



CADRA 50th Birthday

In the last few years we have seen two well known local institutions, the Caversham Bridge newspaper and Caversham Good Neighbours, celebrate 50 years since their formation. This year it is the turn of CADRA, the Caversham and District Residents Association. Helen Lambert, chairman of CADRA, outlines some of the events which will take place to commemorate this anniversary.

I care about where I live

Civic Day on 17th June 2017 is a national celebration of civic pride. It is a day, each year, to say "I care about where I live". See www.civicvoice.org.uk for more information.

This year, Civic Day will act as a focus to celebrate 50 years of conservation areas. These were first created in 1967, as a result of widespread public concern over the pace of redevelopment in historic towns and cities. Today there are over 10,000 conservation areas in the UK. Civic Voice is asking communities across the country to come together to say "My conservation area matters" so that this can be a year of celebrations highlighting the measures designed to protect areas recognised for their special character or history.

Reading has 15 conservation areas including two north of the river – St Peter's and Surley Row. The newly created community body, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which includes several members from Caversham, is working with the Borough Council for conservation areas across Reading.

1967 was also the year that the Caversham and District Residents Association was founded, so 2017 is a year of golden anniversaries. CADRA's declared aim is to 'preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding district' or in other words that Caversham should always be 'a great place to live'. So, in 2017 CADRA will try and shine a light on what it is that makes Caversham special and what we all care about.

On 20 June, following a brief formal AGM, local architectural historian, Dr Megan Aldrich FSA will present a personal view on 'a history of architecture in Caversham'. From its early medieval origins through to the rapid development of the late 19th century, we are fortunate to have many interesting historic buildings and features as well as the vistas and perspectives created by the Victorian and Edwardian architects.

Megan has worked as a director of Sotheby's, with museums at home and abroad and is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, one of the British government's official designated bodies for providing advice regarding heritage and planning policy. She will have just returned from a two-day conference at the University of Liverpool in May on the gothic revival architect and writer, Thomas Rickman, for which she is co-organiser.

The meeting takes place on Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 7.30pm at Thameside School hall, Harley Road. Everyone is welcome.

Later in the year, we will be looking at the importance of trees in the urban landscape. Our predecessors bequeathed us a wealth of trees which still shape our environment and local views. CADRA is finalising plans for the planting of a new tree as we consider the environment which we will pass on to future generations.

Dr John Evans, a Caversham resident and crop scientist with an interest in trees is developing a presentation on 'Trees in Caversham'. This will take place on Tuesday 17 October at 7.30pm at Thameside School hall, Harley Road. We hope that you will also join us then to celebrate 50 years of work for the place we live and to toast the future of Caversham and the association.

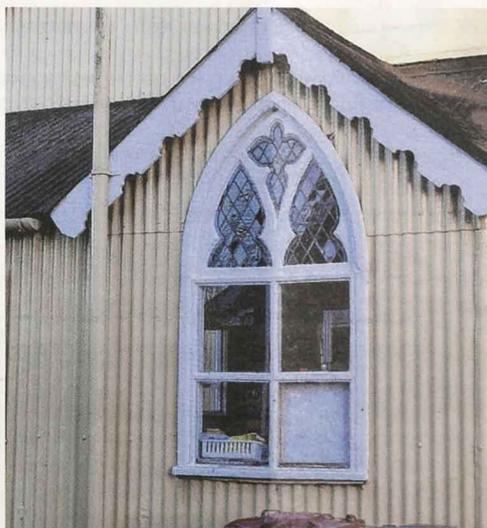
There will be a 50th anniversary extended issue of the CADRA autumn newsletter for CADRA members. You can join CADRA on line at www.cadra.org.uk or pick up one of the new leaflets from the library or Waltons Jewellers.



Cottage Church Street



Caversham Baptist Church by A Waterhouse



St Barnabas Hall, gothic window



Art and crafts house Blenheim Road

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Caversham Clergy

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St Barnabas
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www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrews

Revd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788
www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Revd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Revd Marion Pyke
Tel: 947 5834

Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265
Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810
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Tel: 947 2223

Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

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Church office tel 954 5353

Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist
church.org.uk

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Deacon: Hugh Anscombe
Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

TALKING POINT

by David Jenkins

Handling Power

There does appear to be a deficit of real statesmen and women in the world at the moment.

There are a number of leaders whose immaturity and insecurity might have been amusing were they not in positions of enormous power.

It is the potential and actual abuse of power that makes these very unsuitable people highly dangerous.

If you want examples (and unfortunately this list is most certainly not exhaustive) how about the current leaders of North Korea, the Philippines, Turkey, Hungary, Russia, Zimbabwe, Syria, Venezuela, and the one we hear about every day, the United States of America?

Leaders who want to silence alternative views; who blatantly falsify what is actually happening; who want to collect more and more powers to themselves; who are prepared to use all means to keep themselves in power; who do not appear to genuinely care about the needs of their people, despite their protestations that they do; who appear to despise the human rights of their own subjects, as well as those of others; who appear to lack any vision or compassion relating to the needs beyond their own borders.

While some areas of international life are advancing, a host of prominent leaders seem to be dragging us backwards.

It is easy, of course, to point the finger at obvious failings in others without ever holding up the mirror to our own lives.

None of us is in a position of power anything like these national leaders.

But, although it is much more limited, we all have some measure of power and influence – even if it is only in our own families.

It is worth reflecting on where we do have power and influence and how we are handling it.

It is also worth reflecting on how very differently Jesus chose to use the powers he possessed. A highly perceptive person, with considerable self control and great depths of wisdom, Jesus displayed courage and compassion which continue to act as a challenge and encouragement to us all. Unlike many current world leaders, Jesus raised the standard of human possibility.

If we feel seriously disturbed by how some people are handling power, how much can we use our influence for good (not just our own good, but the good of others)?

Revd David Jenkins is a member of the Methodist Team Ministry

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st
Holy Communion 2nd 3rd and 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays
Service of the Word other Sundays
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays
9.30am All Age Worship 2nd Sunday
Fifth Sunday Services as advertised

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.15am Morning Worship 1st Sunday
Holy Communion 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist first and third Sundays
only, first Sunday BCP
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

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
8.00pm 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
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

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
Woodcote Parish Church
9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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

Contributions for the June 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 1st May**. The date for the July 2017 issue is **Monday 5th June**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the June 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 28th April**. The date for the July 2017 issue is **Friday 2nd June**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

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Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
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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

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
METHODIST CHURCH
NETWORK FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2017

27th April to 20th July 2017 (inclusive)



Meetings are held on alternate Thursdays
(Except August) at 2.30 p.m.
in the church hall.

11th May

Speaker: Mike Cooper
Subject: 'Early Closing Day'

25th May

Speaker: Gay Rees and friends
Subject: 'Serenade' a musical afternoon

8th June

Speaker: Colin Fergusson
Subject: 'Islands of Antiquity'

22nd June

Speaker: John and Barbara Frogget
Subject: 'Canal Ministries'

6th July

Speaker: Peter and Lesley Boardley
Subject: 'Guatemala'

20th July

GARDEN PARTY at the home of Carole Pearce

English choral music fit for a coronation

Erleigh Cantors, a local chamber choir comprising about 25 singers, will be performing a concert at St Peter's Church Caversham on Saturday May 20th at 7.30pm.

The concert is entitled 'English choral music fit for a coronation', and it will focus on coronation anthems including music written for the coronation of the present queen by Walton and Vaughan Williams and music for previous coronations by Henry Purcell, John Blow and Hubert Parry.

Other music to be sung will be the Tippett Negro Spirituals from *A Child of our time* and the *Missa Brevis* by contemporary composer Jonathan Dove.

The choir will be accompanied by organist Philip Aspden who will also play some solos on the recently installed Viscount organ at St Peter's Church.

Most recently the choir sang to great acclaim at St Albans and Gloucester Cathedral.

The concert is being held in aid of St Peter's Church Caversham and The Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital Charity, on the recommendation of one of the singers who received excellent care there in 2016.

Tickets are available from Maggie Nunn (07946 620560), Richard Larkin (07557 049092), or on the door priced at £12 (£10 concessions and £5 students) including refreshments.

The Order of Jacob's Well

The Order of Jacob's Well (OJW), an international group of ecumenical Christian communities offering prayer, ministry and teaching in the church's healing ministry, invites you to join a UK gathering in Reading, to be held on Friday 9th – Sunday 11th June 2017 at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham. The theme is 'Simply Jesus & God's Healing Kingdom', and the programme is:

Friday: 6.30 for 7.00: *Christ the Healer service*

Saturday: 9.30: booking in & refreshments
10.00 – 5.00: *Worship, Teaching and Workshops*
(led by Rev Mike Endicott and a team from OJW)

Sunday: 10.30: *Morning worship* led by Rev Mike Endicott

Reservations are requested for Saturday with contribution of £10 to include lunch. Bookings and more details from Pam Gordon (pamgordon@sky.com; tel. 07714256272 or 2a Hawthorn Road Reading RG4 6LY), or on arrival on Saturday

For more details, visit www.jacobswell.org.uk, www.facebook.com/revd.endicott, <http://twitter.com/simplyhealing> or www.simplyhealing.org

Bible Friends

Jesus meets his friends

Jesus' friends were talking. They thought Jesus had died. But now they had heard that he was alive again. Suddenly, he appeared!

"Hello," Jesus said.

His friends were very frightened. "It's a ghost!" they yelled.

"No, it's really me," Jesus told them. "Look at my hands and feet. Touch them. You couldn't do that if I were a ghost."

The friends were amazed. "Jesus, it is you!" they shouted.

They were so pleased to know Jesus was alive again.

"I'm hungry," said Jesus. "Have you any food I could eat, please?"

So, his friends cooked some fish and watched as Jesus ate it. "Jesus must be real," they said to each other. "He can eat food."

"Listen carefully," said Jesus. "There is something I want you to do. I want you to tell everyone what has happened. I want everyone in the world to know that I am alive."

His friends did exactly what Jesus told them.

And that's why we know that Jesus is alive today!

Luke 24:36-49



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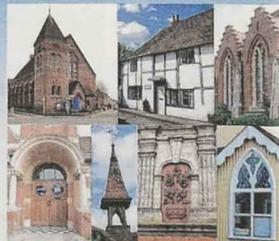
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AGM & OPEN MEETING A history of architecture in Caversham

Speaker: Dr Megan Aldrich, Architectural Historian



**Tuesday 20 June
7.30pm**

Thameside Primary School, Harley Road
ALL WELCOME

www.cadra.org.uk

CORRESPONDENCE

From Janet Soden:

Dear Happy Wanderer

I always read your articles in the *Caversham Bridge*, and was so interested to see the one on *The Cedars of Lebanon*.

I would love to identify the India cedars that you say are growing on Caversham Heights. Could you please give us some more clues on how to identify them? Do they have the same foliage as the Cedar of Lebanon in your article/photo?

Are the large trees at the start Conisboro Avenue the Deodars? Also the tree at the junction of Conisboro Ave and Kelvedon Way?

Reply From Happy Wanderer

Dear Janet

Many thanks for your letter – it's always good to know that my articles are being read!

Yesterday, I ventured up to 'The Heights' on the No. 22 bus, to look at the trees you mention in Conisboro Avenue. They are rather magnificent, but they're some kind of pines, and not Indian Cedars, which are also known as Deodars.

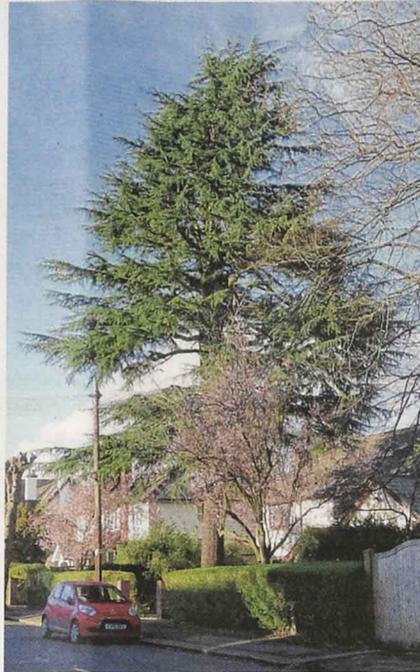
Cedars and pines are closely related, and the various species can be difficult to tell apart. You really need a good book, and to be able to get near to the trees themselves, to look at bark, needles, flowers and cones – but the shape can be distinctive as well.

The Indian Cedar tends to have a single straight trunk, and to be conical in shape. It is usually pointed at the top, and the ends of the twigs droop slightly. It's very different from the Cedar of Lebanon, where the trunk often divides low down, and the branches are horizontal at the ends.

On my way back home, I took this picture of an Indian Cedar which is in the garden of a house in Albert Road, and which shows the typical shape pretty well.

Incidentally, when thinking of Deodars yesterday, the old song, "Under the Deodar" kept coming into my head. I remembered it from when I was a child. Only later, when I had invested five shillings in "The Observer's Book of Trees and Shrubs," did I realise what a Deodar was!

With best wishes,



The editors of the *Caversham Bridge* welcome correspondence from readers of the newspaper, provided the subject is relevant to Caversham or the surrounding area, or is in response to an article published in the paper. Please send all correspondence to the parish secretary, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX, or email to secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

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Celebrating Mothering Sunday at St Anne's School

Mothers have featured largely recently at St Anne's School, Caversham. As well as the support they supply all year round both in and out of school, they have been involved in two special events.

In March they rolled up their sleeves and joined in 'Garden Action Day' along with anyone else willing to help. This event gets the school garden, which has previously won

prizes, up to scratch and ready for the children to work on during the spring and summer. Children could either help on the day or they could enjoy other activities while grown ups were working. It is always amazing how much work gets done in a couple of hours.

A few days later, mothers were able to book a lunch to celebrate Mothering Sunday, and to join their children for a school lunch. They collected their food with the children and then sat down to eat with them, enjoying the roast dinner that was the choice for the day.

Pupils also had the opportunity to buy gifts for their mothers in the Mothers Day Surprise Room. Organized by the PSA (Parents Staff Association) the room had small, suitable gifts for children to buy to take home to give to their mothers on Mothering Sunday. Each class was taken to the room by their class teacher and help was on hand to guide the children in choosing and buying a gift.



One garden in full bloom



Working on the gardens



Mothers and children enjoying lunch together

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CHURCHES

Fair trade fortnight at St Andrew's

Reading's Fair Trade Fortnight in early March had a huge range of activities to encourage people to find out more about fair trade, and to see the wide range of products now available. At St Andrew's, our team of young fair traders run a stall after the service on the first Sunday of every month, and are spreading the word that when you buy Traidcraft products you are not just buying fair trade goods, but also helping with campaigning and development projects. In addition to their usual Traidcraft products, in Fair Trade Fortnight they held a cake sale, and St Andrew's community café, the Fisherman, donated its proceeds to Traidcraft.

Caversham Church Fete

A date for your diary. The annual church fete, organised by the three churches of the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, St Peter, St John and St Margaret, will be held this year on the afternoon of Saturday July 8th in Caversham Court Gardens. More details will be available next month.

Solar Panels at St Andrew's

In early 2016 St Andrew's Church in Caversham installed solar panels on the roof of its community hall. The 1960s hall, built to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Andrew's, has an extensive south facing roof, which is ideal for a large array

that generates up to 10kW of electricity on sunny days.

Since their installation the panels have generated over £1400 in revenues. PCC member Gordon Ball commented, "As the hall is used during most days by the pre-school, as well as many community groups, this should help bring down our electricity bill, as well as being good for the environment, and an advertisement for others to consider doing the same."

The funding was met through a generous legacy from a former parishioner, and Reading Borough Council was instrumental in helping make this a reality, with Summreen Sheikh (sustainability partnerships officer) providing advice on the process and helping search out the best solar firm to fit within a short time frame.

As solar panels become as ubiquitous as television aerials and chimney pots, they may gain more acceptance as a standard feature on buildings old and new.

St Barnabas Handyman Sale

The St Barnabas annual Household & Handyman Sale will take place in the hall and grounds on Saturday 6th May from 10 am till 12 noon. Bric-a-brac, books & DVDs, plants, toys, furniture, household/garden items plus much more will be available to purchase at Grove Rd, Emmer Green. For further information phone 946 1365.

Walking for Our Lady

On the 1st May, as part of the ongoing campaign to raise funds for the enhancement of the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, Father Paul, Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Anne's Church, will embark on a sponsored walk of 186 miles. He will walk from the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for the following 11 days. His route will include Peterborough, to visit the Cathedral where Queen Catherine of Aragon is buried. She was a regular visitor and benefactor to the original Shrine at Caversham. He will also call at Windsor to visit the tomb of King Henry VIII in St George's Chapel. It was Henry VIII who ordered the destruction of the original Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham.



The first day will be a stroll of seven miles to Fakenham but the next day will be a hard 22 miles to Kings Lynn. The journey will continue with each day's walk varying from 13 miles to 25 miles (on the most gruelling day from Aylesbury to Maidenhead) until he finally reaches Caversham, after a 14-mile stint from Maidenhead, on the 11th May.

Father Paul hopes to raise a considerable sum in sponsorship towards the Shrine Fund. If you wish to sponsor him, sponsor forms are available at church or you can donate online at www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/archdiocese-birmingham/orladyandstannechurch1.

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Hundreds attend annual Service of Remembrance

Hundreds of people gathered for the annual service of remembrance organised by funeral directors A.B. Walker, who have a branch in Caversham.

Candles were lit, in memory of loved ones who had died, at an emotional service held at Reading Minster. The service was led by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud.

Matthew Walker, director of A.B. Walker, said: "This service is an occasion of togetherness and allows us to reflect on love and lives shared.

"Each of you will be here on your own personal journey adjusting to the pain of losing a loved one. I stand here today, with my family, in just that situation, having lost a dear uncle who we buried just ten days ago.

"Throughout our journey a whole spectrum of feelings and sensations are experienced which are individual to each of us.

"Although we all grieve in our own manner, each of us has gathered this afternoon with a common thread of being on similar journeys, being in a position of having to adjust our lives when we lose someone we love and dearly miss."

The Service of Remembrance is part of the aftercare service offered by A.B. Walker which also includes the link bereavement care course. Anyone in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire who has been bereaved and feels they can benefit can apply to go on a six-week group course. The link was set up in partnership with the charity Cruse Bereavement Care and the programme is free of charge. A.B. Walker staff have volunteered and trained as facilitators for the link, including pall bearers and funeral arrangers.

For further information please contact Matthew Walker on 0118 957 3650 or email: matthew@abwalker.co.uk



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Work begins on new housing scheme

Reading borough council's and A2Dominion's new housing scheme for older people in Caversham is taking shape. Work is progressing on the homes which will offer older people a combination of as much independence as possible but with care and support on site as needed.

Named Beechwood Grove, the accommodation is being constructed on the site of the former Arthur Clark Residential Home and Albert Road Day Care Centre in Caversham. Demolition work began in February and piling work was completed in April.

Beechwood Grove is expected to open in autumn 2018. When complete, it will provide 43 flats for older people with an onsite care provider. As the population ages, homes like this will meet the need of a mix of residents. 16 apartments will be rented and the rest will be leased.

In addition, communal facilities and activities will benefit older people in the local area as well as residents. This will include specialist day activities as well as a café and a range of community activities with the plan to include music workshops, arts & crafts, wellbeing activities, exercise classes, dementia activities, gardening club, computing and internet training. There will also be a hair

salon and therapy treatment which will be available to book by local people.

The lead member for adult social care, Cllr Rachel Eden said: "Beechwood Grove will offer people the best of both worlds – living in the local community, with help and support on site and at the touch of a button, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The way we grow older is changing. People want to continue to live independently for as long as possible. Beechwood Grove will offer purpose-built individual homes for older people who want to continue to live fulfilling and active lives but with increased support and care on hand when they need it."

The lead member for housing, Cllr Richard Davies said: "As a council we were determined to ensure that activities on offer here would be made available for all elderly people living in the local community in Caversham, not just residents of Beechwood Grove. I am delighted to say that will be the case and I'm sure a lively social circle will quickly develop when the doors open. I am also pleased that the Council has negotiated 16 of the 43 homes for social rent. There is a desperate shortage of properly affordable rental homes in Reading."

Priority Avenue Surgery in Special Measures

Following an inspection in January by the Care Quality Commission, Priority Avenue Surgery has been placed in Special Measures. The following statement was issued by the surgery:

We can confirm that the Care Quality Commission has placed Priority Avenue Surgery in special measures. We wanted to reassure you, our patients, we are working to resolve the issues highlighted in the report. We welcome the report highlighting how patients, who were spoken with on the day, felt the practice offered an excellent service and the staff were caring and dealt with them with dignity and respect.

Over the past two months we have put an action plan in place to address the findings of the CQC inspection and we have been working closely with our Patient Participation Group (PPG) who have been very supportive throughout this process. We recognise that some systems and processes at the surgery were in need of review. We will continue to improve the systems and processes at the practice to

the highest levels and staff are already undergoing additional training.

As part of our Action Plan we are recruiting more staff and we are delighted that our new Lead Nurse joined the team at the beginning of April. She will provide additional support for our nursing and clinical team. In May we have an additional pharmacist joining our team.

North West Reading Clinical Commissioning Group are working closely with the practice to support us with implementing our Action Plan.

Feedback – do you have any concerns regarding the practice being in special measures?

Please do not hesitate to contact the practice team via email priority.avenue@nhs.net or directly to the Patient Participation Group via email priorityavenue.ppg@nhs.net who will log your concerns and feed them back to the practice team and One Medical Group.

Dr Funmi Chirnside – Clinical Lead

Reorganisation of New Directions Adult Learning Service

Reading borough council's adult learning and employment service is expanding and refurbishing its base in south Reading.

New Directions is undergoing a reorganisation which will see a £260,000 investment in its Northumberland Avenue building and the relocation of its services from the Caversham centre in Archway Road.

Students will benefit from an upgraded building in Whitley and courses currently offered in Caversham will be moved to the council's multi-purpose sites in Emmer Green and Tilehurst.

The South Reading centre, at Thamesbridge House, opposite Academy Sport, provides a range of learning and employment services such as English, cookery, fashion and dressmaking, maths, ESOL, arts and crafts, pottery, health and lifestyle, languages and vocational courses.

The service also works with a number of partner organisations such as the Workers Education Association and Autism Berkshire to ensure they reach a range of people in Reading and provide a varied programme.

Members of the council's policy committee agreed the improvement works at the south Reading centre at a meeting in March. The building currently provides mixed classroom and office space for New Directions and Children's Services teams and the improvements will include a café/drop-in area for staff and students, new office space, replaced flooring and a specialist pottery/art space which has re-located from Caversham.

The committee also agreed the closure of the Caversham Centre, in July 2017, and its disposal as part of the council's ongoing rationalisation of buildings in response to cuts in central government funding.

The improvement work at Thamesbridge House should be completed in time for the start of the new term in September.

Councillor Tony Jones, lead councillor for education, said: "New Directions offers excellent adult learning courses and I am pleased the council is able to invest in its centre in south Reading where provision is in high demand.

"Cuts in the council's funding from central government means we are looking at ways of making the best possible use of our buildings and disposing of properties which become surplus to requirement.

"New Directions will continue to deliver courses in Caversham utilising other venues in line with its strategy to ensure everyone has access to its services across the borough."

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Reading's first 'Disability Confident' Job Fair

In March, Reading East MP Rob Wilson welcomed job seekers and employers to Reading's first Disability Confident: Access to Work Job Fair. The event was aimed at helping jobseekers with disabilities into work and enabling employers to explore the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and supporting them into employment. 'Disability Confident' is a government campaign which aims to make employers aware of the business benefits of employing disabled people.

Rob Wilson said, "I am delighted that this event has been such a success with many job seekers and businesses commenting on how enjoyable and productive it was. We have received incredibly positive feedback from job seekers and employers alike. I intend to host another event next year. I hope this can become an annual event."

Businesses such as IKEA, Network Rail, Thames Water and Thames Valley Police met jobseekers with disabilities to discuss employment opportunities. The variety of businesses was noted by one job seeker who said that "there were lots of interesting people in interesting places".

Francis Tipton of Thames Water said: "We were delighted to take part in the Job Fair, which enabled us to meet some truly inspirational candidates with valuable skills. It was a good opportunity to engage with similar minded companies and to promote our three-week work experience programme. If you're interested in

being considered for a placement, please email me via Francis.Tipton@thameswater.co.uk."

Job seekers were also able to speak with supportive and educational organisations to discuss training and support opportunities. Apprenticeships and educational opportunities were offered by a number of organisations, with one attendee noting that the "exhibitor's stalls for apprenticeships/training courses were particularly good."

Andy Granata of Mencap said: "The event proved fruitful for participants and fair goers - the environment meant it was easy to speak one-to-one about the huge amount of support that's available now. Businesses are actively engaging with people to ensure they are not only employing fairly, but changing their processes to allow people with disabilities a way into their businesses that doesn't put up barriers and hurdles. This is by far the biggest challenge for someone with a disability, "Employers also attended a series of talks which provided first-hand accounts of how disabled job seekers are supported into employment and how the organisation has benefitted as a result."

A job seeker on the day commented that "The Access to Work Job Fair was very supportive, the people at the stalls took time to actually speak to you, interested in what I had to say."

Award for Caversham author

Caversham author Julie Roberts has been presented with the Reading Writers 'Don Louth Writer of the Year award 2016'. This is given to the member who has achieved their personal writing goal - in Julie's case her debut novel *The Hidden Legacy* - published last June. The silver salver is named after a former chairman and was presented by Mr Louth's widow Jackie. Julie was also short-listed for the Romantic Novelists' Association 'Joan Hessayon award 2016'.



Julie joined Reading Writers, the town's oldest writers' group, eight years ago. Their support, not only in manuscript writing, but their comradeship mingled with fun and laughter, is just what a writer needs, for it is a lonely career sitting at a computer. Having said this, she loses herself in a time capsule of the Regency era, where there are no cars, no planes, no trains, and, no phones. Research is a delight for Julie, she spends much time not only on the Internet, but reading non-fiction books, visiting museums and going to Parliament's archives to read and touch a prime source document - Lord Lynhurst Marriage Act 1835 - for her next novel *A Tangle of Secrets*, set in New York and London 1822.

Julie is very active in promoting her writing career by giving talks on researching and writing historical novels, taking a stall at craft fairs and visiting other writers' groups. On a wider platform she spreads the word through social media, radio interviews and newsprint.

The Hidden Legacy can be obtained from Amazon as an eBook or paperback.

Celebration of 2016 Santa Run

A record 1500 plus runners took to the streets of Reading for the 2016 Santa Run, on a dry but chilly day back in December. Adults dressed in Santa outfits were joined by many young runners looking brilliant, dressed in colourful elf outfits. This popular event, organised by Reading Rotary Club members, was sponsored by many leading Berkshire businesses. Now in its third year, the event raised a record £35,333.74. All funds raised will be distributed to benefit many local charities.

An evening event was held at Caversham Heath Golf Club in March, to celebrate and acknowledge the success of the 2016 Santa Run. The main sponsors, ROC Search, were represented by David Brommel and Trevor Doran. Sponsors Val William were represented by James Bennet.

A presentation by Claire Rhodes, from the charity Daisy's Dream, outlined their activities and the worthwhile work they do with bereaved children in Berkshire. An interesting insight to the activities of No.5 was given by representatives Alison Brickly, Haley and Jake. Both charities received cheques for £10,146 from Reading Rotary President Sandra Tucker. Many other charities received donation from the fund.

Keep a look out for details of the 2017 Santa run on Facebook! Come and join in! <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingSantaRun/>

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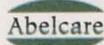
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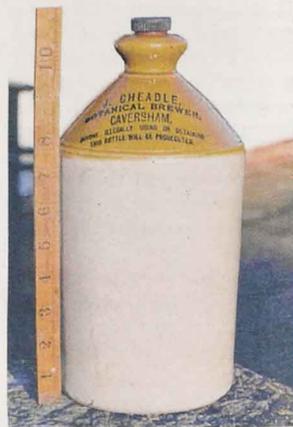
Stay-a-while Lunch Club

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ENVIRONMENT

Cheadle's Minerals, Caversham



I'm often surprised at the number of different things that used to be made in Caversham – potato crisps, sports cars and bricks among them. A few weeks back, I was asked about a firm called Cheadle's who made mineral waters in Caversham, and if I knew where they operated from. Well, I couldn't help, and I was wondering if any *Caversham Bridge* readers might know.

The name 'Cheadle' doesn't really belong in this part of the country. In the past, I have visited two places called Cheadle: one is by the Mersey near Stockport, which has an interesting old church, and the other is the small town in Staffordshire with a splendid church designed by Augustus Pugin. So I was intrigued by the flagon in the picture, marked *J. Cheadle, botanical brewer, Caversham*. The lettering continues with this warning: 'Anyone illegally using or detaining this bottle will be prosecuted'.

Perhaps strangely, there is no Caversham address given. Did Mr C. expect his flagons to be returned to his premises in Caversham? Or maybe he delivered them to customers from door to door, and collected the empties at the same time. When the business was sold in 1918, motor lorries were included. I can remember a firm which did this in the 1950s. They used flagons looking exactly like this one.

Though the whereabouts of the Caversham premises have so far evaded me, I have been able to find out something about John Henry Cheadle. He was born in Shropshire in 1862, he joined the Shropshire Militia, and in 1883 he joined the regular army – the Oxford Light Infantry. This could indicate a connection with Caversham, which was in Oxfordshire until 1911. He left the army in 1895, and in 1900, when he married, he was a coffee house keeper in Chertsey, but his wife had been born in Winkfield. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Winifred.

In 1908, John took over the mineral water business of Sidney Weaver, at 12A Eldon Place, Reading, and was joined in the business by his nephew, Alfred. John lived at 19 Princes Street, and Alfred at 24 Eldon Street, both close to the works, and to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The business closed in 1918, when the local paper advertised that 'Frank Cooksey and Walker have been instructed by J. H. Cheadle to sell the valuable machinery and plant, motor lorries, 5,000 botanical jars, 1,000 dozen bottles, and numerous effects'.

The only Caversham connection I have found so far is a report of the Sunday school prize-giving at Caversham Free Baptist Church in 1908, when Dorothy Cheadle, John's daughter, was one of the winners. This strongly suggests that the family lived in Caversham at the time, but a search of the street directories has failed to locate their house or business premises.

Does the fact that Mr Cheadle described himself as a 'botanical brewer' indicate that he was a bit more than a manufacturer of fizzy drinks? In the Reading directories of the day, he is always classified as a 'mineral water manufacturer'. I wonder quite what his 'botanical jars' were.

Until the 1960s, every town had at least one of these makers of fizzy drinks. In Reading, the best-known was Tunbridge Jones, in Castle Street. Today, the trade is almost entirely in the hands of the 'big boys', and the drinks come in plastic throw-away bottles. I'm sure that many readers, like me, will remember the locally-produced drinks of our childhood with great pleasure, and how eager we were to taste them, and experience their effervescence!

Happy Wanderer

CLUBS

Caversham Horticultural Society

May is a busy month for members, and not only within their own gardens. There will be a coach outing to Wisley on Wednesday 10th. The ever popular spring plant sale will be held on Saturday 13th at the Oakley Road allotments between 10 and 11.30am. Do visit and stock up on plants for your garden at competitive prices. Stock is dependent upon donations so it is a case of visiting and selecting what is on offer. The sale often includes tomato and other young vegetable seedlings and herbs, in addition to ornamental plants.

Finally we are delighted to welcome back Timothy Walker, head of Oxford Botanical Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, to give a talk entitled 'On top but never in control: tales from a small garden'. All are invited to this talk which will be held at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road on Wednesday 17th starting at 7.45pm. Admission for non members is £3.00

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

To celebrate spring, chairman Margaret Miles hosted a Hot Cross Bun and coffee morning, with a tombola and lots of socialising. Members went to London to see 'Girls', a musical based on Calendar Girls.

At our main meeting there was a presentation by Margaret Edwards entitled 'Love your garden'. The social studies group were enchanted by Gwen Barton's talk on Ireland. The ambling group walked from Caversham Heights via all the parks to the footbridge over the Thames, then around View Island, finishing at the tea barge for lunch. Scrabble, luncheon, and cinema clubs continue to be enjoyed.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th May at the Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, when Jean Hill will be talking on the 'rhyme of our lives'.

Probus

The speaker at the March meeting of the Reading and District Probus club was Ralph Jerram, whose subject was 'The pun is mightier than the sword'. The talk was in the form of a stand-up comedian delivering a stream of puns, of which some were new, while many were not.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men. Lunch is followed by a talk, which may be on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club. For further information visit the club's website www.probusclub-reading.org.uk. If you are interested in joining, please contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

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Rosehill WI

At our March meeting, President Margaret Pyle welcomed all members and visitors present, saying that the afternoon would be completely taken up with business as this was the AGM and some important issues had to be discussed.

First Margaret announced meetings of the scrabble and book clubs. Next Margaret Seal gave out the birthday buttonholes, and said that 2018 diaries can be ordered. We were advised that the Caversham Group of WIs (of which Rosehill is a member) is holding its Annual Meeting at Caversham Heights Methodist hall on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30pm, at which Philippa Bilton will be speaking about the Suffragette movement, and Rosehill will be the hosts. Tickets cost £5.00.

The main business of the afternoon was the Annual General Meeting. Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Hutton and Arlene Riley. Secretary Mary Robinson then gave the Annual Report and reminded us of the various speakers and outings we had had over the year. She also told us that we continue to support the RBH and knitters had produced 41 twiddlemuffs for patients with dementia also 106 hats, 33 cardigans and 40 blankets for Buscot Ward and 315 emergency packs – a big thank you to all contributors. Then Judith Sharp (Treasurer) gave her annual report and said that our finances were in good order, and also told us that we had made a marvellous 60p interest on our savings account!!! President Margaret Pyle then gave her annual report itemising the various tasks carried out by each member of the committee and thanking them for all their efforts. She also thanked other members who had helped during the year.

Next year's committee was announced. Margaret Pyle (president), Mary Robinson (secretary) and Judith Sharp (treasurer) will continue in these roles. Margaret Seal has resigned from the committee and the vice presidency, but will continue to do the birthday buttonholes. Margaret was presented with a lovely orchid to thank her for her hard work over the years. There were two other resignations from the committee, namely Betty Alban and Brenda Strong.

Finally Margaret outlined the programme of speakers for the next year. Tea and biscuits were served before the raffle was drawn.

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

Caversham WI

The March meeting was the culmination of the group's year – we awarded the annual competition prize, reviewed the years activities (including the annual boat trip, celebratory afternoon tea and Christmas carols) and refreshed the committee members. A complete new programme for the year has now been issued, including national and local speakers (e.g. garden wildlife and experiences of a fishmonger).

The annual boat trip has now been confirmed for Friday 16th June and will include a strawberry cream tea. The invitation is open to include all interested ladies – so, would you like to join us? (if so, please do get in touch to secure a place – places are limited)

Next month we look forward to learning about spinning (for cloth, not exercise!). New members are very welcome to join our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. There is easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, 59 Church Street.

For further details please contact our secretary on 947 5176.

The Caversham Heights Society

Members heard talks on two very different topics during March. The first was by Dr Robert Taynton, a retired GP and chairman of the charity responsible for the building and oversight of the West Berkshire Community Hospital. Dr Taynton talked about the difficulties and frustrations concerning the establishment of the community hospital with passion, humour and resignation.

In 1987 a certain Rosemary Brook, a rather formidable lady, left a plot of land for the building of a community hospital to replace the existing one which was a fire hazard and no longer fit for purpose. The land was sold for £7 million and in 1996 a charity was established to oversee the planning and development of the project to build the new hospital between Thatcham and Newbury.

It took five years of battling constant obstacles and objections

from a variety of organizations and interested bodies, including the Department of Health and the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust, before eventually, in 2004, the Department of Health agreed to PFI (Private Finance Initiative) money being granted. Like many critics of Gordon Brown's policy to use private funding to build public projects, the speaker was very critical of the policy's impact on the NHS since hospitals have been left with paying millions of pounds to private financial companies, in this case the Nationwide Building Society, to pay for mortgages of up to 30 years to the companies that built the hospitals, in this case Jarvis. Nationwide originally lent £18 million for 30 years during which time they own the buildings and can, and have done, object to any changes to the structure of the buildings.

While the West Berkshire Hospital can undertake digital X-rays, linked to the RBH, has an operating theatre for endoscopies, a minor injury unit, a physiotherapy and out-patients departments there is no A and E department, maternity unit or kidney dialysis unit and while there is an end of life unit there needs to be an oncology department. There is a desperate need for both of the latter especially as 29 patients in West Berkshire have to travel to the RBH three days a week for kidney dialysis. The NHS recognises the need but Nationwide has blocked any hospital expansion on the grounds that it 'risks their investment'. There have been other objections raised by other local hospitals, such as Prospect Park and the RBH, even though the latter would benefit from another dialysis unit nearby.

The second talk, on the Serengeti and Ndutu, was given by Nigel Glover Wright. We were entertained with a slide show of photographs of stunning African sunrises and sunsets, and pictures of exotic birds and wildlife, taken by the speaker while on safari in the world's largest game reserve. Serengeti translates into 'the land of endless space', and judging by some of the photographs it lives up to its name. We were shown some spectacular photographs of cheetahs, leopards, lions, hyenas, jackals, giraffes, kingfishers, starlings, storks, herons, hammerhocks, hornbills and bee eaters, many with magnificent colourings so very different from their European cousins.

The society meets on alternate Wednesday evenings in the church hall of Caversham Methodist Church in Highmoor Road. By the time this is printed the last meeting of the season will have been held but for further information visit our website cavershamheights.org or email our treasurer, Carol Cozens, on rooster10@btinternet.com.

Chazey WI

At our February meeting we were entertained by Simon Jones talking about antiques and appraising objects brought in by members.

In March the members voted for their committee for the following year, Hilary Morrison was elected as president and we welcomed Julia Bradshaw onto the committee.

After refreshments, our secretary, Kate Walmsley, showed a slide presentation of photos old and new of Chazey WI's days out and events, a trip down memory lane for many of the members.

Come and visit us, we meet on the first Tuesday in the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall starting at 7.30pm. A warm welcome awaits you.

Caversham Bowling Club

Caversham Bowling Club is a mixed club, which offers the opportunity to take part in a sport which can be enjoyed by both men and women of all ages. The club has members of all standards, from beginners to county players. There are vacancies for both men and women, and this summer, as in previous years, the club is offering the opportunity to anyone who is interested to come along and try the game.

The sport provides gentle exercise and the opportunity to make new friends. You do not need to have played competitive sport in the past; the game does not require great physical fitness or athleticism, but relies rather on attributes of control, accuracy and consistency, which in some ways can be more demanding.

The club is holding an open day on Sunday 30th April, between 1pm and 5pm, when the club will be open to anyone who would like to try the game. Also, starting on May 5th, each Friday evening from 6.00pm, the club will be open to anyone who would like to try the game. The only requirements are flat-soled shoes and enthusiasm: bowls and other equipment will be provided. Our members look forward to welcoming you and will be on hand to offer advice and instruction. It does not take long to learn the basics of the game, and you could soon be taking part in club matches.

The club has a friendly atmosphere with a licensed bar, and organises social events throughout the year. Why not come along to one of these sessions, you may be pleasantly surprised? Light refreshments will be available for a nominal sum. You do not need to book, just turn up at the stated time.

Experienced bowlers are also welcome to join the club, and should contact the secretary as below. The club is located in the recreation ground in Albert Road, Caversham. Ample free parking is available next to the green. The number 22 bus stops outside the park at the St Andrews Church bus stop.

Further information can be obtained from the club secretary on 0118 947 8887, or visit the website www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk.

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