

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS SOCIETY

Mini Holiday 15th to 19th May 2017



The class of 2017!

Led by John and Linda Dudley

Day 1 As instructed we assembled at the coach by 8.45 – or almost! We had been sent details of our numbered seats for the outward and homeward journeys. Great idea we thought – until we found that the seats had not been numbered as it was a brand new coach – so we had to sort ourselves out – I should have been sitting with 'Ann' but ended up sitting with 'Gordon'! It was an opportunity to get to know someone new and we learnt a little about each other as we set off. Our first stop was at *Dobbies garden centre* near Cirencester for a short break to enjoy a coffee. Onwards then to *Weston's cider factory* where we were taken on guided tours. We saw the very large, very ancient wooden vats which are still in use plus a modern stainless steel one. The vats were given some interesting names: 'Pip', 'Squeak', 'Norman', 'Faith', 'Hope', 'Charity' to name just a few. We were offered 'tasters' including a Perry, and a rhubarb cider and we were each given a mini-pottery jug as a memento.

We then 'staggered' back to the coach for our onward journey to our hotel destination. *The Stourport Manor hotel*, where we were welcomed with scones, jam, cream and tea. It had been arranged for our group to use a large room before dinner to give us a chance to get to know other members of the group. After dinner we had some 'tongue in cheek' amusing entertainment by five amateur actors giving us the history of the hotel and the surrounding area.

Day 2 Involved a visit to *RAF Cosford* and the *National Cold War Museum* for a guided tour.

Onwards, then to *The Ironbridge Toll House* for another guided tour and a visit to the *Museum of the Gorge* and *Blists Hill Victorian Town*. An enjoyable but exhausting day. Our evening meal was accompanied by some gentle live music.

Day 3. A VERY WET ONE!

Squelching along a muddy track to visit the *Monkland Cheese Dairy* where we had a guided tour and very interesting demonstration of the cheese process with lots of 'tasters' A short drive took us to *Croft Castle*. Still more rain which prevented us from walking in the beautiful grounds and parkland. We did paddle over to see inside of the castle and the ancient church of *St Michael and All Angels*. (An early

C14th with late C17th bell tower, *St Michael's* stands on land entirely owned by the National Trust (*Croft Castle*). There is a Communion service (BCP) once a month.)

The property became the *Croft* family home before the *Doomsday Book*. There were compelling 20th century stories, including the impact of the first World War. A place to be revisited – on a fine day!

DAY 4 – WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN THE WEATHER – BRIGHT AND SUNNY

A drive through beautiful countryside took us to *Hereford* and the Cathedral.

We were split into three groups and given excellent tours of the Cathedral from well informed guides. The tour took about 90 minutes so we were grateful to be able to sit in pews for brief periods. At 11 a.m. all those present were asked to stand quietly for a few minutes as prayers were said, followed by The Lord's Prayer. We also had the opportunity to view the 'Mappa Mundi' and the chain library.

Our planned event for the afternoon had to be abandoned due to road closures, so we were given the opportunity of getting off the coach in *Stourport* to view 'the basin' whilst the less energetic were taken back to the hotel for a much needed cup of tea and a rest.

Day 5 – our last day. Coach packed and off we went, visiting *Witley Court* with the wonderful refurbished *Perseus* and *Andromeda* fountain.

We cannot close this report without congratulating *John and Linda Dudley* on their faultless organisation and thoughtful

attention to detail (weather and road works excluded!)

THANK YOU BOTH

Not forgetting our marvellous coach driver *Paul Barry* whose cheerfulness, kindness and patience with difficult driving conditions, pouring rain and road closures made our journeys a pleasure.

Space has not allowed me to include more photographs but they can be seen on the internet.

We hope we have given you a taste of our holiday and that it will encourage you to join the society which meets twice a month from September to April and possibly join us on another holiday. Please contact *Carol Cozens* at rooster10@btinternet.com.

Janet Offord

A member of the group writes:

The visit to *RAF Cosford* Museum brought back memories to me. During W.W.2 I was walking with a friend from *E.P. Collier Central School* (as it was then known) along *Vestern Road* when the siren sounded and we were startled to see a yellow *Dornier* plane with a black cross under each wing. We hunkered down in the gutter when the machine guns started firing and then ran into the nearest house where the lady greeted us with "My son has measles". However, she must have seen how scared we were and she let us in. The front window of the house was smashed, either by the blast from the bomb which was dropped on the *People's Pantry* that day, or from the machine gun fire. As soon as we were able we made a final dash for home. The bullet marks are still visible under *Reading Bridge*.

Alma Thrower



Witley Court

INSIDE

Talking Point	page 2	Happy Wanderer	page 7
Bible Friends and Churches	page 3	Good Neighbours Tea Party	page 8
News from <i>St Anne's</i>	page 4	Holiday at Home	page 9
Nurses trip to <i>Cambodia</i>	page 5	Clubs & Societies	page 11
LocalArea.....	page 6		

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

St Barnabas
Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.
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
Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223
Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)
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ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.

Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon: Hugh Anscombe
Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Methodist, 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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TALKING POINT

by Jenny Dowding

A few months ago, I attended the quiet funeral of Fred, an elderly friend of my late parents. It was a non-religious funeral, and the civil celebrant led a sensitive, thoughtful and dignified ceremony for the small group of family and friends. The service included some of Fred's favourite music, and a warm account of his life and the impact he'd made on those who knew him. Afterwards, his daughter, whom I hadn't seen for some years, said to me, "Would you have taken the service if we'd asked you?"

I was sad that she hadn't felt able to ask before, and I reflected on why the family had chosen a non-religious service. I know that, in some instances, non-religious funerals are held to respect the expressed wishes of the person who has died, and that is entirely understandable. In other cases, I wonder whether families feel that Christian funerals are only for regular churchgoers, or perhaps they are wary of ministers who might use high-flown language and an impersonal approach. In this instance, I suspect that one influential family member had had a bad experience of a Christian funeral and had persuaded the rest of the family.

As a Christian at that non-religious funeral, I was left feeling thankful for having known Fred, and appreciative of the way the service had been led, but nevertheless rather empty. On that occasion, there was no opportunity to participate or engage with what was happening, other than to listen. At a Christian funeral, there are prayers to which we can add our own 'Amen' as we pray them silently, and usually the Lord's Prayer to say together; there may be hymns and songs we can join in with. The funeral I attended enabled us to give thanks for the past, gave a small amount of support and comfort for the present, but offered nothing for the future.

The Methodist funeral service affirms that "in the presence of death, Christ offers us sure ground for hope and confidence and even for joy, because he shared our human life and death, was raised again triumphant and lives for evermore. In him his people find eternal life." A Christian funeral service enables us to look back at the past with thanksgiving, to know God's strength in the present, and to look forward in hope. As we journey with grief, we trust God to give, as a familiar hymn expresses it, "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow".

The Revd Jenny Dowding is minister for the Caversham Methodist churches



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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

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 August 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 3rd July**. The date for the September 2017 issue is **Monday 31st July**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the August 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 30th June**. The date for the September 2017 issue is **Friday 28th July**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
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Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
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St Andrews Church

On Sunday 4th June St Andrew's was pleased to host a visit from a local Imam. Mohammed Abu Bakr Banares, of Reading's South Street Mosque. The timing was poignant, it being the day after the London Bridge terrorist attack. Imam Mohammed expressed his frustration, and that of the majority of Muslims, that such atrocities are carried out in the name of Islam. We found much common ground between Islam and Christianity, including the traditions of prayer and fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage, belief in angels and a day of judgment, and (perhaps more controversially) that Muslims and Christians believe that there is only one God! We also discovered that we have in common the challenge of rising secularism. We discussed how some disaffected young men turn to violence in the name of Islam and the importance of those who interpret sacred texts being well-educated. St Andrew's sends its good wishes to our Muslim neighbours and hopes to arrange a visit to the mosque in the autumn. As always, there was tea and cake...for those not keeping Ramadan!

Rev Nigel Jones.



St Barnabas Church

Following a very successful Alpha course earlier in the year at St Barnabas church a new Bible study group has been formed which meets on a fortnightly basis on Monday evenings.

A 'Ladies who Lunch' group was launched in the spring. It is proving to be very successful with an average attendance of 20 people every month on the penultimate Thursday. Different venues in Caversham are chosen and much conversation is generated while enjoying pleasant food.

Towards the end of May a contingent from the church went to Iona for a week. It was a memorable time and greatly enjoyed by all those who walked in the footsteps of St. Columba in that special place of such historical interest.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NETWORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME - SUMMER 2017



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

6th July

Speaker: Peter and Lesley Boardley
Subject: 'Guatemala'

20th July**GARDEN PARTY** at the home of Carole Pearce**Bible Friends**

Noah and the big flood

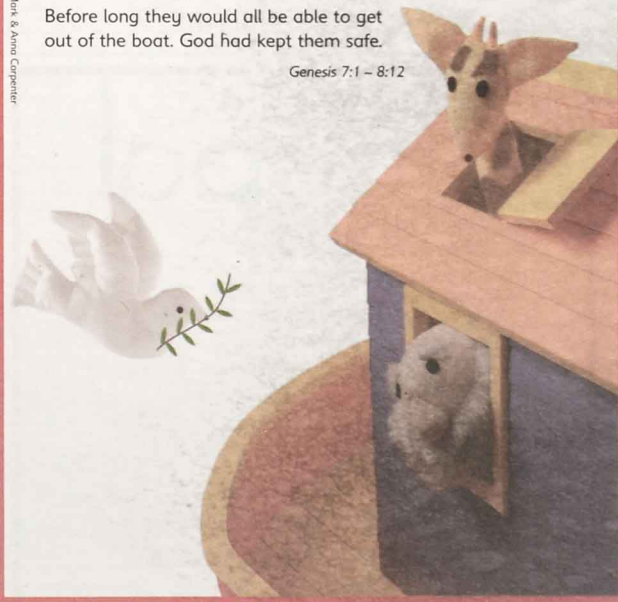
Pitter-patter, splish-splash! Noah and his family listened to the rain falling. Pitter-patter, it fell on the boat that Noah had built. Splish-splash, it fell on the water all around them. The rain poured down every day and there was no more dry land. But God made sure that everyone on the boat and all the animals were safe.

Then the rain stopped. It was quiet and, for days and weeks and months, Noah and his family floated along in the boat. All they could see was water. Then God made a wind blow to dry up the water. It took months and months and months.

Noah sent out a dove. At last she flew back to him with a leafy branch in her beak! Then Noah knew there was dry land somewhere and plants were growing again.

Before long they would all be able to get out of the boat. God had kept them safe.

Genesis 7:1 - 8:12



A great step for Caversham!

Father Paul Martin has completed his 11 day pilgrimage from Walsingham in North Norfolk to his parish of Our Lady and St Anne in Caversham, Berkshire, thus renewing a historic link between 'England's Nazareth' and its southern sister close to the Thames in Reading (*Catholic Today*, April 2017). Fr Paul walked the 186 miles as a solitary pilgrim to raise funds for the renovation of the present Caversham shrine. There has been a long association between devotion to Our Lady and pilgrimage to Reading Abbey since the 11th century until the mid-16th century. When the parish of Our Lady and St Anne was founded in 1897 devotion recommenced and in the Marian Year of 1958 a new shrine chapel was completed and dedicated. Fr. Paul's pilgrimage marks a new step in the devotion to Our Lady in Caversham.

On 1st May, a minibus took parishioners from Our Lady and St Anne's parish to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to see

Father Paul off on his sponsored walk back to Caversham. The group spent the morning looking round Walsingham, some attended mass in the Slipper Chapel. After lunch they all joined Father Paul in the Retreat House chapel where he celebrated Mass.

After a hearty send-off from his parishioners, Fr. Paul traced the shortest route to pay homage to history in Kings Lynn (the original Walsingham shrine site), Peterborough (the tomb of Queen Catherine of Aragon, a frequent visitor and benefactor to the Caversham shrine) and Windsor where Henry VIII who ordered the destruction of the shrine is buried. From the Middle Ages a bridge across the Thames at Caversham had two chapels (one to Our Lady, the other to the Holy Spirit) used by pilgrims as they crossed the river. Both chapels were destroyed in the Reformation of the 1540s. The original medieval shrine to Our Lady was located at what is now Deans Farm nearby in Lower

Caversham. Until the Dissolution the shrine was a short ferry ride across the Thames from the site of Reading Abbey, now ruined. But the restoration of the shrine in the church of Our Lady and St Anne, Caversham in 1954 marked out a new era. Our parish is now looking forward to playing its part in the renovation of this shrine as an impulse for Marian pilgrimage.

Fr. Paul's walk was a tough one mostly on main roads, but in the end he passed the test slightly sore of foot and leg, but thankfully safe from other incident. He celebrated a mass on his arrival and we enjoyed a reception in the Cenacle to welcome him back! Fr. Paul's walk has provided a major boost to fundraising, but as always there is more to be done over the coming years. However, this summer tangible evidence will appear in the redecorated shrine. You can follow the progress of the renovation, read Fr. Paul's pilgrim diary and make donations at the Just



Giving page on the parish website (www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/archdiocese-birmingham/ourladyandstannechurch1).

The efforts of our Priest and the parish will renew the impetus to individual and parochial pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. The physical effort our Priest has made will surely create spiritual rewards in the tradition of Christian pilgrimage. Our parish is a supporter of the Friends of the Holy Land wherein pilgrimage, prayer and practical action to support Christian communities in the Holy Land is a motivating force. So, a pilgrimage to Caversham is a good place to continue the same process. If we not only renovate the shrine, but also look to a pilgrim link between England's Nazareth in Walsingham and Caversham we will encourage renewal of spirit and faith. We look forward to your visits to Caversham through the website (<http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk/>) and of course through your real presence!

Stephen A Roberts

May news from St Anne's School

A joint Retreat day for Year 6 pupils from St Anne's and St Martin's schools was held at St Anne's school, Caversham. The most important purpose of the day was for the children to reflect on their years at primary school and to look forward to their continuing spiritual life in secondary school.

This was achieved, however, in an enjoyable and fun-packed day with the pupils involved in such activities as role-play and drama. They were each able to meet pupils from the other school and perhaps make new friends with children who would be going to the same secondary schools later in the year.

Also, on the two last Sundays in May, two groups of children made their First Holy Communion. Five children received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time on 21st May and two more on the 28th May.



Five children make their first Holy Communion.



Photos by Jane Shaw show the two FHC groups

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A Trip to Cambodia

In March this year I volunteered to join a medical mission to Cambodia with the organisation Mission Direct (www.missiondirect.org). I am a community nurse working in Earley, and I went with a GP from Yorkshire, a pharmacist from Hampshire and another community nurse from Scotland. The aim of Mission Direct is to demonstrate Christian faith through service to the poorest and most needy people around the world working in partnership with local communities.

Cambodia's recent history has been shocking, beyond belief. Pol Pot as leader of the Cambodian Communist party wanted to change Cambodia to a Communist peasant farming society and in 1975 he formed an armed resistance movement that became known as the Khmer Rouge army. This consisted of teenage peasant guerrillas and together with some North Vietnamese they seized control of Phnom Penh, the capital and declared that society was to be 'purified', Capitalism to be extinguished.

Immediately all foreigners were expelled, newspaper and TV stations were shut down, radios and bicycles were confiscated, mail and telephone stopped, money forbidden, businesses shut down, religion banned, education halted, healthcare eliminated – Cambodia was sealed off from the outside world. All cities were then forcibly evacuated and millions of Cambodians were forced into slave labour in Pol Pot's 'Killing Fields' where they soon began dying from overwork, malnutrition and disease, working from 4am until 10pm. The educated, the wealthy, police, doctors, Buddhist monks, lawyers, teachers, former government officials, ex soldiers, wives and children were imprisoned, tortured, starved and murdered. 'What is rotten must be removed' a Khmer Rouge slogan proclaimed. In the villages, gatherings of more than two people were forbidden and young people were taken from their parents and placed in 'communals'.

It is estimated that in four years, a quarter of the population of Cambodia died, approximately three million people. Eventually Pol Pot was overthrown but the legacy of this broken traumatised society is still apparent. Nearly 40% live in poverty, 60% do not have access to clean water and 50% of children are underweight – but, the Christian church is rapidly growing, bringing healing and hope to a very needy people.

Following a long journey via Kuala Lumpur, we arrived in Phnom Penh, a bustling city, beautiful with blossom and spring flowers and were greeted by very friendly welcoming people. We stayed in a guest house with some volunteers from New Zealand installing water pumps in the outlying villages and also a resident bright green Gecko – also



Carole with a patient.

known as a Chit Chat lizard – he certainly did that at night, loudly! Outside the streets were busy with tuk tuks carrying people, markets, coffee shops and motorbikes laden with coconuts, chickens, bananas etc and yet behind the streets many were living in great poverty on rubbish dumps, beside foul waterways, in cardboard boxes, under corrugated iron sheets surviving by sifting through rubbish.

With the money raised for this trip, non-qualified healthcare assistants working for Christian organisations were brought in from the surrounding countryside and accommodated overnight. We ran teaching courses on child health, pregnancy care, immunization, breast feeding, reducing the risk of infection, first aid, child abuse etc. providing translations and handouts. We also prayed and sang songs together including, 'Head shoulders knees and toes' with actions, which caused great merriment. The money also covered the cost of a two day medical outreach to a remote village about five hours from Phnom Penh. An American missionary doctor joined us and we set up camp in the shade of bamboo and palm trees on an island in the province of Koh Kong, pigs rummaging a few feet away! 82 patients were seen over the two days by the medical team, many with back problems, most are simple fishermen and women and they also work the land with very little equipment to help them. Cataracts were diagnosed, even mumps, some people needing surgery, most needing pain relief, sadly one lady had been unable to conceive but there was nowhere to send her. Medicines were dispensed and patients also received prayer from the local Pastor, and were given toothbrushes and paste, some received spectacles and ladies were given sewing kits which included bookmarks with the verse from John 8:12, 'I am the light of the world'.

As we travelled back to Phnom Penh we enjoyed the scenery, saw rice fields, wooden houses mostly on stilts as the land is quite flat and prone to flooding, spotted many colourful birds and butterflies and as the sun was setting we stopped to photograph a herd of water buffalo.

We did have some recreation time and visited the horrific Toul Sleng Prison, it was a secondary school taken over by Pol Pot and is now a Museum of Genocide, also Angkor Wat in Siem Reap Province with its amazing 12 century temples, apparently the largest city in the world then, and often described now as the eighth Wonder of the World, only 'discovered' 150 years ago covered in trees and undergrowth, by a French explorer!

Thank you to everyone who supported this trip with generous donations of money, medical supplies and sewing items (98 kits were made and distributed), by purchasing the Reading Quiz and also of course with prayer.

Carole Moloney



Angkor Wat.

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Thursday* is
Fisherman day!

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A Piece of old Caversham unveiled

The Caversham Picture Framer shop in Church Road, Caversham, holds a well kept secret. It has been a picture framing business for 30 years, but it had a former life as a fishmongers. The historic tiled interior has been hidden from view for many years.

It has black and white tiled walls with a swag pattern frieze which is both of local historic interest and an attractive period shop interior of a type which has largely disappeared.

The shop is undergoing a major refurbishment, and as part of the process the old tiling will be revealed and be visible for the first time in many years. The shop was due to close from Tuesday 30th May for about three weeks before re-opening to continue serving the local community as a picture framer. The

new interior design will endeavour to display more of the tiling, which many visitors to the shop admire.

Alex Foster, owner and framer, intends to also use the space to bring art events and opportunities to the local community as well as providing interior design support by introducing a range of handmade bespoke mirrors and frames, and framing services, including restoring and supplying period frames.

Alex, who recently took over the business, said: "This historic old shop at the heart of the Caversham community needs to be kept as a feature of the street, and I am really looking forward to renewing its appearance and helping bring art and design to the fore in Caversham."



Draft Appraisal for St Peter's Conservation Area

Several CADRA committee members serve on the new Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC), a group of volunteers drawn from similar groups across Reading who provide expertise to supplement the limited resources RBC can deploy for its conservation role. A major long-term task is to review and update the appraisals that justify all 15 conservation areas, two of which, St Peter's and Surley Row, lie north of the river. The review of St Peter's, covering the historic centre of Caversham, is one of the first. Last July, 28 volunteers attended a briefing followed by a walking tour to identify features of importance and also detractors from the area. A key proposal was to extend the conservation area to include the

Church Street/ Church Road/ Bridge Street junction, Bridge Street, and Caversham Bridge.

The draft appraisal has now been completed. It is hoped that it will eventually be adopted by Reading Borough Council as formal planning policy. The engagement of residents and building owners is key to its credibility and acceptance by RBC, which will have to undertake its own formal consultation to give the document full legal force.

The draft appraisal will be launched at the Church Fete in Caversham Court on Saturday 8th July, 1.00-4.30pm. It will also be available on the CADRA website, cadra.org.uk, where you will find supporting information, and two copies will be held in Caversham Library.

A six week period for comments will run from 8th July until 19th August. It will be important to be able to show that the appraisal has public support, so your views will be very much appreciated!

You can comment online via the CADRA website, by emailing appraisal@cadra.org.uk, or by writing to: St Peter's Conservation Area Appraisal Comments, 121 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7LB

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Caversham Mill

I well remember the day in April 1984 when I moved from Reading to Caversham. We 'moved ourselves,' as they say, borrowing a van and a couple of friends. It was the hardest day's physical work that I have ever done! At lunch time, on a friend's recommendation, we went to the Miller's Arms, and there enjoyed bread and sausages by the river, to fortify ourselves for the rest of the day.

By that time, Caversham Mill was no more, demolished in the late 1970s. Had it still been there, I should have seen it, in its latest inglorious iron-clad manifestation.

Like most mills, Caversham Mill has been rebuilt several times over the centuries. Mills were of great importance to the local economy, and the miller was usually a fairly wealthy individual, by being able to keep and sell off a proportion of the corn he ground – a bit like present-day estate agents and their percentages!

There has been a mill at Caversham since the time the Domesday Book was compiled, around 1086, and probably before that. Since then, its position on the ground has altered, but probably only slightly. Medieval records mention several mills in Caversham, but that doesn't necessarily mean several separate buildings. It could mean several sets of millstones, or fulling-stocks, in the same building. Between the 15th and the 17th centuries, the making of woollen cloth was a major industry in Reading, and the records mention fulling-mills. The old way of fulling was to have walkers treading on the cloth to make the fibres knit together. By about 1450, the fullers were using water power. 'Beetles', great baulks of timber, were raised up and allowed to come crashing down on the fabric, as the mill-wheel turned. Large-scale weaving came to an end around 1650, but Caversham mill continued to grind corn until around 1935. For much of the 19th century, the Champion family were the millers, giving their name to nearby Champion Road.

During the Second World War, a firm called British Metal Powders used the premises. It is said to have been manufacturing explosives. This fact was probably never made publicly known. When the local paper recorded a fire there in the early morning of July 9th, 1940, it mentioned aluminium powder, but not explosives. Whatever was going on, the mill was wrecked, and that, presumably, was the end of the wooden clap-board mill you can see in the picture.

In 1952, a firm called British Technical Cork moved onto the site, occupying a large factory, clad in corrugated iron. Production stopped in the late 1970s, the factory disappeared, and by the late 1980s, the area was called Heron Island, with smart new houses.

This photograph, showing the mill, the mill house and the mill-tail, was sent to me by a friend. I hadn't seen it before, and thought it was worth sharing with readers of the 'Bridge'. I'll send copies of it to the Central Library and to the Mills Archive in Reading, for their collections. It must date from around 1910. Reading Museum and Art Gallery have a painting of the previous, single-storey mill, by H. G. Pidgeon, dating from around 1850. The clap-board mill in the picture, seen from Mill Green, was probably built in the 1860s.

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Being a Brownie leader

I am often asked why I wanted to become a Brownie leader. I don't have children so why on earth would I want to give up my Friday evenings to spend it with 30 seven to ten -year-olds?!

Well, I got into it through a friend who is a Brownie leader. She would tell me about the evenings she was planning for the girls like having a pamper night, putting on a talent show and cooking in the woods!

So when I moved to a new area and was looking for ways to get involved in the local community and do some voluntary work, I decided to give Brownies a try. It was something I could do outside of the usual 9-5 working hours which many other types of volunteering were not. Registering my interest on the website was really easy, simply chose what area and times I was available and within a few days the co-ordinator for the area had been in contact.

There was no pressure to commit to anything. The leader of the unit was great and said to just go along for a few weeks to see how I liked it initially. That's the great thing about volunteering with Girlguiding, it is totally flexible around your lifestyle and how much time you have available. I really enjoyed my first few weeks so decided to commit to it and start my training to be a fully qualified leader. This isn't for everyone so even if you only have time to help every couple of weeks, that's still really appreciated!

It's such a contrast to being at work but has really helped me develop skills that I can use when at work also. Standing in front of 30 children explaining what we are going to do and keeping their attention is much more challenging than presenting to colleagues at work! The Brownies will certainly tell you exactly what they think often with little sugar coating! Planning interesting activities and thinking how to keep them engaged is essential, it's got to be different from a school lesson for them but they also need to gain something from each session. Bringing your own interests and skills to the meetings is a great way to introduce them to new topics. I'm passionate about the environment so have taken the opportunity to teach the girls about different elements of it.

(Philippa Richardson, 4th Caversham Brownies)

Girlguiding in Caversham and Emmer Green is always looking for adult help with all age groups – Rainbows 5-7, Brownies 7-10, Guides 10-14 and Senior Section 14 upwards. We have to turn away about 75% of our Rainbow applications as we can only currently offer 45 places. One of our Brownie units is now at risk as two out of three leaders are leaving this year. Could you give some time to help local girls and young women broaden their horizons and achieve their goals? To apply on line go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or email us at cavershamguides@hotmail.co.uk

Caversham Good Neighbours

In May Caversham Good Neighbours held a tea party for their clients and some of their volunteers. About 80 people attended the party at Caversham Heath Golf Club where a special tea had been prepared by the staff at the Club. The clients enjoyed sandwiches, followed by scones, jam and cream and delicious cakes.

The tea party was made possible by a donation from The Heights Free School who had held a sponsored run last year to raise money for

charity. They had then selected CGN as one of their chosen charities to donate £500 to enable us to treat our clients to a special afternoon outing. Some of the children, headteacher Karen Edwards and publicity officer Michelle Pattison came along to the party to introduce themselves and chat to the guests.

Leigh Furlonger, the chairman of CGN, gave a vote of thanks to the school children and a short explanation of the role of CGN in the community.

Caversham Good Neighbours is a community initiative formed 52 years ago and has strong links with Churches Together in Caversham. We offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled mainly to attend medical appointments or in some cases special club meetings. It is manned entirely by volunteers and calls on our services are increasing drastically so we are constantly looking for people to help both in the office, taking calls from people requiring lifts, and also for drivers to transport our clients. If you feel you could give a small amount of time to our charity we would be delighted to hear from you. The website is www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk, or you can telephone our office between 9.30 and 11.30 Monday to Friday on 01189 9483466 or email pat@cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk.



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Held At Caversham Heights Methodist Church 30th May to 2nd June 2017

We were pleased to welcome 30 guests – some came every day and others just for one or two. Each morning at 10 o'clock they were welcomed with a coffee or tea and biscuits.

There was a choice of activities during the mornings: Art – designing a shoe –

Games, glass painting and seated exercises, decorating picture frames,

Play reading – which produced some hidden talents! A beetle drive, and mosaics.

Planting up pots with an assortment of plug plants

All items made were taken home each day by our guests. There was a quiz each morning

and the opportunity to do some colouring – the latter proved very popular with some of the guests and a lot of the helpers!

Following a break for a two-course lunch and coffee or tea. The afternoon activities were more relaxed.

We had a musical interlude with Rev'd David Jenkins on the piano, playing some of the pieces he composed.

A slide show by Ray Goodman on his trip to New Zealand, a 'Desert Island Discs' session.

Flower arranging, and 'Singing for the brain'

Plus the ever popular 'Last Night of the

Proms' led by Jim Plunkett on the piano with much flag waving.

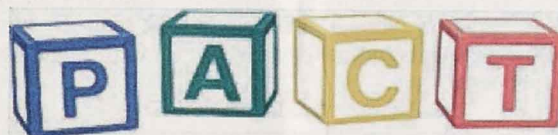
Tea and home-made cakes were enjoyed each afternoon, and as on all good holidays, we were treated to an ice cream on the final day.

Each day concluded with 'Thought for the Day' led by Rev'd David Jenkins and Rev'd Jenny Dowding.

Our thanks go to Sherryl Quint who masterminded the event with the help of her committee members. Those who did the catering, serving food and drinks, driving and generally making our guests welcome.



Some of the activities and entertainment that was on offer.



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

PACT calls for caring professionals to consider adoption

Family support charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is appealing for people from caring professions to consider adoption.

PACT offers outstanding adoption services to families across the South East. Last year it placed 87 children with 62 families. There are currently more than 2,000 children waiting to be adopted in England.

PACT is particularly looking for couples or single people, including those from the LGBT community, who can consider adopting children over four years old, those with black and minority ethnic heritage or who have additional needs, and sibling groups of two or more children.

The agency would really like to hear from anyone from the caring professions such as nurses, teachers, police officers, childminders and those in the care sector, as given their professional experience and skills they typically make strong adopters, and are particularly valued by local authorities looking to place a child.

PACT Chief Executive Jan Fishwick said: "We are always very happy to hear from anyone, whatever their profession, who can offer love, stability and security to a child who needs this – this is always what matters most. At PACT we work with adopters who are single and married, people who have birth or step-children, or don't have children, as well as those of different sexualities and religions."

PACT holds regular information events where anyone considering adoption can find out more about what's involved. To find out about events coming up see <http://pactcharity.org/adoption/about-adoption/information-events>

You can also find out more about PACT and its adoption services at www.pactcharity.org or by calling 0300 456 4800.

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HAPPENINGS

Caversham Church Fete

Saturday July 8th, 1.00pm.

Enjoy a traditional brass band at the Caversham Church Fete on Saturday 8 July 2017 starting at 1.00pm in Caversham Court gardens.

Caversham Church Fete is a truly traditional fete, combining entertainment, refreshments, stalls and sideshows on the banks of the River Thames in the beautiful and historic Caversham Court Gardens. Organised by St Peter's and St John's Churches, in Caversham, and St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham, the fete is sponsored by funeral directors AB Walker and Sons and Walmsley Estate Agents.

Entertainment will include a selection of music from the remarkable Tadley Band, a traditional brass band that traces its history back 140 years; an amazing range of dancing from the Joanna Wright School of Dance, entertainer Fred in the Shed, especially but not exclusively for younger fete-goers; and, of course, children's races and a kids' zone.

There will be sideshows from hoopla and hook-a-duck to a choice of tombolas, offering bottles or chocolate as prizes. Stalls will be selling everything from cakes, books, plants and bric-a-brac, to crafts, jams and preserves.

When the excitement and activity gets too much there will be afternoon tea and ice cream available on the lawn all afternoon. There will also be a Pimms tent near the river and Stevie's Kitchen will be serving hot food for the really hungry.

As tradition demands, this great family afternoon out will be rounded off by the Grand Draw, with a wide range of interesting and valuable prizes, including a £150 John Lewis voucher, splash pool party, meals out and a cruise on the Thames.

St Barnabas church Garden Party

This will take place on Saturday 15th July from 1 pm till 4 pm. There will be a barbecue, hamper raffle, bottle stall, tombola, surprise parcels, refreshments and many more stalls. For further information please phone 946 1365.

Caversham Rock 'n' Ale Festival

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Successful Grand Opening for Art Jam Studio

On a bright sunny day Art Jam Studio in Prospect Street, Caversham opened its doors for the first time on Saturday 8th April. A flurry of visitors poured through the door and it was all hands on deck. There was a knitting circle where visitors could add to a knitted 'paper' chain, Gelli Art demonstrations, silhouette cutting and the opportunity to talk to some of the teachers who will be taking classes at the new studio. Refreshments were also available in the form of Art Jam branded biscuits and cup cakes as well as biscuits in the form of a paint pallet plus refreshing cordials.

Some of the visitors signed up for classes and there was a lot of interest in the children's parties which are individually tailored to suit the group/celebration. The new studio will generally be open Tuesday to Saturday between 10am and 5pm and on some evenings when classes are running.

"The whole day was a great success," said founder Sherrie Tuhy, "I am so excited with the response and really looking forward to meeting more new people at the classes. I had lots of help, especially from family and friends, running up to the day and on the day - I couldn't have managed without them."

Art Jam Studio Caversham offers a wide variety of classes and workshops for any age and any ability. Classes will include drawing and painting, textiles, clay modelling, jewellery design, photography, stop-frame animation and so much more! All taught by experienced teachers, artists and crafters with heaps of enthusiasm and a vast skill base.

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CLUBS

Probus

The speaker at the May meeting of the Reading and District Probus club was John Brearley who gave a talk entitled 'Treasure Hunt (King Solomon's Temple)'.

Solomon's Temple was the holy temple in ancient Jerusalem. It contained a vast amount of treasure. The temple was destroyed by Titus in AD70, and the treasure taken to Rome. The quality of the treasure is described as 'outstanding'. Rome was sacked by the Visigoths in AD410, and the treasure disappeared. The Titus Arch in the Roman Forum depicts treasure as being in Rome.

John's talk concentrated on the search for the treasure, and the clues that give some indication of its possible whereabouts. The story moved to Rennes-le-chateau, a small hilltop village in Southern France, where apparently the curate Father Sauniere discovered buried treasure in the 19th century, and he spent vast amounts of money improving the conditions of the local populace. He is said to have found, in the hollow legs of the altar table, four parchments which he took to Paris to have deciphered. Two of them are now missing. Whether or not this had anything to do with Solomon's treasure is unproven.

This was a very interesting talk, but the mystery has still not been solved.

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.

Chazey WI

Members gathered at our meeting in May for the resolutions evening. The committee decided to have a debating format for the evening. Chairs were arranged around tables which had cheese and nibbles for members to enjoy whilst listening to the resolutions. Voting took place after the first resolution then our tea and coffee break followed by the second resolution. Feedback from the membership showed that the evening was a success!

A social group has been formed to look at theatre, film and other social events, ideas from the floor were welcomed.

Knitters in the group were asked to make dignity shawls and knee blankets for the Dignity Unit at the Royal Berks Hospital.

Our coffee morning was held at the Coppa Club in Sonning, and lunch at the Greyhound, Rotherfield Peppard.

The Group Meeting was held in our meeting hall on 24th May - the speaker was Phillipa Bilton, a relative of Emily Davison, the suffragette who died under the Kings Horse in the Derby. Phillipa was dressed as a Suffragette and gave a very lively talk. Before this the four WIs gave their yearly reports, all had been very busy.

We welcome new members to our meetings, held on the first Tuesday in the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, starting at 7.30pm; come and join us.

Rosehill WI

President Margaret Pyle welcomed members and guests to the May meeting. She started by thanking Rosemary Weekes for the table flowers (later raffle prize). Margaret also said that the record of the April meeting was available for all to see. Margaret told us that further

information had been received about the dignity shawls and knee blankets (part of the Dressing for Dignity initiative for elderly patients at RBH) and anyone interested should see Pat Denney for details. We then heard that three members had been rather poorly and we wish all three ladies a speedy recovery.

The cinema group did manage to see a film in April: 'Their Finest' with Gemma Arterton, Bill Nighy and Richard E Grant. All who attended enjoyed the film which was based on The Miracle of Dunkirk, although it did have a surprising ending. Treasurer Judith Sharp reported that our financial situation is OK. Our attention was then drawn to two items in the Berkshire WI News, there will be a Summer Open Day at WI House on Saturday 15th July between 10.00am and 12.30pm where tea, coffee and cake will be available, plus a display of crafts. The other item is a visit to Denbies Wine Estate on Tuesday 25th July where a train ride, with commentary, will take you at a leisurely pace to some of the most beautiful viewing points in the vineyard. There will also be time to have lunch in the conservatory, plus time to shop. All other information in Berkshire WI News.

Next, we came to the resolutions on which we had to vote, for or against each resolution separately. The two items were 'alleviating loneliness' and 'Plastic Soup: keep microplastic fibres out of our oceans'. After discussion voting was done by a show of hands, and the results will go to NFWI, which will then be discussed at the AGM in June.

We then came to our speaker, Jan Guiver, Berkshire Federation Link for ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). Jan gave a very interesting talk about how it was set up and the work that still goes on. All the voluntary work is done on a small scale with volunteers going to various countries to help set up, for example, a small farm and the logistics of making it successful.

The meeting closed after tea and biscuits had been served and the raffle drawn.

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

Caversham WI

At the May meeting, we discussed the two proposed national resolutions. Should the WI campaign for alleviating loneliness and/or for keeping microplastic fibres out of our oceans? A lively discussion was held, with members working in teams to consider the pros and cons of each, before taking a vote on each. We decided to back both resolutions, but await news on the final joint vote.

One of our members, Maggie Hill, recently delivered to St Luke's and The Oaks Care Homes, our craft group's tiddler muffs (for those with advancing dementia). Next month, we will be welcoming Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, to update us on the best ways to stay safe.

New members are very welcome to join our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 in the evenings, which helps avoid child-care issues. There is easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House. More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for 'Caversham WI programme'.

For further details please contact our Secretary, on 947 5176.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

On Wednesday 12th July there is a change from our original programme. David Wright will now be our flower demonstrator for the evening.

We look forward to welcoming our members but visitors are also very welcome. Chelsea flower show or Hampton Court flower show may have given you the flower bug, or you have a garden full of glorious flowers and would like inspiration! So come along, you never know you could go home with one of the beautiful designs from the raffle.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham for a 7.30 pm start.

For up to date information find us on Facebook and www.bbandflowers.org.uk

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