

## Caversham Church unveils 21st Century plans

The Caversham Baptist Church has revealed initial plans for a substantial redevelopment of the Victorian church building that has been sited at the heart of the village for the past 140 years.

The current church building was completed in 1877 when the church, having outgrown West Memorial Hall, moved to the new premises in South Street. West Memorial Hall is now The Waterhouse flats in Gosbrook Road and both buildings were designed by renowned Victorian architect Alfred Waterhouse, who was also responsible for Reading Town Hall, the Natural History Museum in London and Balliol College, Oxford. Caversham Baptist Church was last remodelled in 1980, when the pews were removed, new rooms created and better facilities installed.

This latest transformation will make the building more inviting and more accessible, with new glass doors, step-free access at the front and improved signage. The exterior will retain the features and design Alfred Waterhouse originally intended.



The church interior before the pews were removed.

Inside the church, there are plans for a first floor stretching the length of the building. This will create a large community hall on the ground floor and a worship area upstairs. At the north end of the church, meeting

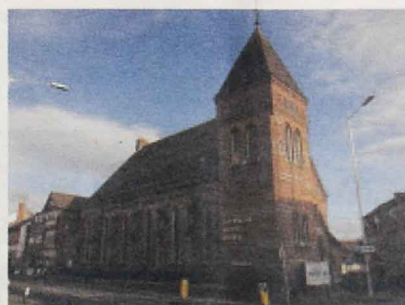
room facilities will be upgraded on both the ground and first floor, as well as improved toilet and kitchen facilities on both floors and enhanced audio and visual capabilities around the building.

The building is currently used by many community groups, including drama, keep fit and photography as well as regularly hosting community meetings. These plans are designed to enhance the experience of the users of the church but also to give the community a multipurpose building that can be used as a hub at the heart of Caversham.

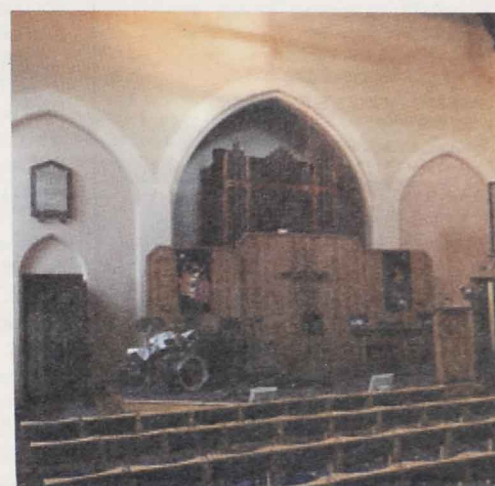
Church secretary Sue Cantwell said "As a church we are excited about a future that includes having facilities fit for 21st century use. The church is ideally positioned in the centre of Caversham and we want to create, not only a beautiful area for worship, but also improved, accessible and attractive facilities for church and community activities. Our strapline is *Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham* and we believe our improved building will help us to do that better."

In 2013 Caversham Baptist Church sold the North Caversham Baptist Church building and the money from the sale of that property will be used to fund part of this project. The church and its members will raise the rest of the finances to fund this redevelopment.

Richard Wilson, church treasurer, says "These are



ambitious and exciting plans which aim to provide a fantastic community facility right in the heart of Caversham. We hope that a cross-section of local residents and organisations will respond and engage in the consultation process to help us shape these plans and bring them to fruition over the next couple of years."



The church interior as it is now.

The Baptist Church would welcome any feedback to this building project and are keen to engage with the community to shape the redevelopment plans. They have delivered over 14,500 leaflets to every home in the Caversham area and the initial plans are available on their website [www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/redevelopment](http://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/redevelopment). The plans will also be on display in the church lounge for you to take a look at when the church is open or you can make a separate appointment to see the plans and ask any questions that arise.

There is also a short consultation survey they would like you to take, which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CavBaptistConsultation>

The church held an open morning on March 5th when the plans could be seen, and the architect and church leadership answered questions about the redevelopment. You can email the church at [redvelopment@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:redvelopment@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk).

### CORRECTIONS

In the March edition the Easter Sunday morning service at 11.15am at St Margaret's Mapledurham was omitted from the list of church services on page 1.

On page 2 some timings of the church services were incorrect. The correct times are shown on page 2 of the current edition.

We apologise for these errors.

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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

St Barnabas

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

[www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

St Andrews

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

[www.standrewscaversham.org](http://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](mailto:rector@ctmparish.org.uk)

Revd Marion Pyke

Tel: 947 5834

Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

Riverside Church (Reading)

Revd Rob Beardsley Tel: 07736 353233

Email: [rob.beardsley@sky.com](mailto:rob.beardsley@sky.com)

[www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk](http://www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk)

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston

Tel: 0118 947 5152

### METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.

Tel: 947 2223

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards

Church office tel 954 5353

Email Secretary: [sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk)

### GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Crispin Fairbairn tel 9474529

### 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 (contact)

## TALKING POINT

by Derek Chandler

### Say No to going to Church

"I do not go to church". That is what I am encouraging the congregation of St. Barnabas to say. I think saying this can be a great act of witness in our world today. And when people say it I would encourage them to say it with great conviction. Now before you start sending in your letters of complaint let me say one more thing. I am encouraging the members of St. Barnabas Church to say, "I do not go to church. I am the church."

If that sounds strange to you it would not have sounded strange to St. Paul or any of the New Testament writers in the Bible. When Paul wrote his letters to the church in Corinth or Ephesus he was not addressing a building, he was addressing a group of Christians in that town or city. In the New Testament the word for 'church' always mean't a group of Christians gathered together, never a building to go to.

So what? You may be wondering. Personally I think it makes all the difference in the world for Christians to see themselves as the church rather than as a place they occasionally visit, just as you would occasionally visit a shop or a golf club. Being a Christian is a 24/7 calling. When Jesus called his disciples to follow him he called them into a way of life. "Follow me," Jesus says and the earliest Christians reinforced this message by describing what they did together as The Way. (Acts 9:2)

This is something we will be exploring together collectively as the Christian ministers of Caversham in our annual retreat this year - the difference between seeing ourselves as disciples of Christ rather than as consumers of a pre-packaged religion. I would encourage you to talk to your local minister about this if you have any thoughts or feelings about it. I am sure they would be delighted to hear from you and this will help in contributing towards our discussions when we meet together.

So, please do not go to church, instead be the church wherever you are. Alone or together, in a church building or not, every day of the year. Amen.

Rev. Derek Chandler

Vicar of St. Barnabas Church, Emmer Green with  
Caversham Park Church LEP

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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## SUNDAY SERVICES

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st and 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays

9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 4th 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 (praise and prayer)

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 May 2016 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish office by **Monday 4th April**. The date for the June 2016 Issue is Monday 2nd May Email address is [secretary@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ctmparish.org.uk)

Advertising copy for the May issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Advertising Manager by **Friday 1st April**. The date for the June issue is **Friday 29th April**.

## PARISH OFFICES

### PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

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Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX

Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm

Tel: 947 1703 email: [secretary@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ctmparish.org.uk)

### ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre

Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am

Tel: 947 6310 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)



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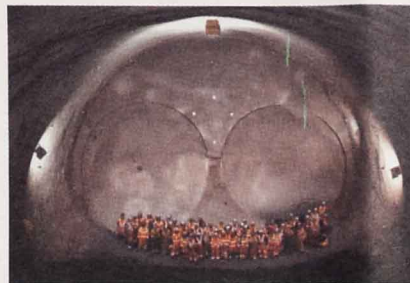
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# From the Lookout Post

## Crossrail comes to Reading

On completion, Crossrail will connect 40 stations from Reading and Heathrow Airport through 42km of new tunnels underneath London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. Crossrail's community Relations Manager, John Goldsmith will be the speaker at the CADRA AGM at 7.30pm, Tuesday 26th April at Thameside School. The formal business will be brief and will include a round up of the year and current local issues. John Goldsmith will then give an overview of the Crossrail project, share some of the iconic images from the construction phase, discuss the wider benefits from the project and how the service will operate at Reading from December 2019.

Crossrail is the biggest construction project in Europe and is one of the largest single infrastructure investments undertaken in the UK. The project is now two thirds complete and remains on time and within funding. From December 2019, passengers in Reading will be able to travel direct on Crossrail services to locations such as Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Liverpool Street and Canary Wharf on brand new 200m long trains without the need to change.



Everyone is welcome to attend and it is a good opportunity to sign up as a CADRA member. You can also sign up and pay online to support CADRA's work in giving a local voice for Caversham.

Do look out for the CADRA Facebook page with up to the minute local news. You do not need to register with Facebook to see the page. It is easy to use and you will find it on the home page of the website.

## Albert Road Extra Care Housing

The planning application for extra care housing was made available in January, reference 152277.

CADRA met recently with a2dominion the developers, and is waiting to hear back what changes might be made to the plans. The extra care housing is much needed and very welcome but there are concerns over the proposed height, tree cover, parking and the effect on nearby properties. Local residents have been very actively campaigning, particularly in relation to the fourth storey and the impact on neighbouring properties. [www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php) gives links to further information.

## A new Local Plan for Reading

The council is working on producing a new Local Plan, which will replace the current development plans (The core strategy, Reading central area action plan and sites and detailed policies document) with a new plan setting out how Reading will develop up to 2036. A consultation on a discussion paper (Issues and Options) closed on 7 March. This paper examines what the plan should cover and how it should be addressed. While policy may seem dry and dull, it has a major impact on the decisions ahead.

The Government has made it a task for local authorities, together with their neighbours, to identify how much new housing they will provide. This is one of the main questions raised – alongside the difficult issue of where new homes should be sited, at what level of density and how they would relate to existing buildings.

Other issues include the opportunity for the new national designation of 'local green space'. In the current policies, a number of areas are designated as 'public and strategic open space' which is protected from development. These and other sites could be considered for the national level policy protection if they meet the criteria. The paper also seeks views and ideas as to what should be contained in a positive strategy for the historic environment.

CADRA has worked with other groups north of the river on a response on green spaces and also with Reading Civic Society and other neighbourhood groups on a combined response on the historic environment.

## Enhancing Reading's conservation areas

Work continues between community groups and the council on how Reading's conservation areas can be protected and improved. In February, council staff and volunteers came together for a training day run by Historic England who are working with the council in a number of areas. An interesting project in the pipeline is a potential study of views from Reading's waterways and how these can be protected. There will increasingly be opportunities to get involved in this type of project. If you are interested, you can email [helen.lambert@cadra.org.uk](mailto:helen.lambert@cadra.org.uk) for more information.

## Post Office counters

It was extremely disappointing that the Post Office brushed aside the many concerns raised by local people about the move of Woodcote Way Post Office and the loss of a dedicated Post Office counter. This is part of a wider change to 'new-style local branches'. A similar consultation took place regarding the Post Office counter in the Co-op on Henley Road. <http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/modernising-post-office>

## Burglaries and Internet scams

Caversham is still suffering from a number of burglaries and these usually increase as summer approaches and more doors and windows are left open. The local police have been successful at finding many of the culprits but they do need local reports and information. You can call 101 to pass on non-urgent information.

There are regular warnings of internet scams. You can register to receive these from [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk). Summaries of warnings of particular local concern are often posted on the CADRA Facebook page which anyone can access from [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk).

## St Martin's Centre

Hermes, the landowner, have said they wish to proceed with part of the scheme, starting nearest to the Telephone Exchange. At the end of February, there was still no news of how this might proceed and whether permission will be granted.

## Library consultation

This runs until the end of May and paper copies are available in the library find on <http://old.reading.gov.uk/libraryreview>. The full document is on [http://old.reading.gov.uk/media/4695/Consultation-Documents/pdf/Phase\\_2\\_library\\_Consultation\\_Document.pdf](http://old.reading.gov.uk/media/4695/Consultation-Documents/pdf/Phase_2_library_Consultation_Document.pdf). Pages 9 and 10 set out the plans for Caversham and the document includes a paper survey which can be handed in at the library. There is also a small leaflet with details of how to respond on line.



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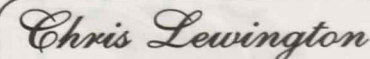
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## News from PACT, Adoptive families needed for two special boys.

PACT is looking for separate homes for the boys under the *It's All About Me (IAAM)* scheme which means they will receive specialist therapeutic support tailored to their needs, if it is identified as necessary. The scheme encourages families to come forward and adopt children who have been waiting the longest.

PACT IAAM Manager Amanda Davies said: "Both of these boys have so much to offer their forever families and will be incredibly rewarding to care for."

"Alan is a very endearing little boy who loves cuddles. He has some language delay and needs a family who can encourage his language skills alongside a speech and language therapist."

"David loves working hard at school and is making good progress. He thrives under praise given to him and needs a family who are committed to further progressing his development. We welcome couples and single people to come and find out about adoption and how they could change the lives of children like Alan and David."

All children waiting to be adopted through the IAAM scheme have a comprehensive assessment by the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) Child Care Assessment Centre.

Families adopting under IAAM are given a range of interventions geared to supporting adoptive parents, including training in therapeutic parenting tailored to the specific needs of the child and 24-hour support during the first two years after adoption to reduce the risk of placement breakdown.

To find out more about Alan and David please visit [www.pactcharity.org/iaam](http://www.pactcharity.org/iaam) or contact Amanda Davies at [amanda.davies@pactcharity.org](mailto:amanda.davies@pactcharity.org).

PACT has been building and strengthening families since 1911 through its community projects across the Thames Valley and as an independent adoption charity in London and the south.

PACT helps find forever families for up to 3,000 children requiring a new permanent home every year. PACT's adoption services were judged to be outstanding at an inspection by Ofsted in January 2014.

PACT operates award-winning therapeutic services called FACTS (Family And Children Therapeutic Support) – a range of bespoke services to support adopted children and their families. Services include creative play therapy, life story work, counselling, clinical psychology and homeopathy. FACTS was voted *Voluntary Adoption Service of the Year* in the BAAF National Adoption Week Awards 2013.

PACT is one of the leading adoption charities in the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) in terms of placing more children with loving families. In 2015 PACT placed 92 children with PACT families through its adoption services.

PACT's community projects include Alana House – an award-winning community service for vulnerable women – and Bounce Back 4 Kids which supports children affected by domestic abuse.

## Changes to Post Office services

Post Office Ltd announced on 16 February the decision to go ahead with their proposal to take out the dedicated post office counter from the Woodcote Way News shop.

To raise awareness of the Post Office's consultation last year I leafleted my ward providing details of how to respond. Almost immediately I realised the substantial strength of feeling against the proposal so I initiated a campaign. I would like to thank everybody who supported the campaign with over 900 signing the petition against the proposal and also all those who wrote or filled out Post Office Ltd's consultation survey (250+ according to their records). I am sorry that despite the massive public opposition to the proposal we were unsuccessful. There is no appeal process.

I met with a Post Office representative on 24 February to find out why the decision was taken as well as to try to minimise inconvenience to residents, particularly those with mobility issues, accessing the postal services once they open at Conisboro Stores on 22 March.

Readers may be interested to learn that the Woodcote Way News will continue to sell stamps as well as the non-post office products it sells at the moment. In addition it will offer the following services: a free cash point, click & collect and Hermes parcel shop. I can confirm that there are no plans to move the post box outside Woodcote Way News and I have written to Royal Mail pushing for the existing collection times to remain unchanged.

Cllr Isobel Ballsdon, Mapledurham Ward

## 20mph zone for Central Caversham

Richard Davies, Labour Councillor for Caversham speaking at the launch of a campaign calling upon Reading Borough Council to introduce a 20mph zone in the centre of Caversham, said:

"By launching this campaign, we are sending the council the message that for residents of Caversham, twenty is plenty."

The zone itself won't impede traffic flow but

it will protect pedestrians and cyclists, as well as support road users by letting them know they are driving in a busy, built-up area.

Residents have been asking me about the possibility of a 20 mph zone, especially since the recent serious accidents that have occurred. This campaign will demonstrate the support of the community.

Our long-term goals remain to deliver a third Thames road bridge for Reading as well as to improve cycle routes and encourage more use of public transport."

Sarah Aitken, a resident of St Anne's Road, mother of two children who attend local schools and a Labour member, said:

"As a local resident and a mother with young children who walk to schools in Caversham, I would welcome a lower speed limit in the area."

Having a 20mph zone would send a strong signal to drivers that the centre of Caversham is a place where they should drive more slowly and be extra careful. I'm sure they'd get where they were going just as quickly in the end."

"The proposed zone would include Prospect Street, Church Street, Church Road and Bridge Street but could also include neighbouring roads such as Priory Avenue, Rectory Road, St. Anne's Road or Hemdean Road if there was public support."

"The proposal comes after two accidents happened on Prospect Street recently, one that resulted in a pedestrian being seriously injured."

"Cllr Davies is encouraging residents to sign the online petition and register their support so that the strongest possible case can be made to Reading Council. <https://www.change.org/p/reading-borough-council-20mph-is-plenty-for-caversham-centre>

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## ENVIRONMENT

# COWSLIPS

It always gives me pleasure to see cowslips in flower at this time of year. In the part of the country where I was born and brought up, we never saw them: the soil was just too acidic. When I was a teenager, and could get to the limestone dales of Derbyshire, I saw meadows and slopes with cowslips in profusion. In some places they had early purple orchids growing among them, which made a wonderful sight. These were usually areas that were being managed as nature reserves.

Cowslips were once more common than now, over much of the country. The *New Atlas of the British Flora*, published in 2002, says that the decline, between 1930 and 1980, was due to the 'improvement' of grassland – ploughing and re-seeding with grasses that were more nutritious for farm livestock. It says that recently, cowslips had become more frequent on roadside verges, which had been re-seeded, either with cowslips, or with wild flower mixtures that included them.

Around Caversham, you come across them here and there, but I don't know of any meadows that are full of them. My photograph was taken near Rotherfield Greys, and on the same walk I also found the hybrid between the primrose and the cowslip, sometimes called the false oxlip.

There seem to be a lot of childhood memories of cowslips in books on wild flowers and their lore. Cowslip balls, made from the flowers and lengths of string, were made and used in games of divination. They were tossed up into the air and caught again, as children chanted Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, or This year, next year, sometime, never, or just numbers in succession. If you failed to catch the ball when you'd reached a certain number that was the age at which you would die.

Cowslip flowers are pleasantly scented, and contain nectar, and children used to suck the flowers and taste the nectar. (Clover used to be good for this, I remember.) The flowers were also gathered to make wine. You needed a lot of flowers to make a gallon of wine, and modern books of the 'food for free' type have no recipes, and tell you that you shouldn't make it. Roger Phillips, in his book on Wild Food, is a bit ambiguous, when he says of cowslip wine: "This requires such

a large quantity of flowers that I feel it is best to avoid making it if possible." The 'if possible' makes it sound very tempting! The only place I ever tasted cowslip wine was in The Pack Horse on the road to Woodcote. At the time it was the middle one of the three pubs on this road that belonged to George Gale's brewery. The Pack Horse would sell you country wines by the glass, or by the bottle. I seem to remember that their cowslip wine was rather disappointing, and I couldn't help wondering just how many cowslip flowers it had seen!

As you may imagine, the plant had its medicinal uses. One of its old names was 'palsywort,' and it was also used to cure jaundice. Presumably the old doctrine of signatures was at work here – using a plant with flower-heads that trembled in the breeze and that had

yellow flower to cure ailments that made you tremble or turned you yellow.

And there were lots of different names for it in different parts of the country. Many of the names had to do with the fairies – fairy cups, fairy basins, fairy bells, and so on. Another group of names reflected the resemblance of the flower-heads to bunches of keys. From keys, there was a connection with St Peter, so there were names like bunch-of-keys, lady's keys, keys of heaven, St Peter's herb, and St Peter's keys.

Sad to say, the most usual English name for the plant now was originally cow-slop, because it grew in fields that had been manured by cows.



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### Bible Friends

## Later that Sunday

Most of the followers of Jesus were feeling sad. They did not know that Jesus was alive again. "Jesus is alive!" Mary told them happily. "Isn't it wonderful?"

But the followers did not believe Mary. "You're dreaming," they said.

Just then, two other followers rushed into the room.

"Guess who we've just seen?" they shouted. "On our way home, we met a man and invited him into our house. Then, as he thanked God for the food we were about to eat, we suddenly realised who he was. It was Jesus! We've run all the way back here to tell you. Isn't it wonderful news?"

But the followers still did not believe that Jesus was alive.

Later, Jesus himself arrived as they were eating a meal. "Why didn't you believe what you were told?" he asked.

Now the followers knew it was true. Jesus was alive! They had seen him for themselves. They all said, "Thank you," to God.

Mark 16:9-20



### Letter to the Editor

Having read the article *Should Easter be fixed?* In the March issue of the Caversham Bridge news, I would like to express my opinion.

I have believed for a long time that Easter should be whenever the Jewish Passover is. The Jewish Passover also varies each year.

I believe it is time to remember that Jesus was a Jew and that his death was the fulfillment of the Old Testament story of the Passover Lamb in Egypt. Every Jewish family had to kill a lamb, then sprinkle some of its blood on the lintels and doorposts of their houses in order to protect them from the Destroying Angel.

This event was a prophetic picture of Jesus the Messiah, who was to come thousands of years later.

Just as every Jew in Egypt had to be covered and protected by the blood of the lamb on their houses; so every human being has to be covered and protected by the blood of Jesus, in order to protect us from sin, Satan, death and Hell.

It is time to remember that without the Jews there would be no Bible, no word of God, no Saviour and no forgiveness of sins.

It is no coincidence that Jesus was killed during the festival of Passover. He himself knew that he was the fulfilment of the prophetic story of the first Passover in Egypt thousands of years before.

Just as Jesus, the Son of God, times his death to coincide with the Jewish Passover, so we as Christians and gentiles, should time our celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection to coincide with the Jewish Passover.

This, I believe, would not only please God, it would also do a lot to help heal the rift between Jews and Christians that has developed over the last two thousand years.

Jackie Clarke

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church Concert

The Reading Wind Band are performing on Thursday 14 April at 2.30 pm followed by refreshments. No charge but donations welcome.

Profits to Action Medical Research for Children. The concert and refreshments will be in the church in Highmoor Road.

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### Spring Concert at St John's

There will be a Spring concert on Saturday 23rd April, at 7.30 pm at St John the Baptist Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham. The concert will feature the brass quintet 'Burnished Brass', leader Anthony Wythe, the mezzo soprano Caroline Carragher and St John's 19th century pipe organ. The programme includes classical music and music from films and shows. Tickets (to include refreshments) are £10 from 0118 9475120 or on the door.

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## St. Barnabas Church

It has been a busy time at St. Barnabas Church in the past few months. We had a visit from the Puppet Team at Emmanuel Church in Woodley who gave an excellent performance at two of our services leading up to Christmas.

A few months ago, a Men's Breakfast Club was formed. This meets on a monthly basis at different venues in the area and engenders friendship and fellowship over a pleasant meal.

A return visit from the all female Tapestry choir at the end of January was much appreciated and greatly enjoyed by many people.

The customary fish and chip supper took place in February and after the meal the audience was entertained by people reflecting a variety of age ranges but all with consummate talent.

An Alpha Course was held on Thursday mornings in the Parish Centre from the middle of January leading up to Easter. Each of the sessions started with a light bite, followed by a DVD on a specific topic and discussion time.

During Lent the main Sunday morning service was followed by a DVD presentation of a course entitled Christianity Explored. Discussions which followed engendered many thought provoking aspects. Home made soup rounded off the proceedings.

## Lent at St. Anne's School

Lent began very early this year on the 10th February. On Ash Wednesday, the children of St Anne's school joined other parishioners at Mass with distribution of Ashes at the church of Our Lady and St Anne to get Lent off to good start. Fr Paul reminded them that Lent is a journey towards the glorious feast of Easter when they have the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus.

The children had already taken home their Good Shepherd Appeal boxes in which to deposit the money they save when they don't buy themselves treats all through Lent. These boxes will be collected at the end of March and the money will go to the Father Hudson's Care which is the social care agency of the Birmingham Archdiocese.

The members of the school council led a special Assembly to introduce the CAFOD Lent Campaign "Raise a Splash". Later they helped to sell items, made by the school, at a Valentine's sale and raised £46.10 which will go towards CAFOD's work in providing clean water to villages where none is available at present.

## Caversham Heights Methodist Church Highmoor Road

### Network Fellowship Summer programme

Everyone welcome – gentlemen and ladies

All meetings commence at 2.30 and are held in the church hall unless otherwise advised.

Thursday 28th April  
The History of British Tea

Thursday 12th May  
Missionary Aviation Fellowship

Thursday 26th May  
Tales of Wildlife

Thursday 9th June  
Wiltshire Farm Foods

Thursday 23rd June  
A members afternoon  
(please bring something beginning with 'P')

Thursday 7th July  
Researching and Writing Historic Novels

Thursday 21st July  
A relaxed event with afternoon tea



For the fourth year Caversham Heights Methodist church, assisted by its sister church in Gosbrook Road, will be hosting their popular 'Holiday at Home' from Tuesday May 31st to Friday June 3rd enabling local older people to enjoy a holiday for up to four days whilst still allowing them to sleep in their own bed at night!

The day starts with tea or coffee from 10am followed by a choice of activities ranging from various crafts to flower arranging or planting pots for the garden, and from play readings to art, always with the option to sit and read a magazine, do a jigsaw or play a board game. There will also be illustrated talks, opportunities for

gentle exercise, some singing and a thought for the day.

A two course lunch is provided as are tea and home-made cakes in the afternoon before people make their way home at 3.30pm. The charge is £6 per day.

Whilst many people make their own arrangements transport can be provided if needed.

If you or someone you know might be interested in coming and would like to know more or receive an application form do contact the organiser Sherryl Quint on 01491 628493. (Unfortunately we are not able to provide appropriate care for anyone with dementia).

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# 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 1st May, between 1pm and 5pm, when the club will be open to anyone who would like to try the game. Also, throughout the summer, starting on May 6th, 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, and 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](http://www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk).

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## Shiplake Village Bowls Club Open Days

Shiplake Village Bowling Club is a mixed Club founded in 1920 and affiliated to Oxfordshire Bowls Association.

You may be an existing bowler, new bowler or just interested in trying the game for the first time. We do hope that you will come along to our open days on Tuesday 26th April from 5.30pm to dusk and Sunday 1st May from 1030am to 12.30pm and see what our Club has to offer.

The rudiments of bowling can be grasped in just a few sessions. Bowling is for all ages and can be family fun, a social activity or a competitive sport; it's what you make it. We have members of all ages and playing ability (beginner to county).

Bowls is an excellent way of keeping active, a low impact outdoor sport and an excuse for spending time in the sun and making new friends.

The club is behind Shiplake Memorial Hall, on Memorial Avenue, Shiplake Cross, RG9 4DW (Car Park at the Memorial Hall). Clubhouse: 0118-940-4113

We have superb facilities including a spacious clubhouse with a bar, a fine green and attractive surrounds. Coaching is available from qualified coaches throughout the season.

The club has a full fixture list against many local clubs and these are mixed matches.

We also have men's and women's sides in all the local league and cup competitions. The club also has annual in-house competitions with cups and trophies for the winners.

The season lasts from April to September. The Winter Programme consists of social events e.g. Annual dinner dance, bingo and quizzes to name but a few. There are also indoor matches played at Rivermead against local clubs.

On Wednesday evenings from October to March, cribbage and dominoes are played at the Clubhouse.

There are various types of club membership, full, junior and social.

We hope to see you at one of our open days and only ask that you wear flat-soled shoes or trainers; bowls and other equipment will be provided.

The bar will be open on Tuesday 26th April. If you miss the open days, please drop in any Friday evening after 6.30pm and talk to any of our members about having a try at playing bowls.

## Male Voice Choir in concert

Reading Male Voice Choir is returning to St Andrew's church, Caversham, after a gap of two years, for a Spring concert on Saturday, 7th May.

The choir will again be performing with the children of Caversham Primary School choir under their musical director, Helen Wallis.

The men will sing a selection from their extensive repertoire which includes hymns, pop numbers, gospel songs, classical items and songs from the shows. Some of them will be conducted by the choir's new deputy musical director, Lucy Morris.

At least one of the items will be sung jointly by the two choirs when the audience will be able to enjoy the special sound of men and children singing together.

The concert, which starts at 7.30pm, will be under the direction of musical director Clive Waterman. Proceeds will be shared between church funds and Launchpad, the Reading charity for the homeless which is the church's main charity this year.

Tickets, priced £10 in advance or concessions, are available from Waltons the jewellers in Prospect Street, Caversham — not open Mondays and only cash accepted. They are also available by phone on 01189 474166 or on the door for £12, under 16s for £5.

The ticket price includes a glass of wine or fruit juice at the interval.

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## Spring makeover for the CIRDIC garden (Churches in Reading Drop in Centre)

A number of volunteers, mostly members of the Reading Gardeners' Club, recently completed the redesign of the garden area outside CIRDIC's premises at St. Saviour's Church Hall.

CIRDIC has existed since 1990 to serve some of the most disadvantaged people in the local community. Fully open three days a week, it asks no questions of its guests but provides all its services free, including about 60 main meals per day, a safe poste restante mail address, telephone for emergencies, clothing, baths/ showers and a listening ear. Their premises are also regularly used by several professional organisations to meet their clients and patients.

Ray Norton, the chairman of Reading Gardeners and the owner of Arcadia Landscapes, created the design and provided equipment and much appreciated manpower to complete the first stage of the planting.

The garden refurbishment was completed on Saturday 27th February. The photo shows some of the volunteers hard at work.

This work was carried out as a charitable venture, as Reading Gardeners is not a commercial undertaking and does not garden for other organisations or private individuals.



### Tribute

## Sir Anthony Durant (1928 – 2016)

Well-known Caversham resident Tony Durant had a long and distinguished career as a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1974 to 1997. After standing unsuccessfully for Rother Valley at the 1970 General election, he was first elected as MP for Reading North in 1974, in which capacity he remained until the 1983 boundary changes, after which he served as MP for Reading West until his retirement at the 1997 general election.

He was born at Woking. After attending Bryanston school, he spent two years in the Navy, then in 1947 joined Coutts Bank. In 1952 he started working for the Conservative Party, first as Young Conservative organiser in Yorkshire, then agent in Clapham, and finally national organiser of the Young Conservatives.

He left Central Office in 1967, building up a visual aids business and becoming a councillor in Woking.

In 1971 he supported Margaret Thatcher's decision to end free school milk on the grounds that many children did not like it.

During his time in the House of Commons, he acted as a Conservative Party whip for six years and was knighted in 1991. In 1994 he successfully campaigned for the lowering of the homosexual age of consent from 21 to 18. During 1995 and 1996, he chaired the select committee considering the Bill to construct the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. He campaigned over safety on the M4, on local canals, and at the Aldermaston nuclear facility.

He chaired the Conservative backbench environment committee, and served on the executive of the 1922 Committee. He was Vice-Chamberlain of the Household from 1988 to 1990.

He was Life President of Reading West Conservatives.

He was president of the River Thames Society and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, chairman of the Sports Aid Foundation's southern region, a governor of the British Film Institute, a Freeman of the City of London and the Watermen and Lightermen's Company. After retiring from politics in April 1997 he continued his work as president of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust until his retirement in 2009.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, whom he married in 1958 who ably supported him throughout his career, their two sons and a daughter, to whom we offer our condolences on his passing.

A memorial service will be held later in the year.

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## CLUBS

### Probus

The February meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was given over to the club's AGM, so there was no speaker. Following the formal business of the AGM, members were entertained by the screening of an amusing 1970s film, 'The Plank', which featured many well-known personalities playing unusual characters.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men. In all meetings except the AGM, lunch is followed by a talk, on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club, normally on the second Monday of the month. For further information visit the club's website [www.probusclub-reading.org.uk](http://www.probusclub-reading.org.uk). If you are interested in joining, then contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

### Friends of Caversham Court Gardens

#### Capability Brown in Berkshire – and at Caversham Park

To mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens are delighted to host a talk by Ben Viljoen of the Berkshire Gardens Trust. Ben will be focusing on Brown's work at Caversham Park in this illustrated talk, which will follow a very brief AGM.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 April, 7pm for 7.30pm, Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, RG4 7TH.

All welcome, no need to be a member, though you are very welcome to join the Friends!

### Caversham Horticultural Society

Whilst it tempting to go flat out in the garden now that it is the growing season, there should be time to sit and observe. To encourage you to do this, come to the first 2016 talk on Wednesday 13th April when we are delighted to invite the garden writer Stephen Desmond to give a talk entitled *Elegance and Repose: the Garden Seat*. Forget the moulded plastic chair; be inspired by his illustrated talk of garden seat design through the ages.

The talk starts at 7.45pm and will be held at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road. Free to members but £5.00 for visitors. If not already a member why not join the society on the night for £5.00 and enjoy free admission for the majority of the year? In addition members can purchase gardening sundries at a very competitive price from the trading shed.

### Caversham and Chiltern flower club

The April meeting on Wednesday 13th April will be a little different than usual. During a talk by Pat Williams on the History of wedding flowers Sandra Harvey will demonstrate how to construct a corsage and a simple wedding bouquet. Sandra and Pat are both members of the club and also arrange flowers for weddings and services at St Peter's church.

The club has a full programme for the year which will continue on May 11th with a demonstration by Theresa Rodrigues titled Celebrations in Malaysia.

In June in addition to the usual monthly demonstration the club will visit the flower festival at Chichester Cathedral 'The Artists Palette'

The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Visitors and new members are always welcome, the doors open at 7pm and the demonstration starts at 7.30.

### Rotary Club of Reading

#### Santa Run December 2015



After the success of its first Santa Run in 2014, the Rotary Club of Reading was ready to repeat the event despite the monumental amount of work involved. The outcome was another great success with more participants, about 1400 adults and 170 children and the proceeds have now passed a magnificent £22,000. Local charities are benefiting but there was also a great deal of enjoyment to be had.

Eighty percent of what was raised is being divided equally between the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice and Daisy's Dream with the remainder going to other local charities that the Club supports.

The Club already has plans for this year's Santa Run, which will take place in early December. More information about the Club, which meets every Tuesday at Pepe Sale restaurant in Queens Walk, can be found on its website [www.readingrotary.org.uk](http://www.readingrotary.org.uk).

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## CLUBS

## Chazey WI

Our President, Hilary Morrison, welcomed members to the February meeting and introduced Frances Benton who entertained us with a talk on Pearls. We were treated to a very interesting talk and there were lots of samples for the members to look at showcasing the range of colours and sizes and shapes. Tea and coffee followed before the business of the evening. The competition, a decorated bookmark, was won by Margaret Green, second was Hazel Blackburn and third place went to Valerie Wing, who also won the raffle.

Chazey meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road. 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. We welcome new members and our contact number is 0118 9484164.

Carol Briscoe

## Caversham WI

*Cats* was the subject covered by the local speaker, Mrs Esme Cogan. We heard that cats were worshipped in Egyptian times, then persecuted in the Middle Ages as witches' companions and finally seen as pets with human traits by the Victorians.

Esme judged the competition – a picture or model of a cat – and Mrs Ishbel Nicolson was judged the winner with Mrs Ann Hall and Mrs Romagne Flight as runners up.

Next month is the annual meeting which we hope will be supported despite problems with the entry door.

## The Caversham Heights Society

Members of the society were taken on a nostalgic trip down memory lane on 3rd February as Tony King gave his talk on *Shadows on the Wall*. This was an exploration of, and history of, the cinema from the early magic lantern shows in the 17th Century, through the early days of film, begun by Thomas Edison in the USA in the 1880s, then through the heyday of films in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, the challenge of television and the decline and closure of cinemas in the 1980s and 1990s. Tony rounded off his talk by discussing the resurgence of both cinemas and films in the multi-plex venues of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

We were told about the early pioneers of cinematography, the reasons for the growth of the film industry in Hollywood in California, and the characters who sponsored both films, lavish theatres and cinemas, especially in the USA but who were quickly followed by similar developments in the UK. Surprisingly many Jews from Eastern Europe were involved in funding and developing the industry on both sides of the Atlantic. We learnt about Movietone, Universal Pictures, Warner Brothers, Metro-Goldwyn Mayer and Twentieth Century Fox in the USA and J Arthur Rank, Pathe News, and Ealing Productions in the UK. Throughout his talk Tony showed us clips from some of the greatest and most memorable films made during each decade, reminding us of what we had been watching during our more youthful and maturing years! Not only was the evening entertaining and enthralling but the whole talk was well-researched and presented. Many members commented that this was one of the best evenings that the Society had had.

The second talk of the month, on 17th February, was much more local but nonetheless informative. Martin Butler talked about *The League of Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital*. He told about how the organisation had come into being, its fundraising activities, the variety and amount of equipment that it had provided for the hospital, much of it quite critical as well as important, and the role of the volunteers who helped to keep patients happy with drinks and newspapers but who also helped to keep morale high. Since there were quite a number of League volunteers in the audience this was an evening that was much appreciated.

The society holds its meetings on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, after coffee and biscuits, in the hall at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Highmoor Road. New members are always welcome and inquiries should be made to Jill Hodges on 0118 959 5307 or at [www/cav-hs-soc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www/cav-hs-soc.fsnet.co.uk).

## Rosehill WI

As usual we were warmly welcomed to our February meeting by President Margaret Pyle, who also thanked Margaret Caldicott for the table flowers. Margaret said that the record of January's meeting was available for all who wished to examine it. Margaret then reminded us of the Spring Annual Council Meeting to be held at the Hexagon on Wednesday 13th

April 2016, and if anyone wished to attend, the cost is £10 for tickets in advance, or £12 on the door.

The meeting continued with our President announcing that two boards were being passed round, one for anyone wishing to go to the Hexagon on 13th April, and the second with two suggestions for outings in 2016. The first is a trip to Sonning Mill Theatre to see a farce by Ray Cooney entitled *'It Runs In The Family'* to see a matinee performance on 30th June. The cost of the ticket includes lunch before the show. The second outing is a trip to Denman College (near Abingdon) in the autumn which will include a lunch, tour and cookery demonstration.

Next came reports from the clubs: Scrabble on Wednesdays 10th and 24th February: Book Club on Monday, 8th February – their next book to be *Agent Zigzag* by Ben Macintyre: Knit and Natter on Friday, 12th February from 2.00 to 4.00 pm: Walking: the group managed to do a local walk in January. Cinema Group – hoped to co-ordinate a visit to The Vue on 16th February to see 'Dad's Army'. We hope all these groups will continue to thrive in the coming months.

Margaret then introduced our speaker- Tony King whose talk was entitled *'If Dickens had a Camera'*. This was very well presented (with slides) about the history of photography and showing some very old photographs of London including a selection of the places featured in Dickens' novels. Tony also had photographs of how the old London railway stations looked when they were first built. Tony was thanked for a very interesting talk.

The meeting concluded with tea and biscuits, followed by the raffle. Also during the afternoon we had the Bring and Buy table which raised a very successful £20+.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green, at 2.00 pm and would make any visitors very welcome.

## Reading Rambling Club

Reading Rambling Club is a friendly independent walking club which has been enjoying the local countryside for over 80 years. Our regular walks range between three and 12 miles and take place on Saturdays and or Sundays and Wednesdays, when walks are more leisurely. In April, our routes will include the Thames Path, the Chilterns near West Wycombe and bluebell walks near Nettlebed.

We also go further afield for long days out, weekends away and holidays abroad and organise social events including an annual dinner and lunches.

You are very welcome to join us on up to three walks before becoming a member, which costs £8 a year, £12 for a couple. Please bring suitable waterproofs and footwear plus a snack and drink.

For the full programme and contact details, click on <http://www.readingramblingclub.com>.

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The year for Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild started in February with fun and games. Our speaker cancelled, so a Beetle Drive was hastily organised and was much enjoyed by all.

Social studies group had 'Problems with their feet' by Mrs Dickens - not so much feet as shoes. We saw a selection of beautiful well-fitting shoes from her shop. Good shoe manufacture and construction was explained.

March was our AGM and ploughman's supper always a good social occasion.

Mr R Matthews introduced the Social studies group to the Real King Arthur at their meeting.

A group of us went to Cheltenham for the annual International Women's Day lunch which was enjoyed by those attending.

Another annual event was our trip to the Mill at Sonning to see the fiendishly clever Perfect Murder.

The scrabble group and luncheon clubs continue with their usual activities. The ambling club walked under the railway lines near Tesco on the recently re-opened path.

We have been very busy preparing our stand for the Townswomen's Guild Road Show taking place in Friar street Reading on Saturday 9th April. Do drop in and see us. There will be a fashion show by Marks and Spencer at 2pm and they will be demonstrating make up at 11am.

Our next meeting will be on 21st April at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Margaret Edwards will be telling us of her experiences as a film extra.

All ladies who wish to visit us will be very welcome

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