

Green spaces, Pavilion refurbishment and the Heights School: managing multiple community interests at the Mapledurham Playing Fields

Although the campaigns to keep The Mapledurham Playing Fields free from development have failed, many groups in the community are continuing to work with RBC, the MPF Trustees and the Heights School in an effort to limit the negative impact of the loss of green space and provide a community hall. Unfortunately, even with over 200 objections and a significant number of groups working directly with RBC to diminish the negative impact of the master landscape plan, all of the users' and residents' concerns have been dismissed. The Master Landscape Plan, including the exotic avenue of trees to bisect the recreation ground, was approved by RBC and the MPF Trustee Sub-committee.

Looking towards the future, WADRA has returned its focus on the ongoing issue of the Pavilion refurbishment. WADRA has been fundraising for the Pavilion refurbishment for almost a decade, raising over £75k and securing £100k in Section 106 monies in 2014. An additional £25k was promised but not released by Festival Republic due to their receipt of a libellous letter written by a school supporter stating WADRA was misappropriating funds. This issue has since been dealt with and Festival Republic are ready to release these additional funds, bringing the total raised to over £200k.

In April 2015, WADRA was planning to refurbish the Pavilion. RBC had already run a tendering process (using £15k of the £100K Section 106 monies) for the bulk of the work. The community was also offering their skills and expertise from the architectural drawings, project management, carpentry, plumbing, tiling, and painting to support the refurbishment. It looked like the Pavilion would be refurbished and available for use by middle of the summer of 2015. Unfortunately, this was not the case. RBC decided, as the MPF Trustees, that it would not let the refurbishment go ahead due to the undecided issue of the school on MPF. In January 2016, the Pavilion was then closed indefinitely, as it was thought to be an unsafe structure- something that the proposed refurbishment by WADRA would have fixed the previous year. The Pavilion has remained closed for over three years, losing income, continuing to displace the many groups, clubs, and users, and depriving the community of a local venue for meetings and events.

At the end of 2018, WADRA re-stated their desire to refurbish and reopen the Pavilion. The MPF Trustees granted permission for these works to take place. WADRA were pleased to provide approximately £46k, for the initial structural refurbishment of the Pavilion. This work was managed and supported by David Maynerd, Alistair McLean, Martin Brommell and Shaun Tanner. This phase of work focused on ensuring the structural fabric of the Pavilion was safe with the intention of the Pavilion reopening earlier this year. The work which has recently been finished included; the rebuilding of the south wall, recovering the roofs, new guttering, downpipes and soakaways, repair, re-laid and installed drainage to the main entrance, redecorating and refurbishment of the back hall, central room and main hall, replacement of doors, and relaying of southside paving.

Unfortunately, there is additional work to be done in order for the Pavilion to be in an acceptable state to reopen. The length of closure has taken its toll on other parts of the building. The toilets near the hall entrance and the kitchen are dilapidated and not fit for use. WADRA has offered to use the £25k confirmed from Festival Republic to refurbish the toilets, create a new bigger kitchen at the east side of the hall, refurbish the lobby and provide new flooring in the main hall. This proposed

work follows the original 2015 refurbishment plans. Unfortunately, in discussions with RBC, it was made evident that there is currently no finalised plan for the entire Pavilion refurbishment. RBC has also indicated that they want to change the original refurbishment plans for the Pavilion to a less acceptable configuration.

A major change to the original plan, as indicated verbally by RBC, would be the placement of the new football changing facilities adjacent to the tennis courts. This departure from the original Pavilion refurbishment and changing rooms extension would close MLTC off from the recreation ground and make the space at the back of the pavilion less attractive for private or community events. The original plan would have placed the changing room extension between the school and the pavilion. WADRA and other groups have concerns over the viability of the new suggested plans due to their negative impact on MLTC, significantly reducing the space at the back of the Pavilion for events and blocking the new kitchen's access to playing fields.

There are also additional concerns over the plans for new changing rooms. RBC is suggesting they refurbish the existing changing rooms now and then use additional funds in the near future to create an extension with new changing rooms. 'Caversham Treants' and other users have agreed that this would be a waste of limited funds provided by RBC and the ESFA, essentially paying twice for the changing rooms. It was strongly advised that the existing changing rooms should have the minimum of work necessary to ensure there are sufficient funds remaining to create the changing rooms extension when match funding is secured. WADRA and other groups continue to wait to receive the plans, details of costs to install and maintain changes, as well as the prioritisation of all projects.

WADRA will continue to work with RBC on the refurbishment and the reopening of the Pavilion, providing further funds when there is a cost-effective plan that is both viable and acceptable for the users and residents. WADRA, in collaboration with other community groups and clubs will continue to protect MPF from any additional development, retain the character of the playing fields and ensure that there is minimal disruption to local residents and users during and after the construction of the school.

[Contributed by Elisa del Galdo for WADRA]



Pavilion refurbishment work is proceeding but re-opening still delayed

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

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

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St Michael
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels,
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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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TALKING POINT

by Rev'd Jenny Dowding



It's a cliché to say that the Church generally gets a bad press. And, of course, the Church past and present has much to be ashamed of - scandals, hypocrisy, cruelty and abuse included. But the Church has always been a community of sinners in need of forgiveness and transformation, where everyone is welcome. Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' (Luke 5: 31-32).

The story-teller Bob Hartman reminds us that the church is, and always has been, a work in progress, and we mess it up sometimes but it is also the place for grace. Bob has written a piece called 'Let's hear it for the Church!' in which he wanted to affirm so much that is good about the Church, and to thank God. He mentions those parts of the world where the Church is under attack, but where Christians refuse to compromise principles of right and wrong, and how they suffer terribly as a result. He reminds us of the countless hurting people who have found acceptance and healing in the church, the poor who have been fed, the damaged saved.

Recently Rev. Dr Mike Long spoke about "Faith in the Shadow of Grenfell". Mike is the minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church which opened its doors to survivors of the tragic fire two years ago. There were already good local relationships between Christian church leaders and those of other faiths, and together, they had a key role in supporting the community in the aftermath. (As a result of the work Mike did, he was appointed chair of Shelter's social housing commission.) Sometime after Grenfell, the local police chief was retiring, and she spoke to Mike and said, "You were the quiet people who enabled others to be angry and to be sad."

At the funeral last month of the young journalist Lyra McKee, Fr. Martin Magill received a standing ovation when he spoke out and shamed political leaders into making renewed attempts at progress for peace in Northern Ireland.

Bob Hartman also writes of some of the people who have had a profound and positive impact on him, and he thanks God for them. If I were to write my own list, it would be long, but it would include the members of the churches of Caversham, where there is a genuine desire to serve our community, and to work together as members of one Church and I thank God for them.

Bob finishes his piece like this:

So, let's hear it for the Body!

All fingers and thumbs sometimes, but the Body of Christ nonetheless.

And let's hear it for the Bride!

Beautiful and broken and unbowed.

And let's hear it

Let's hear it

Let's hear it for the Church!!

1 "Telling the Bible" by Bob Hartman, publ. Monarch Books 2006

Rev'd Jenny Dowding,
Caversham Methodist Team Ministry

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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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

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Meeting at Caversham Park School
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Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

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2nd Sunday each month
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Fourth Sunday of the month

GRACE CHURCH, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church

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Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road
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6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)
Gosbrook Road
10.30am

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Our Lady and St Anne, Southview Avenue
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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

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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

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Caversham Bridge

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Advertising copy for the July 2019 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 31st May. The date for the August issue Friday 28th June. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

PARISH OFFICES

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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, Mrs Carol Moloney, 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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Caversham Sub-Post Office: no further developments to report

Caversham Bridge has published monthly updates on the matter of the Caversham Sub-Post office. Following on from the update in the May issue, no further news has been received. Matt Rodda MP, has been active on behalf of Caversham residents concerning the replacement for the Caversham Centre Sub-Post Office. Matt continues to call for proper post office services to be retained in Reading, Caversham and Woodley and for central government to play a significant part in resourcing and maintaining this vital community service.

Meanwhile the Reading Crown Office on the Market Place closes on 15th May. The full range of services will not be available at the new counter in WH Smith in Broad Street (for example, the useful service of reserving presentation packs has been taken up at the Broad Street Mall Sub Post Office).

The view of the Post Office is that the reinstatement of a Post Office branch in Caversham is going to be dependent on an interested party being able to submit a viable and successful application to incorporate this service within their

existing business. To date we have no reports of a response to the call posted on the PO website. The discussion will continue and Matt will send updates to all regarding a public meeting and / or a meeting with Caversham Traders, which has also been offered to the MP previously. For further communication and information please contact: Matt Harrison, Constituency Support Manager, Office of Matt Rodda MP, 0118 206 2967. We invite Caversham Bridge readers to let Matt Rodda know about deterioration in service levels experienced.

William Marshal 800th anniversary

The great William Marshal (c. 1147 - 1219) was Regent to the boy King Henry III (from 1216) and was not only a very important figure in his own time but by his birth and death has significant and permanent links to Caversham and Reading.

The 800th anniversary of his death falls on 14 May 2019 and will have passed with the publication date of the June CB. But, there are other events and celebrations to follow. 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 and we would be grateful for your support.



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

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Maundy Thursday at Dorchester Abbey



On Maundy Thursday, did you not find a minister at hand in the parish?. Then you may have found out later that they had gone for the day to a special annual service of 'The

Blessing of Oils'. Ministers from across the Oxford Diocese flocked to the Eucharistic service for the Blessing of Oils and renewal of Ministerial Commitment at Dorchester Abbey.

The olive oils were blessed before being collected by clergy for anointing the sick and dying, signing with the cross at baptism and for use in confirmation services.

A full photo essay of the day can be found at: bit.ly/DorchesterChrim

Marking the retirement of Bishop Andrew at Reading Minster



Several hundred people flocked to Reading Minster on the 1st May 2019 for a joyful service to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Reading. The Rt Rev'd Andrew Proud's last official engagement was held on Easter Sunday and the staff at the Minster church of St Mary in Reading worked hard to put on a special farewell service for him.

Before becoming Bishop of Reading in 2011, he served as Chaplain of St Matthew's, Addis Ababa and was consecrated Bishop of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa in 2007. Bishop Andrew spoke of his experience in that: "It has been such a joy to ordain deacons

and priests and see them grow and move on and to have had the privilege of baptising and confirming so many."

Since returning to the UK, Bishop Andrew has been instrumental in introducing a major mission initiative called Partnership for Missional Church to the diocese, Many Anglican churches in Caversham under took this initiative including our local Methodist churches.

Reverend Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, added: "Bishop Andrew has been an enormous gift to the Diocese of Oxford as Bishop of Reading. He and his wife, Janice, are known and held in great affection across Berkshire. Like many others, I will miss Andrew as a friend and colleague."

Into Deep Water



Please pray for our Oxfordshire Anglican diocesan conference (see conference prayer below) that was held 8/10th May 2019. Bishop's Council, Bishop's Staff and representatives for the deaneries had been exploring how we

encourage local renewal in mission as we seek to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. The outcome will be shared with churches over the diocese and particularly those in Caversham over the next couple of months we will report in greater detail on this in due course, Mike Smith, Alison Johnston and Mark Burton from Caversham represented the Reading Deanery.

Share our prayer:

God of love, the sea is so great and our boat is so small. Inspire your church as we put out into deep water. Help us to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous in your mission. Guide us by your Spirit to discover where you are working, Help us to join in the building of your kingdom and anoint us afresh to make disciples of all ages in your name for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who calls us and sends us with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

This prayer is based on the book of Acts of the Apostles.



WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND CAVERSHAM: JUNE 2019

DATE	EVENT
1st	Greenshoots Opening, Manor Farm RG9 5LA 10.00am - 3.00pm. Sale of plants, local honey etc.
2nd	Reading Children's Festival - Various Events and activities 0118 9372771
2nd	Forbury Band 3 - 4.30pm Forbury Gardens ALSO 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June
8th	English Food and Wine Festival Brightwell Vineyard Wallingford OX10 8LJ 11 - 5
11th	CADRA AGM + Tom Asbridge on Wm. Marshall 'Greatest Knight' 7.30 Thameside School
16th	Open Garden Manor House Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HZ Homemade teas in Abbey
22nd	Concert Reading Bach Choir St Andrews Church Albert Road 7.30pm.
22nd	Concert Reading Festival Chorus Verdi's Requiem 7.30pm Great Hall Univ. Of Reading
23rd	Open Garden Chalkhouse Green Farm Kidmore End Reading RG4 9AL 2pm - 6pm Cream Teas
23rd	St Johns Church 'Community Fun Day' 4 - 6pm.
30th	Open Gardens Pyt House and Willow Tree Cottage RG8 8RA 2pm - 5pm Homemade teas

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SUMMER FUN DAYS OUT!

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Saturday 15th June Brighton Beach

Saturday 29th June Weymouth Beach

Saturday 13th July Swanage Beach

Wednesday 31st July Bournemouth Beach

Saturday 10th August Brighton Beach

Tuesday 20th August Weymouth Beach

Friday 30th August Bournemouth Air Show

Saturday 21st September Mystery Day Out!

Monday 2nd December Turkey & Tinsel - 5 Days in Torquay £239.00 pp Deposit of £50.00 required

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'Around and about': exploring Caversham and further afield - introducing a new theme for Caversham Bridge

In our last issue (May 2019, p.11) we introduced the 'Caversham People' theme and identified some pathways to explore our local history through our local people. 'People' and 'Places' is a natural pairing, so we are now introducing the second theme under the heading of 'Around and about'. 'Places' provides a focus on our local geography, but also allows us to recognize that in reality we may range much more widely. Of course, this has to be qualified in the sense that some do so more than others, or that frequencies vary: occasionally, sometimes or often. As individuals we may choose to stay and remain, but collectively we are mobile whether by necessity or choice. Hardly ever before have we had such ability and means to be mobile and to travel for whatever reason. But we are coming to realize that movement can have consequences as 'Extinction Rebellion' has highlighted dramatically over the last month, and as many bodies of opinion are beginning to realize within the variations of the green and environmental movements over many more decades past.

Our editorial motivation is to tap in to the idea that travel broadens the mind (few can deny it does, especially if the mind is open) but to acknowledge that we may only be able to enjoy the experience with a clear conscience if we can do so sustainably. Reduced to its essentials this is about our carbon footprints, which apply to every human activity whether or not travel is involved. These matters are now, thankfully, matters of general debate and information across the media and in our conversations and discussions. In the popular sense that 'small(er) is beautiful' we can bring this frame of mind and philosophy to our own need for and often enjoyment of mobility and travel. The beautiful journey does not necessarily have to be long, and by implication far in distance. But, we are still likely to have to engage in the longer and further travelling from time to time. Where we expend time, energy and resources on travel and mobility we can do our best to make it count and to be a valuable experience, not only in making the physical journey, but in obtaining mental, psychological, health and well-being benefits from it.

In Caversham (and Reading) we are fortunate in being geographically well

placed to access our locality and its hinterland. Caversham is a very well connected place perhaps in theory rather than in practice, if you start to think about traffic queues which are one of the banes of Caversham life! But, we know that this is where sustainability is relevant. We will not revisit these themes now but they do bear mention. The saga of Caversham bus services occupied many of us in 2018 and little connection in the official debate was made to the emerging theme of sustainability in 2019 and beyond. Why is there no Park and



Ride facility at all North of the Thames? A third road crossing may well never emerge, although we do have a third pedestrian and cycle crossing over the Thames. On the railways the news is a little better locally, but thoroughgoing electrification has been abandoned and replaced by a diesel bi-mode fix beyond Cardiff and Newbury. And don't mention Reading / Basingstoke and the Thames Valley branches electrification, nor the delay to Cross Rail.

So, now to the question of 'Round and about'. We want to encourage reporting and writing about places in Caversham, Reading and beyond. You, our readers, are our travellers and we would like to hear about your trips, adventures and favourites. These can be longer or shorter and may be for any motive you choose: friends, family, business, leisure, excursion, holiday. As we say, travel broadens but it does not necessarily have to be far. The rule of quality over quantity can prevail. The editors will do their bit, but we really need our readers to contribute by sharing travels, thoughts, tips, ideas and suggestions to name but a few insights. To get the feet moving and the wheels revolving here are some of our thoughts.

- Tell us about how you use Caversham (and Reading) as a source of travels and journeys for whatever purpose. What are your favourite and regular walks (what do you see, how does it change with the seasons?). Do you ride a bike or drive a bit or bus a bit and walk?
- Where do you go and what do you do if you want to go a bit further. For you is this a few hours, for half a day or for a longer spell?
- When do you perceive that you are doing more than going a 'bit further'? From time to time you can go a lot further by train or by coach and of course if you drive then there are many possibilities for longer

or shorter days. Groups often arrange excursions and there are commercial providers of a range of day trips to other localities and attractions. These outings make good stories!

- Caversham and Reading has good public transport access to London and other large centres so a day trip can be quite ambitious. Using public transport can give a perfect experience or one that is marred by delays and timetables. Do you make these destinations part of your travels?
- From time to time, many are able to take a longer break (a weekend, a long weekend, a few days, booking a tour with a travel / accommodation package) and then there is the longer holiday which may take you within the UK or to destination in Europe or beyond. What places and experiences have you pursued?

Hopefully, this will provide food for thought and inspiration. As we hear the message about sustainable travel we will all have to consider some adjustments to habit. Indeed, this need to change might open our minds to many other and beneficial possibilities. Quality of experience not quantity of distance, perhaps. Individuals will make their judgments. *Caversham Bridge* invites you to write and share them.

[Contributed by SAR]

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The Caversham Heights Society: concluding the 2018 -2019 lecture programme

April saw the last two lectures of the 2018-19 season for the Society and these are reported here. The programme has been interesting and varied and well supported.

The History of the RAF at Greenham Common

The first lecture, on April 3rd, was 'the History of RAF Greenham Common' given by Dr Jonathan Sayers. He gave a very detailed and informative account of the history of the area from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Apparently there was an army camp there in 1714 at the time of the Jacobite Rebellion but its use by the RAF really began in the 1930s when it was used for storage of planes as well as for pilot training. This intensified after the arrival of the USAAF in 1942 and, as preparations for the D Day landings progressed, Greenham Common became crucial for the building and storage of WACO Gliders which were vital for transporting both men and materials behind enemy lines. Instead of being mothballed after the War, its importance again grew as part of the allied defence during the Cold War period when, from 1950 onwards, the USAAF upgraded and expanded the facilities to allow for B47 bombers and, later, for the storage of 96 Cruise missiles which were intended to counteract the growing

threat of SS80 missiles from the USSR. This situation aroused growing protests from supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, amongst whom were many subsequent Labour MPs. After the closure of Greenham Common in 1992 this all died down. Since closure the site has returned to a mixture of civilian uses, but the name has become iconic for many people both locally and further afield.

Trees in Caversham

The second talk and last of the season, was given on 17th April by John Evans, a local man and a former agricultural and horticultural adviser to both Government and Industry, who spoke about trees in Caversham. Although his talk focussed on Caversham it also ranged more widely as the state of trees and nature here reflect the wider situation climatically and ecologically.

John began by showing some old pictures of Caversham taken in the 17th and 18th centuries which showed a few beech woods that would have been used for making charcoal but revealed mainly arable fields with relatively few trees. It was the development of large houses, such as Balmore Park and Caversham Park, and the work of landscape gardeners such as 'Capability' Brown that transformed the scene as more and more trees were planted. During the late 19th century many tree-lined avenues sprang up, such as St Peter's Avenue, Balmore Drive and Caversham Cemetery. Today Caversham is the most wooded and attractive part of Reading. It also has many exotic trees such as Douglas firs, tulip trees, ginkos and black mulberry trees, as well as azaleas and rhododendron shrubs brought into the country by travellers and explorers.

Apart from enthusing about trees in Caversham, John also discussed the benefits of trees for health, such as providing shade, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, as well as absorbing the fumes caused by traffic pollution. He also touched on certain tree diseases like ash die-back, Dutch elm disease, and horse chestnut leaf mould. His enthusiasm for Caversham Court and some of its special trees made his audience feel that they needed to look afresh at their surroundings and he commended the excellent work of 'Caversham Gardeners' and 'Reading Tree Wardens', all of whom do so much to preserve our local trees and landscapes.

This was a fitting end to a varied and interesting lecture programme largely produced by Christine Bradbury. The next lecture programme will start in September. Further details will appear in future issues of the *Caversham Bridge*.

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Caversham Heights Society trip to Basingstoke

On the 10th April forty members of the Caversham Heights Society enjoyed a trip to the Basingstoke area, where the first visit was to the Milestones Museum. This privately owned museum contains a wide variety of exhibits, including many transport items, ranging from steam engine, road roller, tram, trolley bus, open top bus, horse-drawn cart, caravan to cars, motor cycles and cycles, dating from the 19th and early 20th century. There were a number of old-fashioned shops to explore, and a range of domestic equipment such as cookers, washing machines, driers, vacuum cleaners which brought back memories of domestic and kitchen equipment which many members had in their homes when they were younger. This is an interesting and informative place to visit for people of all ages.

After this, the group travelled to Odiham, where, following lunch at a nearby restaurant, we arrived at the Basingstoke canal, to be welcomed aboard the John Pinkerton II, a canal boat, which took us for a trip as far as the remains of Odiham castle. The canal has been extensively renovated in recent years, and is now navigable from Odiham as far as the River Wey in Surrey. In spite of a weather forecast indicating that it would be cool and windy, the sun broke through and passengers could sit outside and enjoy the beautiful scenery including the different shades of spring foliage emerging from the trees along the banks. The relaxing trip through largely unspoilt countryside revealed some early young ducklings and nesting moorhens. This enjoyable trip, lasting some 2½ hours, was arranged with the Basingstoke Canal Society whose volunteers ensured our safety and comfort throughout the trip. The next outing will be on Thursday 27th June to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute in Poole.



A bridge on the Basingstoke canal

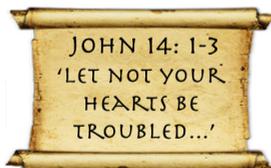


Gliding along the Basingstoke canal in early spring

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Tigers in the Garden

Most years, at the end of June and into July, this exotic-looking insect appears in my Caversham garden. It is the Scarlet Tiger Moth, it is not all that common, and in this country, it is not found north of the Midlands. The books say that it is found in marshes and by river banks, and on rocky cliffs near the sea, but I have only ever seen it in gardens.

I have never knowingly seen its caterpillar, which feeds on a wide variety of plants, among which are nettles, dead-nettles, comfrey, honeysuckle, poplar, ash, elm, willow, blackthorn and brambles. It is black, with yellow and white stripes along

its flanks and its back, and has black hairs sprouting from every segment.

In appearance, this moth does not look much like a tiger. The fore-wings are basically black, with a metallic green sheen,

Downs called The Devil's Punch-Bowl. It is by The Ridgeway, above the villages of Childrey and Sparsholt, and is a well-known Wood Tiger haunt. Though these days the area is part of Oxfordshire, I still think of it as the Berkshire Downs.

The colony of moths, despite the name, was out in the open,



The Scarlet Tiger Moth

and with blobs of cream, dark yellow and orange. The hind-wings and body are an amazing red colour, with dark spots.

It is a moth that flies by day, but I have usually found it when it is resting on vegetation, tree-trunks, fences or the shed. It is often reluctant to stir, and lets you photograph it. Sadly, sometimes all I find is severed wings, presumably because a bird has eaten its body.

The Garden Tiger Moth is much more tiger-like, with brown and cream fore-wings. When alarmed, it exposes the scarlet hind-wings which have dark eye markings, in an effort to startle attackers and avoid being eaten, and it can also exude a yellow fluid, which renders it less palatable. Its caterpillar is the 'woolly bear', covered in dark hairs and looking furry and decidedly hard to swallow. My old books say that it is common, but the Internet says that numbers have declined in the last few years. In the 1950s, I could see it most years, but alas, no longer.

I do not usually go out of my way to look for moths, but did once go on a 'mothing' evening run by the Reading and District Natural History Society, where mercury vapour lamps were used to attract moths. Various other kinds of insect turned up, and among the moths was a Ruby Tiger Moth. It was the colour of a port wine stain, but had no tiger markings at all.

The most tiger-like moth I saw was the so-called Wood Tiger. The wings were striped and tawny. To see it, I had to make a special pilgrimage to a hollow in the Berkshire

but hiding in the vegetation. Though they are day-flying months, they were hiding from the damp and chilly breeze – but at least they were reluctant to move and easy to photograph if you could find them. Other highlights of this visit were Small Elephant Hawk Moths, and a curious and rare poisonous plant, Henbane – something of a red-letter day for me.

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News from Highdown School

Caversham Bridge is pleased to feature a report from **Highdown School in Emmer Green**. We hope that other schools in Caversham will follow their lead and use our columns to tell the community at large about the many and varied activities our schools support and encourage.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)

From 25-29 March a group of Year 12 STEAM ambassadors visited Caversham Primary School to conduct some experiments with the students. A variety of experiments were done with different year groups. Year 4, tested the relationship between the height a party popper went and the amount of weight the popper was pulled with. Year 4 and 5, worked with Dr Love on an experiment to burn crisps to test how much fat was present in branded crisps versus a supermarket's own brand. Some of the group worked with Mr Siddhu on an experiment to extract DNA from kiwi fruit. Year 2 - experimented with different dessert sauces with Mr Loveday to see which sauce was more viscous. The Reception class did some laboratory style work on 'poo dissection' (fake 'poo' made from chocolate, meal worms and a mix of seeds and nuts).

We are very proud of our year 12 STEAM ambassadors for volunteering their time and making it an enjoyable experience for the students of Caversham Primary School.

Damon Critchlow (12A)	Keiran Dabrowski (12B)
Jessica Foster (12C)	Yee Tong Hong (12B)
Maha Hussain (12A)	Sony Karki (12B)
Simran Karki (12E0)	Margarita Kudirkaite (12E)
Andrei Menshikov (12E)	Abdulrahman Okily (12E)
Ashmin Pun (12A)	Rachel Stevens (12B)
Kit Taylor (12B)	Kevin Varghese (12D)

RSPCA Debate

On 3 April Year 8 students took part in a debate on Animal Welfare organised by the RSPCA at the Reading Civic Offices. The students had to go head-to-head against other schools in Reading, arguing for and against the importance of animal welfare on a number of topics, from the use of service animals to the impact of Brexit. In a close fought competition, Highdown were runners up and have qualified for the final, to be held in London.

A massive well done to Ellie Hayden, Harriet Ranson, Emily Larsen, Mo Cook, Maddie Shand, Ella Tripathi and Clemmie Thorpe. Thank you also to Kate Brazier Tope for supporting the trip.



Italy Trip

This trip, during the Easter holidays, was based in Sorrento, located on the south of the Bay of Naples. On the first day our party climbed the infamous Mount Vesuvius which offered views into the steaming volcanic crater and the surrounding Bay of Naples. There was an opportunity to talk to a volcanologist who explained how the volcano is monitored to reduce the risk to the one million people who live in the shadow of Mt Vesuvius.

We could appreciate the scale of a volcanic eruption by visiting both Pompeii and the well-preserved town of Herculaneum. We walked around the main features of the Roman towns - the colosseum, the Roman baths, 'thermopolis' (hot food shops), mosaics and the forum - and viewed the plaster casts of the victims at Pompeii, which really emphasised the devastation of the eruption.

Italian cuisine was explored by visiting 'Fondo Galatea', a working farm producing a range of local produce. Following a cheese-making and pizza-making demonstration, students made their own wood-fired pizzas, as part of a three course traditional Italian meal. Some of our students got another chance to get hands-on during an ice-cream making demonstration, before we all tasted the freshly made lemon sorbet and hazelnut ice cream.



Our trip included all modes of transport, primarily on our excursion to the exclusive island of Capri: a very bumpy hydrofoil ride, a laser boat trip and a chairlift ride. The week away also featured a scenic drive along the Amalfi coastline.

To celebrate the end of a fantastic trip, and our last night in Naples, we visited a local café to watch the Naples v Arsenal game and soak up the local culture. It was an unforgettable trip, jam-packed with excursions, and immensely enjoyed by both students and staff!

It was an unforgettable trip, jam-packed with excursions, and immensely enjoyed by both students and staff!

A Level Music Recital Evening

This event is one of the most important in the lives of our A Level Music students as it marks the culmination of two years of hard work as they perform a recital lasting more than eight minutes. This is recorded and submitted to the exam board.

This year, on 4 April we were mesmerised by the beautiful performances of Chopin's 'Nocturne in C# minor' and two movements from Debussy's 'Suite Bergamasque' including 'Clair de Lune' played by Abby Asbury. These pieces are challenging for any pianist but Abby made the fast scale passages sound delicate and effortless. Her attention to detail and understanding of the genres of these pieces ensured that she gave idiomatic and characterful performances.

Other performances were equally memorable including Tara Najafi's lyrical performance of Elgar's 'Chanson de Matin', Pippa Moore's lovely rendition of the second movement of Brahms' 'Clarinet Sonata in Eb Major' and Izzy Jackson both singing 'Sebben Crudelle' and playing 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes' on the flute.

Rachel Nelson, accompanied by Joseph Beeney sang Kodaly's 'All I Want'. She sang it with feeling and gave a beautiful performance. To end the evening we were treated to Jamie Penn and Joseph Beeney playing 'Duelling Banjos'. It really was a brilliant way to end such a great evening and the first time we have had a banjo performance in school!

Most of the GCSE students who performed are hoping to study Music at A Level next year; we would be very lucky to have them as part of our A Level group and wish them well in their examinations this summer.

Abby Asbury and Helen Boddy are hoping to further their studies in Music at University



next year. We thank them for their contribution to the Music Department and wish them the best of luck for their forthcoming examinations.

Krakow Trip

The aim of the trip, which took place during the Easter holidays, was to visit key historical sites of the Holocaust, including the concentration and death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and bring the incomprehensible events into a closer focus, as well as enjoy the sights of an ancient and beautiful town.

The first afternoon saw us visiting the Oskar Schindler Factory Museum in Kazimierz, the old Jewish Quarter, which is a museum located in the old factory of Oskar Schindler who saved the life of 1,200 Jews during the war. This museum took us through an overview of the events in Krakow from before the invasion of the Nazis until the aftermath of the war and provided an excellent content for the rest of the trip.

On Saturday we went on a walking tour of Krakow, starting in the university district where the Jews first lived in medieval Krakow, then the impressive medieval Wawel Castle, through the bustling and bohemian area of Kazimierz and finally to the Jewish ghetto where Jews were displaced under Nazi occupation. In the afternoon we went to the amazing Galicia Museum, a museum dedicated to memory through photography, and where we were privileged enough to meet Anita Panek, a biochemist and Holocaust survivor. Her talk to us was truly inspirational and left us all with much to reflect on.

On Sunday we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, where at least 1.1 million Jews and other victims were killed during the occupation. It is difficult to describe the experience of visiting such a place, and it is different for everyone, but we heard about the very worst and also the very best of humanity while we were there. Again, we were left with a lot to reflect on as we enjoyed some time in the sunshine in the Old Town Square.

On Monday we were able to go to the incredible Wieliczka salt mines outside Krakow, which comprise some 287km of passages and chambers up to 327m underground, including the stunning Chapel of St Kinga.

The last afternoon was spent enjoying the Old Town in beautiful sunshine before flying home. It was a memorable trip, not least because of the young people we were lucky enough to take - their interest, engagement and maturity was commented on by all the guides we had as well as Anita Panek, and they were a credit to us - thank you Year 11!

Reuben Muston - British Champion!

Held over two days in March, the English Boxing National Junior Championships puts the best boxers in the country together to find the national champion. Reuben dedicated himself to being correctly prepared for the event and focused on fitness, diet and training for many weeks. In the semi-final Reuben faced a much taller boxer who was difficult to break down. His persistence paid off and he finished the bout victorious by way of a split decision. In the final Reuben again faced adversity due to the opponent being a 'local lad' and having a lot of support in the stands. Reuben's excellent speed and timing paid off and he again finished the bout victorious.

Congratulations to Reuben who now holds the British title for his age and weight category.

As a result of this outstanding achievement Reuben has now been invited to train on England Boxing's 'talent pathway' and will box in the forthcoming Three Nations tournament against Wales and Scotland. All at Highdown wish him well.



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Industrial Reading: a talk by the History of Reading Society

The subject of the April talk was 'Industrial Reading: Pictures of Sixty Old Reading Firms in Sixty Minutes'. The speaker was David Cliffe, the Society's chairman. Within living memory Reading has been home to a diverse range of manufacturing industries. David sourced images from Reading Central Library's local illustrations catalogue to illustrate his talk and to demonstrate the diversity.

One of the town's oldest industries was the production of food; many businesses in this sector once thrived in Reading. The biscuit manufacturer Huntley & Palmers is well remembered, however, it had a local rival in H.O. Serpell at South Street which produced ships' biscuits. Originally from Plymouth, but following a fire at its factory there, the company was in search of larger premises and it relocated to Reading



Fire at Serpell's Biscuit Factory, 23rd June 1904

in the early-1900s. Fate would revisit the company when a devastating fire struck in 1904; but, the company soldiered on until 1959 when it went into liquidation.

Reading's waterways were, until recently, an important resource to the town's economy as an important inland port. The watersides were once lined with wharves, mills and factories: among their number were the premises of the Talbot family of barge builders and timber merchants who had a yard near to Caversham Bridge. The founder of the business, Richard Talbot, was born at Pangbourne in 1777 and by the 1850s the firm employed 30 men and 9 boys; later, they diversified into trading coal.

The industrial revolution created in its wake a considerable demand for building materials. With no local stone available to builders there was an inevitable reliance on brick and a thriving brick-making industry emerged at Reading. The local clays available in the Thames Valley were accessible and easy to exploit, and produced the attractive red bricks familiar today. Among the brick-makers the most notable was S & E Collier, who established production at Coley in the mid-nineteenth century. Later, the firm relocated to a site at Grovelands Road which closed in 1966. Today, the only reminder of the business is the firm's brick-built War Memorial to employees at nearby Water Road.



S. & E. Collier War Memorial at Water Road

Finally, a company that was a pillar of the town's economy for 170 years was Suttons Seeds. The company's story began at King Street, Reading in 1806. The founder, John Sutton, started as a corn merchant. In 1832, he was joined by his sons, Alfred and Martin Hope and it was they who diversified the business into selling flower and vegetable seeds by mail-order, utilising the new rail and postal services. At the turn of the twentieth-century, the company

occupied a sprawling site behind Market Place, as well as its seed trial grounds at a site off London Road, Earley. Today its entire operation is at Torquay, Devon.

For more information about future talks and membership please visit our website: www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk



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Mairwen Fantham: a Tribute



Many local residents may remember with affection Mairwen Fantham, who died very suddenly on 2nd April. Well known as the Head of Caversham Adult Centre in School Lane in the 1980s and 1990s, she was also in charge of the Arthur Legge Centre on the corner of Wolsey Road and was responsible for evening classes in local schools.

Having taught German in schools for several years, Mairwen joined the Adult Education Service after the birth of her daughters. She initially worked as a part-time German tutor, something she continued to enjoy until her retirement. She then took on the role of Evening Centre Head at Highdown School before taking over responsibility for all the Adult Education courses north of the river in 1978. She loved providing opportunities for adults to study in a welcoming and informal environment. At that time courses were available in subjects ranging from Art to Yoga, from Pottery to Dancing, and of course in a large number of languages. There was even a small creche, where babies and toddlers were cared for while their mothers (not dads in those days!) were attending classes.

Soon after, the service was re-named Reading Adult College and Mairwen was asked to organise all the language courses throughout the borough, a huge responsibility. From her little office she co-ordinated the work of up to 40 part-time tutors who taught in the daytime and in the evenings, offering not only French, German, Italian and Spanish, but Norwegian, Russian, Chinese, Dutch, Greek and several other languages. She herself took groups of students to Germany and she encouraged her tutors to plan similar trips to other countries. She also supported the Language Circles which met on Friday evenings in Caversham Adult Centre. These were lively affairs and she sometimes turned a blind eye to the rules so that a French meal could be served to 60 students in The Old Schoolroom, where the Spanish Circle could also enjoy a fiesta.

Her other love was music and she started a Friday night music appreciation group which met in the old terrapin building in the Centre's car park. Before the days of CDs and the internet, members brought along their own records or cassettes to be played. She herself attended regularly, enjoying the opportunity to listen without interruption after a hectic week.

Always calm, she kept courses running even when one of the classrooms had to be demolished and a replacement built so that Waitrose could be opened across the lane. She made sure refreshments were available for coffee breaks, and that the kiln in the pottery, a terrifying machine for the uninitiated, was in good working order.

Another major re-organisation of the College resulted in her moving her workbase to Wilson Road, a move she found very difficult to accept. She missed the daily contact with students and tutors, many of whom had become friends, and loved returning to Caversham Centre whenever the opportunity arose.

After her retirement twenty years ago, Mairwen kept up her many interests, including family history. She loved to travel, to cook, to garden and to spend time with her family, delighted to be a grandmother. Her health deteriorated in recent years, but she always appeared cheerful and upbeat. She had just enjoyed a short break in her beloved Wales when she passed

away. She had a positive influence on many people's lives, and Caversham was fortunate to count her as a resident.

[Contributed by Lilian Waites]

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Glass Ensemble will be joined by special guest artist Maz O'Connor for an afternoon of traditional music from Britain and America. There will be a solo set by Maz, and brand new orchestrations of her songs for choir, soloist, piano and guitar. Maz O'Connor has been described by 'The Guardian' as 'one of folk's brightest young talents'. Maz will sing a selection of new and old music with the choir, alongside movements from Ralph Vaughan Williams 'Folk Songs of the Four Seasons'.

The concert is on Sunday 9th June 2019 at 4.00pm, at the Bluecoat School, Sonning Lane, Sonning on Thames, RG4 6SU. Tickets are £13.00 in advance via our website: www.glassensemble.com or £15.00 on the door. Further information from asusied@btinternet.com or 0118 947 9997

'Making Memories' Concert



The 'Making Memories' Concert at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road on Saturday 22nd June at 7.00 pm will offer plenty of variety to the

listener.

There will be well known classics, movie music, songs from the shows, and pieces to discover. Rachel Scarlett will be singing and playing the flute, her husband Toph Burge will be playing the cornet, Renato Fonseca will be playing flute and piccolo, and David Jenkins features on organ and piano. Four of David's new compositions will receive their world premieres.

Tickets are priced £5.00 and can be bought at the door and includes refreshments

The Berkshire Organists' Association Organ Recital: Peter Bernard at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church



Peter Bernard and the organ at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

On the evening of 'Saturday' 23rd March at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Peter Bernard gave an organ recital. This event was well attended by members of the church, the Berkshire Organists' Association and others from the community.

Peter, who has been the principal organist at the church for fifteen years, gave an entertaining and accomplished recital which was full of contrast.

No organ recital can be considered complete without a composition by the master of Baroque, and Peter began his recital with 'J.S. Bach's *Fantasia in C minor*', which showed off the organ's ability to produce a rich, warm and imposing sound.

He followed this with the familiar 'Rhosymedre', a lovely piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams composed from a Welsh hymn tune. Next he played a longer, more complex piece, 'Festal Offertorium', by Percy Eastman

Fletcher written in the Romantic style which made full use of the instrument's ability to produce contrasting sounds of light and shade as did Robert Schumann's tuneful 'Sketch in D flat major'.

Then came the meditative 'Elegy for organ' by George Thomas Thalben-Ball and 'Benedictus from *Twelve pieces for organ*' by the German composer Max Reger written in the Roman Catholic tradition, allowing the audience a restful interlude.

In contrast - 'Penguins' Playtime' by the popular contemporary organist and composer, Nigel Ogden, was a real 'party piece', full of fun, producing a ripple of laughter from the audience at the end. Peter had pointed out in his introduction that the composer was in fact a cousin of the late Reverend Dr John Ogden, another accomplished organist, at whose Thanksgiving Service Peter had

played.

A familiar composition, 'Nimrod', by Edward Elgar needed no introduction as it is played so often at solemn occasions, and it shows off the organist's skill at using the stops and swell pedal to produce a variety of contrasting sounds. Peter then performed two pieces by another twentieth century composer, Herbert Howells: 'Preludio Sine Nomine' and Master Tallis's 'Testament from *Six Pieces for Organ*' with skill and sensitivity.

A more robust, and appropriately named piece, 'For a Festive Occasion', by Jack Hawes must have roused anyone who had drifted off and was followed by a tranquil version of 'The Lord's Prayer' by the American composer Albert Hay Malotte.

Peter completed his recital with the beautiful 'Sicilienne in E flat major' attributed to the Austrian female composer Maria Theresia von Paradis, made famous through its rendition by the young cellist, Sheku Kanneh-Mason at the Royal Wedding last May, and produced a grand finale with the rousing, triumphant and very well-known 'Finlandia' by Jean Sibelius.

There really was 'something for everyone' in this recital and it was very much enjoyed by all concerned. [Contributed by Fiona Cummins].

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Vivace Voices Summer Concert

Vivace Voices (Director- Ian Westley) present their Summer Concert on Wednesday 17th July at St Stephen's Church, Upper Basil-don, RG8 8LS starting at 2.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 on the door, including programme and afternoon tea. All proceeds go to the Royal Berks Charity. See www.vivacevoices.org.uk for more information.

Palmusic Ensemble Concert at St Andrew's, Caversham

We are really lucky to have booked these excellent Palestinian musicians for a concert on Sunday 30th June at St Andrew's Church in Caversham. Some of you might remember hearing the Galilee Quartet when they came to Earley in 2016. The quartet is a group of four siblings the oldest of whom, Omar, had been a political prisoner for refusing to serve in the Israeli army. Omar (viola) and his sister Tibah (cello) are studying at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire in Glasgow. For this tour they are joined by talented pianist, Iyad Sughayer and violinist, Lourdina Baboun.

They will play a mixed programme of Classical and Palestinian music. The concert is at 6.30pm (doors open at 6.00pm). Tickets are £12.00 and £8.00 (concessions) and can be booked at: www.thelittleboxoffice.com/palmusic

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A new environmental scheme for church communities

Matters relating to the environment, both locally and globally, have been of increasing concern over the years. Recent headlines feature both David Attenborough, who believes his generation has "done terrible things" and cannot bear to think of the world his great grandchildren will inherit, and strikes by young people, sparked by the actions of Swedish school girl, Greta Thunberg. Taking action as both individuals and as church communities to reduce our impact on the environment has never been more important.

Church communities, as part of their mission,

Our Lady and St Anne: a review of the Lent course

Mgr Father Patrick Daly, the parish priest of Our Lady and St Anne RC Church, offered the parish a six week long Lent Course this year. Last year, his first in the parish, he launched a similar six week course in which reviewed the life and person of Jesus in terms of a number of themes and roles. To his delight (and the benefit of those who attended) the one hour Monday evening sessions attracted a good number of parishioners. The meeting space, named 'The Cenacle', although small overall was well filled (up to sixty people) with even a small overflow into the lobby outside. He was very pleased to have attracted some Anglican parishioners from St Peter's and St John's.

So there was some anticipation and potential for delight when this year's course was announced. So did we gather in 'The Cenacle' this year to engage with a six-part programme looking systematically at the Creed. We assembled in similar number and welcomed back Anglican parishioners too. Roman Catholic, Anglican and the non-Confirming denominations alike share the same beliefs and effectively the same creed, although sometimes the Apostles creed is favoured rather than the Nicæan (the preference in the RC liturgy).

Father Patrick chose six themes to explore the creed and provided all who came with excellent and informative documentation to take away, study further and mull over. The themes were: *What is a creed? ; God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and other qualities ascribed to the divinity; Jesus Christ. God from God, true light from true light [divine qualities ascribed to Christ]; Jesus Christ, incarnate and became man; suffered, died and was buried [incarnation, salvation and redemption]; Jesus Christ, rose again the third day, entered into glory, will come again as judge [Jesus became the Christ; the last judgement]; The Holy Spirit, the Church, the communion of saints; forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.* Father Patrick developed each theme clearly and concisely with good humour and contemporary references. After 50 minutes, Father wound up the theme and left us " ten minutes for Q &A" to be followed by Lenten refreshments. After each session many felt a continued momentum which hopefully led to some further reading and reflection. Attached to the weekly documentation was "a little homework sheet", on the basis of which, last year, Father wrote an article (Jesus: a view from the pew. The Furrow, 69 (7), 424 - 428). We hope there will be some material for him to work on after this year's course.

[Contributed by Stephen A. Roberts]

need to consider their stewardship of God's creation and their response to the challenges to our environment. A new award scheme has been established by 'A Rocha UK', a Christian environmental charity, to encourage churches to consider the environmental impacts of all aspects of their activities. This 'Eco-churches' scheme builds on an earlier 'Eco-congregations' award scheme. The new award is graded Bronze/Silver/Gold to encourage progression and continual improvement.

The scheme assesses:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

An on-line application form allows churches to assess their current status and identify possible areas for improvements.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church (CHMC) has recently registered for the scheme, following approval from the Church Council in March this year. The church has for many years been concerned about its environmental impact, having established a group to identify how we should respond to environmental concerns in 2005. This culminated in an 'Eco-congregations' award in June 2008, the first in the Reading area. The award lasted for 3 years, and was followed by a further award for the period 2011-2014.

Having registered for the new award scheme CHMC is now taking steps towards a full application. Initial actions include an environmental survey of church members' attitudes and behaviours. In addition, resource use in our buildings, such as energy and water, will be reviewed and opportunities identified for improvements.

An ecological survey of our gardens is planned, which we hope will identify opportunities to improve its value for nature and the local community. A regular 'Eco-tips' feature has been developed for publication in the church newsletter, and these will be a regular feature in future editions of the *Caversham Bridge*.

Several other churches in the Reading area have already received awards, including a silver award for St John's, Orts Road. Representatives from a number of churches in the area recently met in Christ Church, Woodley to share experiences and establish a network to encourage others to consider their response to the pressures on our environment.

Information on the 'Eco-church' award scheme is available from A Rocha UK at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk If you are interested in being involved with the local network, please contact Phil Chatfield at pchatfield@waitrose.com

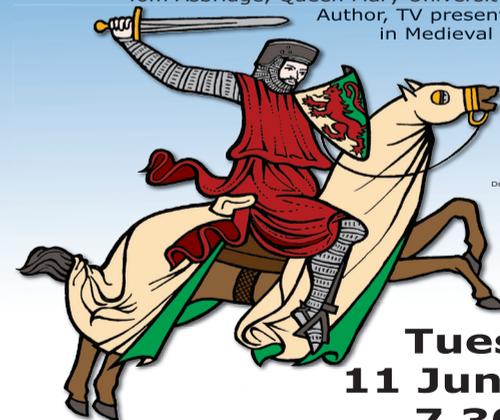


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Rosehill WI

On a rather cool early spring afternoon our president Arlene Riley welcomed all members and visitors to our April meeting. Secretary Mary Robinson listed several items for our information: orders for the WI bulb scheme need to be returned by 1st June; and, the Jubilee Cup Competition of which the closing date is 1st November. Mary also drew our attention to the April issue of Berkshire WI News which included dates for a visit to Water Treatment Plants – Berkshire West and East on 13th and 14th June. For more information about these visits and other news items, please consult *Berkshire WI News*.

Treasurer Judith Sharp announced that in March the sales table raised £3.70 and the raffle £31.00. Thank you to all contributors. Members celebrating birthdays in April were given birthday buttonholes – thanks to Margaret Seal for providing these.

The date for the trip to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke is now confirmed as Tuesday 9th July, and members were requested to confirm if they wished to go. A coach is being provided but the cost of entering the museum will be £12.00 for concessions and £13.00 normal price

Arlene introduced our speakers Graham and Angela O'Connell from the National Gardens Scheme who gave a very interesting talk about how the scheme was started by William Rathbone, which included a link to Florence Nightingale. In 2017, the scheme donated £3.1 million to various charities (including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and many others). We were also shown a few slides of some of the gardens that are open in the local area. Thank you Graham and Angela: it was lovely to hear of all the hard work being done with such excellent results.

Turning back briefly to our March meeting, this was mainly taken up by the AGM and electing the committee for the next year. Arlene stays as President, Mary as Secretary and Judith as Treasurer, and we are pleased to welcome Ryszarda Palarczyk on to the committee. Thank you all for all your hard work.

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

Caversham WI

With the first quarter of 2019 behind us, we held our first meeting with the new committee at the start of the Easter weekend. At this meeting we welcomed our guest speaker - Mr Vik Singh, who works in digital security, keeping people and businesses safe online. He showed us a website where you can check to see if your passwords have been compromised (and when and from where). You can check for yourself at <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> He also reminded us the importance of changing passwords frequently and not using the same one for everything.

Then, during April, we were also very fortunate to be able to join the Caversham Court Garden's Bean Pole Day. There was much to see with a variety of stalls. Many thanks to those ladies who provided saleable items and information leaflets. We all had a great time talking to lots of local people and visitors. We look forward to being there again next year, and also taking our turn to open up the Kiosk Café in the gardens later on in the year.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group: your first three visits are free. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm at Church House, Church Road, Caversham RG4 8AX. Nearby parking is available and there is a lift to the first floor meeting room. More details can be found online - just search for 'Caversham WI'.

For enquiries please contact our Secretary, on 0118 947 5176.



Pauline Cable and Sue Stainthorp at the W.I. stall on Beanpole Day



The witnessing congregation: Caversham Court, 2019



The Cross for All to witness: Caversham Court, 2019

Walk of Witness: Good Friday 19th April

Churches Together in Caversham marked Good Friday with a Walk of Witness. Worshippers assembled at the Caversham Baptist Church in South Street for a shared service. This was then followed by a processional walk through Caversham centre to the grounds of Caversham Court, below the gaze of St Peter's Church rising above. Walks of worshippers have been a traditional and historical feature of churches across the British Isles. It is good to see the acts of worship in

process along the public highway. In another setting on Palm Sunday 14th April worshippers at Our Lady and St Anne RC Church processed a shorter distance from the Presbytery to the Church. At that service the Palms were blessed outside, a choral anthem sung, and then the whole congregation walked along the pavement and into the Church for Mass as a hymn was sung in the bright, cool morning air (Photos of Palm Sunday, 2019).



Palm Sunday: Father Patrick in procession with Palms



Walk of Witness 2019: musicians accompany the worshippers



Palm Sunday: worshippers move from street to Church for the Palm Sunday Mass



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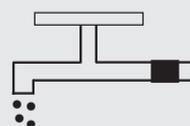
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