

## Emmer Green under pressure: 'Keep Emmer Green'

This month our front page story highlights Emmer Green: one of the four territories of 'Caversham'. Each part of Caversham is different in many ways – delightfully diverse in history, urban fabric and community. North of the Thames, Caversham shares an administrative boundary with South Oxfordshire District (SODC), a near neighbour but one subject to a different regional planning regime and with its own priorities and problems. Notwithstanding, Caversham people feel that those who live in Sonning Common, Peppard, Kidmore End and Woodcote are close to and part of us! But, we appreciate the nature of the space that separates us because the majority of it is within The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It provides the 'green lung' for us all, services many recreational needs in the widest sense and is a constant reminder of the nature and value of countryside. We can be proud that it is a reservoir of natural woodland, and offers good biodiversity and ecological habitat. These last three aspects are central to the increasing pace of environmental interest and the looming sense that climatic and ecological crises may be none too far away. And in the local perspective we intersect in at least three ways: housing development; traffic infrastructure and management; public transport and education. Each of these activities have their associated agencies and faces towards the public as well as the private sector.

Having set the context we want to present 'Keep Emmer Green' (KEG) as a response to the issues raised in the introduction. The Emmer Green community is mobilizing its own efforts and wider opinion about the threats to keeping Emmer 'Green'. KEG is a campaign group formed by residents of Emmer Green, Caversham, Caversham Park Village and adjacent South Oxfordshire villages. Their principal case is about the unsustainability of significant residential development in the area of Emmer Green and South Oxfordshire. In the event of substantial housing development, increased traffic flows and pollution in the area is inevitable, and there is no realistic prospect of building a third road bridge and associated its infrastructure (which is a

of the struggles that would lie ahead in terms of conflicts between councils and communities: these may be multiplied several-fold!

There are three 'threats to our neighbourhood' as KEG points out. 1) Reading Golf



Emmer Green (and very pleasant!)

Club (RGC) land (off Kidmore End road): RGC members have voted to sell their land and relocate the club to Caversham Heath Golf Club. RGC have partnered with a developer (fairfax properties.co.uk) to build 130 new homes on 4 hectares of land in Reading Borough and has identified potential to build up to 700+ homes on the rest of the area in RBC and South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) (although no application has been submitted yet). 2) More sites on the Emmer Green boundary were put forward to SODC as potential sites for development in their emerging Local Plan (e.g. Palmers Stables, and a site in Playhatch, although these have been excluded from the latest version of the plan). 3) Land off Peppard Road in Emmer Green (known as the 'Gladman site'). Gladman's plan for 245 dwellings was refused twice by RBC; the company then put their case to judicial review only for it to be overturned.

In Reading, new housing has been built in the last ten years on 'brownfield' sites, although 'greenfield' south of the M4 corridor is giving way to housing. Although this 'greenfield' is not specially protected by AONB status it is without argument fine, mature rural landscape and farmscape. Caversham and Emmer Green have very little 'brownfield' and residents remember the loss of mature rural landscape in the Hemdean Valley some three decades ago.

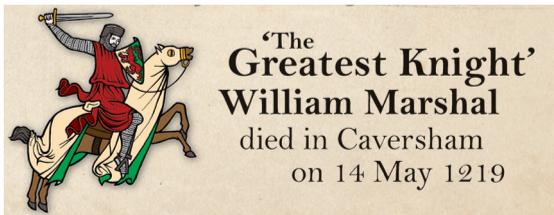
There is a housing crisis of varying sorts across the UK and Caversham and its environs cannot be an exception. Whilst landscape, conservation, transport and congestion are constant factors, attention must be paid to housing standards, quality of build and overall sustainability. Squaring these circles is seemingly impossible at times. At least what can be done is to improve communication and the governance of housing between councils, developers and the public. KEG is one such body to raise voices which need to be heard. For more information go to [www.keepemmergreen.com](http://www.keepemmergreen.com)



Reading Golf Club: potential housing site

'red line' for most residents). School and GP capacities are already stretched to the limit. Development will put the green belt under threat, degrade landscapes and further limit recreational possibilities. The Mapledurham Playing Fields case and the protracted process to build a Free School on that site provides an indication

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# Caversham Clergy

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St Barnabas  
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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 Colin Ferguson



A lot of my thinking this time has come from watching the 75th Anniversary remembrance of the D Day landings. No I wasn't there, but as a child I knew about what was happening, (no television in those days, even the radio was a bit ropy). In the village everyone worked together especially during the harvest. Being only seven was no excuse. That was when I met the Germans, Richard in particular. He drove the lorry round collecting the potatoes that we picked. He would stop from time to time to help those who were struggling to finish their 'bit'.

Richard was eighteen. He had been fifteen when an army officer had come to his school and told them they were in the army now. He was captured and sent to a camp in the Scottish countryside. We befriended Richard and my mother held his hand when we bombed Cologne that October. His family were there.

At Christmas time he was allowed to visit us on a Sunday afternoon just for a couple of hours. My great-aunt, with whom we lived at the time, had an old harmonium and I can still remember Richard singing *Stille Nacht*, and in my child's mind I was confused. How could he be my enemy. I never saw him again as we moved and did not return until the war was over.

Not all my memories of the war were that good of course, but the memory of Richard has always stayed with me and though I sometimes despair at what people have done I have always looked with respect for the individual and that has stood me in good stead as I have been called to work within some dark places and with people who were lost and rejected both mentally and physically.

The people who make me angry are those who try to demean and damage other people as if that will make them superior in some way. Sadly, I find the increasing levels of hatred of people just because they are different quite alarming and so contrary to my belief in God's love for all humankind. This was the attitude before the war, and brings with it a level of immorality which needs to be resisted just as much as it was eighty years ago.

The pack mentality is not just present in young gangs but in all groups that claim to know better than anyone else and have no respect for anyone else. It is only a short step from pride in being British to being xenophobic, racist, homophobic and all the other phobics which actually make us behave shamefully.

I believe in our right to be different. You do not have the right to despise anyone just because they are not the same as you, even your enemies. Call it respect, maybe even love.

Colin Ferguson

## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

**Are you a people person?**

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

[www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk)  
**0118 948 3466**

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

# SUNDAY SERVICES

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### 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

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Advertising copy for the August 2019 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 28th June. The date for the August issue Friday 26th July. Email address is: [advertising@cavershambridge.org](mailto:advertising@cavershambridge.org)

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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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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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# Peppard Road GP surgery to close: symptoms of stress and challenge to GP services

Healthwatch Reading has reported (News – 22nd May 2019) that a popular Caversham GP practice is to close on June 30th [<https://healthwatchreading.co.uk/news/2019-05-22/popular-caversham-surgery-close-june-30>]. Drs Harold and Janet Chadwick are retiring after 28 years' service. Their surgery had been popular with patients, who had praised the personalised service and easy access to appointments. Just a year ago *Caversham Bridge*, (July 2018) highlighted 'access to GP services in Caversham' in a front page story. The Peppard Road closure charts a continuing decline in services in Caversham through immediate financial constraints and structural issues of service provision and management. It may be a long time before promised additional funding 'trickle down' to communities such as ours. In the meantime, the resumption of house building in the area will add to demand, even as the Gladman plan for 245 homes on the borders of Emmer Green was refused after judicial review. Plans for housing on the Reading Golf Club site would add demand.

Most of the 2,600 patients affected by the closure will be automatically transferred to two other GP surgeries. No GP surgery could be found to take on all the Peppard Road patients in one single transfer, so patients are being divided out to a range of doctors, depending on where they live. This may cause dislocation in terms of access and transportation, including a lack of public transport.

The majority of patients will be automatically transferred to Emmer Green Surgery or Sonning Common Health Centre. Balmore Park Surgery, which may be the closest alternative for some people in Caversham, does not have capacity to take on any of the Peppard Rd patients.

Some people living outside of Caversham will have to find a new GP surgery themselves, or choose from two GP surgeries in their area. Patients will receive different letters explaining which option applies to them, from Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (BWCCG) – the NHS body that oversees local GP services.

The closure of Peppard Road means there will be only two GP practices in north Reading - Emmer Green and Balmore Park. Priory Avenue Surgery in Caversham closed on 30th June 2018.

Healthwatch Reading has told BWCCG it is concerned about the short-time frame between some patients being told of the closure and needing to find a new surgery. BWCCG's own review of how the Priory Avenue Surgery closure was handled, committed to giving patients affected by future closures, at least one month's notice.

[ Source: Healthwatch Reading news item and Caversham Bridge]

## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club: July meeting

Anne Miller will be coming to entertain us all on Wednesday 10th July. She will be doing several floral designs with a theme of 'Heads in beds' .... Visitors are very welcome. Admission is £6.00 at the door. Refreshments will be served and there is a raffle for which the prize is Anne's designs. We meet at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Any queries please call our Chair (Julie) on 0118 9475367



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

| DATE      | EVENT  |
|-----------|--|
| 6th       | Meadow Day - guided walks, flower trails, bug hunting.<br>11.00am - 4.00pm Clayfield Copse RG4 6RT       |
| 7th       | Farmer's Market 10.00am - 3.00pm Caversham Precinct Car Park   |
| 7th       | Open Gardens x 5 in Swallowfield Village RG7 1QY -<br>Homemade Teas Open 2.00pm - 6.00pm                 |
| 7th       | Open Organic Garden - Lovetts Farm Knowl Hill RG10 9YE -<br>Cream Teas Open 12noon - 5.00pm              |
| 10-20th   | 'King Lear' at Reading Abbey Ruins - Ring 0118 348 2169 for details                                      |
| 12-14th   | Readipop Festival Christchurch Meadows, George Street -<br>0118 938 7156 for details                     |
| 13th      | Caversham Church Fete 1pm Caversham Court Gardens  |
| 13th      | Rock 'n' Ale Festival Our Lady & St Anne's School Playing fields on<br>Washington Road 6.30pm to 11.00pm |
| 13 - 14th | Bastille Day French music, fun and activities<br>Forbury Gardens FREE                                    |
| 14th      | Open Garden The Old Rectory, Lower Basildon RG8 9NH<br>2.00pm - 6.00pm Homemade Teas                     |
| 14th      | Mikron Theatre Co. 'All Hands on Deck' Caversham Court Gdns.<br>0118 9372771                             |
| 18th      | 'Mamma Mia' Caversham Court Seating available or BYO<br>Summerscreens.co.uk                              |
| 18th      | North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum New Bridge Nursery<br>RG4 5AU 7.00pm - 8.30pm                    |
| 19th      | 'Bohemian Rhapsody' Caversham Court Seating available/BYO<br>summerscreens.co.uk                         |
| 20th      | Garden Party St Barnabas Emmer Green 2.00pm - 4.00pm   |
| 20th      | 'First Man...in 1969' Caversham Court Seating available/BYO<br>summerscreens.co.uk                       |
| 20th      | 'Jazz at St Andrews' - Albert Road RG4 7.30pm<br>For tickets ring 9484112/9463202                        |
| 21st      | Farmer's Market 10.00am - 3.00pm Caversham Precinct Car Park   |
| 21st      | Stoke Row & Nuffield Motor Sport Day Timbers Farm RG9 5SY<br>12 noon - 4.00pm 01491 640826               |
| 20 - 28th | Reading Fringe Festival - various venues -<br>readingfringefestival.co.uk                                |

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## Reading Family Aid appeal

Reading Family Aid (RFA) is a very committed local charity that does fun things for hundreds of disadvantaged families in the wider Reading area. They provide several Outings during the year taking up to 600 family members on trips to the seaside, to zoos, theme parks, Camp Mohawk and the Panto. RFA are also responsible for running the amazing 'Toys and Teens Appeal' publicised by *The Chronicle* which last year provided sackfuls of toys to 1,700 Reading and district children who would otherwise have received no Christmas presents.

The charity is run by a dedicated group of volunteers but as the numbers of families referred to them has grown, so has the need for more volunteers to help organise everything. So they are looking for some more people to join them. Do you have some time and energy and are you good at one or more of the following things?

Organising projects and events; administration using email, Word and Excel; completing funding applications; public speaking; project management; technical stuff to do with computer systems; charity governance and law; helping out with fetes and car boot sales.

If so, please consult the website for more information ([www.ReadingFamilyAid.org](http://www.ReadingFamilyAid.org)) and please contact them at [info@ReadingFamilyAid.org](mailto:info@ReadingFamilyAid.org). Help them put more smiles on more children's faces.

## Visitors from the Zimbabwean Christian Fellowship

Caversham Heights Methodist Church was delighted to welcome visitors from the Zimbabwean Christian Fellowship to the Sunday morning service on 5th May 2019. The visitors sang two hymns in the Shona language.



## Road junction changes in Caversham Heights: the Albert Road / Highmoor Road junction

Since April, drivers in Caversham Heights have experienced changes to the signing and markings at the Albert Road / Highmoor Road junction. The changes introduced imply modifications to previous driving behaviour. Although a known accident spot there has in reality been little consultation with local users: a consequence of this has been much conversation, but with little conclusion as to the reasons for the changes. *Caversham Bridge* has asked Reading Borough Council to provide advice and we reproduce below the guidance given by the Campaigns Manager – Media and Communications, Communications | Directorate of Resources, Reading Borough Council



*'Phased changes have been made to the junction following a series of serious accidents which, according to police investigations, have been caused by the failure of traffic to stop at the eastbound Highmoor Road approach (a STOP restriction); i.e coming from the Woodcote Road direction.*

*Initial works focused on further highlighting the STOP approaches on Highmoor Road with substantial lining changes to the existing road markings on both approaches. Road marking lining changes were also made to the northbound Albert Road approach. The final phase of work, delivered in April this year, is aimed at further reducing the risk of collisions and significantly reducing traffic approach speeds.*

*The junction is now made up of two STOP approaches (unchanged), on Highmoor Road, and two Give-Way approaches (on Albert Road), and drivers should treat each approach as such. Vehicles approaching the STOP approaches must stop and wait for a safe gap before moving off. Vehicles approaching the Give-Way must give way to traffic on the main road (i.e. in the junction). They must therefore also be prepared to stop.*

*This means traffic approaching along Albert Road must prepare to stop and give way if traffic is emerging from Highmoor Road, and consider if it is clear to move off. This overcomes the previous situation, where traffic on Albert Road considered that it had the right of way and where many motorists would be making no alterations to their driving.*

*In a situation where vehicles on Albert Road approach the junction in both directions, reasonable motorists could be expected to take turns*

*in proceeding, depending on their indicated direction of travel. This proposal puts the expectation back on drivers to consider what is happening around them across the entire junction and to consider their movement around this'.*

We would like to direct readers with further questions to contact Oscar Mortali, Campaign Manager (Media and Communications), Communications | Directorate of Resources, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. Phone: 0118 937 2301 (72301); Email: [Oscar.Mortali@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Oscar.Mortali@reading.gov.uk)

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# The return of Roman Catholicism in Reading: a talk by the History of Reading Society

The subject of the May talk was *'The return of Catholicism in Reading'*. The speakers were John and Lindsay Mullaney. Both John and his wife, Lindsay, were teachers at the Blessed Hugh Faringdon Roman Catholic School in Reading. Later, they opened a bookshop in Caversham and co-founded the Scallop Shell Press and the Caversham Literary Festival.

In 1532, during the reign of King Henry VIII, the King ordered Parliament to pass legislation to curb the authority of the papacy in England and Wales. This grudging break with the Roman Catholic Church by the King was caused by his failure to obtain from Pope Clement VII a divorce from his Spanish wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In Reading the most tangible concomitant of this policy was the dissolution of the Abbey whose gaunt ruins are a reminder of the



[Ruins of Reading Abbey as they appeared in 1721.]

Ruins of Reading Abbey as they appeared in 1721

Church's once significant power in the kingdom. In 1539, its last abbot, Hugh Cook Faringdon, being found guilty of treason, was ignominiously executed in front of his own abbey. Protestant reformers demanded that all of the accoutrements of Catholic religious ritual, including the images of the saints and the high altar, were to be banished from the town's churches; thenceforth, the focus of church services would be readings from the Bible and the preaching of sermons.

In Rome, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, an Englishman, Cardinal William Allen, was appointed to set up colleges to train priests, or Jesuits as they became known, who would return to England, undetected, in order to celebrate the mass to the recusant Catholic population. The Blount family at Mapledurham House was a notable recusant household who also provided a safe house for Jesuit priests.

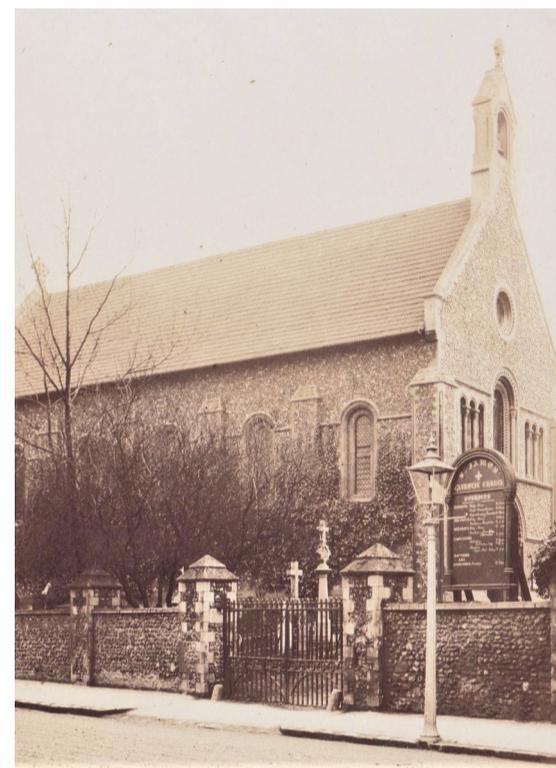
In 1829, Parliament passed the Catholic Emancipation Act: it permitted Catholics to sit in parliament, a necessity after the unification of the British and Irish Parliaments in 1801. The Act also restored religious and property rights removed under the Tudor monarchs. An important document, the *'Cowslade Manuscript'*, believed to be the work of Ellenor Cowslade, would chronicle the return of Catholicism to Reading. In 1792 a small group of French priests arrived in the town; they had fled the persecution there in the wake of the Revolution.

The priests came to Reading at the invitation of the Smart and Cowslade families; they were respected local Catholic families and the proprietors of the *Berkshire Mercury* newspaper;



Former King's Arms, Castle Hill, Reading

at this time, they had established a Catholic place of worship at Finch's Buildings in Hosier Street. The priests settled in a house at Castle Hill, known then as the King's Arms; it was they who planted the Cedar of Lebanon tree in the garden. Among their number was a young student from the seminary in Caen, Francois Longuet. When it was safe for the priests to return home, Longuet chose to stay on. During his time in Reading, Longuet founded his own chapel which he named the Chapel of the Resurrection: the congregation grew quickly and he was assisted by two nuns. It is believed to have stood near Valpy Street; today there is no trace of it. Tragically, whilst travelling at night along Pangbourne Lane (modern Oxford



St James' Roman Catholic Church, Forbury Road, Reading

Road), Longuet was brutally murdered during a robbery for the £200 he was carrying.

Today, the culmination of the return of Catholicism to Reading was the building of St. James's Church opposite the Abbey ruins in 1837. This was made possible by the generous benefaction of James Wheble of Woodley; he was then High Sheriff of Berkshire and the owner of the former abbey site.

(Readers can find out more about Catholicism in Reading in the Mullaney's survey: Mullaney, J. and Mullaney, L. comps. and eds. *Catholic Reading: a pilgrimage trail*. Reading: Scallop Shell Press, 2013. [chapter 4 describes Our Lady and St Anne RC church in Caversham and chapter 11 covers Catholic country estates around Reading, including Mapledurham] )

For more information about membership and future talks visit: [historyofreadingsociety.org.uk](http://historyofreadingsociety.org.uk)

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# The Caversham Heights Society: annual mini-holiday

The annual mini-holiday by coach went to Kent from the 20th to 24th May. Visits ranged from famous houses and gardens to wine tasting and a trip on the Kent and East Sussex railway. Accommodation was in the comfortable Ashford International Hotel.



Down House Gardens

On the journey to Ashford on Monday 20th May we made two visits. The first at Down House, the home of Charles Darwin, in rural Kent, now managed by English Heritage. This is a fascinating former home and now museum of Darwin with displays of his travels and discoveries and was where he wrote and developed his

theory of evolution. Our visit was all too short! The second stop was at Ightham Mote, a half-timbered manor house, parts of which date back to the early fourteenth century, surrounded by a splendid moat. Now owned by the National Trust, which spent over ten years undertaking restoration work in the 1980s and 1990s, some of which was televised, this gem of a building and gardens must be amongst the jewels in the crown of the Trust's properties.

Tuesday was spent in Canterbury. We began by viewing the Canterbury Tales, a live diorama of what life was like in the Fourteenth century as we listened to several of Geoffrey Chaucer's (1345-1400) bawdy tales made up on the journey from London to Canterbury. This was followed by free time wandering around the city before we were split into groups for excellent and informative guided tours around this magnificent and historic cathedral. After an enjoyable cream tea in the nearby Conference Centre we all filed in for Sung Evensong with the choir from one of the oldest schools in the country, King's School Canterbury. This was a beautiful and fitting end to our first full day.

On Wednesday we visited the historic dockyards of Chatham where such ships as HMS Victory were built and launched and where there are destroyers and submarines, as well as numerous lifeboats to explore. One of the most fascinating buildings was the Rope Walk. Apparently Chatham rope making dates back to the fourteenth century and was only preceded by the rope makers of Venice. Across the River Medway lies the cathedral city of Rochester with its Norman Castle, quaint unspoilt streets and individual shops. There is also a unique French Huguenot quarter and hospital. While in the city, and before we returned to our coach, we became aware of large numbers of Brexit supporters and Nigel Farage encouraging his supporters from the top of an open-topped double-decker bus. This was the day before the European elections!

The next day started with a guided tour around Leeds Castle, a moated masterpiece dating back to



Leeds Castle



A corner of Leeds Castle garden

the thirteenth century with many additions through the centuries. It is kept in immaculate condition and has been used as a secure meeting place for confidential conferences, such as the pre-Camp David discussions involving the Americans, Egyptians and Israelis. It boasts fine gardens and lakes, a maze and falconry. We witnessed an enthralling display of birds of prey. The day ended with a journey through the Kent countryside to Bodiam Castle, where we caught the Kent and East Sussex steam train to Tenterden, travelling through unspoilt Sussex countryside that took us back in time.

On Friday, our last day, saw us visit Chapel Down Winery and Vineyards in the morning where we were treated to an informative talk about English sparkling wines and to a tasting session. Since Chapel Down Winery supplied some of the wines for Prince Harry



Enjoying coffee after wine tasting

and Megan's wedding and provides wines for the Houses of Parliament we felt very privileged to be there. Our final visit was to Sissinghurst Castle and gardens, originally the home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson but now a series of splendid gardens under the ownership of the National Trust.

Apart from the inevitable congestion on the M25 we returned to Caversham refreshed and inspired. Further information about the Society can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org) or by email to: [contacts@cavershamheights.org](mailto:contacts@cavershamheights.org)



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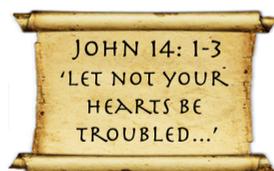
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# Caversham Lawn Tennis Club Centenary

Caversham Lawn Tennis Club (CLTC) celebrates its centenary with a series of special events throughout the summer of 2019 and publishes a new booklet exploring its history. The Club has around 500 Members, about half of which are Junior members. Members range in age from 4 years to 80 years and from beginners to top flight county players.

CLTC is the first outdoor tennis club in the country to have installed 'PlaySight', a smart system of cameras capable of tracking and recording every stroke played on court. Like 'Hawk-Eye', used at professional tennis tournaments, it can settle contentious line-calls and measure the speed of the ball, but more importantly, allows players to review footage of their game and to analyse their strengths and weaknesses.

A club was formed in the early 1900s, and was originally called Caversham Sports and Bowls Club. In its early days, the club was in a country area surrounded by fields and was

approached by a small lane. The present Caversham Lawn Tennis Club was founded in 1933, some 10 years after the Bowls Club had moved nearby to Albert Road Park. Originally there were seven grass courts with a converted railway carriage acting as a clubhouse. Two hard courts were laid on the former bowling green and this remained the position until the end of the 2nd World War. In 1945 a new wooden pavilion was erected by members and two hard courts were added replacing 2 grass courts, both financed by the members' own efforts.

In 1970 the club purchased the freehold of the site with the aid of an appeal to members, together with grants from the LTA, local council and the National Playing Fields Association. In recognition of this effort and for the development of junior tennis in Reading, the club won a major award in the National Club of the Year competition. In 1981 three grass courts were converted to all-weather courts, followed by the remaining two grass courts in 1986. In 1989 the new clubhouse was opened by British Davis Cup player Mark Cox. In 1993 the four shale courts were resurfaced with acrylic and a semi-permanent dome was purchased to cover two of them. This dome was destroyed by a falling tree in strong winds, and subsequently replaced with the current dome.

On 25th April the first of CLTC's special events to celebrate the club's Centenary year took place. Coinciding with the first Club night of the season and a few sets of tennis in the Spring sunshine, members attended the much anticipated Wimbledon Ticket Draw, accompanied by a complimentary cheese and wine tasting. On Sunday 23rd June there was a Family Fun Afternoon - with an exhibition match with professional tennis players and personalities, together with a short tournament for members.

A special visit to the All England Club is planned for six members of the club including the two top male and female players from the Club Championship Finals which will be held on Saturday, 20th July. The festivities will culminate with a grand Centennial Gala Dinner at Phyllis Court in Henley where it is hoped many past members will come and enjoy meeting up with friends from their Caversham days and meet current members of the Club.

A special Booklet that captures the history of the club has just been published. 'A Centenary History of Caversham Lawn Tennis Club' has been written by current member Dudley Jones and explores the rich history of the club, from its origins, to how it ended up featuring in an episode of 'Midsomer Murders' and down to the present day. Copies are available at £2 from the Club Office.

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## Hemdean House School celebrates 160 years of educating children in Berkshire

Hemdean House School is an Independent Co-educational Primary School based in the heart of Caversham. It was founded in 1859 by Mr Francis Knighton who had been the proprietor of Caversham House Academy for boys for many years. His care for his pupils was well known and in stark contrast with most boys' public schools at the time. Francis entrusted the running of the new school to two of his daughters, Rosa and Matilda. The school was so successful that larger premises were needed and a plot of agricultural land just north of the Academy was bought for £320. The new school building, named Hemdean House, was ready by 1862 and the girl boarders, Rosa and Matilda Knighton moved in during April starting an educational journey that has led us up to the school we know today.

To celebrate their 160th Anniversary Hemdean House School has organised a host of activities throughout the year. The children have been busy helping the community by collecting and donating a large amount of bedding to a local charity for the homeless, packing groceries free of charge at Waitrose and painting stones that were hidden for others to find and photograph, to name but a few.

Hemdean House has also invited all alumni to join them for an Afternoon Tea Party in June to reminisce on previous school years and delight in the memorabilia that was collected.

September will bring more celebrations as Hemdean House School will be taking part in the Heritage Open Days. Further information and exact details will be made public via the school's website and Facebook page as well as the Heritage Days website.

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# A Day on Holiday: 2019

Wednesday 29th May dawned bright for *'The Day on Holiday'* for elderly visitors to Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Lifts were arranged for those who needed transport, and everyone was welcomed with a smile plus tea or coffee and biscuits.

During the morning guests had the opportunity to choose from several activities: crafts - decorating mugs with glass pens, or cloth shopping bags with cut out felt shapes (see photographs); or a play reading with David Cliffe - always a top favourite; or a *'Mindfulness'* session followed by *'Seated Exercises'*, or a game of Beetle or Boggle.

Then there was a *'Break for lunch'* - a two-course hot homemade meal all cooked by Viv Emerson - chicken and ham pie with new potatoes and green

beans followed by a delicious berry fruit crumble with custard or ice cream. His helper on the day was Jane Mather.

*'Quiz time'* was the first post-lunch activity with mini Magnum ice creams to help the thought processes.

This was followed by a musical *'singalong'* with Revd David Jenkins at the piano.

Tea and cakes came next, and the day finished with *'Thought for the Day'* led by Revd Jenny Dowding with her song roll.

Happy guests returned to their homes and *'tired but happy'* leaving helpers putting the premises back to order.



*Welcoming visitors*



*'Sing-along' with Revd David Jenkins*



*Seated Exercises*



*Decorating Mugs*



*Enjoying a hot lunch*



*Decorated shopping bags*



*Afternoon Tea*

# Memorial Mass at the The Oratory School for John Joseph Eyston: a personal reflection

A memorial mass was held on Friday 31st May (the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary) at The Oratory School in Woodcote for John Joseph Eyston (27th April 1934 to 23rd April 2019). Better known as 'Jack' Eyston he was a long-time parishioner of Our Lady and St Anne RC Church in Caversham, which includes the Catholic chapel of Mapledurham House within the parish bounds.

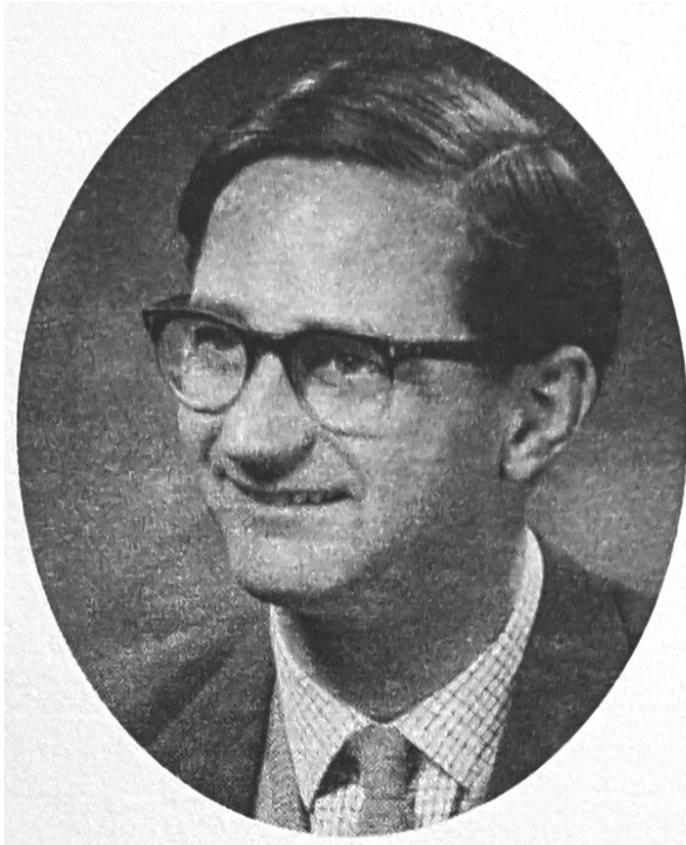
As a fellow parishioner of Our Lady and St Anne, I wanted to attend Jack's memorial Requiem Mass in remembrance of a gentle man. Jack would attend the 5.30pm mass on Saturdays and if possible attend the public recitation of the Rosary which I have had the privilege of reciting before the 5.30 Mass. Jack's wife Lady Ann Eyston ( who survives him) was on our list for intercession and Jack was always very grateful

for this. His wife has not enjoyed the best of health in recent years and Jack's love for her and devotion to her care has been clear to all.. I had never been to the Oratory school although I pass it twice a day on my journey to and from work.

The Mass was to start at 11.00am and at 10.40am I was directed to a school football pitch to park my car. Entering the parking area I was struck by the variety of what can only be described as executive cars almost as far as the eye could see and the procession of the occupants of those vehicles. I knew there was going to be many there, Lords and Ladies, Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, of which Jack himself was a Knight.

The Oratory Chapel is reached via a staircase in the main body of the school building. It is a big space but conveying a warm atmosphere, where rightly so the main focus is the high Altar with Purple frontal. The altar is flanked on either side with a statue of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart and surrounding them, purple fabric falls to match the Altar. Six candles on the Altar are interspersed with reliquaries of the saints between them. Two large traditional urns in the foreground displayed wonderfully large symmetrical fresh flower arrangements made specially for the service.

Fr Ken McNab, acting as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the notices and then the Mass started, 'Firmly I believe and truly' the great hymn by Cardinal John Henry Newman (founder of the English Oratory and soon to be a saint) was the entrance hymn, and the congregation of about 500 was in full voice, as they continued to be



for the whole of the service. The main celebrant was Fr Edward Corbould OSB from Ampleforth Abbey, a long standing friend of Jack. He was assisted, amongst others, by Monsignor Patrick Daly, the current parish priest of Our Lady and St Anne, Caversham and Fr Giles Goward a previous parish priest of Our Lady and St Anne.

Two eulogies were delivered: one by the Celebrant and one by Jack's Son. Fr Corbould spoke of the deep love of Jack for his faith and how he was a very kind man, with a very deep love for Lady Ann and all his family. He had no doubt in his mind that Jack was now with God enjoying the beatific vision.

His son started with infancy and childhood: clearly, Jack was born into one of the great Catholic aristocratic

families and he is a direct descendant of St Thomas More. The eulogy was infused with anecdote and good humour. When Jack took over responsibility for Mapledurham House and Estate the property was run down. Jack set to with a plan to restore the house and the farming estate. One of the tales I liked was when the house had been restored Jack and Lady Ann held a ball to celebrate the event, an elderly lady approached Jack and said "it's so lovely to see all this back to how it should be" but she went on to say that she "would love to see his private parts"! Roars of laughter from the congregation. There were many such little snippets peppered throughout the eulogy.

On another note it was quite obvious that Jack had many run-ins with Reading Borough Council but always managed to win his case, however long it took. He was a public figure: he was High Sherriff of South Oxfordshire and served as a governor of The Oratory School, among many other duties.

The Mass was a beautiful ceremony and fitting tribute. It was celebrated 'ad orientum' as is the Oratory tradition and would have been very familiar to Jack in his earlier life. Lots of beautiful music: 'The Lords My Shepherd' sung by the Oratory boys choir; 'Salve Regina'; 'Love Divine all loves excelling'; 'When I survey the wondrous cross'; 'Soul of my saviour'; 'Guide me o thou great redeemer' and finally 'Jerusalem'. A very fine mass, a very fitting memorial and a very fitting end to the life of a much loved and gentle man.

May Jack rest in peace and rise in glory.

Contributed by Paul Turnock

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You may have heard of the term 'carbon footprint' in discussions about climate change and the environment. But what does it mean for us?

We all have a 'carbon footprint', an estimate of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of our lifestyle choices. Carbon dioxide is a so called 'greenhouse gas', because it acts to keep energy in the atmosphere, increasing temperatures.

Everything we do in some way produces carbon dioxide. Sometimes this is obvious, for example travelling (driving, flying, using public transport) and lighting and heating our homes. Other emissions of carbon dioxide from our activities are less obvious. The food we eat, the water we use, and the products we buy all require energy to produce and transport. This is sometimes called 'embedded carbon' and is part of everyone's footprint.

In addition, we also each have a 'share' in the carbon dioxide discharged from national and local services we use, such as roads, hospitals, schools and the military.

According to data published in January 2019 by the [World Economic Forum](http://www.weforum.org), in 2016 the average person's footprint in the UK is 5.65 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>. This compares with figures for the US of 14.95, China 6.57 and Brazil 2.01 tonnes.

You might like to calculate your own carbon footprint and consider the effect your lifestyle is having.

Several online calculators are available:

WWF: [www.footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://www.footprint.wwf.org.uk)

Carbon Footprint™: [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

Climate Stewards: [www.footprintr.me](http://www.footprintr.me)

Once you have assessed your lifestyle, think about how you could reduce your footprint. You could consider compensating for what remains (known as 'offsetting') through schemes which, for example, sponsor tree planting. See the Climate Stewards website for more information on this.

Future Ecotips will look at simple steps we can all take to reduce our carbon footprints.

[Contributed by Phil Chatfield]

## William Marshal's 800th Anniversary celebrated at Pembroke Castle

While we in Caversham have been celebrating the life of William Marshal, he was born near Newbury and died in Caversham, the people of Pembroke have been doing just that as well, with a festival at the Castle and the creation of a unique tapestry.

William 'the Marshal', a hereditary title, was an Anglo-Norman soldier and statesman and he served five English kings. He was knighted in 1166 and considered to be 'the greatest knight that ever lived'. In 1167 he was injured and captured but he survived this because someone in his captor's household took pity on the young knight, and concealed several lengths of clean linen bandages with which to dress his wounds, in a loaf of bread!

William returned from the Holy Land following legendary military accomplishments and he was given, by King Richard 1, the hand and estates of Isabel de Clare. Her grandfather was Earl of Pembroke and eventually in 1199, William inherited the title and Pembroke Castle. He soon became Lord Marshal of England and he set about turning the earth



and wood fort at Pembroke into an impressive Norman stone castle. This fortification included William Marshal's Great Tower (or keep) that was the last place of refuge for soldiers defending the castle. Marshal's Great Tower is the largest but at 25 metres high, not the highest in the UK (that honour goes to Rochester Castle in Kent at 35 metres). It is 16 metres in diameter and the walls are 19 feet thick at the base to deter battering rams and undermining. It consists of 5 stories with the original entrance by way of a sliding drawbridge on the first floor. A stone dome, a unique feature, crowned the summit and sockets in the stonework at the top show where a timber fighting platform (or hound) would have provided command over the foot of the tower to deter attackers possibly using red hot limestone that shatters on impact, boiling urine that has an acidic effect burning the skin - and plain old arrows.

The Festival at Pembroke Castle in June to celebrate the life of William

Marshal included a unique tapestry depicting his extraordinary life and achievements. It took five years to create, a year of research and four years of embroidery, containing 18 different colours of Appleton crewel wool. It hangs in the castle under museum conditions and the people of Pembroke are trying to raise a further £60,000 in order to build a statue of William in the castle grounds.

We in Caversham are also fundraising, to have a memorial plaque, detailing Earl William Marshal's remarkable life, displayed on Caversham Bridge and looking towards what was his estate on the north bank where he died, now known as Dean's Farm. Donations would be very gratefully received via [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk).

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# News from Highdown School

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

When most of us were leaving the site to begin our Easter holidays the intrepid Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award participants returned to start their first expedition as preparation for a forthcoming final. They made a two day trek through the Chilterns, carrying equipment and navigating by map and compass to the Path Hill Outdoor Activity Centre. They spent the night in tents and cooked a nutritional a two course meal using only a small spirit stove. After a night under canvas they spent a full day of hiking, covering 15km in 5 to 6 hours and finishing in the Oxfordshire border towns of Woodcote and Stoke Row.

## Debate Competition

On Wednesday 1st May the debate club went to Northampton International Academy to compete. During debate club sessions, students learnt about the structure of debates and once signed up for the competition, they began collecting information, researching facts and structuring arguments. The trip was an enjoyable experience. Two teams from Highdown were competing against other schools and both teams won their prepared debates at their first competition. Debate club is open to Year 7, 8 and 9. Students highly recommend going to debate club as it boosts confidence and helps improve speaking and language skills. Since January, Miss Johnson has worked with the group of Year 8 and 9 students to prepare for the competition. All this work has paid off well!

## Sponsored Bike Ride for Charlie Ilsley

On Sunday 5 May, a Year 7 student completed a 105km sponsored bike ride around the Isle of Wight to raise money for Charlie Ilsley's treatment. The ride is an annual event with some 3,000 other cyclists taking part; Lewis was certainly one of the youngest. It was a tough ride with a couple of brutal hills towards the end! He completed the distance in 7 hours 46 minutes. A big thank you to the staff and students for all the support received, in particular the generous donations towards Charlie's treatment. Please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/cyberknife-treatment-for-charlie> to find out more and donate.



## Physical Education

Many congratulations to our student who has been selected for the South East under 17 Mini Marathon team thanks to a great Cross Country season. This season she has also achieved the 3k qualifying time for English schools and we wish her great success running for Berkshire in the summer.

## St Anne's School F1 cars success in regional finals

Ten Year 5 pupils have worked on their F1 project since last November and their hard work paid off in May when they swept the board in the regional finals. Two teams of five pupils, 'Firebird 6 5' and 'SuperSonic 64', were put through their paces at the event, hosted by UTC Reading. As well as giving presentations and putting together a display of their work, they were grilled

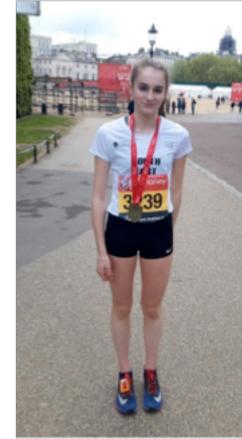


by a panel of judges about how they had created and constructed their mini cardboard cars. At a finale to the event, each team had to race their car against competitors from two other schools to see who were the regional champions. Parents Mrs Banks, Mrs Orife and Mrs Gupta worked with the children throughout and sponsors for the work included Caversham Homecraft, Pal Electrical, Thames Water, the National Grid and Orlight.

The parents were delighted at the award ceremony to find that 'SuperSonic 64' came second out of the seven competing teams and 'Firebird 6 5' were awarded first place as well as 'Best Verbal Presentation', 'Best Engineered Car' and 'Fastest Car'.

They now look forward to competing in the national finals.

[Photos by Liz Banks; text by Jane Shaw]



After a very tough recent weekend of racing on water with a lot of wind it is with pride that we report that three of our students have gained places within the British Canoeing teams. One has been selected for European's and World's later on in the year. He will also be attending the Brandenburg international regatta. Two students are part of the British Development team going out to Brandenburg to compete.

After three weeks of strong competition the U16 Girls finished a very impressive 5th out of 24 schools in the Reading Schools Athletics League. They finished 1st in both their heat matches putting them into the A team final with fantastic results from all the girls involved. Well done to the whole team.

A. B.

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## Caversham Park Theatre

Caversham Park Theatre was founded in 1966 by villagers moving on to a half-built housing estate. The theatre has charitable status as a section of Caversham Park Village Association. (reg no; 272950)

In a normal year the theatre group mount two productions plus the occasional one-off event. The main focus of the group is acting but the repertoire and ambition encompasses singing when required!

The group rehearses mainly on Friday nights, but more rehearsals may be required from time to time depending on the plays chosen. An additional rehearsal on a Sunday is usually all that is necessary. Productions normally run from Thursday to Saturday.

Caversham Park Theatre welcomes people of all ages and abilities - the only requirement is enthusiasm! For more information please go to the website: <http://www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>

## Welcome to all the Pleasures

Join Henley Choral Society for their popular summer performance on Saturday 29th June at the Christ Church Centre, Henley at 7.30pm. Enjoy a wonderful evening of music including Purcell's 'Welcome to all the Pleasures' written in honour of Saint Cecilia, Patron Saint of music and Elgar's 'From the Bavarian Highlands' which he wrote to remember his family holiday in the region. The choir will be joined by the up and coming Bell String Quartet and the talented David Smith on piano. Tickets can be purchased online via our website: [henleychoralsociety.org.uk](http://henleychoralsociety.org.uk) or Facebook page, or by calling 07946 782502. Tickets £18.00 for adults and £5.00 for under 18s.

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## Exhibition of Work by Charles Burns at 'Caversham Picture Framer'

"Silhouettes seem like such a tiny niche in the world of art, yet for me this seemingly-simple craft has expanded to take over my entire world. It has taken me in directions I never could have imagined or planned when I first picked up a pair of scissors." Charles Burns began his career as a street artist, drawing 10-minute pencil portraits for tourists in Covent Garden. Whilst there, he taught himself the lost art of the silhouettist: cutting black-paper, profile portraits freehand with scissors. Soon silhouettes had taken over his life. Charles cuts portraits at events all over the world and many celebrities have posed for him, including Her Majesty the Queen.

From 28th June to 3rd August Charles is exhibiting a new series of paintings at The Caversham Picture

Framer, which combine silhouettes with Berkshire landscapes close to the artist's Caversham home. In response to his latest works Charles said: "Taking a walk in the countryside feels like a return to nature; it's easy to forget that we all live in an artificial landscape. The silhouette stands as a symbol for humanity as a whole, a metaphor for our Anthropocene Age. Each silhouette is clearly an individual portrait, yet they also represent human kind: the shadow of human activity, cast over everything we see. They remind us of the shadow we each cast on the world."



A selection of Charles Burns work will be on display and available to buy at The Caversham Picture Framer, 7 Church Street, Caversham, RG4,7AA, from 28th June to 3rd August.

## Concerts in Caversham: Jazz at St Andrew's

Janette Mason presents: 'The Music of Ella and Sarah' at St Andrew's Church, Albert Road Caversham, RG4 7PL on Saturday 20th July 2019, at 7.30pm.

Janette Mason, the world-class arranger, composer and pianist will pay homage to two of the most iconic vocalists of the 20th century. The evening features the 'First Queen of Song' **Ella Fitzgerald** and 'The Divine One' **Sarah Vaughan**; both are seminal interpreters of The Great American Songbook. Juliet Roberts and Vimala Rowe provide support on vocals and they will be supported by Simon Little on bass, Shanti on trumpet and Jamie Murray on drums.

Tickets are £18.00 and £20.00 in advance OR £20.00 and £22.00 on the door. Free admission for under 16s. Tickets are available from Waltons the Jewellers in Caversham (closed Mondays, cash only) [www.concertsincaversham.co.uk](http://www.concertsincaversham.co.uk) and 0118 948 4112/0118 946 3202 for more information. Interval refreshments included – Prosecco £3.00 per glass

## Greenham Common airfield walks

Following the talk in April given to the Caversham Heights Society about Greenham Common (Caversham Bridge, June 2019 p.6), a series of guided summer walks are being offered which will reveal the fascinating history of the airfield. Starting at the former air traffic control tower, the walks then take visitors to see installations around the common associated with the Cold War period of the airbase. These include the last remaining section of runway, a fire training structure, external views of the cruise missile shelters and the former headquarters building of the 501st Tactical Missile Command.

The walks will run monthly, on a Saturday, at 10.30am and 3.00pm, are about 3 miles in length and take around 2 hours. The cafe will be open after the walk. Cost £5 plus booking fee. Details can be found at [www.greenhamtower.org.uk/event/cold-war-history-walkj](http://www.greenhamtower.org.uk/event/cold-war-history-walkj)



Good timing? Play area at Mapledurham closes over the summer break



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## Gardening Tips – How to plant your garden

### Plant 3 rows of Peas

- 1 Peas of mind
- 2 Peas of heart
- 3 Peas of soul

### Plant 4 rows of Squash

- 1 Squash gossip
- 2 Squash indifference
- 3 Squash grumbling
- 4 Squash selfishness

### Plant 4 rows of Lettuce

- 1 Lettuce be faithful
- 2 Lettuce be kind
- 3 Lettuce be patient
- 4 Lettuce really love one another

### No garden is without Turnips

- 1 Turnip for meetings
- 2 Turnip for service
- 3 Turnip to help one another

### To conclude, your garden must have Thyme

- 1 Thyme for each other
- 2 Thyme for the family
- 3 Thyme for friends

*Water freely with Patience and  
Cultivate with Love*

*There is so much Fruit in your Garden because  
You Reap What You Sow*

## CLUBS

### Caversham WI

For our May Meeting, we discussed the two National WI campaigns for this year: saving local bus services and encouraging women to attend smear (cervical screening) tests. Following this, we enjoyed our annual group meeting – this time chaired by Sonning Glebe WI. We shared the evening with ladies from around the area, and listened to stories about how starting a career in the legal profession has changed over the past 50 years.

At the June meeting we will welcome a local professional to give us hints and tips on maintaining good posture, and benefit from the strength and confidence that good posture can bring.

Ladies are very welcome to participate: first three visits are free. Meetings held on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. Parking nearby and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Church Road RG4 8AX. More details at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for 'Caversham WI'. For enquiries contact our Secretary on 0118 947 5176.

### Caversham Heights Townswomens Guild

The year 2019 is a historic one for Townswomens Guilds, celebrating 90 years since foundation. The 90th Annual General Meeting was at Cheltenham Race Course, attended by our patron, the Princess Royal, not to mention members of Caversham Heights Townswomens Guild and other Guilds nationwide.

We held our own Birthday Party: a mere 58 years for us. Recent meetings have had a travel theme, with visits to India, courtesy of Gwen Barton, and Japan by Nigel Glover-Wright. Snags and pitfalls of travelling and how to avoid them were highlighted by local travel agent, Alex Harding.

We made a return visit to Windsor Castle to view Princess Eugenie's wedding dress. The annual trip to the village Tea Rooms at Riseley was very popular. Our ambling, scrabble, luncheon and cinema groups thrive.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th July at 2.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham Heights. There will be a talk by Reading Fire and Rescue Service. Ladies wishing to join or visit us will be most welcome.

### Probus

Reading and District Probus members were entertained by Richard Poad, with the story of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA). ATA's headquarters

was at White Waltham, Maidenhead from 1940 to 1945, when ATA was disbanded. Mostly staffed by men, eight women, led by Pauline Gower, were taken on trial, with a qualification of 250 flying hours. Their job was to fly planes between the factory, maintenance unit and RAF or RN airfields.

They flew everything from single engine planes up to Wellington bombers, and even flying boats. ATA operated from many airfields, but those at Cosford and Hamble were staffed entirely by women. Richard told us stories of many of the women who flew for ATA, including the famous Amy Johnson.

Some statistics illustrate: 173 out of 1250 pilots died in service, 309,000 aircraft were ferried a distance of over 400 million miles. After the war the ATA was largely forgotten until the 1970s. In 2008, 300 survivors received veteran's badges. There are only four known survivors, although many memorials.

The club for retired men meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club on the second Monday of each month. For further information visit the club's website [www.probusclub-reading.org.uk](http://www.probusclub-reading.org.uk) If you are interested in joining, please contact the club secretary David Laird on 0118 947 0709.

### Rosehill WI

President Arlene Riley welcomed members and visitors to the May meeting held on 1st May 2019. Our first business of the day was to vote on the two resolutions being put forward: 'A call against the decline in local bus services' and 'Don't fear the smear'. Both resolutions were carried.

On Wednesday 14th August the WI Centenary Afternoon Tea will be held at Easthampstead Park, but with regret no committee members would be available to attend. An RBH 'Thank You Poster' was circulated in conjunction with the raffle. Judith Sharp (treasurer) announced that in April the sales table made £23.30 and the raffle £21.00.

The clubs have continued their activities: Scrabble on the 8th and 22nd May respectively; the Book Club on 7th May. The cinema group are hoping to see 'Red Joan'. The Milestones Museum trip is now confirmed as Tuesday, 9th July, prices are £12.00 for concessions and £13.00 normal price.

The speaker for May was Sally McCleary from Smart Works, who spoke about the charity and how it helps women to get back to work. Counselling sessions are also provided.

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

# Couple step down after 35 years as 'the caring heart' of Grace Church, Caversham

Warm tributes have been paid to a married couple stepping down after giving unstinting service at the Grace Church in Caversham for more than 35 years. Grace Church, Caversham, is part of Newfrontiers International, a worldwide family of churches

At a special service marking Derek Medd's resignation as an elder, he and his wife Linda were described as 'the caring heart of this church', continually helping people through difficult times. Derek has been an elder at the church since 1984 and in that time, he and Linda have run a Sunday school, a Bible study group for teenagers, a house group and children's holiday clubs. For two years, Sundays for the Medd's, who at that time had two boys of their own, meant attending the church service in the morning, running the Sunday School in the afternoon, going to the evening service at 6.30pm and afterwards hosting the 16-plus Bible study! Over the years Derek has also helped in identifying no fewer than six new

pastors for Grace Church, including, most recently, Keith Saynor who was appointed last year.

Dave Steed, another church elder, thanked the Medd's for all the time and the care they gave to people, for encouraging church members to use their gifts and for their eagerness to link members to house groups. "At times of anyone's distress, illness or redundancy", he added, "Derek and Linda have always been there at the end of the phone."

Thanking the church, Derek said that being a church elder meant going through the personal joys and heartaches of every person in the congregation. "And if you yourself feel down," he said, "it is still important to raise others up."

Reflecting on the church nationally, he predicted that Christians would face increasing opposition and Christian values would continue to be threatened.

"My hope is that we shall have strong leaders during this time," he said.

Needless to say, although Derek will no longer be serving as an elder, he and Linda are not intending to bow out completely. They will be part of a new six-strong pastoral care team and Linda will continue to play the piano for church services, something she first did at the age of 12.



Derek and Linda Medd cut a special cake made to honour their 35 years of service at Grace Church, Caversham.

## SVP events at Our Lady and St Anne's

Our Lady and St Anne's Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) have organised two events recently.

The first was a coffee morning on Saturday 27th April which was held in the Cenacle to celebrate the birthday of the founder of the SVP, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Michael Offen, a parishioner, played unobtrusive background music on a keyboard and SVP members plied those attending with cake and tea, percolated coffee and served other refreshments. During the morning, people popped in for short visits or came and stayed longer but all enjoyed the opportunity to sit and chat with people that

they probably knew by sight in church but rarely had chance to talk to except on a social occasion such as this.

The second event was the annual blessing of the sick Sunday 19th May. To the accompaniment of old familiar hymns, Fr Patrick said a prayer over each sick member of the congregation, blessed them and anointed each one on the forehead and hands with Holy Oil of Chrism. The service ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards, all were invited in to the Cenacle for refreshments and were attentively waited on by members of the SVP. This was another occasion where the SVP reached out to the elderly, the infirm and the housebound of the parish and brought them together to enjoy the company of others in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Michael again provided gentle background music.



Eddie with 99 year old Bridget, With SVP founder on the wall behind



Michael at the keyboard

## Summer Garden Party at St Barnabas Church

The Summer Garden Party will take place at St Barnabas Church, Grove Road, Emmer Green on Saturday 20th July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

There will be various fun stalls such as 'Hook a Duck' and 'Hoopla' but also a bottle stall, tombola, another great hamper raffle, cakes and preserves, handmade crafts, plants and of course our delicious strawberry cream teas. Come and have a fun day out while picking up some bargains and helping us to support our two children's projects in South Africa. More information from Wendy on 0118 946 136.



Eddie, President of SVP, with Mollie in her wheelchair at the coffee morning



Some of the helpers at refreshments after the blessing of the sick

## Simon Cuthbert

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Simon Cuthbert on 25th May after a long illness. He taught at Henley College for 31 years and was the husband of Rev'd Penny Cuthbert of St John's Church, Caversham.



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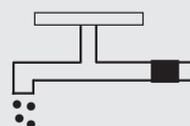
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