship

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 11.00am - Holy Communion Caversham Baptist Church, South Street

**Palm Sunday, 14th April:** 10.30am - Family Worship

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.30am - United service followed by 'Walk of Witness' to Caversham Court

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 10.30am - Easter Sunday Family Worship

## **Grace Church, Old Peppard Road**

**Good Friday, 19th April:** 10.30am - Good Friday Communion Service

**Easter Day, Sunday 21st April:** 10.30am - Easter Sunday Celebration

For details of other churches in Caversham please consult the church directly

**New Testament Church of God** <https://ntcg.org.uk/locations/reading>

**Riverside Church (Reading)** [www.riversidechurchcaversham.org.uk](http://www.riversidechurchcaversham.org.uk)



# Tribute to Rev. Dr John Ogden



## The Reverend Doctor John Ogden.

16.10.1939 – 02.02 2019

John was born on 16th October 1939. His secondary education was at Reading School which he left in 1958 to go to Southampton University to read Physics. On graduation a wise tutor suggested to him that Computer Sciences would be a more beneficial line to follow. He then went on to take a postgraduate diploma in Computer Sciences and subsequently obtained a post at Glasgow University as an assistant programmer. He later obtained his Ph.D. and returned in 1966 to Reading University as a lecturer in the subject. In 1977 he was made Head of Department - a post he held until 1989. He served as an External Examiner on Computer-related courses for at least six different universities.

John's grandfather was a Methodist Minister in the Reading and Silchester Circuit and may well have influenced John in his approach to preaching.

In 1964 John became an accredited local preacher in the Methodist Circuit and then around 1989 he was accepted for part-time training for the ministry while still at Reading University. He was ordained at the Leeds Conference as a Minister in Local Appointment in 1994 and was immediately made Reading University Chaplain.

When John retired from academia in 1999 he took up active ministry at Whitley Hall Methodist Church, where he proved to be a tower of strength and encouragement to all at a time when the church was looking for a new home.

In 2001 John was appointed to the northern sector ministry team which had responsibility for 5 churches north of the river - Caversham Heights Methodist Church (Highmoor Road), Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road), Caversham Park Village, Woodcote and Henley. John continued in ministry in the northern sector with differing ministers and deacons. In 2009 he officially 'sat down' although his devotion to his calling meant that little changed in the time and effort that he devoted to his ministry.

John had a great mind which he used to write a book 'Believing the Creed' - what better way of commenting on this is there but to quote Leslie Griffiths who wrote 'John Ogden wrestles with the Apostles' Creed - he refuses to let it slip into oblivion. He struggles with it, throws it around, pins it to the floor until it yields some of its inner secrets, those profound understandings of God with which it was invested when it was first made. He keeps his eye firmly on the culture of our own age and comes up with one insight after another that is bound either to evoke deeper understanding or provoke lively debate.'

John was an enthusiastic and very capable musician. After a slow start on the piano he discovered the organ while at Reading School. This he mastered amazingly well and just before he was about to leave school he was persuaded to take a music Grade 8 Organ exam and at his first attempt he sailed through!

John became a friend to all with whom he came into contact, and his ability to put everyone at their ease was quite amazing. He could reach out to them in such a way that they instantly felt they could rely upon him. I am sure we all hold dear our friendship with John and all that it meant to us.

Rev. Jenny Dowding writes 'It is significant that when the news of John's death broke in Caversham, the most common response was tears - for although John was highly respected as a minister, preacher, teacher and musician - more importantly he was greatly loved and that is how I shall remember him - as a gentle, loving and utterly trustworthy friend' I am sure we all agree with her.

We have lost a beloved friend but all hold our treasured memories of him. I urge you to hold them fast until, as we believe, we will meet again when our time comes.

[Contributed by Viv Emerson]


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# Mapledurham Playing Fields Landscape Plan is contested

In the last two months the pace of activity relating to the Heights Free School construction and its impact on the Mapledurham Playing Fields (MPF) has increased significantly. A spate of planning applications and consultations have been posted seemingly with very short lead in times for proper reflection and comment by the public and by those most likely to be affected. In fact a consultation deadline associated with the application reported here will have passed before this issue of your monthly local paper goes to press!

Planning Application No 190240 has been submitted by Reading Borough Council, for landscaping works to Mapledurham Playing Fields, necessitated by approval of The Heights Free School to be built on part of the

WADRA's case is built around the following arguments. Accepting the necessity of the football pitch adjustments to replace the capacity lost to the school site, there is a reversal of the original aim 'To maintain the character of the site'. The Plan now includes **a new tree lined and lit central avenue from Chazey Road to the Pavilion and school. The use of 40 exotic Sweet Gum trees (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)** is inconsistent with RBC's 'Tree Strategy for Reading 2010' which encourages biodiversity and the replanting of native species needed after the removal of some 55 mature trees.

WADRA is critical of the impact of the pathway and the planting proposals summarised in this quotation



*The Mapledurham Playing Fields in 2018 – what will 2019 and beyond bring?*

Playing Fields. The proposal includes re-arrangement of the football pitches, relocation of the playground, perimeter footpaths with associated seating, trim trail equipment to the western part of the playing fields and re-profiling and drainage improvements to the grass sports pitches to the eastern part of the playing fields.

Following Reading Borough Council's publication of a Landscape Plan for the Mapledurham Playing Fields (see *Caversham Bridge*, February 2019 p.7 ) the current application makes proposals for physical development and implementation. The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) are canvassing views on the Landscape Plan. This details Reading Borough Council's proposal to invest the £1.36m lease premium, to be received from the ESFA, to mitigate the impact of building the School on the amenity and visual aesthetics of Mapledurham Playing Fields. It is available online ([www.reading.gov.uk/media/8941/item05/pdf/item05\\_1.pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/8941/item05/pdf/item05_1.pdf)) and an update report also available online ([www.reading.gov.uk/media/9566/item05-MPFLandscapeupdate/pdf/item05-MPFLandscapeupdate.pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/9566/item05-MPFLandscapeupdate/pdf/item05-MPFLandscapeupdate.pdf)). A feature of the plan, which has caused some concern, is a proposed 5m wide lit pathway from the Chazey Road entrance to the site of the school.

WADRA consider this landscaping application, along with the school approval, as one of the most important and contentious planning applications that has been submitted within the Caversham Heights area for some time and for this reason, the residents association is seeking the views of the membership and will submit these to the Borough Council.

from their own consultation: 'it incorporates a 3 metre wide surface path, with the Exotic Trees to both sides of the path set back from the path by approximately 2 metres, together with lighting columns. This unjustified intrusion of the playing fields, will change its character for the next 125 years (the length of the Lease to the School). This avenue will cut the playing field in two and is likely to make it easier for the northern part to be developed some time in the future, especially as there will be a 9 metre corridor running across the fields which could easily be developed as an access road. Furthermore, this proposed path will provide the ideal opportunity for motor cyclists and others to use it as a race track across the fields and to attract antisocial behaviour.

This exotic avenue is likely to cost in the region of £100,000 to build and will be a continual burden on the Council and us Council Taxpayers for the next 125 years as the lighting will incur electricity charges and the facilities will have to be maintained over that period. Why spend money needlessly on something that is not in keeping with the concept of Mr Hewett who donated the land some 80 years ago to the community as a recreation area, when it could be spent more effectively in other ways, such as further improving the Pavilion, or improving the football pitches in the future?'

In conclusion, WADRA's view 'is that this planning application, if approved, will have a fundamental impact not only on our lives, but also upon the lives of future generations, so this is our last chance to persuade the Planning Committee to reject this application in its present format and to ask the applicant to redesign the Landscape Plan in accordance with the views of the majority of beneficiaries of the Playing Fields'.

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## Concerts in Caversham: top professional musicians on your doorstep!

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Timothy Watts (oboe), Adrienne Black (piano/harpsichord) and Nicholas Roberts (cello) will give a recital showcasing the wonderful cantabile playing of Concerts in Caversham's principal oboist who is currently a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme will include works by Bach, Schumann, Britten and Faure. The musicians all met as students at the Royal College of Music and formed the Telemann Harpsichord Ensemble. They are delighted to be re-united once again for what should be an excellent evening of music making. Tickets are available from the 30th March at Walton's the Jewellers in Caversham (closed on Mondays). £16.00, £18.00 and £20.00. No charge for under 16s. Refreshments included with the ticket after the concert and a chance to chat to the musicians. [www.concertsincaversham.co.uk](http://www.concertsincaversham.co.uk)

## When England was ruled from Caversham



'The  
Greatest Knight'  
William Marshal  
died in Caversham  
on 14 May 1219

The great William Marshal, Regent to the boy King Henry III, came home to his manor house in Caversham early in 1219, feeling his end was nigh. He managed the affairs of state from his sickbed, while the court and Henry III remained over the Thames in Reading Abbey. He died on 14th May, after which his body was taken to Reading Abbey for a solemn mass, and

thence to the Temple Church in London for burial. It was thanks to William Marshal that a French invasion force was defeated at Lincoln in 1217, and it was he who ensured that Magna Carta, and the Plantagenet dynasty, survived. William is indeed a most illustrious resident of Caversham.

The history of his life written in the years following his death is the earliest surviving biography of a layman (in the vernacular – French in this case) in European History. As Nigel Bryant writes in his recently published translation of the manuscript, it was: 'composed in verse in the 1220s... is a major primary source not simply for its subject's life but for the exceptionally stormy period he had to navigate. ... its subject was regarded as the greatest knight whoever lived ... and rose in the course of his long life to be a central figure in the reigns of ... Henry II, Richard Lionheart, John and Henry III.'

The 800th anniversary of his death falls on 14 May 2019 and you will see various events and celebrations around that time. In Caversham, CADRA is delighted to welcome Tom Asbridge as the speaker at its AGM on **Tuesday 11 June at 7.30pm in Thameside School**. Tom is a specialist in Medieval History at Queen Mary University of London. He has presented TV programmes on William's life and published several books including: *The Greatest Knight. The remarkable life of William Marshal, the power behind five English Thrones*. All are welcome.

CADRA is also finalising arrangements for a permanent memorial telling something of the story of William's life. Details of the fundraising campaign are at [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk) and we would be grateful for your support. [Contributed by CADRA]

### POEM Anxiety

*By standing here on stage I'm overcoming my fear.  
I'm speaking here today for all of you to hear*

*My anxiety inside is screaming, it is telling me to  
run, my mind is playing tricks on me this isn't really  
fun.*

*But I refuse to be defeated by something that  
makes me feel weak. I want to prove to myself that  
I can do it and believing in myself is all I need.*

*Currently I'm suppressing it, but it gets better over  
time, how I'm feeling aint all new it just knows how  
to hide.*

*The masking of my fears, the intentions to run, the  
overwhelming feeling that I'm nothing compared  
to some.*

*But I continue to keep my head up high and  
continue working hard. I will continue to face my  
fears and my progression will go far.*

*For someone like me standing here right now is  
considered by some to be great because public  
speaking and big crowds is something that I hate.*

*I've been told that this is all in my head, how I feel  
isn't real and I'm looking for attention. But why  
would someone want to cry or freak out in front of  
everyone, that's embarrassing not to mention.*

*So before you judge someone for how they seem to  
act, try to understand their position and gather all  
the facts.*

*Because anxiety isn't something that should be seen  
as great. It leaves my voice trembling and my hands  
begin to shake.*

*I've learnt to hide away my fear and put it all aside,  
being seen as strong instead of weak is something  
that I strive.*

[Contributed by Abbi Moor, a student at  
Highdown School]

### Vivace Voices

Vivace Voices Spring Concert will take place on Wednesday 3rd April at 2.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Thatcham RG19 3PN. Tickets cost £5.00 at the door, and includes the programme and afternoon tea. All proceeds go to the charity 'My Cancer My Choice'

The choir will be singing a variety of joyous songs including 'Wonderful Guy' (South Pacific), 'Razzle Dazzle' (Chicago), the Gloria from Chilcott's 'Little Jazz Mass' as well as various folk songs and popular ballads.

*Robin James*

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# Cow Lane Project nears completion



The much delayed Network Rail 'Cow Lane Project', which dates back to 2010, is nearing completion. The old brick bridge, which only allowed one lane of traffic to pass at a time - controlled by traffic lights, was demolished in November 2017. Since then traffic has been limited to one direction only from north to south and this has caused major delays and necessitated lengthy detours through Reading.

In February 2019, following many problems including a sink hole appearing, Cow Lane reopened as two-way and free from traffic lights for the first time in its history. Work to construct pedestrian and cycle routes, the final part of the project, is now underway. This will also involve the removal of the temporary pumping station: the area is low lying and will flood, so a new cofferdam is being sunk and the permanent pumping station will be put in place. This final stage of the project will have to safely negotiate live electric cabling. It is expected that there will be a weekend of complete road closure towards the end of April with only the landscaping then left to be done.

Network Rail has said opening up this traffic bottleneck will create 'a safer and more pleasant environment for both residents and businesses'. Residents and travellers on both sides of the river will be relieved to see the end of this project whose end stage has been delayed for some nine months. Cross-Reading journeys should now suffer much less delay: we will remain hopeful!

## Easter egg trail in Caversham Court

Come along to Caversham Court on Holy Saturday 20th April between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, when the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be hosting an Easter egg Quiz Trail on a nature theme in the lovely riverside gardens. All young competitors will win an Easter egg prize or a non-dairy treat. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entry is free, but donations to the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be appreciated. The Tea Kiosk will be open for refreshments all afternoon. For further information, email [friends@fccg.org.uk](mailto:friends@fccg.org.uk)

## Friends of Caversham Court Gardens: Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 24th April

The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be holding their 2019 annual meeting on Wednesday 24th April, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at the Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham RG4 7TH. The formal meeting will be followed by an illustrated talk by landscape historian Ben Viljoen on: 'The Landscape Architect Humphry Repton in Berkshire'.

Members and non-members are very welcome, free of charge. Enquiries to The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens at [friends@fccg.org.uk](mailto:friends@fccg.org.uk) or c/o Head Gardener's Office, Caversham Court Gardens, Church Road, Caversham, RG4 7AG.

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# Commemorating the World Day of Prayer: 1st March 2019

For the Welsh the 1st of March was the national feast day as they honoured St. David, for Roman Catholics it was the First Friday of March, the sixth of the nine in the count-down to the First Friday of June (month of the Sacred Heart) but for women across the Christian denominations it was the World Day of Prayer, a week to the day ahead of International Women's Day. The World Day of Prayer is a women led, global, ecumenical movement.

The parish community of Our Lady and St. Anne (two of the most significant female figures in the Christian story!) was host to this year's celebration here in Caversham. The order of service was inspired by the women of Slovenia (incidentally of all the countries which joined the EU in the great enlargement in 2004 by now far the most prosperous), and across the world women were praying for them especially in prayers they themselves had composed or chosen. There was singing, reading, witness and – of course – praying. And all agreed afterwards that the setting and the service itself afforded pleasure and spiritual

nourishment to all. The hospitality in terms of tea and coffee preceded the formal prayer service. And that was welcomed by all because the participants, coming as they did from a variety of churches, had yet to get to know one another properly. The church was more than three-quarters full, the congregation largely female. But, what else is new? It was my privilege to welcome all those present, the home team and our guests. I gently challenged the women to reflect on what is special about the prayer of women. We reflected briefly on Martha and her sister Mary, Mary from Magdala, the poor widow at Nain, and the Virgin Mary herself. And we were appreciative of the fact that women pray a lot, and that prayer both in the formal church setting and around the home is woven into the texture of their lives. And then, with these sundry opening reflections out of the way, I let the devout women who had gathered in our church to get on with it. And pray!

*[Contributed by Father Patrick H. Daly, parish priest Our Lady and St. Anne, Caversham]*



Church and altar prepared for the celebration.



The congregation reflects before the service.



The Slovenian Women's voices: Marjeta, Mojca, Marija, Ema and Natasha



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## St Michael Roman Catholic Church, Peppard Road, Sonning Common

We are just a few of weeks away from the most important week of the Christian calendar, Holy Week. This is the week we join Jesus as he enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey cheered by the crowds, sharing his last supper with disciples, and see him mocked and put to death, so that we can go on to celebrate the joy of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. St Michael's will be celebrating each of these events to which everyone is invited:

13/14th April – Palm Sunday. Blessing of palms at each of our weekend Masses.

18th April – Maundy Thursday. 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at which the feet of 12 parishioners will be washed.

19th April – Good Friday. 3.00pm Solemn Passion of the Lord.

20th April – Holy Saturday. 8.00pm Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection.

21th April – Easter Sunday. Mass at 9.00am and 10.30am.

Other devotions include our Lenten reconciliation service on the 15th April with an opportunity for individual confession at 7.00pm. The Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at various times. We are also looking forward to joining all the Christians of the area for the Walk of Witness around the village on Good Friday starting at 10.00am from Christ the King Anglican Church.

As a prelude to Lent we held a Games and Pancake afternoon in the church hall. A huge variety of board games for all ages were available and 'experts' were on hand to get us started on unfamiliar games.

On the 2nd Sunday of Lent our 10.30am Mass was dedicated to babies who had died in the womb or at birth. It was an opportunity to remember and pray for them and the families who had suffered such loss. We hope to make this an annual event.

Please check the Weekly Newsletter on our website for up to date information: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk).

## Silent Communion – or Holy Communion without words

On Sunday 12th May at 6.30pm a 'Silent Communion' will be held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Both the Heights and Gosbrook Road Methodist congregations have held one of these special services in recent years. We are repeating this year, providing another opportunity to experience worship which engages the senses in a different way.

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# A 'History of Reading's Allotments' – History of Reading Society

The subject of the February talk was a 'History of Reading's Allotments'. The speaker was Evelyn Williams who has published an e-book on the subject and has cultivated a plot at the Waterloo Meadows Allotments in Reading for the past 10 years.

The origins of modern allotments can be traced back to medieval times when most of the poor rural population would grow much of their food on the 'common lands'. However, from the 17th Century onwards, vast tracts of rural England would be transformed by the 'Enclosure Acts'. These Acts of Parliament created legal property rights that favoured rural land owners, mostly the Lords of the



Waterloo Meadows Allotments, Reading

Manor: they established the field system of tenanted farms whose boundaries were defined by the dry-stone walls and hedge rows familiar today. Consequently, the rural poor would be dispossessed of their land rights and many would migrate to work in the new industrial towns.

Many of those who were involved in providing allotments in the early-nineteenth century did so out of paternalistic motives. In the 1830s, the famous local author Mary Russell Mitford in her story *Bere Regis*, about life in a fictionalized Reading, gave an account about 'the power of allotments to rescue and redeem the drinking classes'.

In the enclosure of Tilehurst in 1817, three plots of land were set



Allotments at Kentwood Hill, Tilehurst

aside at Kentwood and Workhouse Commons for agriculture to generate income for the purchase of fuel for the poor of the parish. Today, this land is used for allotments and has 100 plot holders; it is administered by Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity. Other early allotments were established at Whitley Wood Lane in 1858 and at Grove Road, Emmer Green in 1865.

The rapid expansion of Reading's population in the wake of the industrial revolution fomented local opinion and led to demands to secure green open spaces for public recreation: among them was a Mr. Wing who during a lecture he gave on the subject of Old Caversham in 1894 declaimed "All should unite to guard what all may share; the general good should be the general care". Eventually, the government of the day was forced to legislate; in 1908 the Small Holdings and Allotments Act became law. The Act stipulated that the provision of local authority allotments, where there was a demand, would be compulsory.

The criteria for an entitlement to a plot appeared in Reading's 1910 Allotment Rules



Victoria Road Allotments, Caversham

where the definition for eligibility was: 'any person who was resident in the borough and belonged to the labouring classes'.

In Reading, the 1908 Act began a process of land purchasing by the council. In that year, a land agent, Mr. L. H. Bailey, was appointed and the newly formed 'County Land Agents Association' convened its first meeting at the Great Western Hotel on 8th August.

Some land owners were not always willing to sell their land to the council; in 1909, when the council attempted to compulsorily purchase land from Sir Walter Palmer at Norcot Farm, he refused to sell and during the subsequent enquiry Sir Walter argued successfully that the land was the best on his

farm and would not be suitable as allotments. In 1912, across the river at Caversham Park, the owner, Mr Crawshay, protested that the council's proposal to turn land on his estate into allotments, which was "in full view from his house, and its use for that purpose would be unsightly".

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the number of allotments in Britain had decreased from a peak of 1,300,000 in 1920 to fewer than 1 million. But, at this time the Berkshire Chronicle reported that the number of plot holders in Reading had increased to 4,262. In 1940, the Federated Horticultural & Allotment Association of Reading was formed: it was a grouping of allotment societies under the banner of the Ministry of Agriculture's 'Dig for Victory' campaign; its task was to reduce Britain's reliance on food imports. Huntley & Palmers Horticultural Association were among the founder members; today, the allotments at Culver Lane, Earley are a reminder of their contribution to the war effort.

Today, in Reading, there are 20 allotment sites with 1,160 plots which are managed by the borough council as well as private sites in Caversham and Tilehurst. A recent resurgence in their popularity means applicants may have to wait for up to 10 years for a plot to become vacant.

The subject of the next talk will be 'Defending Reading' and the speaker will be Mike Cooper. The talk is followed by the AGM. It will take place at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm. All are welcome £2.00 to non-members.

## South Chiltern Choral Society: 'Dream of Gerontius'

The South Chiltern Choral Society is delighted to be joining forces with the Wantage Choral Society and the St Giles Orchestra, plus professional soloists, to perform Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on Saturday 27th April 7.00pm. There will be over 200 performers and the effect will be epic.

Classic FM says that this is generally acknowledged to be one of the greatest pieces for chorus and orchestra ever written. It is based on a Victorian poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman and is about an 'everyman' character (the word 'Gerontius' comes from the Greek for 'old man') as he faces death, meets his guardian angel and goes before his God before being taken to Purgatory with the promise of everlasting glory. It is a heartfelt expression of loss and hope in the face of death, all set to a beautifully moving and evocative score.

Tickets are available from Tickets Oxford (01865 305305 or [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)), costing £15.00, £20.00 and £30.00. Advance booking is recommended. If you require a wheelchair space, or cannot use stairs, please state this at the time of booking, so that you can be seated in an appropriate location.

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# What about a street party?

Loneliness is as damaging as smoking 20 cigarettes a day it has been reckoned. Most people need some kind of social contact to maintain good health whether this is just keeping in contact with a few close friends or perhaps with many acquaintances.

What makes people lonely? There are two main reasons,

- We can get by with hardly seeing or talking to anyone.
- We do not feel understood or cared for.

It has been suggested that we could think of feeling lonely as we do when we feel hungry. Hunger tells us we need food, so we eat and feel better. In a similar way loneliness is telling us we need more social contact and therefore the simplest way to ease loneliness should be that we try to meet more or different people. In a BBC survey in 2018, it showed that the common stereotype for loneliness is of an older person which it often is, but in fact even higher levels of loneliness can be found among younger people and this pattern has proved to be true around the world. A high proportion of people who feel discriminated against whether for disability, ethnicity, sexuality etc. are also more likely to feel lonely, and weekends can be a particularly difficult time for many, and also when it is sunny and people are outdoors enjoying themselves. When lonely people themselves were asked how others could help a common response was, to start a conversation with anyone, do tiny acts of kindness and to look for the good in every person you meet.

For several years now many people have been organising street parties for the 'Big Lunch' or more recently 'The Great Get Together'

remembering Jo Cox who was passionate about finding solutions for loneliness. These events bring together neighbours, friends and communities, sharing and having fun and celebrating everything they have in common.

Perhaps you might like to have a party in your street - but where to start?

Do not worry, help is at hand! On Tuesday 2nd April from 6.00pm – 7.00pm, the local group 'Caversham Champions to End Loneliness' are running a free session at Caversham Baptist Church in partnership with Reading Voluntary Action. (RVA). Everyone is welcome to come along to the Workshop and find out how to set up and run a street party in your neighbourhood. David Neale from RVA has organised many street parties in Reading and he will explain all that needs to be considered with ideas for fun and inclusive activities.

**The most important thing is bringing people together.**

If you would like to attend this free workshop, please ring 0118 9473394 or go online to Eventbrite. Please arrive at 5.45pm. Information packs will be available.



## Caversham Village Sign

You may have noticed that the post of the village sign has started to lean. Since the sign was installed in 2002, the paint has faded and is starting to peel. As you will see from the plaque on the post, the sign was designed and commissioned by CADRA to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We have been working with the Council and with Stuart King who made the sign and the plan is to remove the post and to send it to Stuart's workshop in Great Missenden for repainting. <https://stuartking.co.uk/>

Stuart's work will be funded by Hermes, owners of the St Martins shopping precinct, in association with CADRA and the Caversham Traders Association. We do not yet have a firm date for the work but please do not be alarmed if you see the post and sign missing for some time.



### WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND CAVERSHAM: APRIL 2019

DATE	EVENT
6th	Ted Burnell Art Group Exhibition - Church House Caversham 10.00am – 4.00pm FREE
7th	Farmers Market 10.00am – 3.00pm Caversham Precinct car park
7th	Caversham Court - Guided Tours 2.00pm – 4.30pm + Tea Kiosk
7th	Open Garden - 'Ashbrook House' Blewbury. OX11 9QA Open 2.00pm– 5.30pm Teas
13th	Beanpole Day Gardening Event for Econet 10.00am – 3.00pm Caversham Court + Tea Kiosk
14th	Open Garden - 'Lime Close' Abingdon. OX14 4HU Open 2.00pm – 5.00pm Cream Teas
14th	Open Garden - 'Waterperry Gardens' Wheatley. OX33 1JZ Open 10.00 – 5.30pm Teashop
19th	Good Friday Children's Activities St John's Caversham 10.00am – 12.30pm FREE
20th	Easter Egg Trail + Quiz Caversham Court 2pm – 4pm All ages Entry FREE + Tea Kiosk
21st	Easter Day (see Services Guide)
24th	Talk - Therapy through Gardening with 'Thrive' C.H.S. Caversham Primary School 7.45pm
27th	Green Ticket Trails 10am – 1.00pm 2ndHand Sale - See Facebook or Eventbrite for details
27th	Concert SCCS & Wantage Choir - Dream of Gerontius Sheldonian Theatre Oxford 7.00pm
27th	Concert The Melodious Oboe – St Andrews Church Caversham 7.30pm



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Ted Burnell Community Art Group

## Art Exhibition

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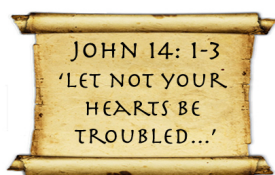
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# Caversham Library at the Heart of the community

Caversham Library, situated in Church Street, with the figure of Old Father Time holding up the clock is central to the community of Caversham. It was opened in 1907 by Viscount Valentia, chairman of Oxford County Council following a competition which was won by William Hooper Lewton, a local architect who designed the building described as 'free renaissance style'. The clock was a later addition. William Bullivant Williams had donated the site and with a grant from Andrew Carnegie of £2,500 (there was £75 overspend necessitating another grant) the foundation stone was laid in March 1907.



The library is now run by Reading Borough Council although with recent essential budget cuts opening hours have been reduced. It is now open on a Tuesday 9.00am – 5.00pm, Thursday 1.00pm – 7.00pm, Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 3.00pm. There is also now a Book Return Box outside so that you can return your books even when the library is shut. The books and resources available are at the library are wonderful. There are new books both fiction and non-fiction and similarly large print books. There are changing displays of books including Best sellers (one week loan), Wellbeing topics, Local studies and there are also sales of withdrawn books. Spots of different colours on book spines are used to categorize fiction into Classics, Family Sagas, Chillers, LGBT, Sci-Fi, Action and Adventure, Crime, Black & Asian authors and books are also available in French, German, Hindi, German and Spanish. There are a good range of DVD's that can be borrowed for a small cost and an ordering service which will source requested items for you from other libraries.

Children of all ages are well catered for too at the library with a wonderful range of books including a wide selection of board books for the younger ones through to Teen Reads. There is also a range of CD's which are

free to borrow. Singing and rhyme sessions, 'Rhymetimes' for babies and toddlers and their caregivers are held every Tuesday at 10.15am and 11.15am and these last for half an hour - they do need to be booked on 0118 9015103. 'Storytimes', with stories brought to life by experienced storytellers are also held and

these are every Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm – 2.30pm. They are aimed at children over two years old and are run during term times only. In school holidays craft sessions are held on Thursdays between 2.15pm and 3.15pm which cost £1.00

per child. No booking is necessary and occasionally there are also special events. For British Science Week in March there was a free drop-in session with Dr Phil and Dr Alex from 'Hopefully Nothing Goes Boom' who were demonstrating the wonders of Kitchen Chemistry. There is also a Toy Library: items can be ordered on line, smaller toys will be delivered to the library but larger ones must be collected from Reading Central Library.

Clubs meet at the library too, 'Sit and Stitch' every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 5.00pm – 7.00pm when you bring your own crafts and drinks are provided. A Games group meets every Friday at 10.30am, when board games are played. There is also a book group that meets on the 3rd Thursday in the month from 6.00pm – 7.00pm but places need to be booked for this. For those that need help with using IT - free, friendly one to one support is available. Ask in the library and they can book you a session.

Other services that Caversham Library provides are: study areas, free internet access and wifi (6 computers are available), photocopying facilities, a selection of magazines, national and local newspapers, including the monthly *Caversham Bridge*, a bargain at 40p! Finally there are always lovely, helpful, knowledgeable librarians available. What a fortunate community we are!





# DANDELIONS

You can find the odd dandelion plant in flower at almost any time of year, but April is the month when you can see them in profusion. And you will probably not have to travel very far to find dandelions – probably no farther than your own vegetable patch or lawn. If the large, showy golden-yellow flower-heads were not so common, we would probably appreciate them more.

Where I grew up we called them 'pee-in-beds', and were told that if you picked the flowers, you would wet your bed that night and get into trouble. Nevertheless, this did not stop us picking the round seed-heads, the 'dandelion clocks', and using them to tell the time of day. These days, I expect that even small children have wrist-watches, but at the time, we did not. The hour of the day was supposed to depend on how many breaths it took to blow all the seeds away – one o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock and so forth until all the seeds were gone. It obviously made no sense, but it was a kind of tradition.

I have read that dandelion leaves are sometimes put into salads, sometimes with a few of the yellow florets sprinkled on for decoration. I have heard of the leaves being boiled or steamed and eaten as green vegetables. And I have had some experience of making dandelion wine, gathering the flowers on a sunny day when they would be producing nectar, cutting off the green bit below the yellow part to avoid the bitterness, and immediately adding the



boiling water so as to extract as much taste as possible. The results, using the same recipe, were variable, and I never understood why. Only once did I try making 'dandelion coffee'. I had read that people made it during the Second World War, when real coffee was hard to come by. This involved digging up dandelion roots, washing them, cutting them into chunks, roasting them under the grill, and then putting them through the coffee-mill. The taste was interesting, but nothing like coffee. And I also once tried making real dandelion and burdock, a childhood favourite. It was hard to find enough burdock roots to dig up, and it was probably illegal to do so. The resulting drink was disappointing when compared to the manufactured dandelion and burdock as I remembered it from the 1950s. I would guess that the drink that came in a bottle did not contain the juice of either plant, with the flavour being completely synthetic.

In the past, dandelions have been widely used in folk medicine. It was thought, for instance, that rubbing the sap of the plant, which stained things brown, onto warts would cause them to go away. If you drank it, the water in which chopped leaves had been boiled would cure all sorts of ailments, and was particularly effective in the case of kidney complaints. And I once knew of a man who made a point of eating a leaf every day in order to prevent baldness. Dandelion leaves, he said, were a favourite food of rabbits, and he had never seen a bald rabbit!

*Happy Wanderer*

## Rosehill WI

February already, soon be Christmas!! Our president Arlene Riley welcomed all present to our meeting on 6th February. Judith (Treasurer) reported that last month's sales table raised £12.00 and the raffle £32.00. The clubs met with Scrabble on the 13th and 27th February respectively: The Book Club

met on the 11th February and the Cinema Group planned to see 'All Is True' starring Judi Dench and Kenneth Branagh. The Lunch Club visited Carluccios restaurant on the 19th February.

Members were invited to sign up for a trip to the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, or to Sonning Mill for a tour backstage followed by a cream tea. These will both take place later in the year. There are also other outings and talks described in 'Berkshire WI News'.

Our speaker Kate Bettison gave a very interesting talk about 'My life as a film extra' detailing the various television programmes and films she had been involved with, and also told us about some of the stars she had worked with. This was followed by a short talk by WI Advisor Anne Knee-Robinson who outlined the importance of the WI Committee and encouraged new members to come forward. Our next report will cover the AGM held on 6th March.

Finally, we were reminded of the Centenary Spring Annual Council Meeting 2019 taking place at the Great Hall on the University of Reading campus on Friday, 12th April 2019. The speakers this year are Vera de Menezes and Lynne Stubbings. More details of this can be found in the 'Berkshire WI News'.

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

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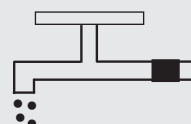
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