

# Sub Post-Office returns to Caversham Centre: great news for the community

Over the last year Caversham Bridge has followed the story of the closure of the Sub-Post Office at Day Lewis pharmacy in Church Street (next to Tesco Express), the efforts by Matt Rodda MP to interact with the Post Office and the disappointment and frustration when no solution was forthcoming. The Post Office believed the reinstatement of a sub-office on Caversham Road provided mitigation for the loss to Caversham Centre. This could not be the case, although people in that locality 'over the bridge' rightly had a local asset restored. Matt Rodda was reassured that the search for a suitable site would continue. In the last two weeks a very positive and happy announcement has been made.

*'The Post Office is planning to re-open Caversham Post Office at a new location - Hemdean Stores, 47 Hemdean Road, Caversham, RG4 7SY. The previous branch at Day Lewis Pharmacy, 30 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AU, closed temporarily in January 2019, due to the resignation of the operator and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use. To restore Post Office service to the area as soon as possible the branch is opening at the new location on **Monday 9 March at 1.00pm**. The planned opening hours are Monday to Sunday: 8am - 8pm offering 84 hours of Post Office service a week for the convenience of customers. This new location is 210 metres away from the previous branch.'*

Mr Kapoor who has run Hemdean Stores for 20 years will be the new Postmaster and following the announcement, the 'Post Office' has invited customers and interested parties to give their comments. They would like feedback about accessibility, local community issues and anything that they can do to make life easier for their customers. Hopefully feedback from the consultation will be positive and constructive. The reality is that identifying premises and engaging with potential new proprietors is not always straightforward or easy. So the proprietors of Hemdean Stores are to be thanked for taking on the challenge and adding the sub-post office function to their business.

The Hemdean Stores at 47, Hemdean Road, RG4 7DY is a well-established newsagent and grocery business at the intersection of Priest Hill and Hemdean Road. It is less than 200 metres from the Caversham Public Library and bus stops and very close to the Balmore Park GP surgery. Prospect Street, St Martin's precinct and the main retail cluster of Caversham Centre is nearby. The locality also has good pedestrian footfall and physical visibility (look out for the new red sign and logo!).



So now Caversham Centre is regaining the full range of sub-post office services, we need to make sure we use it. The services offered include: opening daily from 8.00am to 8.00pm; convenient and quick service in a modern retail environment; customers of main UK banks can access accounts at the branch and in addition, you may pay bills, withdraw cash and currency as well as access postage, home shopping collections and returns.

Well, perhaps this is a case of 'all's well that ends well' even if we have endured some annoyance and inconvenience in the meantime. Our local MP was also re-elected in the interval between two sub-post offices, so what has been achieved is not only credit for his efforts on our behalf, but a demonstration that community feeling has to be, and can be, turned into action and success.

by Stephen Roberts



Mr and Mrs Kapoor who will run the post office. Photos are by C Moloney

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# TALKING POINT

by Rev'd Nigel Jones



## Do you need to be perfect to live with God?

You are probably reading this some time not far from 26 February, Ash Wednesday. At St Andrew's on this day we are exhorted to "turn away from sin". But how? What should we do in response to these words?

I am writing this in January when we have just been hearing the words of John the Baptist: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

But what does this mean? How does Jesus take away the sin of the world?

Clearly not by making everything perfect. The world carries on pretty much as normal. Human beings, including Christians, continue to live in a state of imperfection, which we call sin, including but not limited to, moral imperfection.

So how then? Jesus' death and resurrection have not returned us to the Garden of Eden. We still sin and we still have pain in childbirth. We still have to till the soil by the sweat of our brow and deal with thorns and thistles. All the consequences of Adam's and Eve's disobedience are still with us. Snakes are still horrid. The little child still cannot put its hand on the adder's den. That remains an eschatological hope, a hope of a heaven to come.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". One way we think about these words as fulfilled is in the promise of life with God in the future, that we will be in Paradise in the life beyond this one. Perhaps as Christians we should think and proclaim more often and more confidently that we are looking forward to going to heaven!

But we're certainly not there yet. For now, it seems that the Christian solution to the world's brokenness and sin is to accept it. God's forgiveness of our imperfection, and our forgiveness of one another's. And acceptance of all the pain and suffering of this life, as we identify with not a Greek God on Mount Olympus, but a crucified God here in the midst of the sin of the world.

I sometimes come across evangelical Christians who object to a regular saying of a confession because they sought God's forgiveness when they became Christians and now, as the first letter of John tells us, if anyone is in Christ he does not continue to sin. But whatever those words are supposed to mean, they clearly do not mean that people become morally perfect when they become Christians. A regular confession, whether formal in liturgy or, much more powerfully in my experience, informally between you and God - asking for forgiveness is ongoing and will never end this side of the grave.

So does Jesus take away the sin of the world by a kind of acceptance of human sin? By making it kind of OK. And by declaring God's never-ending forgiveness, like in the father of the Prodigal Son? But not once: every day?

You might say, that's not taking away the sin of the world, that's just compromising with it. Well of course it is. Clearly the world remains a sinful place. Morally deficient and full of brokenness and pain.

Or you could say, as critics of Christianity sometimes do, well that just means that you can live your life however you want, sin away, and it doesn't matter because you can just say sorry. But if that is your attitude then you are not really saying sorry. Seeking God's forgiveness inevitably means repentance. You haven't got to convince anyone else that you mean it - only God.

And although there are no doubt plenty of people who go by the name of Christian who do live insincere and unrepentant lives, we also know many people whose Christian faith has led and continues to lead them to be the most moral, virtuous, courageous, self-giving and loving people on this planet. That's not necessarily famous heroes of the faith. It might be the old man who lives next door.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." How? Clearly not by waving a magic wand and returning this world to the state of the Garden of Eden. So how?

By declaring that it is OK to be a sinful human being. By accepting that that is the only state in which you can be human. By asserting that God loves and accepts us as we are, despite our imperfection. By challenging, maybe, the widespread belief that you need to be perfect to live with God?

The Cross of Christ is sometimes described as God taking responsibility for the brokenness of creation.

Whether you take this as licence not to try to follow God's ways, or whether you respond in love and gratitude and seek to follow him, will be up to you.

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# 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  
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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)**  
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10.30am (House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

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Church Street, Caversham  
9.30am Sunday School  
11.00am Divine Worship  
6.00pm Evening Service

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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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# The Future for Reading Golf Club and EmmerGreen

We begin a new decade, and, as Reading Golf Club Chairman, I wanted to explain the Club's vision for the future. Many will have read about our decision to move to an upgraded course at Caversham Heath which is about ten minutes away from our current course. It was not a decision we took lightly. We have spent decades at Emmer Green - many of our club members live in Emmer Green - and it is somewhere we hold close to our hearts.

The truth is that remaining at Emmer Green would mean imminent insolvency and collapse for the club so the status quo was just not a sustainable option. With too few and declining membership numbers, we are losing significant sums of money every week and maintenance costs are spiralling. The fact that the course is surrounded by houses on each side means there is no opportunity to develop the sort of additional facilities needed to attract new members.

Insolvency and club collapse are not things that anyone in the golf club would want to see happen. Not just because of our personal interests in protecting the future of a club we love, but because of what that would mean for the Emmer Green neighbourhood. The abandoned course might become at risk of anti-social behaviour and criminality. This was not something we were willing to let happen - so we had to compromise.

Compromise meant agreeing to working with Fairfax Developers to give us a real chance to do the two things that matter the most to us: saving Reading Golf Club and making sure our land at Emmer Green provides an appropriate, sustainable and beneficial legacy and doesn't instead become abandoned, derelict and potentially dangerous.

We are already starting to achieve those things. We are working closely with Fairfax to begin the process of moving our club to Caversham Heath, whilst having conversations with people and groups across Reading about the future of

our Emmer Green land. If we work cooperatively together we can find a solution that through careful stewardship can:

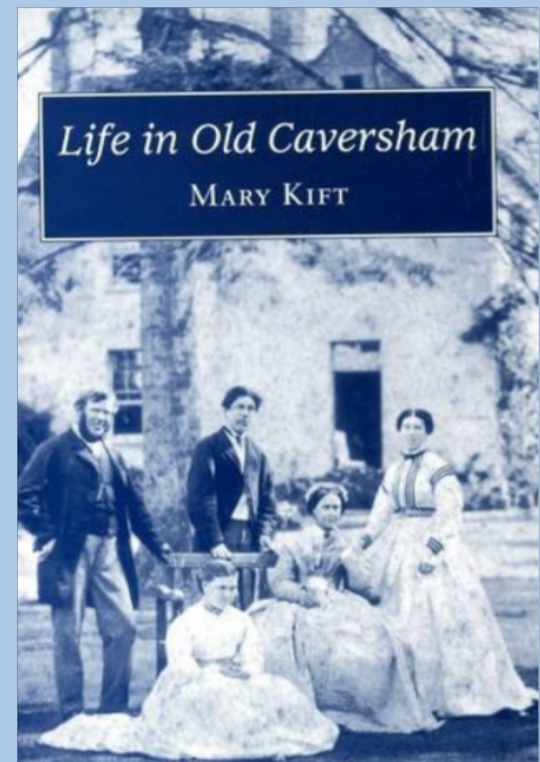
- Unlock enough money to allow Reading Golf Club to have a secure financial future at Caversham Heath, saving golf in the area for future generations, and making major investments in new sporting facilities, as well as securing people's jobs
- Bringing new, and much needed, healthcare facilities to Emmer Green
- Help to address Reading's acute need for new, reasonably priced, family homes
- Provide funds towards public transport and play space improvements
- Open up significant land at Emmer Green in the form of a new park, land which is currently private and not accessible to the general public
- Provide opportunities for better, safer walking and cycling links between Emmer Green and Caversham.

This is a difficult compromise for everyone at Reading Golf Club. We are not property developers, and I would prefer to be teeing off rather than having discussions about planning permissions or local plan allocations. **But doing nothing was not an option for our club.** We were not prepared to abandon our members and everyone who lives in Emmer Green.

A public exhibition of the plans for our land at Emmer Green was held last month which may not be exactly what all would want, but now I hope at least you will understand why they are needed. If we get it right, we protect the future of Reading Golf Club and leave a legacy in Emmer Green that the community can be proud of. If we don't, the next decade becomes uncertain. Please work with us and everyone else at Reading Golf Club, to make sure we get it right.

By Colin Reed, Golf Club Chairman

## Much loved local history book once again for sale in Caversham



Since the closure of our local bookshop, Mary Kift's fascinating book 'Life in Old Caversham', tracing the history of Caversham, has been unavailable, except via the internet.

John and Lindsay Mullaney, who published this book and sold it through Caversham Bookshop, are thrilled that the newly-opened Caversham Emporium, which is next to the Alto Lounge and managed by Jayne Lee, are now stocking Mary's book.

The book costs £10.00. John and Lindsay would like to contribute some of the profits to local charities.

Mary would no doubt be delighted to know that, for the first six months, £2.00 from each sale will be donated to St Peter's Church 'Re-ordering Appeal'.

Do drop in to this fascinating shop which aims to be very much part of our local community.

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Church Street, Caversham Centre, RG4.

# Michael Noel Eggleton O.B.E.

– died 2 January 2020

Mike was born on Christmas Eve 1932. He and a gang of friends attended Ealing Green Congregational Church in the 1940s – the only Church specifically built for children. Mike and Sheila met through the group and were married in the Church in 1958. Mike was a member of the Young People's Fellowship, the Ealing Green Players and the Church Choir. He was a keen tennis player and an ardent Brentford Football Club Supporter, and even dragged poor Sheila along sometimes to shiver on the terraces.

Mike was an innovative and creative electrical engineer who, for most of his working life, was at the cutting edge of his chosen profession. He spent 55 years in the UK Electricity Supply Industry covering generation, transmission and distribution networks.

As Director of Engineering at Yorkshire Electricity, Mike led a project to build one of the first wind farms in the UK – the Overton Moor Wind Farm. Later, after

privatisation of the industry, he became a Director at Secure Electrans Limited where he led the sector in its development of the first in-home Smart Meters which became key to reducing electricity consumption in the home.

A recurring theme for Mike was being at the heart of the industry's efforts to innovate and develop new technologies. He was always ahead of his time and nowhere was this more apparent than in renewable energy projects.

As an Executive Director of British Electricity International, he spent many years exporting UK expertise in building power stations and electricity grids to developing countries around the world.

His work at home and abroad was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 1990 when he became an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Mike was a great man whose enthusiasm for his industry and professional curiosity were infectious. He loved what he did and was always totally committed to the projects to which he was such a key contributor. He was one of those unsung heroes who, quietly and without fuss, had a massive impact on people's lives.

Mike and Sheila had numerous interests outside of work – one major one was their involvement in Caversham Court Gardens which they were involved with right from the start in 2007 when Reading Borough Council obtained Heritage Lottery funding to refurbish the gardens. At the time, The Eggletons lived in The Lodge, the quaint cottage opposite St Peter's Church. As a founding member of the Friends' Committee, Mike gave generous donations towards this refurbishment, and also gave stones from their rockery which had originally come from the rubble when Caversham Court was demolished in the 1930s. When Sheila sadly died, it was fitting that a willow tree was planted in the gardens in her memory on the edge of the river where she and Mike had spent so many happy times. History was one of Mike's many passions, and he enjoyed nothing more than guiding visitors around Caversham Court and then into St Peter's Church.

In 2015, he was very supportive of the Friends' Exhibition related to William Marshal and Magna Carta, and it was his insistence that a more permanent commemoration should be made; hence the panel which has now been placed on the downstream side of Caversham Bridge.

'Rest in Peace' dear Mike. Thank you for all you did to make this world a better place. You and Sheila will be remembered fondly in the years to come.

*Contributed by colleagues, family and friends of Mike*



Mike with Dr Thomas Ashbridge

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# History of Reading Society

## A trip along the IDR

The subject of the talk in January was 'A Trip Along The IDR'. The speaker was Graham Turner. Graham was born and raised in Coley and runs the Coley Local History Facebook page.

Graham is now the custodian of a collection of colour photographic slides made by the late Doug Noyes: they chronicle the construction of the Reading IDR or Inner Distribution Road.

The archive has views of the streets and buildings along the entire future route of the ring road where so many of them were scheduled for demolition. The images were accompanied by an audio recording of Doug's personal commentary where he referred to the features of interest such as the names of shops and their trades.

The route of the first stage of the IDR would run between Caversham Road and Mill Lane. Construction began in 1969 but due to financial and planning problems it was not completed until 1989.

Graham's family was itself displaced by the first phase of the road's construction: he lived with his parents in a terrace house at Bright Street in Coley where, he said, "even in 1969 many of the houses had no electricity and street lighting was provided



*Kennet & Avon Canal Cut and Watlington Street Bridge*



*Lost Coley – a view of derelict houses at Flint Street shortly before demolition*

by gas lamps". The Turner family were the last residents to leave.

Coley was the neighbourhood most altered by the arrival of the road. Many streets and their familiar names would disappear forever: Bright, Flint and Henrietta Streets among them. Many businesses would either move or close; especially missed were the local pubs like the Borough Arms at Brook Street and the Rose and Crown at Coley Street. Many of the displaced residents would relocate to elsewhere in Reading.

In 1973, the part of the route that most incensed public opinion was the proposed link between Southampton Street and Forbury Road: one section would encroach into the Forbury Gardens, the town centre's principal open space. The plan was to sink the road in a trench and drive it straight through the western half of the gardens. In addition, the Forbury Lion War Memorial would have to be relocated to the new pedestrian bridge that would cross it. A small pressure group 'The Hands off the Forbury' successfully campaigned to prevent the road being built there.

To enable road widening some notable river crossings would go: the ornate Victorian lattice iron-work bridges along the river Kennet at Forbury Road and Watlington Street would be rebuilt.

In 1988, during the construction of the final stage of the IDR at Forbury Road opposite the prison, a length of wall erected in the 19th century had to be removed to enable the road to be widened. During excavations it was discovered that some of the material used in its construction may date from the medieval period, also, its course followed that of the northern perimeter wall of the former Reading Abbey—originally known as the Plummery Wall. It was therefore decided that the new wall of the central reservation of the dual carriageway would follow its old course with the earlier wall preserved beneath it.

Recently, proposed 'improvements' to the road have included making the entire IDR one-way to improve traffic flow, and, decking-over the section between Castle Street and Oxford Road to create a public space.

The subject of the next talk will be the Old Redlands Estate. The speaker will be Keith Jerrome. It will take place at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading on Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome, £2 to non-members.

By Graham Turner



*Construction of the Mill Lane fly-over*



*Inner Distribution Road during construction*

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# Join in Fairtrade Fortnight 2020!



Each year the Fairtrade Foundation organises Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year runs from 28 February to 8 March. For two weeks, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, and who grow the

cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid. This year the focus is on cocoa, the special role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes, and sharing new stories to get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate.

Reading is a Fairtrade Town and there will be events across the town, including Caversham. Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee, bananas and chocolate are widely available in Caversham shops, including Oxfam, Waitrose and the Co-Op, so look out for the Fairtrade logo and special offers during the Fortnight.

Caversham Heights Community Cafe (The Fisherman) at St Andrew's Church will hold a Fairtrade Charity Opening on 27 February, from 2-6pm. Proceeds to Traidcraft, the UK pioneers of fair trade. St John's Church in Gosbrook Road will have a Traidcraft stall after their 9.30 service on Sunday 1 March at 10.30.

On Wednesday 4 March, Reading University will host "The Fairtrade Lecture" at 6.30, with guest speaker John Steel, the Chief Executive of Cafe Direct, the Fair Trade beverages company.

A full programme of the Reading Fair Trade Events is available to download at [www.readingfairtrade.co.uk](http://www.readingfairtrade.co.uk) and [www.risc.org.uk](http://www.risc.org.uk) also visit Facebook:

ReadingFT and Twitter @FT\_Reading for the latest updates of events and news.



## from Matt Rodda Caversham's MP

As a Caversham resident, I'm honoured to have been asked to contribute to the Caversham Bridge. It is an exceptional example of a local publication that provides important updates for residents and I really enjoy reading it.

As your MP, I want to ensure you get regular updates on my work in our community and in Parliament. I hope this will be of interest to residents and that it will help people hold me to account to help ensure Caversham and Emmer Green get the representation they deserve.

There has been some good local news for residents so far this year. I was pleased to see that a Post Office will open in Hemdean Stores, knowing how important a local service is to the community. I was delighted to see that Post Office management has listened to the campaign for a post office in Caversham centre.

I was also pleased that Reading Borough Council rejected the application for a five-storey hotel which was proposed to be built next to Crowne Plaza near to the Caversham Bridge and the Rivermead Leisure Centre. The building would have had a negative impact on conservation efforts nearby and I will be monitoring this situation as it progresses.

Finally, I'm delighted that Reading Hydro has made such exceptional progress towards its goal of offering hydro-electric power to residents. Tackling Climate Change is one of my top priorities and local schemes like this can make a huge difference in the effort to protect our planet.

Please contact me on [mattroddampcasework@parliament.uk](mailto:mattroddampcasework@parliament.uk) if you would like to raise any issues with me or to book a meeting at a surgery. I also provide a monthly constituency update email which you can subscribe to by going to [mattrodda.net/](http://mattrodda.net/) newsletter.

## Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club are holding their first meeting of 2020 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm.

Arnuad Metaire is the guest and the title of his talk is, 'Halcyon Days in Hyderabad' which sounds intriguing.

Visitors are most welcome - entry is £6, refreshments are 60p, and the raffle to win the designs created is 50p per ticket.

It is a friendly and welcoming club and, if you have a love of all things floral, do please come and join us.

For more information, contact the Chair, Julie Druce, on [julie.druce@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julie.druce@yahoo.co.uk)



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# Sweet Violets



According to the old song, they were “sweeter than the roses,” and now is the time to look for them on hedge-banks and at the edges of woods.

To many people, violets are just violets and ‘there’s an end to it’, but in fact there are at least nine species of wild violet in the British Isles, of which the Sweet Violet is one. Some of them are very rare – the Fen, Teesdale and Pale Dog Violets. But the Sweet Violet is fairly common round here, and instantly recognisable because of its perfume. The ones in the picture were photographed on the edge of Mapledurham Playing-Field on 4 March last year.

Violets have long been used in folk medicine. Poultices steeped in the liquid in which violet leaves had been boiled were supposed to cure cancerous growths, though this belief does not seem to be supported by modern medical knowledge.

Crystallised in sugar, violet flowers are used in cake decoration, and I imagine a panna cotta, flavoured with violet oil, might be pleasant.

The Queen, on Maundy Thursday, traditionally carries a posy containing violets and other scented flowers when she distributes the Maundy Money, traditionally given to poor and decrepit subjects. In the past, the monarch would wash their feet, and the flowers were to disguise any unpleasant smells, and, as believed at the time, to ward off infection.

The very thought of violets takes me back to childhood, and my earliest days at school. We sang about a “Little modest violet blue, Spangled all with morning dew,” and the concluding lines of the verse were “God protects you by his care, He has made you bright and fair”.

And then there were the scented sweets called Parma Violets, invented and made by a firm called ‘Swizzells Matlow’ in New Mills, Derbyshire. They were round, concave tablets, sold in paper tubes, a bit like Refreshers and Trebor Mints, made on the other side of the Peak District in Chesterfield, but violet coloured and scented.

These days, Parma, in northern Italy, is perhaps more famous for ham than for violets. The original Parma Violets were first produced by cross-breeding in the sixteenth century, but they wouldn’t set fertile seed and had to be reproduced from cuttings. The oil made from the flowers

is still produced, and is used in cookery, and to flavour gin. The perfume made from the flowers was popular among ladies of my grandparents’ generation. If it wasn’t violets, it was lavender or mothballs!

As a girl’s name, Violet is now decidedly out of fashion, but I did once have an Auntie Vi, and I well remember the Saturday afternoon children’s radio programme on the BBC Home Service, in which another Auntie Vi sang the nursery rhymes and accompanied herself on the piano. In real life she was the actress, Violet Carson, who was to achieve fame later as ‘the old battle-axe in a hairnet’, Ena Sharples, in the ITV soap opera, ‘Coronation Street’!

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# William Marshal Celebrated at The Temple Church



We arrived very early at the Temple Church, afraid that the church would be full and we would not be able to get in. At 5pm, the side door opened and out came a tall figure in scarlet robes, nodding to the waiting queue and smiling. He noticed that I was holding a book, the new book about William Marshal. "Ah!" he cried, "you have bought my book". It was Robin Griffith-Jones himself, the Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple. "Where have you come from?" he said. "We're from Caversham." we replied. "From Caversham! Welcome. You are in the right place," he called back and beamed.

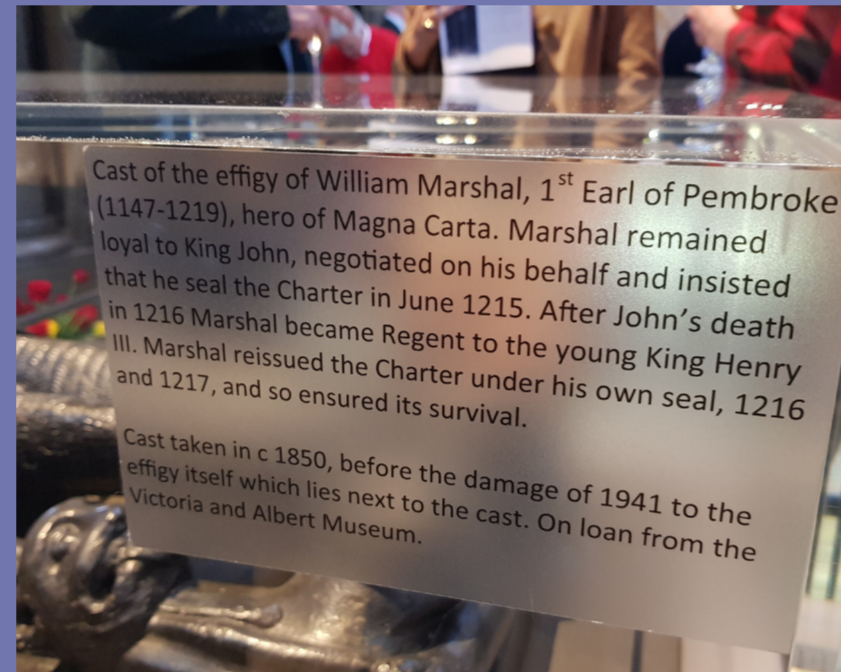
The right place, indeed. The Temple Church, one of London's most historic and beautiful churches built by the Knights Templar, where William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke was buried on 20 May 1219. To mark the 800 years since his burial, the Temple Church was holding a solemn choral evensong, open to the public but attended by many familiar faces from the senior judiciary and public life.

At 5.30pm the organ struck up and the ground began to reverberate beneath our feet. The choir, all in black, gathered in the Round Church, then processed down the packed nave, following more scarlet-robed clergy led by the Reverend and Valiant Master. Glorious sounds soared upwards, echoing round the magnificent vaulting. Every voice joined in the with the singing, hymns from Ireland, Wales and England, all the lands where William Marshal had vast estates. There was an organ piece by the French composer Louis Vierne: William had lands in France too.

Readings were from 'The History of William the Marshal', a biography commissioned by William's eldest son and completed around 1226 - a unique document of its time, and from Magna Carta of 1215, which thanks to William survived after King John had effectively annulled it. The last reading described William's burial service in the Temple Church in 1219, how the mass was sung with due splendour, the clergy were in full vestments, and all "so elegantly and gloriously" performed, just as we were doing 800 years later. Then we stood for the rededication of William's burial place in the Round Church.

All this ceremony was quite overwhelming. There was William's grave, his effigy battered by wartime bomb damage - adorned with flowers and candles. Next to it a replica, providently made by the Victorians, and borrowed from the Victoria & Albert Museum for the anniversary. Going out into the hustle and bustle of 21st century London felt very odd. Should we not be heading to the Thames, and taking a boat upstream? Having paid our respects at the shrine, should we not trudge our way home like medieval pilgrims? No. Run for the train at Paddington and share a pizza on the way home. Back down to earth - but inspired, nonetheless.

By Vickie Abel - Chair of Friends of Caversham Court Gardens



Cast of the effigy of William Marshal, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke (1147-1219), hero of Magna Carta. Marshal remained loyal to King John, negotiated on his behalf and insisted that he seal the Charter in June 1215. After John's death in 1216 Marshal became Regent to the young King Henry III. Marshal reissued the Charter under his own seal, 1216 and 1217, and so ensured its survival.

Cast taken in c 1850, before the damage of 1941 to the effigy itself which lies next to the cast. On loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum.



## Celebration of William Marshal 'The Greatest Knight' 800 years Anniversary The Temple Church, City of London 22nd May 2019 and The Crowne Plaza, Caversham 26th November 2019

Closing off the 800th anniversary year and completing the project for a panel on Caversham Bridge, was celebrated with a party held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 26 November 2019.

CADRA welcomed Cllr David Stevens, Deputy Mayor, Richard Bennett, Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire and Chair Reading Civic Society, donors to the project, people who had assisted the project - including RBC officers, local businesses, local Councillors and individuals and organisations who support local community activity and local history.

Helen Lambert, CADRA Chair, opened by explaining some of the story behind the creation of the panel. She recapped the main points of William's life. He was born about 1147, a landless younger son. He spent his teenage years in Normandy, training in combat and made a name for himself in tournaments and in battle and was appointed tutor-in arms to Henry, the young heir to the throne who was to die young. Joining the courts of Henry II, Richard I, and then King John, he acquired substantial lands through marriage to the young heiress Isabel de Clare and was a leading Baron who commanded widespread respect. So, when King John died, it fell to him to protect England from French Invasion, to make some kind of peace in turbulent times and to rule as Regent for the young Henry III. With widespread responsibilities at Court and for his lands, it is difficult to say that he "lived" anywhere. But we know that, terminally ill, he chose to leave London for his Manor at Caversham and it was here that he died. And there is clear evidence of close links with Reading Abbey.

Mike Eggleton (see obituary on page 4) had for many years been a great champion of William Marshal. It was his enthusiasm to create a statue of Marshal that first sparked discussion about a panel. And it was his particularly generous donation which gave confidence that the project could take shape.

Marking the 800th anniversary of Marshal's death, there has been interest all year across the country. Dr Elizabeth Matthew, Reading University gave a fascinating talk at the Reading branch of the Historical Association.

Councillor Rose Williams, a great enthusiast for William Marshal, brought the anniversary to the attention of the Arts and Heritage Forum. Reading Museum hosted special events to mark the anniversary and the Temple Church held a special service to celebrate 800 years and 2 days after Marshal was buried there. Further afield, you will see exciting exhibitions at Chepstow Castle and at Pembroke (William was Earl of Pembroke) and the aim is to raise about £60,000 for a statue on horseback.

To create a panel, it was clear that an ambitious fund-raising campaign would be needed. Reading Civic Society, a registered charity, kindly agreed to receive donations to the project and to claim Gift Aid which amounted to £700.

But it was the very generous response from people in Caversham, Reading and beyond, which made this possible. More than 50 people donated, which with gift aid exceeded £4000, alongside about £1000 from CADRA.

Getting all the steps in place was complicated. How could the text encapsulate such an extraordinary life in a readable form? It drew in part from the research on Marshal's importance for Magna Carta which was done for its 800th anniversary celebrated back in 2015. Dr Thomas Asbridge from Queen Mary University of London kindly agreed to review the text. His talk in Caversham in June had really brought the story to life and a link to his BBC2 programme on William Marshal can be found from <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Special-Projects>.

Martin Andrews and Anke Ueberberg, both from Caversham, had designed the Heritage Map at the side of Caversham Library and were well known to CADRA. Martin's artwork, inspired by careful research, gives the panel a real vibrancy. Anke's skill and ingenuity in both design and editing over the weeks and months of the project, brought together the images and the story into an inviting whole.

Planning permission was needed. Supporting and attaching the panel to the near 100-year-old structure of the bridge required some ingenuity on the part of the manufacturers - A J Wells on the Isle of Wight - and support from Council Engineers with advice from Structural Engineers referring to the original engineering drawings of the bridge.

The protective wrapping was removed on Thursday 7 November with help from children in Marshal House at the Heights Primary who knew about the importance of Magna Carta for our democracy and enjoyed seeing the small boy in the catapult - which they knew was a trebuchet!

Local people and visitors to the area can now stand on the viewing point and look downstream towards the area of the early Manor House where William died and across the river towards Reading Abbey where his body was taken for a solemn mass, before proceeding to Westminster Abbey and finally the Temple Church.

It was the end of a busy year for CADRA who, alongside their usual work, completed, not only this project, but also the restoration of the village sign. If you value their work, please support them by swelling their membership and setting up a regular payment of £3 a year for the household. <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Join-Us>

by Helen Lambert CADRA Chair



From L to R is Vickie Abel, Helen Lambert, Cllr David Stevens and Richard Bennett. Most photos by Helen Lambert





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# Busy for Battersea



Congratulations to Beryl Jelliman from Caversham Methodist Church, who has for some time been busy knitting for the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Now Beryl has received a thank you letter from the Supporter Services at Battersea thanking her on behalf of the animals that the home takes care of on a daily basis. Over time Beryl has knitted more than 20 coats for dogs large and small which she has sent to the home. Dogs like Wizzy that badly needed a coat as he came, as they often do, into the shelter with a filthy, matted coat that had to be shaved right off. The staff were straightaway able to give him a lovely red coat to keep him warm until his fur grew back again.

Once the dogs like these are all clean and tidy, there is obviously a great need for a warm coat and people like Beryl are busy knitting away for the next needy dog. Beryl has a special pattern for the dogs, and you too could download knitting patterns for dogs or possibly something smaller. So if you don't fancy trying to make a big coat for a Labrador, you could always try a nice small one for a kitten. You will find all the details on their website [www.battersea.org.uk](http://www.battersea.org.uk)

Well done Beryl, who has not only knitted coats for dogs, but has

also knitted numerous little coats for the babies at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Congratulations Beryl from everyone at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, you deserve a big thank you for all the lovely coats you have knitted and a big pat on the back. Well done. *Photos and text by Eunice Cooper*



## World Peace Assembly at St Anne's School

For a week in January, St Anne's school focussed on the subject of PEACE. Children of all ages talked about the importance of peace between individuals and between nations and produced poems, prayers, paintings and especially paper cranes.

Year 4 delivered a thought-provoking assembly on the subject of World Peace and included the story of a Japanese girl Sadako Sasaki. On 6th August 1945, Sadako, then only aged two, was a victim of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, being blown out of the window of her home by the blast. As well as the blast, the bomb also let out radiation. Along with her parents and brother, she escaped to safety and lived a relatively normal life until she was eleven when she was found to have leukaemia and was admitted into hospital.

Her father told her the Japanese legend that if you folded one thousand pieces of paper into the form of cranes which are special birds in Japan, you would be granted a wish. Sadako managed to do this despite her pain and also because it was difficult to get hold of paper at that time. She made her wish that she would be made well and that her parents could have more money because they were quite poor. She then started to make another one thousand paper cranes but sadly died on the 25th October, 1955, after only managing about six hundred.

At her funeral, her classmates each folded a paper crane and dropped it into her coffin. They then started to collect money to build a statue of her and the story got into the newspapers. Enough money was raised for a statue of her holding a life-sized golden crane to be built in Hiroshima Peace Park in 1958 bearing a plaque that says, 'This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world'.

During Peace week, when the children made their paper cranes in school, they said a prayer for peace at each fold.

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# 'Britain's housing crisis': a talk to the Caversham Heights Society

On Wednesday 29th January, Society members were made to think about an issue of growing concern, 'Britain's housing crisis', when Professor Flora Samuel from the University of Reading gave an informative, critical and challenging account of the country's housing crisis and asked what can, or should, be done about it.

Professor Samuel began by highlighting the real problems, especially for young people in London where average properties are now eight times the average salary and most people find it impossible even to get on the property ladder. The situation is made worse because property in the UK is seen as an investment rather than a home to live in, and many overseas investors buy up properties which they then leave empty for long periods of time, thus preventing ordinary Londoners from renting them, let alone buying.

The problem is made worse by developers who buy up land for future use or for rent. Margaret Thatcher's policy of allowing people in social housing to buy their homes which they then sold on, often to developers, has depleted the overall stock of social housing: around 40% of social housing has been lost. However, in Wales and Scotland the scheme has been abandoned. The result is that 1.5 million people in the UK are in search of housing.

Added to all this, the private rental market is responsible for buying up properties that are not now available for sale. In addition, many of the newer properties which are for sale are being built on over-crowded estates with very few open spaces or civic amenities and are too small for an average family. As a result too many of these estates become havens for anti-social behaviour. Indeed such is the demand for housing that many local authorities have resorted to buying up unoccupied office blocks to convert into social housing with many of the problems that this entails. Homelessness becomes a side effect of these housing shortages. Where there is housing, scarcity leads to high rents often for sub-standard housing with appalling living conditions.

What can be done to improve the situation? Professor Samuel suggested that there should be greater integrated co-ordination and planning between developers, local authorities, town planners and government. The whole lengthy issue of contracts needs to be simplified in order to reduce the costs and to curb inflated earnings by lawyers. Given the urgency of climate change all housing developments should not only take into consideration the economic benefits but they should take into account the social value of local amenities, community facilities, sporting and retail outlets, and, above all, the environmental impact including the benefits of woodland, ponds and nature reserves.

Britain needs between 240,000 and 380,000 houses to be built annually just to keep up with the demographic changes. So, the need for and opportunities to develop new approaches to housing are substantial and urgent. We were shown some of the new approaches that are being developed in China, Sweden and the Netherlands. These range from factory built houses that can be made quickly and assembled, to computer designed housing that can be mixed and matched to provide degrees of variety, to houses built on stilts to prepare for flooding. We received a great deal of information from the talk and we were all made to think afresh about solutions to the housing crisis.

By Keith Watson

The Society holds meetings every alternate Wednesday evening at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, beginning with coffee at 7.15pm preceding a talk on various topics. New members are always welcome. The next meeting about the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Medical Museum from Richard Havelock will be on 4th March. Further details can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org)



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## Plans for Net Carbon Zero by 2030



“Reading Borough Council and the Environment Agency have both declared a climate emergency and plan for net carbon zero by 2030. They can adopt major changes, including pushing for government change, but getting our carbon footprint down and preparing for the expected changes in the climate requires all of us to make some effort. Some of this will be difficult, but a lot will be beneficial for health and the pocket.

Six Action Groups covering themes of low carbon development, transport, water, nature and green

spaces, resources and health have been beavering away to develop a climate action plan for Reading. The groups include the council, the EA, Thames Water, the University and many individuals, voluntary groups and businesses.

The new '**READING CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY 2020-25**' is out for public consultation. Please watch out for it on [https://consult.reading.gov.uk/consultation\\_finder/](https://consult.reading.gov.uk/consultation_finder/) or the Caversham Bridge website [www.cavershambridge.org](http://www.cavershambridge.org) and send in your comments and, probably more importantly, think about whether you would like to get more involved in its implementation.”

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Unlike Rawalpindi,  
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By Colin McNaughton

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Picture of group of 3 retirees is L to R Alan Bradbury, Doreen Moore and Colin Ferguson



Group, L to R, Alison Johnston, Alan Bradbury, Doreen Moore, Colin Ferguson, Heather Gale, Alan Wright and Carol Moloney  
In front, Joan Belcher and Janet Offord.

# Farewell to Alan, Doreen and Colin

On Saturday 15th February we said a final goodbye to three members of the team who produce the Caversham Bridge newspaper. Alan Bradbury who was part of the editorial for 15 years, Doreen Moore who was Postal Manager also for 15 years and Colin Ferguson who was Chairman for 5 years. All 3 were volunteers helping to produce the paper and between them they gave 35 years of dedication and hard work. Their achievements were celebrated with a lovely meal at The Packhorse by Chazey Heath joined by members of the current team. Thank you so much Alan, Doreen and Colin for helping to keep our very special local paper going - now in its 56th year.

## Pangbourne Choral Society's

# Brahms' Requiem and Haydn's Trumpet Concerto

Pangbourne Choral Society's Spring Concert on March 14th will focus on Brahms 'German Requiem' and 'The Trumpet Concerto' by Haydn. See 'What's On' for details.

After a short vigorous choral opener, Lucy Perring, a student of Pangbourne College, a hugely talented young trumpeter, will perform Haydn's Trumpet Concerto on her concert debut. For the Brahms Requiem, the Society will be joined by the Southern Sinfonia Orchestra, conducted by Pangbourne College's Musical Director, Ellie Calver, in her farewell concert before taking up a new appointment in London. This exciting and varied programme also features Vanessa Bowers (soprano) giving a solo performance.

Tickets are £15 or £8 for 18 and under, and include a programme. Tickets are also available online at www.pangbournechoral.org.uk, from Choral Society members, at 'Garlands Organic' 6, Reading Road, Pangbourne or on the door. Early booking is advised.

## Parking problems



Caversham residents wondered whether parking changes at the east end of Gosbrook Road had pushed the problem elsewhere. Well, this is Amersham Road most days now.

# Wordsearch

## The River Thames at Caversham

R K N G S P J R P H S J L Q B  
I Z C K R O I R O C N W X O T  
E Z C O G E O K E R A O A O P  
W U E G L M B G E U W T O D L  
D D E E E N R E S H S C N O A  
W R Y N H A I S A C W A Y N Y  
S I A H B Q B Z T T L T F S G  
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E M E L C S G B I I I I G I O  
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T A D P O L E S R F A D M F E  
S E G D I R B N U B N O R E H

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| ALDERS       | LOCK       |
| BOATS        | MAYFLIES   |
| BRIDGES      | MOORHEN    |
| CHRISTCHURCH | PIKE       |
| COOT         | PLAYGROUND |
| CYCLISTS     | PROMENADE  |
| DUCKS        | SWANS      |
| EELS         | TADPOLES   |
| FRYSISLAND   | TEABARGE   |
| GEESE        | VIEWISLAND |
| GREBE        | WEIR       |
| HERON        | WILLOWHERB |
| JOGGERS      |            |

# Hydro scheme powers forward

A scheme to use the power of water to generate electricity from the Thames at Caversham has hit its funding target early. The Reading Sustainability Centre project realised the potential for generating hydro power at Caversham weir and applied for planning permission in 2015.

Reading Hydro Community Benefit Society was formed from the Centre to drive the project forward. The aim was to deliver hydroelectricity for the benefit of the local community. A Community Benefit Society is a democratic co-operative serving the community by committing its profits back into local causes.

The Environment Agency (EA) granted the licences required to operate a hydro project on Caversham Weir in February 2016 and final planning approval was given in May 2017 by the Council. The project met the remaining EA requirements by Summer 2019.

The scheme will generate enough renewable electricity for 90 average homes for decades to come. Income from selling electricity will run the scheme and pay a return to investors.



Photo: Reading Hydro  
The turbine will be placed under the path and to side of the weir

A share offer was launched in January 2020 with a target of £700,000 by mid February. Investors were invited to subscribe anything from £75, allowing a wide range of individuals a chance to be involved. The target was met 2 weeks early, by the beginning of February. To encourage community ownership, priority was given to applications from Reading residents.

The next steps will see the installation of two Archimedes Screw turbines beside Caversham Weir and improvements to the local environment on and around View Island. This will include a new fish pass. The turbines will also be used as an educational resource, both visually

and through open data, with live data monitoring of flow rate, water temperature, water levels and electricity production. Work is expected to start later this year and will inevitably have an impact on the footpath across the weir. Information on closures will, when available, be posted on the Caversham Bridge web site, <https://cavershambridge.org:5154/> For more information on Reading Hydro, see <https://hydro.readinguk.org/>

By Phil Chatfield

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## Gardeners – time to go peat free

As spring approaches, gardeners think about planting seeds and preparing their gardens. A supply of compost is essential, so we head to the garden centre. Although peat free compost is available, most of what is available contains peat. After more than twenty years of campaigning by environmental groups and gardeners like Monty Don, we still use huge amounts of peat in our gardens. Peat

comes mainly from lowland raised bogs – an increasingly rare habitat in the UK and across Europe. In recent years, the need to conserve this diminishing natural resource has been recognised.

This matters because:

1. Peat renews at approximately 1mm per year, so is not really a renewable resource.
2. Peat bogs store a lot of carbon. The equivalent of 20 years of industrial carbon is stored in British peat bogs alone. As this erodes following mining, more carbon is released into the atmosphere.
3. Peat bogs are home to a large number of plants and animals, including birds such as snipe and the skylark, as well as many butterflies and dragonflies.

Although some peat is used as fuel, the vast majority is used by gardeners.

So on your trip to the garden centre, look for the peat free options – and if they are not available, ask why not! If the bag doesn't say "peat-free" then it most likely is not. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommends choosing peat-free compost with good on-label information. You should read and follow the instructions on the packaging about the suitability of the mix for particular purposes.

For more information, see: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=441>

Based on information from the RHS and The Ecologist.

By Phil Chatfield



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## LES COOPER IN THE GARDEN



### Slug Control?

My speciality is supposed to be delphiniums and this is because I have grown them for a great many years. When people know this they often say to me "I so like delphiniums but I can never grow them because the slugs and snails always eat them up". I nod my head in sympathy because it is absolutely true slugs and snails just love to feed on the fresh green growth of delphiniums. We have all had that annoying feeling when we find our favourite hosta or delphinium has been ravished by slugs.

I guess most of us have tried with things like slug pellets, strips of copper, covering the plants with grit and many other methods. Sometimes these things work and sometimes you worry because perhaps you haven't picked up the dead slugs and snails and there is a song thrush around. Then you read that slug pellets can be harmful and one even kills earthworms. Basically nothing is completely clear cut.

But is there possibly some kind of satisfactory answer and here I am talking about Nemaslug slug killer. Perhaps you

have tried it but for those that haven't this is a product that contains microscopic Nematodes (microscopic worms) that seek out slugs above and below ground. The claim is that the Nematodes target all slug species and that the product is simple to apply and absolutely safe to use being harmless to children, pets, birds and wildlife. The Nematodes come in the form of a powder that you mix with water and sprinkle on the soil. Voila.

I have used it for a couple of years and I think it works in that I didn't get slug problems. I say "I think" because there were no dead slugs for me to see. Also being a rather a lethargic gardener each time I have only used one dose in early Spring.

The downside is that one application only gives six weeks of control and another slight problem is that the soil must be at least 5 degrees centigrade so it can only be used between February and October.

It is readily available so it might be worth giving it a try.

## Sadie Cooke celebrates her Centenary

### On Christmas Eve 2019 Sadie achieved her centenary



For her 'special day' she spent time away with her extended family.

On Friday 7 February Sadie hosted a mid-day celebration event at Reading Golf Club, inviting every resident from Lyefield Court - where Sadie has been a resident since 1985 - some members of her family - to whom she is affectionately known as 'AUNTY SMALL' - and other friends also joined the party. There were tributes from her children and

grandchildren - some of whom were able to join her.

At 100 years old Sadie has a very lively mind, interested in everything around her and the world in general, she is computer literate and corresponds via email to family and friends. She is also renowned as a brilliant cook - feeding the whole family - fish fingers and chips were often on the menu for children's suppers.

She likes reading and crossword puzzles, and she tells me she really enjoys reading the CB newspaper from cover to cover.

Congratulations Sadie. We are all looking forward to your 101st party!

*Text and photos by Janet Offord*

## Clubs

### Chazey Report January 2020

Our Chazey New Year Quiz was a great way to wake us all up after weeks of over indulgence. There's nothing quite like a series of quickfire questions to blow away the brain fog accumulated over Christmas.

So "Which is the most populous city in Asia?" sounded easy. All we had to do was choose between Beijing or New Delhi, surely? Except no one in St. Andrews Hall seemed to have thought of Tokyo, which was the right answer.

Could any of us remember how many yards were in a mile (1760)? Or what anosmia means (smell blindness)? Or, even worse, which coin was withdrawn from circulation in 1984 (half penny)? We had divided ourselves into teams, with some optimistic names, but were the Bright Sparks tempting fate and were the Blonde Bombshells set to implode? Our quizmaster, Martin Butler, who regularly hosts fundraising quizzes for the Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, put us gently through our paces. There were rounds about Reading, the natural world, food and drink, and trivia, and some of us were worried by how many chocolate bar advertising slogans we knew... In the end it was the Blonde Bombshells who came out winners by one point, while the Prosecco team fell a bit flat and took the wooden spoon.

The prizes were modest but it was a great way to get together for our first Chazey meeting of 2020, and Martin has already been booked to come back next year.

Would you like to join us at Chazey as your New Year resolution? We meet every first Friday at 2.30 pm at St Andrew's Hall in Caversham Heights and there are always entertaining speakers, plus teas and cakes to enjoy in good company. You can find out more by emailing us at [chazeywi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:chazeywi@berkshirewi.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.

By Julie Bradshaw

## What's On in Caversham – March 2020

Here we publish information on voluntary and community activities in and around Caversham. The online events diaries are updated regularly, so it is worth checking to see what has been added at [www.cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on](http://www.cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on). If you have an event planned, please let us have details and we will consider its inclusion on these pages and in the printed edition. A minimum of 4 weeks notice is required for the printed paper.

DATE EVENT

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1st                    | Clayfield Copse, Regular monthly tasks – 10:00-13:00 – Econet/Friends of Clayfield Copse<br><a href="http://www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/">www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/</a>   |
| 2nd                    | Reading and West Berks Carers hub – 11:00 – 12:30 – Free access to support and services for carers, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG<br><a href="http://www.berkshirecarershub.org">www.berkshirecarershub.org</a>  |
| 3rd                    | Inspiration from my Show Garden – 19:45 – a talk by Alison Galer of Florence Gardening for Caversham Horticultural Society Church House, 57 Church St Caversham RG4 8AX.<br>Admission £3 for non members. <a href="http://www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk/">www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk/</a>   |
| 4th                    | Get Online Reading – 12:00–13:00 – Weller Centre, Amersham Road RG4 5NA.<br>Free computer support <a href="http://www.go-reading.org/">www.go-reading.org/</a>   |
| 4th                    | Royal Carriages – 20:00 – A talk by Peter Smith, Model Maker, for the Caversham Heights Society, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG<br><a href="http://www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers/">www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers/</a>   |
| 5th, 12th<br>19th 26th | Storytime for under 5's. 14:00 – 14:30 Caversham Library. Free, but booking needed. <a href="http://www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk">www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk</a>   |
| 14th                   | Pangbourne Choral Society Brahms Requiem,<br>7.00pm Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College   |
| 18th                   | The History and Practice of Morris Dancing – 20:00 – A talk by Chris Hutchison for the Caversham Heights Society, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG<br><a href="http://www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers/">www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers/</a>  |
| 21st                   | Mapledurham Playing Fields, Regular monthly tasks – 9:30 – 13:00 – Econet/Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields <a href="http://www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/">www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/</a>   |
| 22nd                   | Repair Cafe – 12:30–18:30 – rLab, Unit C1, Weldale Street, Reading<br><a href="http://www.transitionreading.org.uk/projects/reading-repair-cafe/">www.transitionreading.org.uk/projects/reading-repair-cafe/</a>   |
| 22nd                   | Amersham Road Cooking Club – 16:00–18:00 – Weller Centre, Amersham Road RG4 5NA.<br>Primary aged children. First session free, then 50p per child per session<br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/wellercentre/">www.facebook.com/wellercentre/</a>  |
| 25th                   | Living with Long Term Diseases: Stroke, Heart and Diabetes – 10:00 to 12:30 – Balmore Park's Patient Participation Group – Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG<br><a href="http://www.balmoreparksurgery.co.uk/navigator/patient-participation-group/">www.balmoreparksurgery.co.uk/navigator/patient-participation-group/</a> |
| 28th                   | Earth Hour – 20:30 – 21:30 – Join millions for the global lights out event and be part of the generation who are choosing to fight for our world. <a href="http://www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour?">www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour?</a>   |



### A Recipe for St David's Day – March 1st Welsh Rarebit

8 oz/250 gms Cheddar cheese (grated)  
1oz/30gms butter  
1 tspn/5mls English mustard  
3 tbspsn/50mls beer  
4 slices buttered toast  
Stir the cheese, butter, mustard and beer over a very low heat until smooth and creamy.  
Season and spread over the buttered toast and grill until golden and bubbling.  
Serve with grilled tomatoes and a green salad.



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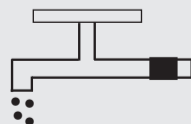
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