

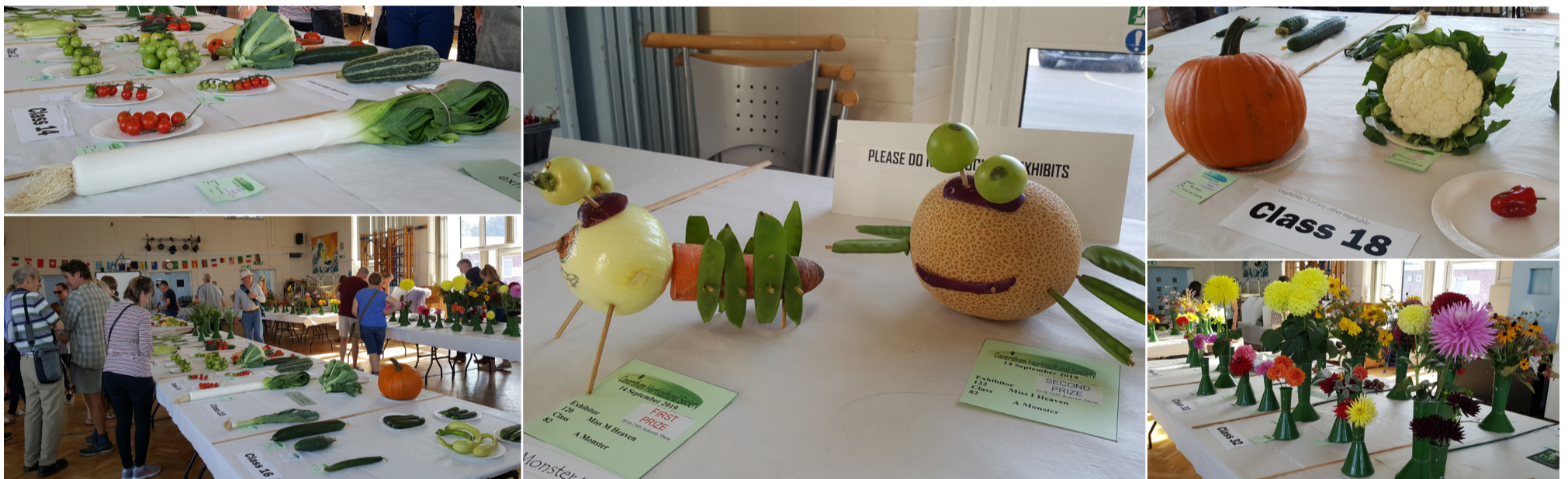
Caversham Horticultural Society's Annual Show 2019 : A Wonderful Display!

On Saturday 14th September Caversham Horticultural Society held its annual show at Emmer Green Primary School under blue skies and with glorious sunshine. In spite of the show secretary's initial fears, there were a large number of exhibits covering all classes as both members and other residents within the RG4 postal district responded to the invitation to bake items, grow fruit, vegetables and ornamental plants for submission to the show. In addition there were classes in handicrafts and a separate section for under 12 year olds.

From 9 o'clock, the school hall at Emmer Green began to be filled with entries and whilst there was healthy competition amongst exhibitors, there was also much mutual encouragement as the midday cut off time for setting up entries drew close and tensions rose! Between 12 and 2pm, the judges cast critical eyes over 86 different categories! Trusses of tomatoes, assorted vegetables of various sizes and colours, beautiful autumn flowers and exciting handicrafts were judged and multiple jars of jam, fruit liqueurs, cakes and cheese straws were tasted and then the places were decided!

Official opening time for the public and exhibitors was 2 o'clock when the results of much dedicated work, often over many months, were revealed! Excitement, satisfaction, prizes and even Cups for some, sadly disappointment for others - with the not always welcome commiseration of, "there's always next year" being offered! As well as the display, there were some lovely stalls selling plants and bulbs and also a garden tool sharpening service was available. Many people came and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, caught up with old friends and relaxed with cups of tea and delicious cakes - and perhaps pondered, whether their... roses, strawberry jam or marrow - might just be worthy of a prize?..... Here's to next year!

If you are interested in joining C.H.S. details of their programme can be found on, www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk



Show Prizes

Jubilee Shield
Vegetables/Fruit/Flowers - Jim McCartney

Ford Silver Challenge Cup
Vegetables - Jim McCartney

Parsons Silver Challenge Cup
Fruit - Gillian Matthews

Ted Tiffen Cup
Flowers - Malcolm South

Baltimore Cup
Novice - Giles Rae

Whiskin Cup
Domestic - Mrs E Rae

Handicraft Cup
Crafts - Francis Serjeant

Devon Cup
Floral Art - Mrs E Joyce

Bob Turner Challenge Cup
Mixed Veg.+ Flowers - Malcolm South

Jean Sawyer Cup
Mixed Garden Flowers - Malcolm South

Society Silver Challenge Cup
Roses - Malcolm South

Voyle Cup
Dahlias - Jim McCartney

Bert Goodson Trophy
Best Exhibit in Show - Jim McCartney

Children's Cup
Aged under 12 - Miss N Maslin

McCartney Cup - Novice/Children -
Miss M Heaven

C.H.S. Silver Bowl -
Most Points in Show
Jim McCartney

R.H.S. Banksian Medal -
Most Prize Money
Malcolm South

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Buying a copy of Caversham Bridge
Caversham Library is no longer able to support the sale of copies of *Caversham Bridge*, but we thank them for this service over a number of years. However, single copies of *Caversham Bridge* will continue to be sold in Caversham Centre. The **Caversham Emporium** is our new sales point. The shop is open every day except Tuesday. Caversham Emporium is well worth a visit to purchase decorative wares. It occupies the former premises of Suprema (the dry cleaners).

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 Martin Beukes, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 0118 947 2223
Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor 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)
Pastor Keith Saynor
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



Colin Ferguson has been the Chairman of Caversham Christian News Ltd since January 2015. He is now leaving the Board of Directors to continue his active retirement. We reproduce a 'Talking Point' he wrote which appeared in the November 2014 issue. Then 'it was as right for its times' as it can be seen to be now in late 2019. It explores themes which Fr. Patrick Daly introduced in his Talking Point last month and both pieces make for constructive contemplation a well as conversation.

I am writing this at the end of September having just returned from a tour of Australia which also allowed me to catch up with friends and family who live there. Even there it was impossible to get away from the fearful activity in the Middle East or the Scottish referendum.

As a Scot, I was deeply concerned that the 'Braveheart' syndrome might prevail and create a country deeply divided and also quite unrepresentative of those who are Scottish. Thankfully, the vote allowed things to remain stable. At the same time there was a bit of me that was delighted that so many turned out for the vote and that the 'yes' vote was as strong as it was. Why? It is totally irrational but my heritage is important to me and I could relate to a cry that said we do not want to belong to a nation that has food banks whilst the rich get richer. The sense that this nation has become unjust has led to division and anger not just in Scotland but widely across the whole nation. The sense of government by an English elite did nothing to prevent ideas of being better off on their own.

The sad thing is that this sense of wanting to be separated pervades the newspapers in particular and far from being a united kingdom I have never known us to be so divided. In the church we have a special responsibility to show that even though we are divided by opinion we are still one in the Spirit, and we no longer reject each other because of our diversity but work together for a better understanding of what good community should be.

We should be speaking out more about the erosion of human rights, the abandoning of equality before the law with the loss of legal aid, and the demonization of the poor as being scroungers and layabouts. I feel especially for teachers at this time. I grew up in a society where they were respected and supported in the hard work that is involved. My daughter became a teacher three years ago, she loves the job and by all accounts is doing well but she is not happy at the pressure of the negative approach by the inspectorate and the apparent determination of the government to say that schools are failing so that they can be put into special measures or turned into academies, which is really another way of saying private schools.

The same tactics are being seen in the health service. My uncle, who was a founding member of the BMA and the National Health Service, would be turning in his grave at what is being done. To get good value we need to cherish our health workers and teachers and all those who try to serve our community. We should be proud of the culture of care and resist the efforts to minimize it or to sell it off.

The next assault is going to be on the European Union, on immigration, and the Human Rights Act. It is already rife in the UKIP. It is a sad reflection on us that one more charismatic politician can so readily attract a following. Politics cannot be about blaming others. It is merely an extension of the rifts building in society now. The truth is that without immigration we would be much worse off. I belong to a church which has several nationalities working together and we welcome them. In Melbourne I attended a church where half the congregation were of Chinese and other Asian descent, and it was good.

Sadly, this is not a political rant as I personally feel disenfranchised by the present system. It is an effort at times to keep supporting it. Perhaps if I had been living in Scotland I could have sympathised even more with the desire to break away, but I believe we are better together and our role now is to try and make that togetherness return. It is what so many died for one hundred years ago and if our remembrance is to mean anything it should be to create the type of society in which they would all find a welcome place.

(Colin Ferguson is an accredited Lay Preacher in the United Reform Church)

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

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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.

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Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter, St Peter's Hill
8.00am Holy Communion – BCP (first, second and fourth Sundays)
Matins – BCP (Third Sunday)
9.30am Holy Communion (second, third and fourth Sundays)
Service of the Word (First Sunday)
6.30pm Holy Communion with Healing Prayers usually 1st Sunday, Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)

St John, Gosbrook Road
9.30am Holy Communion (first, third and fourth Sundays)
9.30am All Age Worship (second Sunday)
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

St Margaret, Mapledurham
11.15am Holy Communion (first, second and fourth Sundays) Morning Worship (third Sunday)
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

St Andrew, Harrogate Road
8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist first Sunday BCP

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green
8.00am Said Communion (BCP)
9.30am Parish Communion
9.30am COGS for all ages (1st Sunday of Month)

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)
Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham
10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
Meeting at Caversham Park School
11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, South Street
10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday
6.30pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) – 2nd Sunday each month
3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family
Fourth Sunday of the month

GRACE CHURCH, Old Peppard Road
10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM
Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road
9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)
Gosbrook Road
10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Our Lady and St Anne, Southview Avenue
Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

St Michael, Sonning Common
5.30pm Saturday
9.00am and 10.30am Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)
Church Street, Reading
10.30am (House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
Church Street, Caversham
9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge 2019: Copy price and subscription price

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

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the November 2019 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 7th October. The date for the December issue is Monday 4th November.

Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the November 2019 issue should be sent Friday 4th October. The date for the December issue Friday 1st November. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

PARISH OFFICES

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Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

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

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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 reserve the right to edit contributions submitted for matters of style, grammar, vocabulary and factual correctness, and to conform to the standards of our established editorial practice. In cases of difference the editors will endeavour to refer back to the submitter of content for resolution.

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New recycling initiative in Caversham

Caversham Heights pre-school in Highmoor Road, Caversham, has teamed up with Caversham Heights Methodist Church and Terracycle in a new recycling initiative. They aim to recycle waste otherwise destined for landfill. The pre-school operates from the Methodist church premises so this joint venture has some built-in sustainability.

The Church, which has recently applied for an Eco-Church Award, has provided an external enclosure for the collection boxes used in the scheme. The facilities are readily accessible and clearly marked to indicate what materials can be recycled. Anyone, including the general public, can use these recycling facilities and everything recycled is a step forward in eliminating waste and helps with fundraising for the pre-school.

There are three collection boxes which are supported by Ella's Kitchen, Colgate and Garnier.

- Ella's Kitchen is a local, Henley based business making baby and children's food sold in pouches. Their collection box collects their pouches, lids and snack packets as well as similar packaging

from other manufacturers.

- The Colgate Oral box collects all brands of toothpaste tubes and caps, brushes and their packaging and electric toothbrush heads, but not toothpaste pumps or any other dental materials.
- The Garnier box is used for a range of packaging not readily recycled locally. This includes plastic pots, tubes, caps and trigger spray pumps. These are also accepted from other personal care and beauty products brands.

Sources of information: The recycling scheme is managed by Terracycle for the supporting companies. For more information see <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades>

The collection boxes are sited at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7BG

Caversham Heights Pre-School web site: <http://www.cavershamheightspreschool.org>.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/>

[category/Religious-Center/Caversham-Heights-Methodist-Church-1493711080933326/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/) Eco Church Awards: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Contacts: Caversham Heights Pre-School – Laura Mines info@cavershamheightspreschool.org

Caversham Heights Methodist Church – Phil Chatfield pchatfield@waitrose.com



The recycling station

St Andrew's pre-school rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Those who drive or walk along Albert Road in Caversham Heights may have been unaware that a local centre of educational excellence is thriving in the precincts of St Andrew's Church. In September 2018 the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary since foundation. Ofsted, the education standards agency, has just made a fourth visit since 2006. Hilary Coome, the manager of the pre-school is clearly very pleased with this public validation, acknowledging the combined efforts of the staff team, the Pre-school Committee and the families involved. The Ofsted press release deserves wider exposure.

The inspection, which took place on 19th June,

praised Hilary and her staff team, saying 'The manager is passionate and dedicated in her role. She takes great care to implement a range of policies and procedures which promote children's safety, welfare and learning at a very high level. The well-qualified and enthusiastic team displays exceptional teaching skills. They give children time to explore and practise new skills, build confidence in their abilities and fuel their own passion for learning'

The inspector also commended the children in the setting and the enabling environment that St Andrew's Pre-school has created for them 'Children are exceptionally happy, secure and independently explore the environment. All children, including those who

need additional support, make exceptional progress in their learning and development from their starting points. They thrive in the highly stimulating environment and are very motivated and eager to learn'

The report also highlighted that 'Partnerships with parents are highly successful. Staff involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning. They value parents' contributions highly'. Parent and Chair of St Andrew's Pre-school committee, Sarah Adlard said "Our family have had a fantastic experience with the Pre-school. My children have benefitted so much from the excellent staff and range of activities, and have really loved their time there. Ofsted's 'outstanding' rating is so well deserved"

The inspection report can be read in full here <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50091554>

The Pre-school is based in St Andrew's church hall in Caversham Heights. Open during term time Monday to Thursday, the pre-school takes children from aged 2.5 – 4 years of age. St Andrew's Pre-school are now offering places for January 2020. Please contact the Pre-school for more information.

Contact information: St Andrew's Pre-school, St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham Heights, Reading. Telephone: 07981 195 435

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Woodford Close Street Party: residents gathering together

Woodford Close held a street party on Saturday 7th September. Located between Woodcote Road and Conisboro Avenue, Woodford Close has seen a natural demographic turnover in the last few years. Some 'originals' remain



Stoking up the barbies!

but for those no longer resident for whatever reason new households have decided to 'move to the Close'. Very recent arrivals brought with them a street party tradition from distant Chazey Road, and after finding enthusiasm for such a street community initiative planning commenced. We can report the event was a great success with resolutions to do it again next year – the start of a tradition perhaps. The weather held fair from 1200 to 1700 on the day, table and chairs were borrowed from the Caversham Heights Methodist Church and at least six barbies were fired up. Children entertained us with a talent show, there was a quiz for the grown-ups, but this was just a catalyst for the real business of getting to know each other better. Woodford Close has tended to be a street of two sides: neighbours on the same side have tended to know each

other better than those opposite. Additionally, the Close has an appendix development known as 'Atterbury Gardens'. For many of us this could be 'up the Amazon' as house to house contact has been much less. No sociological explanation is attempted here (!) but we can report that the street party has produced 'anthropological success.' No longer does the Close have terra incognita! We can reflect with good memories and enjoyment on the party and hope that we can say we know each other a little more and a little better as a result. The organizers were helped by some of them attending a workshop run by CTEL (Champions To End Loneliness) who plan to run similar workshops in January 2020. Details in next month's CB. Many months ago CB ran a small feature on street parties. Well, we have done it and pass on our successful experience to others.



Street party in progress: we did it!

Register for Priority Services

Are you over 60, do you have a disability or do you have young children under 5 years of age? You can register for Priority Services for extra support during power cuts or water outage.

Are you on a low income or in debt? Thames Water can offer financial support if you are eligible. If you think any of these apply to your circumstances then please come to an information meeting on: **Saturday 19th October at 11.00 am at St Peter's Church, Caversham** to find out more and to register for these benefits.

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New chair for Caversham Bridge

Phil Chatfield will become the chair of the Board of Caversham Christian News Ltd from October 2019. He takes over from Colin Ferguson who assumed the position in January 2015. Colin's fellow directors have benefited from his leadership in maintaining the traditions of our community newspaper and in supporting and encouraging development and innovation. We all give him our best wishes for good health and success in future projects. Colin is an accredited Lay Preacher in the United Reformed Church and has a strong interest in hymnology having had several collections published of hymns that he has written and he plans to write more. He joins our pantheon of chairpersons! Phil Chatfield is known to many in Caversham for his many years of community work including being a champion for Fairtrade goods sales in several local churches. He is supported in all these works by his wife Pam. They open their garden once a year in May for a plant sale in support of WaterAid and their home in November for a wonderful sale of fairly traded Christmas cards and gifts - always with delicious refreshments! Phil has also become a regular contributor to our columns with the 'Ecotips' items. We hope that chairmanship does not diminish Phil's appetite for his varied and beneficial interests for Caversham.

The Board and editorial team look forward to working with Phil so that together we can assure the continued future and place of *Caversham Bridge* in our community media diet. Where there are readers to read *CB* we will ensure there is writing to feed the mind!

Details of CCN Ltd officers and the editorial team can be found on page 2 of the monthly issue.

Concerts in Caversham: Wind Serenades ~ Mozart and Dvorak

This is a rare opportunity to hear one of Mozart's most wonderful and extraordinary compositions. Lead by oboist Timothy Watts (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), an elite group of London professionals will perform two of the greatest works for this imaginative combination of instruments. The programme features the *Serenade for wind, cello and double bass op44* by Dvorak and the *Serenade for thirteen wind and double bass K361* by Mozart. The grand finale of our woodwind series has arrived!

The concert is on Saturday 19th October 2019 at 7.30pm. The venue is St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham RG4 7PL. Tickets: In Advance at £16.00, £18.00. On the door at £18.00, £20.00; Under 16s free; Students 16-25 years £5.00. Tickets also available on-line at thelittleboxoffice.com/concertsincaversham

Tickets on sale in advance from Waltons the Jewellers in Caversham (closed Mondays cash only) or phone 0118 948 4112. Refreshments included with ticket; wine available at £3.00.

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Berkshire Family History Society

Have you been inspired by the latest series of 'Who do you think you are?' and want to trace your own family heritage, or just getting into it and want to start from a firm foundation? Berkshire Family History Society are running a Beginners' Family History Course at 'The Centre for Heritage and Family History', 2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ. The society is a registered charity (number 283010). The course will run over four sessions: Wednesday 9th & 16th October and Wednesday 13th & 27th November. Sessions run from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

Tickets for all four sessions cost £30.00 (Berkshire Family History Society members £24.00). The course is designed for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations. Places on the

course are limited so you must pre-book.

Also on at the centre in October, but designed for those who have been researching their family history for longer - a workshop on writing up your family history. It takes place on Saturday 19th October and costs £10.00 for non-members, £9.00 for members. Places are limited, so you must pre-book. The workshop is aimed at those researching their family tree who want to write it up as a story but are not sure how to start. In the workshop, Barry will help you get started and show you how you can structure your account, so that you can write-up your family history while still continuing your research.

Discover more about events going on at 'The Centre for Heritage and Family History' and book your places for the course or workshop at www.berksfhs.org.uk. Alternatively why not pop into the centre during opening hours.

Harvie is back from his jamboree travels

I would like to thank everyone who donated to my amazing trip not just to the 24th World Scout Jamboree, but to all the other events we experienced. *Caversham Bridge* featured my trip and fundraising for it in the May 2019 issue (p.7).

We left Heathrow on 20th July flying to New York, where it was 37 degrees, but we managed to see some of the famous sights: the Empire State Building, Ground Zero, 42nd Street and lots more exciting places, then a boat trip back across the Hudson to our University.

We then had a very long coach trip to the Camp in West Virginia, and it was raining when we arrived, but it soon cleared up and we

were able establish our camp area. We attended the opening ceremony with 44,000 Scouts from all over the world. This was a very memorable event.

We had the opportunity to do lots of activities. I tried my hand at archery, climbing canoeing, mountain biking and skate boarding in the biggest park in America. As well we entertained many scouts with a cup of tea with and a scone - very British. We ate food from many countries particularly our Lebanese neighbours who cooked delicious dinners for hungry friends.

All too soon it was time for the closing ceremony which was a huge entertainment and party, but sadly we had to leave and say goodbye to our new friends and head off to Washington.

We experienced lovely warm weather to take in the sites of the White House and the Washington Memorial, plus a little shopping and a special coffee in an artisan coffee house. Then back to Maryland University for dinner and a comfortable bed!

On Sunday August 4th we went to Baltimore to watch a Baseball match along with the whole of the UK contingent; it was an experience but pretty difficult to understand!

Our final destination was to receive hospitality in Quebec, where we were accommodated and entertained with more unusual skills such as learning how to extract and produce maple syrup and rambling in the pine forest. We had a lovely relaxing time in blow up rings on the river and we walked over the Montmorency Falls Bridge, seeing the huge waterfall which at 276 feet is higher than those at Niagara.

Our last evening was in Quebec City taking in the sights, eating and shopping. After a very short night we were back in our coach for a very long journey homeward bound

Now we are reflecting on our amazing adventure to the biggest world Scout Jamboree ever, the friends we made and the Chief Scout Bear Grylls theme of 'Unlock a New World'.

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WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND CAVERSHAM: OCTOBER 2019

DATE	EVENT
1st - 6th	Henley Literary Festival. 10.00am - 6.30pm www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk
1st	Black History Month – a celebration of Black Heritage and Culture Events across Reading. Tel: 0118 9372771. Free
1st	ALPHA course exploring 'the meaning of life' and questions of faith. Enjoy a meal together, watch a short dvd and then there is open discussion. 7 week course. St John's Vicarage 7.30pm-9.30pm To sign up or for more details contact penny@ctmparish.org.uk
2nd	ALPHA course as above but daytime 10am - 12 noon Babies and pre-school children welcome
3rd	Storytime at Caversham Library 2.00pm - 2.30pm Free
5th	Chris McCausland – professional comedian. Dunsden Village Hall £15
6th	Farmers Market with Artisan Crafts 10.00am - 3.00pm Caversham Precinct Car Park
6th	Open Garden – 'Radcot House' 3 acres of a spectacular Autumn Display OX18 2SX Homemade Teas 2.00pm – 5.30pm Tel 01367 810231
10th	Storytime at Caversham Library 2.00pm – 2.30pm
10th – 11th	Big Sleep Out supporting LaunchPad 7.00pm Reading Abbey Ruins
13th	Open Garden – 'Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens' Slough SL2 4NZ 500 gated gardens 01753 523744 Guided tours every half hour.
13th	Reading NCT 'Nearly New Sale' Highdown School 11.15am - 1.00pm
17th	Storytime at Caversham Library 2.00pm - 2.30pm
19th	Concerts in Caversham 'Wind Serenade'- Mozart and Dvorak St Andrews Church, Albert Road 7.30pm - 9.30pm
20th	Farmers Market and Artisan Crafts 10.00am - 3.00pm Caversham Precinct Car Park
24th	Storytime at Caversham Library 2.00pm – 2.30pm
24th – 27th	Ways and Means serving at Caversham Court Tea kiosk 11.00am- 5.00pm
24th – 31st (not 27th)	'Macbeth' at Reading Minster of St Mary 7 – 9.30pm £7 - £25
31st	Caversham Court Photographic Competition closes. friends@fccg.org.uk

The Caversham Heights Society starts the 2019 – 2020 season with AGM and 'Blood Bikes'

The Caversham Heights Society began its 2019-20 season on Wednesday, 4th September with the Annual General Meeting and a fascinating talk on 'Blood Bikes'.

The AGM, chaired by Keith Watson, reviewed the previous year's activities of 13 lectures, one Christmas event, four visits and one theatre visit. The highly successful mini-holiday to Kent in May attracted comment (very positive), as was the need for someone to volunteer to take on the role of organising such an event in the future. The accounts were in the black for the first time in several years, for which the Treasurer was duly thanked. The existing committee was thanked for all their efforts and was also re-elected. There were 52 members attending the AGM from the current membership of 150.

After a tea and coffee break members reassembled to listen to Capt. Kamran Irani, chairman of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Northamptonshire branch of the 'Blood Bikes' charity, give an informative, inspirational and thought provoking talk about the 'Berkshire Blood Bikes'. Most of us had never heard of these. Apparently, in 1962, a family in South London were in desperate need of a blood transfusion for one member of their family but none was available and there was no means of getting the blood from North London because no transport was available. Fortunately someone volunteered to ride their motor bike to a North London hospital to collect some blood, which proved to be life-saving for the patient. A Mrs Margaret Ryerson, who was part of the desperate family involved in this incident, decided to start a charity that would provide cover from 7.00pm to 6.00am each day when NHS hospitals lacked sufficient staff in their blood units, to take blood and blood products from one hospital to another as required.

Volunteer motor cyclists in this region, using 13 specialist motor bikes provided by Yamaha, Honda and BMW and 3 specialist 4x4 vehicles, cover an area of 1,700 square miles, linking 26 major hospitals. Each rider operates from home and is co-ordinated by a central control centre so that they can be tracked and linked up with other riders as and when necessary. In 2018 the OBBN team answered over 2,000 calls and saved the NHS several million pounds that would otherwise have been spent on taxi fares. Nationally there are 32 groups with 3,000 volunteer members.

During the past few years another service has been provided: the human milk bank. In this region, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, the neonatal Unit in the Children's Hospital helps to co-ordinate the supply of mothers' breast milk to where it is desperately needed. Mothers express any surplus milk, freeze it in small bottles that the 'Blood Bike' riders can collect and deliver to wherever it is most needed. Apparently this service has saved the lives of many premature babies. In 2018 alone there were 80,000 runs alone carrying these life-saving packages which cannot be transported in temperatures below 2 degrees centigrade or above 28 degrees centigrade. It is little wonder that the Blood Bike drivers are called 'Angels of the Dark'. CHS members were unanimous in thanking the speaker for his inspiring talk.

The Society meets on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.15pm in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist Church in Highmoor Road for coffee, preceding a talk which begins at 8.00pm. Our next meeting will have been on the 18th September when the talk will be on 'River Thames flooding control from 1947' and will be reported in CB. Upcoming meetings are on 2nd October ('Reading trolley buses') and 16th October ('The history of Reading gaol'). New members are always welcome and information can be found at www.cavershamheights.org.

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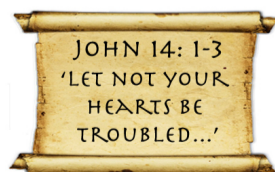
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Crab-apples

During October there should be crab-apples in the hedgerows, there for the taking by anyone willing to deal with them. They are far too hard and sour to be eaten as a dessert fruit, but they are the main ancestor of our cultivated apples, and were used by our forebears in the kitchen.

Over the years, I have photographed the blossom in the spring. This cascade of fruit (pictured) was in an autumn hedgerow near the church at Moulsoford many years ago. I took the picture because the small, round, yellowish apples looked like real crab-apples. Many little wild apples are a bit bigger, and redder, and more flattened in shape like cultivated apples. They are the result of the pips of orchard fruits finding

a suitable place to grow, and they do not come true from seed.

The name of the crab-apple may (or may not) be connected with crabbed or crabby people, and with crustaceans. The word 'crab' meaning the crustacean has been around since at least the 12th century. Crabs are awkward: they walk sideways, they are covered with a hard crust, they will fight with one another, and they will try and nip you if you pick them up. A crabby person is sour, ill-tempered and argumentative. And the word 'crab' meaning a little hard sour apple crops up first in the 15th century.

Like all apples, crabs have found their way into folklore. If you were rash enough to sleep under an apple tree, you might be taken off by the fairies. And of course, poisoned apples were given by witches to their unsuspecting victims. I have recently come across this idea when reading the evidence produced in 17th century witch trials, and still cannot forget the wicked queen and her apple in Walt Disney's 'Snow White.' More innocently, adolescent girls used crab-apples to discover which boy they would marry. This might involve carving initials into the apple-skins, or eating apples at midnight on Hallowe'en. If you looked into a mirror after that – my book does not say for how long – the face of the boy would appear over your shoulder.

Country people have found many practical uses for the fruit as well. Crab-apple jelly goes well with rich meat, as does crab-apple cheese. A few slices in an apple pie will sharpen the flavour, and the juice can be used to add piquancy to cider and home-made wine. Crab-apple juice alone can be made into verjuice, which is used

like lemon juice on cooking. Perhaps I'll try making some of these delights this year.

I will end this article with a few lines of Shakespeare – from the song which ends 'Love's labour's lost.' I learned it at primary school. The 'roasted crabs' are of course crab-apples, and they are being used to make a drink called lambs' wool – warm, sweetened, spiced beer, with crab-apples roasted until the flesh is cooked and they split open. The words always made me a bit sad – I felt sorry for greasy Joan, always keeling that pot!

*'When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whit, tu-who, a merry note
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.'*

Happy Wanderer



Crab-apples in an Autumn hedgerow

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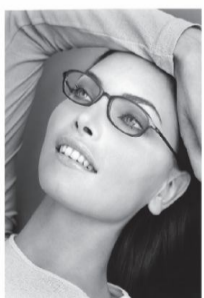
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OPEN MEETING
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Thameside Primary School, Harley Road

CADRA is pleased to welcome two speakers to the next open meeting.

Richard Bennett, Chair of Reading Civic Society has made a detailed study of all of the major planning schemes approved or proposed around Reading.

Mark Worringham, who heads the Council's Planning Policy Team is ideally placed to talk about the creation of the new Reading Local Plan and the changes it will bring.

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North Reading Schools Partnership

This month Caversham Bridge features reports from the six state sector primary schools in Caversham. These reports refer to the summer term of 2019. This extends CB coverage to all primary schools whether in the state sector, denominational or independent and we hope to continue this feature. These reports come from each School and have been co-ordinated by Ruth Perry, the chair of the North Reading Schools Partnership.



Caversham Primary School

It has been a busy term with a visit from Ofsted conducting a pilot inspection of the school trialling the new inspection framework. The Year 4 pupils enjoyed a History day at Ufton Court with activities including archery, a banquet and a sleepover in the Tudor manor house. Year 6 was rewarded for their hard work in their end of primary SATs with a visit to Legoland. The Science department at Highdown School has enriched the curriculum for the pupils providing exciting activities investigating DNA and minibests. The school enjoyed a Summer Fair organised by the CPSA raising essential funds for the school's projects.



Micklands Primary School

A new addition to the school playing field has caused much excitement among the children, parents and staff of Micklands. The new climbing structure, featuring cargo nets, balance beams and monkey bars, will provide our children with further options for playtimes as they can explore the different possibilities that the equipment brings. Deliberately challenging, the climbing frame in particular will help our children to develop their risk-taking skills and encourage them to co-operate with each other. Our thanks go to the PTA and people that have raised or spent money in support of this project.



Caversham Park Primary School

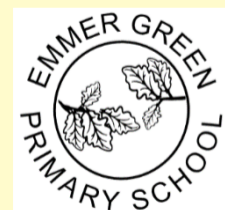
The children and staff at Caversham Park Primary School have certainly enjoyed a busy summer time in school. Participation in various Caversham, Reading and Berkshire sporting events including the Caversham AFC Football Tournament; a Qwik Cricket Tournament at Reading Cricket Club and Orienteering in the finals of the Berkshire Games at Bisham Abbey to name but a few. Along with the school achieving the Bronze School Games Mark it has certainly been a successful summer of sport. All of the children have also enjoyed class visits to places such as Bucklebury Farm, Windsor Castle, the Oxford Natural History Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and Legoland. Whilst the Year 6 children also enjoyed a residential visit to Hooke Court in Dorset. It has been all go at Caversham Park Primary School.



Thameside Primary School

Thameside are very proud to be the first ever recipient of the 'Inside Out Award' that has been created by the educational charity. The award celebrations will take place on 10th July in recognition of the exceptional commitment we make to the happiness and wellbeing of the children at our school. 'Inside Out' started 5 years ago with one Magical Day Out for 10 children from Thameside. Since then, we have participated in every aspect of the 'Inside Out' programme and we have used the '5 Keys to Happiness' framework, created by the charity, to develop a bespoke wellbeing approach for

the whole school to follow, understand and enjoy, and has taken 120 children on a Magical Day Out at Checkendon Equestrian Centre. Headteacher, Sophie Greenaway said "We are incredibly proud of this accolade. We have seen tangible benefits on the wellbeing, health and learning of our children. The Award means a lot to the whole school community."



Emmer Green Primary School

Emmer Green Primary School 'University Week' once again opened its doors to the junior children over three afternoons to give them a memorable and exciting learning experience. There was a huge variety of courses and skills on offer to appeal to all including Gap Year Cookery, Forensics, Be An Olympian and Crafting With Knots to name but a few. It was also a fantastic chance to meet new friends with Years 3 to 6 all mixing together. The children completed their applications online in super-fast time and not one child missed the application deadline!



The Hill Primary School

Another action packed term at The Hill. In April, three Year 5 teams made the Regional Finals of the Jaguar Primary School F1 challenge. They built, designed and raced model cars. In June, the school were proud winners (among 175 nominees) of the annual 'Reading Sports Award's winning Primary School of the Year. Our teachers also scooped awards - Teacher of the Year and Female Commitment to Sport. Other highlights this term have been : Year 5 Energy Workshop; successful participation in the Caversham AFC Football Tournament; our whole school annual photographic competition; the PATHS (our PTA) fun packed summer fayre (including donkey rides and a climbing wall !); and the Forest School nature area tidy up by parents , pupils and staff helping to maintain our fabulous outdoor facility.



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Alfred Martyn-Johns:



The late Alfred Martyn-Johns

Early years:

Alfred Martyn-Johns was born on 7th December 1923 in Manchester. He was the first child of what was to become a family of four children. Like many at this time his parents had been deeply affected by the First World War. His mother, a doctor, had lost her fiancé at the Battle of the Somme and his father, who had been an army chaplain, had experienced the horrors of

the Western Front and had himself been badly gassed in 1917. They had recently returned from India where his father had been a chaplain to the civilian lines but had had to return on the grounds of ill health, having contracted malaria.

Alfred spent much of his childhood growing up in Patricroft, a working-class area of Manchester, where his father was vicar and his mother a doctor, both heavily immersed in working in and supporting the local community – an example which Alfred followed throughout his life.

He had a happy childhood and much of his outlook on life was formed during this time: the strong Christian values that his parents imparted in him; the strong sense of community; the realisation that you only got out of life what you put in to it, and the need for hard work.

The War Years:

At the outbreak of war, Alfred was 15 and shortly afterwards he was sent to North Wales to be tutored and looked after by an eccentric friend of his fathers. He seemed to spend much of the next two years living in a caravan being tutored in the classics and making periodic visits back to Manchester. On his 18th birthday, in December 1941, he signed up and was eventually called up in 1942.

He then spent the next four years in training but with opportunities for practice. Given his academic background he was first identified as good material for a wireless operator, potentially for Atlantic convoys. Later it was decided that he would make a good navigator and bomb aimer and in 1944 he found himself in Canada, his first trip abroad, training as a bomb aimer and navigator on Liberators and Mitchell bombers.

The experience was formative as well as dangerous; flying with novice crews in close proximity to the Rocky Mountains resulted in many accidents and there was a high value set on having a good navigator on board. Alf made many life long friends at this time.

A new career after the War:

Alfred was demobbed in September 1946 and returned to England. He had been planning his return for some time and had already ordered a reconditioned ex- army Enfield motor cycle. He had also decided that he wanted to pursue a career in agriculture.

After much letter writing by him and his father, he managed to get a place at a progressive farm run by a Mr Hobbs at Kelmscott as a student on minimum wage. Here he met Bob Beacroft, a life long friend and his wife to be, Joyce, together with several other quite glamorous people, students from the prestigious Royal Agricultural College nearby.

He learned quickly as the farm dogsbody and later as the Farm Manager's assistant. Most people would have been put off farming if your first experience of it had been during the winter of 1947, but he seemed to thrive. His letters home describe adventures, wading through 4 foot snowdrifts, collecting bread for the villagers by tractor,

wading up to his waist in water rescuing sheep and cattle from flooded fields.

His experiences as a lodger with the farm manager and his wife were not all idyllic and these helped him set a few priorities for future life. He wrote in a letter home to his parents that "I have just come in from afternoon milking and am patiently waiting for my tea as usual. One of the first things I shall want from the future Mrs BAM-J is a capacity or ability to have meals ready at set times, as there is hardly anything more trying than having to wait for meals when you are desperately hungry and only have so long for a meal...". With hindsight Edna was pretty good at that and it was more a case of her having the meal ready and patiently waiting for Alf to return from the farm or some meeting which had overrun.

In February 1948, after seeing many of his friends become engaged, he wrote 'I am becoming a confirmed bachelor. The more I see it, the less I want it'.....and yet in December of that year he wrote to his parents saying "last night I went to the see 'A Canterbury Tale' in Cirencester with Edna. I think I had better explain! Edna is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Wilcox. She is a great sport and has taken to riding on the motorbike like a duck to water. She is fairly small, dark and just bubbling over with energy. More about her later. Now don't jump to conclusions!! Just believe what you hear. P.S. the Canterbury Tales was a very good film". They married in September later that year and so started 70 years of a very loving and successful partnership.

Greendene Farm:

Alfred continued to build up his farming experience, managing a farm at Quarry Hill near Cirencester and then applying to take on farm tenancies. In 1953 he eventually struck lucky with the help of his old friend Bob Beacroft and was granted the tenancy of Greendene Farm, Mapledurham, a small run-down farm of 140 acres neighbouring Bob's farm on the Mapledurham estate. Here he remained for the next 41 years building

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a Tribute

the farm into a substantial enterprise of 300 acres, with a dairy herd, pig herd, large poultry flock and farm shop, as well as growing crops of barley, wheat, oats, maize and grass.

Alfred quickly settled into the local community. He was a strong believer in civic duty, that all should try and contribute to helping their neighbours and improving their local environment. He was an active member of his local church, St Margaret's Mapledurham and was churchwarden for 38 years as well as a member and chair of the Parish Council. He also took a particular interest in Mapledurham playing fields and spent many hours at meetings or doing odd jobs to maintain the parish hall. Whilst he was never interested in political parties, he did have a strong interest in ensuring that the community was supported by an efficient

council and in the 1960s became the local independent councillor and subsequently chair of Henley Rural District Council. Later he was asked to become a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Henley bench for 27 years. I think his magistrate style was 'firm but fair' – he was open minded, always willing to hear the other side's story or point of view, but in the end would make his decision in discussion with his fellow magistrates and clearly articulate that decision. He also found himself taking an active role in the local NFU branch, as well as hosting school and agricultural student visits to the farm, something that he really enjoyed. At times he seemed to be doing more 'other activities' than farming and the number of evenings he would have a 'quiet night in' were few and far between.

I have many happy memories of Mapledurham and life on the farm, of his support and encouragement of Jane and myself in following our interests and working hard at school. He was always very interested in our school reports. I remember the celebrations to mark our successes and the wisdom he showed when we came to him for advice or just to talk things over.

Kintbury:

In 1994, Alfred decided to retire from farming. He was 70, the landlord wanted to take back the farm and life as a farmer was getting infinitely harder. He and Edna started looking for somewhere else to live, close to my sister and Mapledurham, but far enough away for them to avoid all the local responsibilities they had accumulated over the years: the playing fields, the church yard, the parish hall, the parish council, and by great fortune found 29 Church Street in Kintbury. It seemed the ideal house, a large garden to grow excessive amounts of vegetables in, opposite a Church with a good choir and strong musical tradition, set in a reasonably large village sporting a horticultural society and active social life. They set about making the most of it but at the same time began to accumulate all the jobs that they had moved away from; Alfred couldn't help it! He became a churchwarden, he took on the responsibility for maintaining the churchyard, he rebuilt the church wall, he reclaimed what was a very overgrown Christchurch graveyard, he did odd jobs around the church including regularly climbing up the vertical ladder in the church tower to do maintenance jobs (something he got me to do once – it was a scary experience....) and he did this well into his late 80s. He was also a strong supporter of the local Royal British Legion branch spending many hours in meetings and at motorway service stations collecting donations for the Legion. He was also an active member of the Kintbury volunteers, ferrying people to doctor's and hospital appointments. Even when he stepped down from this duty, he still had some loyal customers who wanted him to continue to drive them. For one lady who insisted that he be her driver he said that he would continue to do so although he had to point out to her that all the others he had given lifts to had died. She still said that she wanted him to drive her.

In more recent years he was obliged to slow down. Mobility problems meant that he could no longer do all those maintenance jobs that he seemed to love doing. However, his farming instincts meant that the vegetable garden was kept at full productivity and vast numbers of vegetables continued to be grown which were either frozen or given away to friends and neighbours. This year was no exception with him carefully sowing his vegetables in the greenhouse in the spring and, with the help of Yuri his gardener, planting them out in his huge vegetable patch. Whenever I visited his first request was always that I check on the vegetables and tell him what I thought.

Alf has led a full and inspirational life. It has been governed by a strong belief in the Church, and a set of moral values inherited from his and Edna's family. His love for Edna, his interest in other people and his belief in supporting others, have shaped his life and I believe have left lasting memories for those who knew him. He will be missed.

(Contributed by Andrew Martyn-Johns and based on the eulogy he delivered at the funeral of his father Alfred Martyn-Johns on 8th August 2019)



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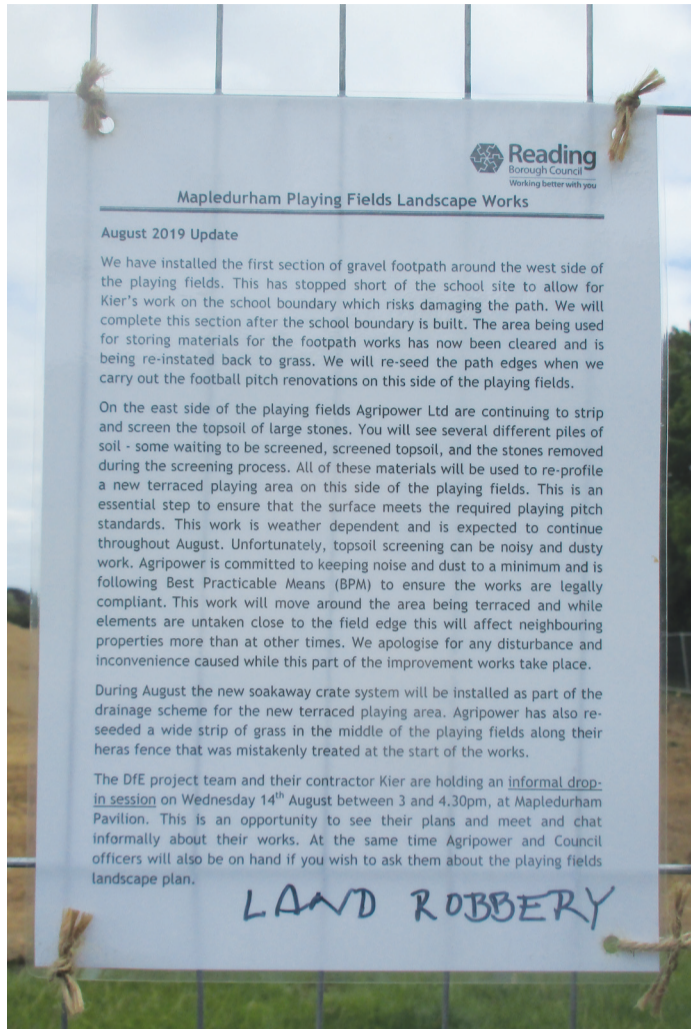
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Mapledurham Playing Fields Update



Progress reports are welcome and detailed but not everyone is satisfied!

The Mapledurham Playing fields in July and August is an idyllic place when the sun is bright and the grass is green. Well, yes, but this year it is 'memories of times past!' No surprise, as CB has covered the new school project (building commences in October) and we are well informed about the playing field as the MPFA has reported for us, and we have covered the 'landscape plan' process. This summer the field is no peaceful playground nor recreational space. Landscaping work has begun with a vengeance. To date about half the area looks like an old East Midlands ironstone quarry. The landscapers are doing the work as required by their contract and the field will not be restored to public use and full access until summer 2020. The school project will provide a further 'industrial' feature in the landscape. To coin a phrase 'it is doing what it says on the box'. The Field will recover but it will not quite be as it was. But final judgment should be suspended. Non-native plantings, and an illuminated path will be an intrusion on past peace and wilderness. Let's hope the swings outweigh the roundabouts. Citizens, please come and view it for yourselves and make your views felt – there is always time. Meanwhile, the photo essay is a memoir and a narrative of summer 2019.

More pictures on page 13



Looking across from Chazey Road



How it used to look, now with renovated pathway



Serious equipment at work



Looks like a quarry now, but it will be restored

More pictures of Mapledurham Playing Fields



Impressive temporary landscape feature, pending restoration



A very inviting sign!



The contractors take over the Fields



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There will be an opportunity to add a special memory or prayer to a Memorial Tree during the service if you wish.



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Lighting

There has been a revolution in lighting in recent years. The familiar orange Sodium street lights have gone, replaced by smaller, more efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). We are increasingly using these in our homes and anywhere we need light. But they cost more than traditional bulbs, so should we use them?

According to a 'Which' review, LEDs use 90% less energy than conventional light bulbs. This compares with the 60-80% savings from the use of compact fluorescent lamps. They concluded these bulbs are the most energy efficient type available, they are long lasting and are bright the instant you switch them on (unlike compact fluorescent lamps). So while they are expensive to buy, their long life (claimed to be up to 25,000 hours) and reduced use of electricity will save you money. They will also reduce your carbon footprint and your contribution to climate change. So they are better for your pocket and better for the planet!

They are not all suitable for use with a dimmer switch, so do check this when buying.

These lights are readily available. Locally, the Homecrafts hardware store in Caversham holds a wide range and will provide advice on the suitability of LEDs for particular uses.

For more information, see the Which review, <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/light-bulbs/article/how-to-buy-the-best-light-bulb/led-lights-explained>

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Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The Club will meet on Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm. Lorraine Saunders will lead the session with designs entitled 'Flowers through the Ages'. There will be a raffle to win her designs. On the same night the Club Competition entitled 'Fireworks' will be launched. We meet at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG. Visitors are welcome. Entry is £6.00 and includes refreshments.

Rosehill WI

We were all welcomed to the August meeting of Rosehill WI by Margaret Pyle (standing in for Arlene Riley). Our Secretary (Ryszarda) gave details of the WI Summer On-Line Ticket offer for Captain Corelli's Mandolin. Judith (Treasurer) reported that last month's sales table raised £12.00 and the raffle £30.00.

Tickets for the Harvest Lunch in October are on sale at a cost of £3.50, so remember, no ticket, no lunch!!!

Margaret introduced our speaker for the afternoon, Simon Jones. Simon is an auctioneer and he gave a very interesting talk about the antiques trade and then went on to value some of the items brought in by members, i.e. a carriage clock, a Victorian christening gown, holiday souvenirs, silver fish slice and server, and several items of jewellery.

After the talk, Barbara Wood gave a vote of thanks.

Finally a cup of tea and a chance to devour the lovely scones and cakes made by members, and Margaret thanked those members who had provided such lovely fare.

The meeting closed with tea, scones and cakes. Rosehill WI meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00 in St Barnabas Village Hall, Emmer Green.

Caversham Horticultural Society

Caversham Horticultural Society has three events in October. On Saturday 5th October there is the autumn plant sale held at the Oakley Road allotments (next to the veterinary clinic) between 10.00am and 11.30am. Also, on that day between 1.30pm and 3.30pm at Caversham Library there will be children's seed planting session as part of the library's 'Fun Palaces' day of events. The following Wednesday, 9th October at a new venue, St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, Angela O'Connell the county organiser will give a talk 'Beyond the Garden Gate: the National Garden Scheme'. Talk starts at 7.45pm. Admission free for members and non-members £3.00. Light refreshments available after talk.

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Memories of Alumni of St Anne's School

The Shaw children attended St Anne's school from 1962 until 1976 and here are some of their memories of their days there. During this time the Visitation Sisters changed their long black habits and big headdresses for shorter dress and a simple scarf and reverted to being known by their Baptismal names

Helen started in reception in 1962 with Sister Joseph who she remembers used to give hugs and always used to smell lovely. She remembers – "We used slate boards and chalk. There were alphabet charts round the walls and ink-wells in the desks but no ink. Later Sister Christine gave me piano lessons for a while. She ran a youth club and we made a life size Papier Mache person. I remember the Christmas tableaux we did at Christmas - holding the same position for what seemed like hours - and I remember Prize Giving days. I think I actually won something. The nuns wore long black dresses with rosary beads round their waists at first. It was a shock when they went into short dress and changed their names.

"We used to walk round to church in a crocodile and we used to stop at midday to sing the Angelus when the church bell rang. I remember all the class standing by the side of the road when Mr Carter died and bowing our heads and making the sign of the cross when he went by in the hearse. We did this for other special people as well but I specially remember Mr Carter."

Bernard remembers being in charge of the rabbits. Apart from daily feeding etc. he remembers once a week having to take a big bucket of rabbit poo

round the playground and into the convent garden and put it on their compost heap.

David's main memory was the talking Mynah bird outside Sister Christine's office. He remembers once a week polishing the parquet floor in the end classroom. They would push all the desks to one side, wrap their shoes in soft cloths and then, using the space like a skating rink, go all over the floor cleaning and polishing it as they went. When they were out in the playground, if a hearse happened to pass the school, everyone would stop and stand still and bow their heads.

Trish remembers The Mayor of Reading, Mr Joe Bristow, visiting the school to present prizes in 1974. He had been a pupil at the school in his own school days. Among other awards, he presented the school house winners' prizes. (Names of these were later engraved on the house cups which were on show at the Alumni day celebrating the 120th anniversary of the school.) She was especially fond of Sr Sheila who she said was very kind. She loved playing games in the playground – conkers (in the days before Health and Safety rules banished such 'dangerous activities'), skipping and British Bulldog, for example. Sad memories were of lining the street on two occasions to pay respects as the hearses passed by for two children from school who had died. The fact that they were contemporaries made a big impression.

(Contributed by Jane Shaw, with thanks to those interviewed)

Welcome service for new Minister for Caversham Heights Methodist and Caversham Methodist Churches

As is Methodist practice, a welcome service for the Rev Martin Beukes was held on Sunday 8th September led by the Superintendent Minister of the Basingstoke and Reading circuit, the Rev David Shaw, and the special guest preacher was the Chair of the Southampton Methodist District, the Rev Canon Dr Andrew Wood. We were particularly pleased to welcome Andrew as he will shortly be leaving the District to take up a new position of Head of Ministries in the British Methodist Church.

A large congregation from around the circuit and local churches in Caversham enjoyed singing several rousing hymns:

'O worship the King all glorious above'..

'Brother, sister let me serve you',

'Oh thou who camest from above' to the tune 'Hereford' by special request

'Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah' (a 'must' at any great Methodist occasion) all accompanied by Peter Bernard on the magnificent Caversham Heights organ.

An unusual feature of the service was a time of open prayer (*'Open Eyes Prayers'*) with images shown on the screen of some of the activities in which the two churches are involved:

Summer Holiday Club for primary school children during the first week of the summer holidays.

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Holiday at Home

A more solemn part was the formal presentation of Martin to the church when he promised to serve us faithfully. This was followed by a less formal time when many of the local clergy personally welcomed Martin and Nicole to the area together with representatives from all the organisations with which both churches had connections. In his closing remarks David Shaw

mentioned that there was to be a retiring collection for **'Launchpad'** and **'Readifood'** – two local charities supported by both churches.

A sumptuous tea had been prepared by both churches and was served in our church hall.

We would like to thank all those who took part in preparing the tea, setting up and clearing up! (always the hardest task at the end of a busy day) – but we all felt it had been a very happy occasion.

We welcome Martine and Nicole and look forward to their ministry.



Welcome handshakes from Caversham Clergy, Basingstoke and Reading Circuit representatives and members of the various organisations connected with our churches.



Martin and Nicole



Our magnificent organist – Peter Bernard (right) in discussion with Padam Agrawal - a regular attendee at our services

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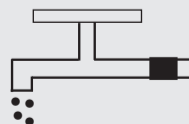
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