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Caversham Bridge

No 716

www.cavershambridge.org

October 2024



Sixty years serving our community

text and photos Phil Chatfield

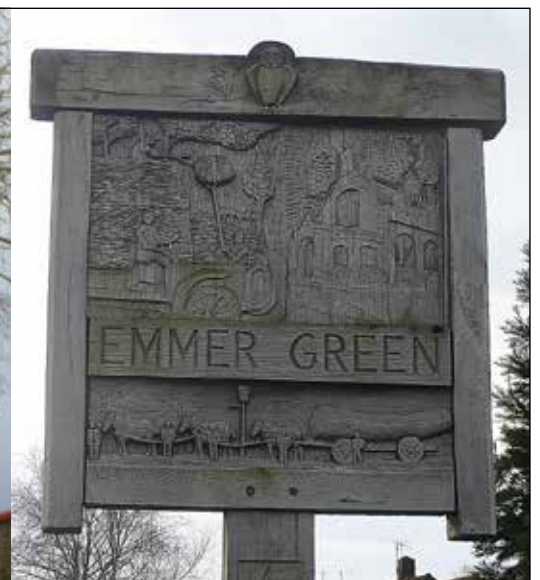
THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE was founded in 1964 by Canon John Grimwade of St Peter's church, working with clerics from other church denominations in our area. It aimed to report local news and events, and to bring our churches closer together. As he prepared to retire in 1982, he sought representatives from each of the denominations to set up an editorial board which could oversee the continued production of the paper.

One of the nominees from the Methodist church was Eric Chappell, who went on to serve in this voluntary role for 30 years. Writing in the October 2014 edition for the paper's 50th anniversary, he reflected on the revolution in the production of the paper over the years. In the early days, articles were often handwritten and needed to be typed up for editing. With the growing use of computers and the internet, most articles and photos are sent to the editors directly by email now.

...changed completely...

The printing process has changed completely. For many years the paper was produced by local newspaper companies, but these progressively closed, and the paper is now printed by a company in Lincolnshire.

The editorial process established in 1982 was unchanged until the arrival of COVID-19 and lockdown. As the editorial team could not meet in person, the way the paper was put together had to change almost overnight. We had to do everything by email and phone. At the same time, the board responsible for the business had to move to online Zoom meetings. With so many changes, the Board took the



opportunity to reassess the direction of the Caversham Bridge and to ask how it could best serve our community. In September 2021, we agreed a new statement of our aims:

To enrich community life in Caversham and the surrounding area through the provision of reliable and trusted local news, as well as information about local churches and other religious organisations, people, events and businesses.

The paper has had to adapt to changing circumstances and has evolved over time. However, what has not changed is the spirit of community service at its heart. It is still brought to you by a large team of volunteers who write, edit, proofread and distribute the paper, and it is supported by our advertisers, some of whom have been with us since the very first edition. Without them, the paper could not continue to serve our community. We thank all our volunteers, our designers and our advertisers for their contributions. We hope you enjoy this Anniversary Edition. We would like to ask you, our readers, for your help in increasing readership, by telling friends and neighbours about the paper, and in mentioning it if you are responding to any of our advertisers.

Bridge over the water

by Elestr Lee

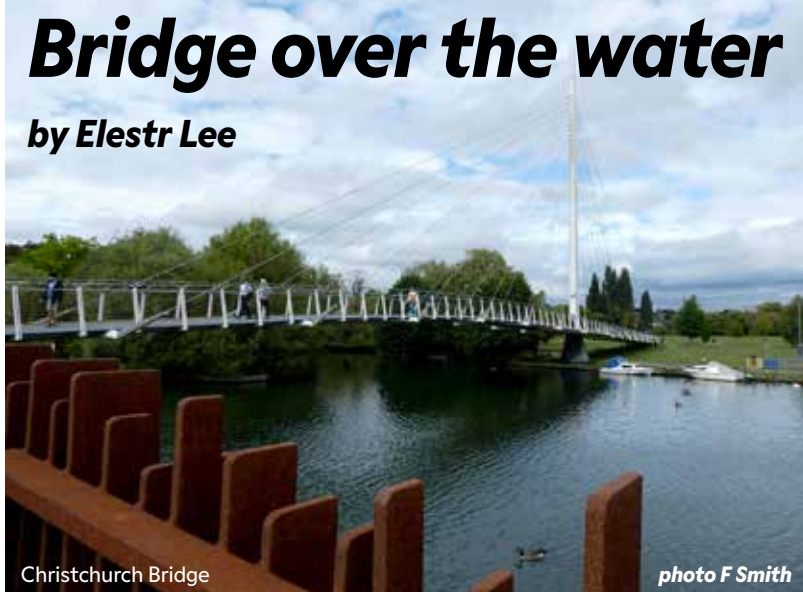


photo F Smith

AS WELL AS the usual regular contributions, this special anniversary edition is celebrating both the practicalities of bringing you your newspaper – three of the team of 100 deliverers who pop the paper through your letterbox each month share their thoughts in They Bring You Your Bridge (p 3) – while our Anniversary Talking Point (p 2) by the recently retired Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham, dwells on the original purpose of the newspaper, in aiming to bring our increasingly diverse community together.

A further exploration of the deeper meaning of 'bridge' is the subject of the contribution from Roslyn Weaver (p2), recalling not only world-famous bridges, those evocative of home, bridges in literature – while also reminding us that since 1964, Caversham's two road bridges (Reading and Caversham) have now also been joined by a third, Christchurch Bridge, for pedestrians and cyclists, creating a much-improved link between Caversham and Reading town centre.

It's not just the newspaper which is celebrating an anniversary – True Food Co-op at Emmer Green has been serving the community for 25 years while, down on the river, Thames Cruises turns 50 this year (both p 14).

We hope readers new and old all enjoy our special anniversary feature (pages 10-11) in which we look back over the past 60 years of the Caversham Bridge newspaper, with the cover pages from each decade and a timeline of both cultural, world and local events which have taken place during that time. And we look forward to continuing to record the comings and goings of the people of Caversham and Emmer Green and surrounding area for many more decades to come!

You can contact us by email at editors@cavershambridge.org or by post, c/o Church House, Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX with your comments or contributions.

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Anxiety – Katy Reay

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‘Bridging’



Talking Point

by
Bishop of Reading,
Olivia

NOT BEING ONE of the Caversham clergy, I don’t usually get invited to do a Talking Point. But it happens that my retirement as Bishop of Reading coincides with the 60th anniversary of The Caversham Bridge, so I got the call!

My first thought was how inspired those early founders were to have called this newspaper The Caversham Bridge. Of course it’s the local landmark, and a way to get across the river into Reading. But it’s clear from reading the very first issue from 1964, alongside more recent ones, that ‘bridging’ has always been a key mission for this paper – engaging all the Christian churches in promoting connection, togetherness, community, and the foundational value of loving our neighbours – one of the great commandments of Christianity.

In 1964, immigration was a contentious issue across the UK, with many communities grappling with the arrival of new residents from the Commonwealth countries and, in many places, shockingly racist attitudes. Caversham, like many places, experienced its share of apprehension and uncertainty. Today, our community is more diverse and multicultural, reflecting a broader societal shift towards inclusivity. While challenges remain, there is a stronger emphasis on celebrating diversity and fostering understanding among different cultures – loving our neighbours. We must continue to ‘bridge’ – to work together to strengthen our bonds of friendship, and to challenge unloving behaviour and attitudes wherever we encounter them. This is particularly true in the light of the shocking civil unrest which occurred in the wake of

the Southport murders in August, and the threat which our Muslim friends and neighbours have endured. We stand with them.

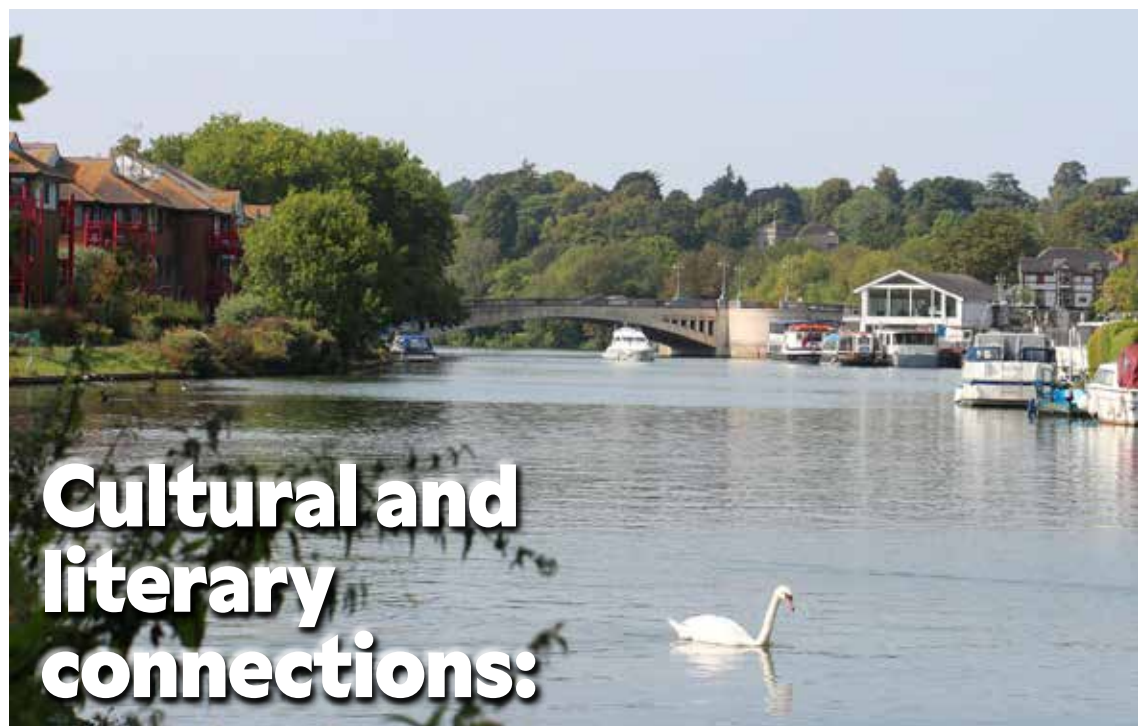
There was a General Election in 1964. Harold Wilson’s Labour Party came to power, promising social reform and modernization. In those days, political engagement was high. In our recent General Election, voter turnout was much lower – a lot of people seemed to feel disengaged from the democratic process. But locally, issues such as social justice, healthcare, and education remain really important. How can we work together to make our community a better place and work with our elected representatives for the common good? More bridging to be done!

People who live in Caversham have always come together to support each other in difficult times. We’ve had some terrible tragedies in the past few years, including the murder of Olly Stephens and the tragic death by suicide of Ruth Perry. The community has mourned together, aided by the Christian Churches where the rituals and language of religion have helped people to voice what is hard to express.

Sixty years on from its founding, The Caversham Bridge is still bridging, underpinned by the teachings of Christ about loving our neighbours and working for the common good. Today, this is worked out in inclusive community building, care for those most in need, environmental stewardship, and a shared commitment among the churches to work together for a just and compassionate society.

Happy anniversary, and keep on bridging!

Bishop of Reading, Olivia



Cultural and literary connections:

The long and short of bridges

text and photo Roslyn Weaver

BRIDGES ARE, on the face of it, rather functional. Long, short, wide, thin; they get us from one place to another. The longest I’ve crossed is the eight-mile Confederation Bridge in Canada, the world’s longest over ice-covered waters, although predictably the drawback for me was not the bridge but the region’s Anne of Green Gables literary links. Yet that falls rather short of the world’s longest, the hundred-mile Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge viaduct in China – and contrast that with what is considered the world’s shortest international bridge, the three-metre El Marco joining Portugal and Spain.

...engineering art...

Beyond function, bridges can be works of engineering art. I have a soft spot for the old, white, rather squat timber trestle truss bridge and the honey-soft soaring sandstone railway viaduct in my childhood town in Australia, both of which date back to the 1800s. Those aren’t famous, but they symbolise the town to me more than any other structure. Indeed, some bridges have become so

iconic that they tell us where we are in the world even without seeing anything else: London’s Tower Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the covered bridges that attract tourists in Europe and North America.

Yet bridges are symbols of so much more. In a similar way to how this paper’s name serves as a nod to unity, bridges carry cultural meanings across the arts of connection and change. One of the more moving literary examples is in Katherine Paterson’s *Bridge to Terabithia*, a book about two very different children who become friends and imagine an enchanted kingdom across a creek. It isn’t particularly jolly reading because of the ensuing tragedy, but it is a compelling depiction of ‘bridges’ pushing us beyond comfort zones into places of courage and transformation.

Famous, literary, and childhood bridges aside, I can’t walk past our own local trio of bridges – Caversham, Christchurch, and Reading – without admiring them. They serve a function, yes, of crossing the river. But they are also works of art, each line and curve pulling together different places and people with strength, grace and beauty.

Not a New Look

WE HAVE taken the opportunity for this, our Anniversary Edition, to give the paper a refreshed look. Not a new design, but a few changes to help keep the paper looking bright and lively.

The main change is a move to a new font, which is a consequence of worldwide changes in the design software used by our designer. For those interested, the new font is called Gamay and provides a great deal of flexibility in the design. We believe it is slightly clearer and easier to read than our old font but do let us have your thoughts. We have changed the colour of the title to a blue which matches our logo.

We have introduced a few new headings, for example the Les Cooper articles now include a new design with an updated photo (*page 12*), and we have a new header for the Planning Bulletin on *page 6*, thanks to local designer Anke Ueberberg. The *For Your Bookshelf* header (*page 5*) has a new photo of Alex Forbes. In order to give more space in our What’s On feature, we now have a separate listing for the regular local baby and toddler groups, which you will find on *page 18*.

The Editors



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They Bring You Your 'Bridge'

by The Editors

VOLUNTEERS HAVE been at the centre of the production and delivery of the Caversham Bridge newspaper from the start. Our current team of nearly 100 who distribute and deliver the paper are successors to many hundreds over the last 60 years. Some have taken on the role in recent years, and others have been delivering the paper for longer than they can remember!

The early editions included a regular *They Bring You Your "Bridge"* feature, with a photo and short introduction to volunteers. The first edition featured John Sholl and 'O' Level student Glenys Goodier.

We asked some of our current deliverers for their thoughts.

Margaret Pyle delivers to Caversham Park Village

I'm Caversham born and bred, and my family home was here for nearly 64 years. In the 1960s I have memories of my mother subscribing to the paper, maybe from 1964. After marriage at St John's Church in 1961, we moved to Woodley, but I remember on visits to my parents' house the Caversham Bridge paper was always there to catch up with local news. In 2003 my husband and I moved back to live in Caversham, so I became a subscriber myself.

In December 2021 I became a volunteer deliverer, taking over from Audrey Preston, who had had a long association with the Caversham Bridge.

With a feeling of community spirit, I have enjoyed being

able to deliver the paper to nearby houses once a month. One of the houses has a blue plaque - when a new build it was used in the making of the 1967 film *"The Plank"*.

Richard Denney delivers to Balmore Drive

I moved back to Caversham with my family in 1979, having enjoyed growing up here many years before, when the 5 Denney siblings had close associations with St John's Church for many years. I remember the paper starting in the 1960s and having it in the house when our mum was a subscriber. I never thought I'd one day be a distributor. In 2020 I took over my round from my neighbour, Margaret Seal, who had done it for more years than she could remember. I've encouraged some neighbours to become new subscribers. I believe subscribing to the Bridge, as well as being a member of a local resident's association, is a good way to contribute to life in Caversham, and the sense of community we have north of the Thames, making this area a good place to live.

David Reardon delivers in Hemdean Road, Brill Close, Hemdean Hill and Blenheim Road

David delivers the largest number of papers of any individual deliverer - 56. He started delivering in 2018 in answer to an appeal in St Peter's church. His round takes about 1.5 hours. He likes noting the monthly changes of the season throughout the year and enjoys getting to know people in the neighbourhood and being part of the community. One of the dogs likes getting his teeth into the paper when it drops through the letterbox!

THEY BRING YOU YOUR "BRIDGE"

GLENYS GOODIER is one of our younger distributors and attends Henley Grammar School. She is taking her "O" level next year and intends to train as a nursery teacher. Apart from playing hockey and tennis for her school, Glenys is a keen member of the newly-formed Girls' Life Brigade Company at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

ALTHOUGH it is only just over 18 months since he moved to Caversham, John Sholl has already made his presence felt. He is keenly interested in The Samaritans and in all aspects of practical Christianity. One of the earliest supporters of this venture, he is now actively engaged in distributing "The Caversham Bridge."



GLENYS and JOHN



Don't miss an issue

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THE PAPER is delivered by our team of volunteers throughout Mapledurham, Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village as well as the Caversham Road area. Currently 13 monthly editions cost £7.

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You wrote

I AM 85 NOW but in 1964 I moved with my husband and new baby daughter to Caversham. I was new to the area and I didn't know anyone. It was a little lonely until one morning a lady called to say would I like a copy of the new paper, the Caversham Bridge, I could have it delivered. It turned out as we chatted that she lived in Star Road and I was close by in Douglas Road, a new estate then. She invited me to come and have a cup of tea with her. From that point I made more friends and we formed what was called the Wednesday group, simply because we always met up on a Wednesday. It started as a once-a-month afternoon meeting bringing the babies with us. We then decided why not leave the babies with our husbands and have an evening meeting once a week. This was very popular as we all wanted to get out of the house to have a bit of me time. I did occasionally put a letter in the Caversham Bridge.

I did deliver it myself for quite some time, but I still have it delivered and look forward to reading it each month

With fond memories, *Elizabeth Scott*

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60 Years of working together



by David Jenkins

Revd. David Jenkins is a member of the Methodist Team Ministry

Inter-Church co-operation is something to celebrate in itself, and it is an important feature of local life...

60 YEARS AGO, the churches in Caversham had a far-sighted vision, to establish a newspaper which could link the whole of our community. We are now celebrating the maintenance of the newspaper through all that time and the many volunteers who have contributed over the years.

The churches of Caversham still work closely. Each month the leaders meet together and they also go on an annual Retreat together. This bond of respectful friendship has great value in itself, as well as generating fresh, creative thinking.

The people of the churches work together on a number of projects, including several linked to young people, such as the Children's Holiday Club, RE Inspired which visits schools on a regular basis, and Messy Church. They also support Christian Community Action's drop in, Readifood, and other local charities, and major events like Nativity Live and the Good Friday procession.

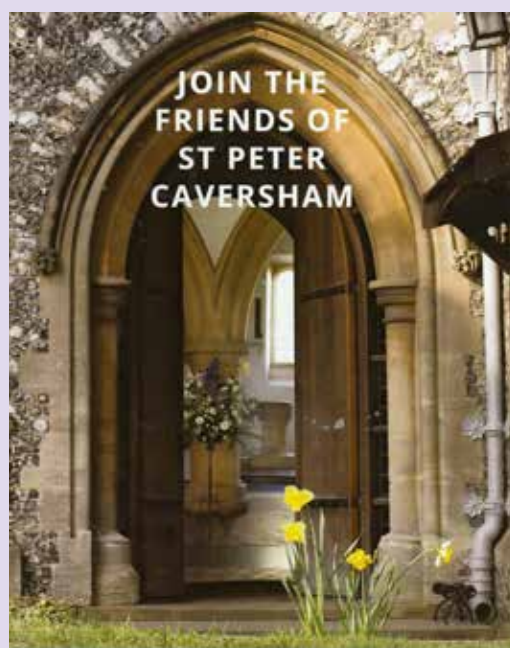
Often the churches initiate schemes which aim to draw people together, in the way that Caversham Good Neighbours does.

...links the wider community...

Inter-Church co-operation is something to celebrate in itself, and it is an important feature of local life. The aptly named Caversham Bridge links the wider community, highlighting a variety of events and issues. It is good that local shops are regularly featured, alongside the regular articles reflecting the many and various skills of creative people here.

The paper itself reflects ways in which Caversham and Emmer Green have been evolving.

We thank and encourage everyone involved in its production and distribution, and look forward to another 60 years on informing and inspiring us to fresh initiatives together.



Friends of St Peter's Church

by Francis Serjeant

ST PETER'S CHURCH is first recorded in 1162, but is probably much older. So there has been a church here in Caversham, serving the village and the wider parish, with weekly services and marking special significant occasions in parishioners' lives for many, many years. The baptisms, weddings

and funerals of thousands of parishioners over the centuries have been held here.

The present congregation is more than just Sunday worshippers. We have a flourishing junior choir which, apart from singing, encourages children to gain confidence, to the extent that they play an important part in our worship; leading prayers, explaining to the congregation at the end of the service what they discussed at Sunday club and, recently (Caversham Bridge - August 2024), creating a Lego version of the Good Samaritan parable.

Like all historic buildings, the church needs a huge amount of care, requiring continuous repair and fabric maintenance. Such buildings also need champions to encourage their use and continued existence. So we are launching a Friends of St Peter's Group for anyone with a link, past or present, to the church, or who simply wishes to support it as a resident. This includes worshippers, volunteers, members of the local community, or people who have moved away from Caversham. St Peter's church needs continuing funds due to increases in the cost of living. The Church has faced a vast increase in electricity bills in spite of the recent slight reduction of energy prices.

The Friends would not provide financial contributions to the general running costs, such as heating and lighting bills, or the cost of religious services, as this will continue to be done by the worshipping community. The Friends Group would carry out basic ongoing maintenance to the church building or churchyard, which would be its main purpose.

Would you, or anyone who has a fond link with St Peter's, please consider joining the Friends? Email admin@ctmparish.org.uk for a leaflet or pick up one at the church.

A Festival Invitation

text and photo Fred Smith

EVERY YEAR, the Baptist Church in Caversham extends a welcome to Reading Festival goers. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30 to 13:00 each day, the team of volunteers from the church provide breakfast, tea and coffee, and a fruit stall, as well as clean toilets, free Wi-Fi and a chance to recharge phones. All of this provides a welcome respite from the Festival site and an opportunity to chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Some visitors return each year, giving the volunteers a chance to renew their acquaintance and catch up on their news.



Volunteers await Reading Festival goers for some respite

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by Alex Forbes

For your bookshelf....

60 years!! Congratulations to Caversham Bridge. We are incredibly proud to be a part of the paper and well done to everyone who has been involved with it over the last 60 years.

THIS MONTH is a little bit different. I've picked two books which were published in 1964, 60 years ago. Both famous books, hence why they are still being read today. The first is the one and only *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It's sold over 20 million copies across the world. I can't even imagine what that number of books looks like. I'm sure I don't need to write much about the story of a young boy desperate to get a golden ticket to visit the local chocolate factory, so instead I have a couple of fun facts. The story was based on Roald Dahl's childhood where sweet companies would send chocolate to his school for the children to taste. Also, the working title was *Charlie's Chocolate Boy*. I much prefer the title Dahl went with.

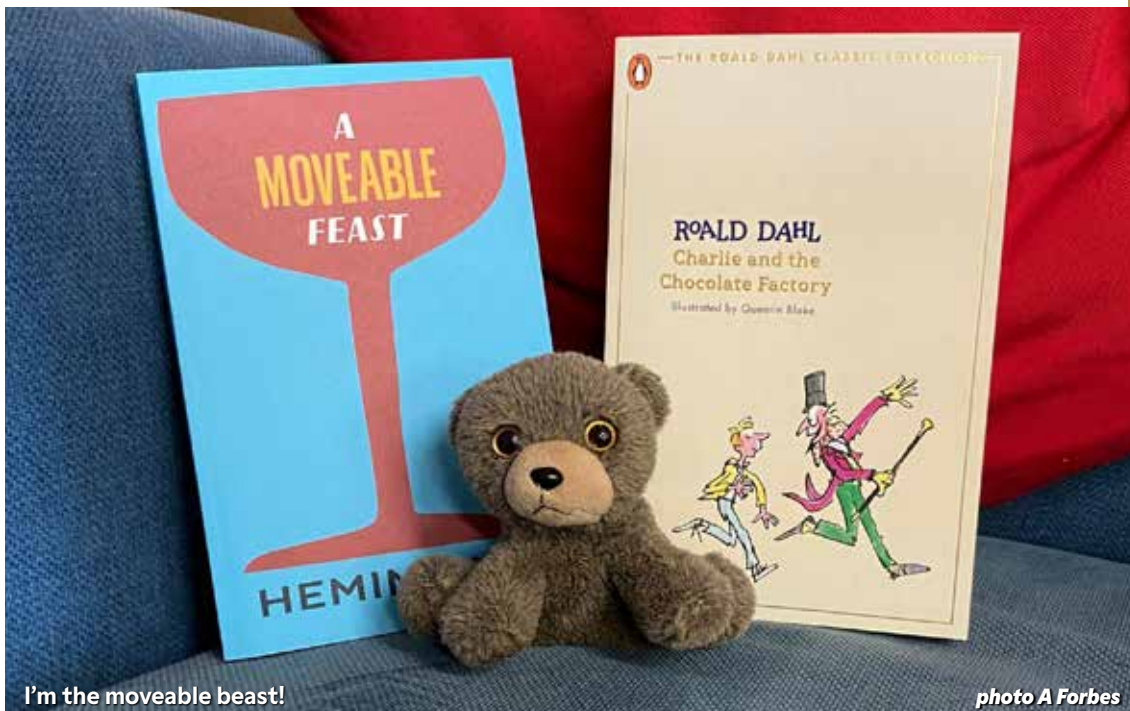
There is a slightly lesser-known sequel called *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*, which was published in 1972 and, while the sequel

may not have achieved the iconic status of its predecessor, it nonetheless remains a testament to Roald Dahl's storytelling prowess, offering readers a delightful extension of Charlie's and Wonka's adventures, layered with wit, wonder, and timeless appeal.

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway was also published in 1964, following Hemingway's death in 1961. *A Moveable Feast* is his memoir of living in Paris in the 1920s while he was an unknown writer. It's a book filled with the romance and power of the city, and how his experiences in Paris shaped and stayed with Hemingway throughout his life. The list of writers that lived in Paris during this time period is scintillating: James Joyce, Wyndham Lewis, and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. If I could travel in time for a day or week, I think spending time with some of these writers in Paris in the 20s would be high up on my list.

There are plenty of events coming up. We have Alexander McCall Smith and Tom Mead in October. Wine with Words in November, and Robert Thorogood (Creator of *Death in Paradise*) coming to Caversham in January, plus lots more yet to be announced.

Happy reading.



I'm the moveable beast!

photo A Forbes

Bridging the community

CADRA and Caversham Bridge

60th
Anniversary
Edition

by Maria Lloyd

AS CAVERSHAM BRIDGE celebrates its 60th birthday, we look back on some of the Caversham District and Residents' Association (CADRA) writers who have contributed to the paper over the years.

CADRA was founded in 1967, three years after Caversham Bridge. CADRA's goal to keep Caversham residents informed about local issues made the connection almost inevitable: Caversham Bridge had the audience, and CADRA had the pieces of interest.

CADRA writers have featured regularly in the paper. The first and the longest contributor was Molly Casey, founder member of CADRA, who wrote for Caversham Bridge for nearly 40 years under the pen name 'Watchdog'. This legacy of using pen names can still be seen in today's Caversham Bridge with the articles written by 'Happy Wanderer', who started writing about 19 years ago when real names were not used.

...collective name...

Molly finally handed the torch over to CADRA's Derek Bartlett, who wrote under the pen name 'Nomad' until he moved away in 2004. At this point, a group of CADRA members, including Helen Lambert, wrote under the collective pen name 'From the Lookout Post'. More recently, this was replaced by the planning update each month.

Many CADRA members have contributed towards Caversham Bridge over the years. However, Helen Lambert, CADRA Chair, takes second place as longest-serving joint member of CADRA and Caversham Bridge contributor, as she approaches her 20-year anniversary next year (congratulations, Helen!).

Another longstanding contributor, Mary Kift, wrote as 'MK' on local history. She collated an extraordinary collection of old photographs for an exhibition in 1978, which attracted over 4,000 people. Many of the photographs featured in her book *Life in Old Caversham*, and all proceeds were donated to the maintenance of the gazebo in Caversham Court Gardens.

A common theme that has bound CADRA with Caversham Bridge in recent years that you'll find throughout this paper and in our wider Caversham community, is service. This not only makes Caversham a wonderful place to live in the present, but also ensures strong foundations for a happy Caversham over the next 60 years.



Molly Casey

photo CADRA



Helen Lambert

photo CADRA

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What's On

IF YOU have an event planned, please send details to whatson@cavershambridge.org
We need to receive these no later than the 10th of the month before the event for inclusion in the printed paper. Later submissions can be included in our online What's On, which is updated regularly. To see what has been added check:
cavershambridge.org/archives/category/around-caversham

Please note, we have moved the listing of baby and toddler groups to a new feature on page 18.

Caversham Library – 09:00-17:00 Tuesday and Friday, 13:00-19:00 Thursday and 10:00-15:00 Saturday. Regular events include:

Rhymetimes for the little ones – popular, so please book first! Every Tuesday at 10:15 and 11:15.

Games Club, Friday mornings 10:30-12:00. All adults welcome – refreshments!

Sit and Stitch 17:30-19:45, on 2nd and 4th Thursdays every month. Refreshments – come and be inspired. Tel: 0118 9375103 or see reading.gov.uk/leisure/all-libraries/caversham-library

Geo Café – *Artists Against Homelessness*, an ongoing and changing exhibition of art by local artists at Geo Café, Prospect Street. For each sale the artist makes a donation to Launchpad Reading. Open every day.

Mondays – **Caversham Park Bridge Club** – at the Milestone Centre, 19:15 for 19:30 start. Phone Lin 0118 334 8195 for further information. bridgewebs.com/cavershampark

Tuesdays – **Rivarate Choir** – Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. 19:30 in term time. Enjoy singing together. For details see rivarate.com

Wednesdays – **Caversham Writers** – Welcoming enthusiastic hobbyists and aspiring authors alike. Meeting weekly in person or via Zoom. Free to all. For details: meetup.com/CavershamWriters or [@CavershamWriter](https://twitter.com/CavershamWriter) on Twitter (X)

Wednesdays – **Light on the Hill Café** – 19:30-21:30 at Grace Church, 119 Peppard Road, RG4 8TR. A wellbeing café for adults 18+. Come as you are for tea and a chat. Please see: www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

Wednesdays – **The Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band** – Neville Hall in Waltham St Lawrence RG10 0JJ. 20:00-22:00. Free and friendly club for brass instrumentalists. Email: waltham.band@gmail.com

Thursdays – **Friendly Over-60s Social Club** – 10:00-13:00 at Milestone Centre, Caversham Park Village. Hot lunch, quizzes and the chance to chat. Contact Cheryl at 07964 750182 or Trina at 07477 570541

Thursdays – **Weller Centre Craft Group** – 13:00-15:00. Be creative with friends. For details contact Pam Chatfield at pamch32@gmail.com Mobile 07986 905784 or Weller Centre 0118 947 5828

Thursdays – **New Caversham Heights Bridge Club** – 14:00 at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. For details contact Duncan Knight on 0118 947 5544 or email duncan.knight@goolemail.com

Fridays – **Warm Welcome Space** – 10:00-13:30 at Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, RG4 8HY. All welcome, just drop in for free refreshments, including hot soup from 12:00. Tel: 0118 954 5353 www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Saturdays – **Keep Caversham Tidy** – A local charity dedicated to eliminating litter and improving public spaces in Caversham. Free to join and no ongoing commitment. Families welcome! Email: Keepcavershamtidy@gmail.com, FB Keep Caversham Tidy

Sundays – **Caversham Artisan & Farmers Market** – Caversham Precinct, 10:00-15:00. See www.facebook.com/CAFMarket

Sundays – **Nordic Walk (or just walking)**. Free to all. Tel: 07931 754096 or email Pat at Wirralbird@hotmail.com

Sundays – **Readifolk Song and Music Club** – 20:00-22:30 in the Community Hall, Watlington House, RG1 4RA. £8 admission for performances, £3 on singing nights. See www.redifolk.co.uk

Tuesday 1 October – **Caversham Women's Institute** – 19:30 at Church House, Caversham. www.thewi.org.uk or Tel: 0118 9475 176

Wednesday 2 October–Saturday 16 November – **Landscapes of Colour Exhibition of paintings by Jo Lillywhite** – Caversham Picture Framers, Church Road – see cavershampictureframer.co.uk/events

Wednesday 2 October – **Rosehill Ladies** – 14:00 at St Barnabas Hall, Emmer Green. Tel: Sue 0118 947 7570 or email suegreen@hotmail.com

Wednesday 2 October – **The Samaritans, a talk by Neil Barnett** – 20:00 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road. The Caversham Heights Society. To learn more visit cavershamheights.org or email: contact@cavershamheights.org

Thursday 3 October – **An Afternoon with Alexander McCall Smith** – 14:00 at Caversham Baptist Church with Fourbears Books. Tickets from £5. See www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk for details.

Friday 4 October – **Chazey Women's Institute** – 14:30 at St Andrew's Church Hall. Tel: 0118 9470 964, or e-mail: rowena@primology.com

Friday 4 October – **Bereavement Café** – 14:00-15:30 at St. Barnabas, Emmer Green. A safe place to find others who have had their own loss and can appreciate something of your experience. For further info Tel. Gill at 0118 947 8772

Wednesday 9 October – **Woodcote To Upper Gatehampton Farm walk (SU645813) 5.0m** – 10:30 Meet at junction of Greenmore, Whitehouse Road and Long Toll in Woodcote. Nearest postcode RG8 ORN. Pang Valley Ramblers. One of a programme of regular walks in the area – see <https://pvrblers.org.uk/walks-programme>

Saturday 12 October – **Artists & Makers Fair** – 10:00-16:00 at Caversham Methodist Hall, Gosbrook Road. Local artists and craftspeople display their work for sale. Free entry. For further information phone Jean at 07808 966 928 or visit www.cavershamcrafts.co.uk

Sunday 13 October – **Classic Cars and Bikes Meet** – 9:30-11:30. The Flowing Spring, Playhatch. Free entry, refreshments available. Bring your classic vehicle or just come to have a look around. See www.theflowingspringpub.co.uk/whatson

Tuesday 15 October – **In Conversation with Tom Mead, the author of Golden Age Locked Room Mysteries** – 19:30 at Fourbears Books. Perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Jonathan Creek. Tickets from £3. See www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk for details.

Wednesday 16 October – **Lawns of the future, a talk by Nikki Barber MHort (RHS)** – 19:30 (doors open 19:15) Caversham Baptist church. Free to members, £3 for non-members, refreshments will also be available. www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk

Wednesday 16 October – **The Special Relationship Between British and US Spies, a talk by Michael Smith** – 20:00 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road. The Caversham Heights Society. Contact details above on 2 October

Friday 25 October – **Les Jeux Olympiques** – historical, artistic and popular references in the 2024 Olympic Games opening, with Céline Homer – 19:30-21:30 at Church House, 59 Church Street, RG4 8AX. Le Cercle Français, for those who are learning French, love France and for French nationals. Admission £5 welcome drink included. Email readingcerclefrancais@gmail.com Website www.readingfrenchcircle.co.uk

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October – **Halloween Trail, Caversham Court Gardens** – 10:00-16:00 See details on page 8

CADRA Planning Bulletin

A summary of planning and transport matters affecting the RG4 area, provided by Caversham and District Residents Association www.cadra.org.uk

IF YOU USE the CADRA Planning List to link to individual planning application, you will find some changes in how the list is set out. Most notably, new applications are now shown first. Our team is looking at further changes to make the list easier to navigate from a mobile phone or tablet.

Applications in Caversham Centre this month include a revised application for **10B Bridge Street**, PL/24/1098, to include a new shop front, a five room House of Multiple Occupation and a studio flat. **18 Bridge Street** (Martin & Co) includes change of use and two flats on the upper floors, PL/24/1151. There is a retrospective application PL/24/1174 for the new lockers at the front of **Tesco Express** on Church Street.

On The Warren, **The Shanty** at number 145 proposes extensions and alterations to the house. Some tree work is proposed at **1 St Peters Hill** at the entrance to The Warren.

The application for **Brindles** in Emmer Green, accessed through Lyefield Court, was considered by the September Planning Applications Committee. Following representations from Lyefield Court and the Conifers with support from CADRA, the application was unanimously rejected. The proposed two-storey roof (third and fourth floor) extension to **Great Brigham Mead** on Vastern Road, to accommodate 100 apart-hotel rooms has also been rejected by the Committee.

A full report from Reading Borough Council Natural Environment raises concerns over the limited tree planting in the application for an 11/12 storey development at **Napier Court**, Napier Road, PL/24/0846.

Further information has become available regarding the proposed construction and operation of an additional **service water reservoir** at Foxhill Lane, Emmer Green, P23/S3410/FUL. This includes proposed traffic routes for construction traffic. CADRA has raised concerns with South Oxfordshire District Council and urged liaison between authorities.

See www.cadra.org.uk for links to these planning applications.

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Wednesday
13 November 2024
7.30 pm

Caversham Baptist Church
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Reading RG4 8JB

Open Meeting & Talk

Speakers:
Paul Jefferies
Assistant Director of Operations,
South Central Ambulance Service
(NHS Foundation) Trust

Richard Company
Critical Care Paramedic,
Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Saving Lives

www.cadra.org.uk

CADRA
Caversham & District
Residents' Association

LIKE MANY other people, I'm sure, I grew up surrounded by privet. For me it was a 1920s council house on the edge of a town in northern England. Every house in Cranford Avenue had a privet hedge in front, and sometimes on all sides. One house was a bit different – it had a golden privet hedge. Many of the Victorian houses in town had once had iron fences and gates in front, which had been removed in 1941 as part of the war effort. In many cases, a privet hedge had succeeded the railings. In the one medium-sized town there must have been hundreds of miles of privet hedge.

As a boy, I'd watched my father clipping our hedges with the garden shears, and enjoyed helping him. Electric hedge clippers and electric lawnmowers were unheard of! I have to admit that I thought that privet was a very boring plant that didn't change very much through the year – it just kept growing. Left to its own devices, it would have flowered and fruited, of course.

...privet berries in the Chilterns...

When I arrived in Reading in the late 1960s, I saw many new wildflowers during my wanderings – especially where there was chalk. The wild privet was one of them, flowering in the summer and with shiny black berries in the autumn. I took the photograph of privet berries in the Chilterns not far from Caversham.

In fact, the wild privet and garden privet are two distinct species. Wild privet is native, and is fairly common in southern Britain on chalk

and limestone. Its leaves are darker in colour and more elongated and pointed than those of garden privet. The newcomer was introduced from Japan in the 1840s as a hedging plant. It's a bit more evergreen than the wild plant, and it will grow to almost any height you might want.

The white flowers of both plants have a sweet but rather sickly smell. Like other plants with white flowers, it was thought by some to be unlucky to bring them into the house. The black berries are poisonous, but have been used to produce beneficial pharmaceuticals.

...unearthly screeching sounds...

So, perhaps a rather boring plant but, for children, a source of fun if you knew what to do. By taking a leaf, folding in half along the mid-rib, holding it taut and blowing through it, you could produce unearthly screeching sounds, and you could vary the pitch by varying the tension on the leaf. Before writing this, I hadn't considered this skill for many years, and am now tempted to go out and pick a leaf, to see if I can still do it!

As a person who is interested in etymology, of course I had to consult the Oxford English Dictionary in order to see where the word 'privet' had come from, and what it had meant when it had first been used in England. The result was disappointing. Although the dictionary compilers had found it being used as early as 1542, they didn't know where it had come from. I was expecting a French connection with privacy and the chambre privée or privy – but apparently not!



Wild Privet

photo Happy Wanderer

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Puzzle Corner

The Challenge by Rachel

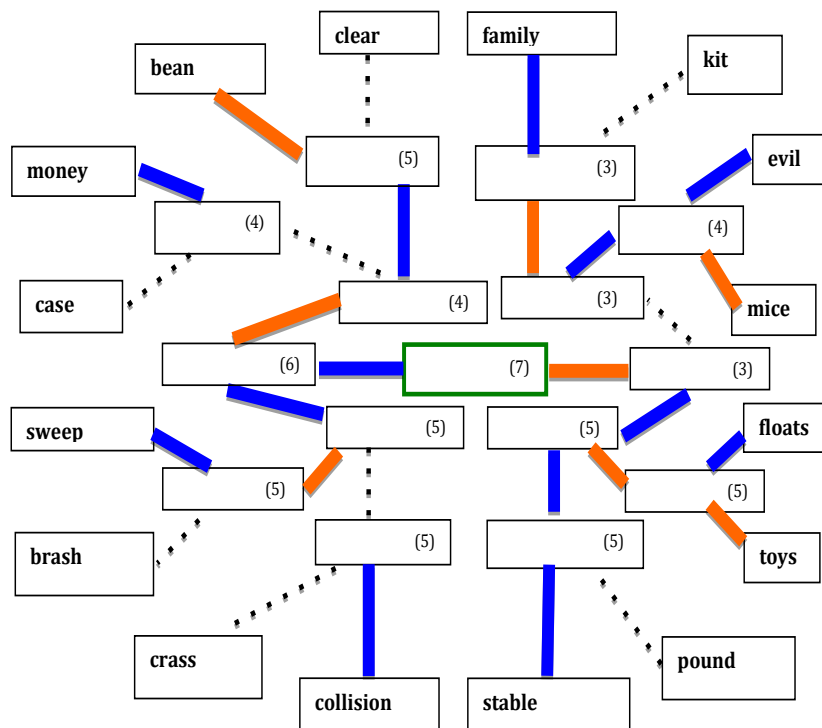
WORD PUZZLE

Find the word that has the same meaning as the clue; or rhymes with; or has one letter that is different. For example: *tingle* has 6 letters, rhymes with *shingle* and means *thrill*.

Rhyme

Letter change

Meaning



Answers on page 18

ANNIVERSARIES

Can you find 20 anniversary-linked words in the grid?

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

Anniversary
Bronze (8th)
Copper (9th)
Coral (35th)
Crystal (15th)
Diamond (60th)
Emerald (55th)
Golden (50th)
Leather (3rd)
Linen (4th)

Paper (1st)
Pearl (30th)
Platinum (70th)
Porcelain (20th)
Ruby (40th)
Sapphire (45th)
Silk (12th)
Silver (25th)
Wood (5th)
Wool (7th)



Sporting Profiles

by Jill Steen

Tales of an Elderly Gym Bunny

WELL, IT HAS happened - I have actually reached 80 years of age and, being a gym bunny (of a sort), I wonder how I got here. In childhood, I was overweight with co-ordination and balance difficulties, and weird feet. Release from school allowed me to enter a non-exercise world.

Fast forward decades to the podgy pensioner who, at last, decided something needed to be done. Walking, combined with gradually increasing distances covered each week and a revised diet, resulted in weight loss.

Next was a foray into martial arts, which started by accident (a recurring pattern in my life). I had read that tai chi helped prevent falls. Turning up to

a class promising this, I found they only did kung-fu. Weakly bleating that surely this was not an option for OAPs, I somehow found myself doing a class and, after a bit, the instructor felt confident I could manage some one-to-one padwork. Very inadvisedly, he said "Hit me" without specifying 'But not on the head', and a wild swing connected with his jaw. Afterwards, he said he could only take fluids for a week — but he was prone to exaggeration. Trips to China followed, with a couple of competitions. This resulted in a couple of medals and increased fitness.

Unavailability of accessible classes during Covid-19 put paid to martial arts, and I moved to gyms. As soon as it opened, I signed up to Caversham Health Club. Most mornings you will find me there doing Pilates or Yoga, strength or fitness exercises. When asked if this is to continue ('at your age'), my response is that older people are not expected to stop medication taken to prevent or treat conditions associated with ageing, therefore why should I stop exercise which, much more pleasurably, does the same. Long live gym bunny-dom!



Jill ready for action

photo J Maher



The Haunted Gardens

Magnolia witch

photo M Lelliott

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens

ON THE WEEKEND before Halloween, 26 and 27 October, Caversham Court Gardens will once more be haunted by all sorts of ghosts, witches and weird creatures lurking amongst the trees. There will be lots of new displays for you to discover, as well as some old favourites from previous years.

Everything has been hand-made specially for this atmospheric setting. The creators of the displays are textile artist, Hester Casey, who is proud to make nearly everything from recycled materials, and talented craft knitter Jill Knight.

The trail is designed to be fun for families, but will also appeal to adults, with touches of humour and some more serious messages.

...don't miss anything...

It is free to visit and will be open during daylight hours of Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October. To make sure you don't miss anything, there will be a combined trail guide and tick sheet available between 10:00 and 16:00 for a suggested donation of £1 cash.

Proceeds will go to Friends of Caversham Court Gardens to enable them to purchase new plants to replace the box hedges. These have died because of damage caused by Box Moth caterpillars. The hedges which visitors find as they enter the gardens at the moment are a very sad sight. Money raised in previous years was used to buy new yew topiary balls for the herbaceous border. These were planted in the spring and are doing well.



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Creative CAVERSHAM

KEEPING THE BEAT



Drumming circles are increasing in popularity but when an African djembe drum needs a repair where to turn...? Local resident Alistair Paton explained to Elestr Lee how he has set up this unusual service

MEETING THE amazing array of creative people who live and work in this area has thrown up some surprises - but perhaps the most unexpected was to discover that Caversham is home to a resident whose business is repairing African djembe drums.

For the uninitiated, djembe drums (pronounced jem-be) come in a range of sizes, but are essentially quite simple percussion instruments, made from carved hardwood and goatskin, and tuned with colourful ropes. They are struck with the hand and can make three basic sounds – resonant when struck in the middle of the skin, a tight tap near the edge, and a slap when hitting the wood. Anyone can have a go at playing them – however, in the hands of master musicians, the djembe drum plays a vital role in the complex and thrilling sounds of traditional West African music.

Alistair Paton, Caversham resident since 2017, has

brought his love and knowledge of djembe drums to the UK from South Africa, where he grew up. Having studied business at university, he moved to Cape Town – where he got a job at the city’s Drum Café.

“I performed in bands and played djembe professionally. At the Cape Town café, people could drop in for a drink and learn to drum. We also provided workshops for businesses, where doing a djembe session could help with interactive team building or provide an ice breaker at conferences.

“This became very successful, and I played and toured around Africa as well as Europe doing this for many years,” Al explained.

Having moved to the UK where he now lives with his wife and children, Al continued playing djembe professionally, but more recently has concentrated on his new interest in setting up a business repairing the instruments.

“Often, someone has been on holiday in Africa and bought themselves a djembe but, once it becomes damaged, then they’re stuck – it’s not something you can take back to the shop to get repaired!

“So I have started up a service to repair old and broken djembes. I see this as an opportunity to make them playable again, but also to customise them, to make it your own drum. I have a selection of ropes in different colours, and the customer can choose colours that are special for them. Recently, a djembe owner, who was Hungarian in origin, chose the colours of the Hungarian flag, so her djembe will now reflect her own heritage”.

...giving the drums a go...

Alistair gained a lot of experience playing djembe and leading drum circle groups with the Drum Café, and is delighted that so many adults and children have derived so much pleasure joining groups in Africa, Europe, and now in the UK, giving the drums a go.

“Originally the djembe was found in parts of Africa including Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Mali. Traditionally the instrument was made by the Numu, the community’s blacksmiths, for the musicians. Djembes would be played during ceremonies, and there would be particular rhythms associated with the occasion that was being marked, and unique to each local culture. The rhythms and the dancing would then bring the community together. Even today there are ceremonies such as celebrating the harvest, weddings, welcoming the leader or a special visitor, where the djembe is still used”.

Alistair is now concentrating on his repair business, and is developing his website so that he can both provide resources for mending djembes, as well as teaching others how to do



A djembe drum awaiting repair

all photos A Paton

their own repairs through tutorials he is devising, which they can buy online. Meanwhile he remains busy providing his service mending damaged and broken djembes – drumming circles have become very popular in the UK, so he is being approached by drumming teachers with instruments that are worn or broken, now needing repair.

“I go online and chat to other drum makers and repairers worldwide, but there aren’t many doing this work in the UK,” Al said.

“Sourcing the hardwood is not easy, as the drums are made from one piece of wood: it needs to have come from quite a large tree, and you have to make sure the wood is sustainable. And the skins – traditionally goatskin – also need to be from African goats, as UK goatskin is too spongy,” he said. Alistair is also keen to create attractive patterns with the rope, which both tunes the djembes as well as being used for carrying the drums, using macrame knots.

“It’s quite a complex process, however it is both fun and very rewarding. It is so satisfying when something that was broken, you can freshen up and fix – it looks so much better!”

Find out more: Visit fixmydjembe.co.uk WhatsApp, or email support@afrodrumming.com or contact 07521 474962.



Colourful knots enhance the djembe

60THAnniversary
Edition

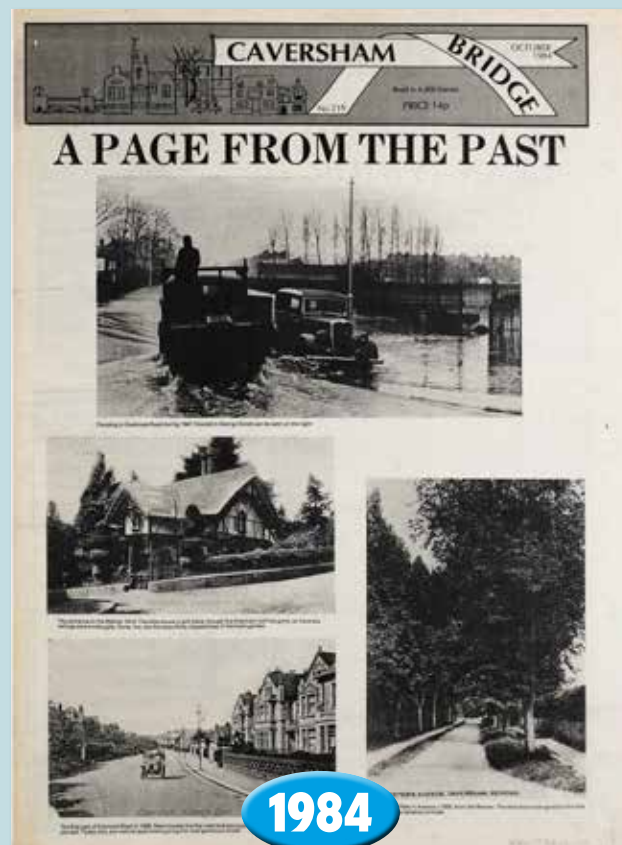
Sixty Years of



1964



1974



1984

Number one in the charts in October 1964

Sandie Shaw –

Always something there to remind me

Roy Orbison –

Oh Pretty Woman

Events in the 1960's

5 October 1964

General Election. Harold Wilson elected.

30 July 1966

England win the World Cup at Wembley.

5 January 1968

Start of the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia.

20 July 1969

First Moon landing.

Local events in the 1960's

1965

Caversham Park Village mostly developed between the mid-1960s and early 1970s, with the construction of 1500 new houses and the supporting road infrastructure.

1965

The Caversham Park Village Association was formed, when only the first 111 houses in the development were occupied.

1968

Dorothy Gardiner sets up Gardiner's Nursing Agency (now Gardiner's Homecare).

Number one in the charts in October 1974

John Denver –

Annie's Song

Events in the 1970's

15 February 1971

Decimal currency introduced.

1 January 1973

UK joins the EU.

1973

The Oil Crisis results in the issue of petrol rationing coupons.

1 January 1974

Three Day Week.

Local events in the 1970's

1973-5

Renewal of the Vastern Road railway bridge.

1976

The introduction of InterCity 125 trains reduced the travelling time between Reading and Paddington to around 24 minutes.

1977

The Glendale Cinema, Caversham, closed.

1 April 1977

Mapledurham and Emmer Green, Caversham Park Village and the Micklands Estate transferred from Oxfordshire to Berkshire (and therefore Reading).

Number one in the charts in October 1984

Stevie Wonder –

I Just Called To Say I Love You

Events in the 1980's

29 July 1981

Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

2 April 1982

Falkland War starts.

13 July 1985

Live Aid raises about £150 million for famine relief.

9 November 1989

The fall of the Berlin Wall.

Local events in the 1980's

1980

Life in Old Caversham by Mary Kift published.

January 1981

New doctor's surgery opens in Emmer Green.

1983

The first Reading Half Marathon, passing through Caversham, was run.

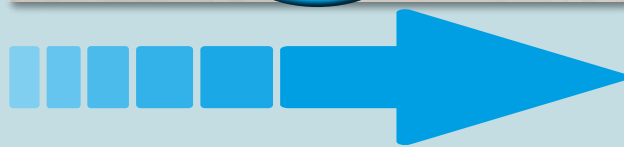
27 November 1984

Opening of Waitrose in Caversham, 12 years after the first planning application.

1986-7

Heron Island development.

Community Service



Number one in the charts in October 1994

Take That – Sure

Events in the 1990's

1991

Oasis formed in Manchester. No 1 album Definitely Maybe released 1994.

1992-95

Bosnian War and siege of Sarajevo.

21 May 1995

First recorded death from vCJD linked to BSE in cattle.

Local events in the 1990's

1990

After years of protests and demonstrations, Nicholas Ridley, Environment Secretary, allowed housebuilding in Bugs Bottom.

April 1991

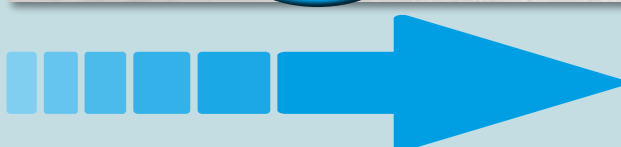
Poll Tax introduced. Many local people refused to pay. Replaced within 2 years by Council Tax.

11 December 1993

New Environment Centre opens at Caversham Court Stables Block, with green Christmas Tree sale.

1994

Jacksons Store on Prospect Street closes.



Number one in the charts in October 2004

Robbie Williams – Radio

Events in the 2000's

2000's

Rise of the internet.

11 September 2001

Twin Towers attacks in New York.

30 October 2006

Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change.

Local events in the 2000's

2002

The Golden Key Pub in Queens Road, Caversham closed.

2002

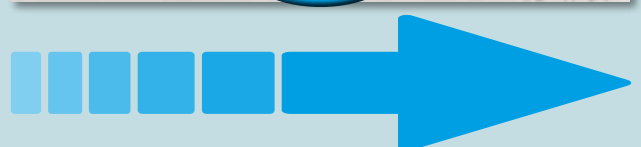
The Elliotts factory on Gosbrook Road closed. The site was redeveloped for housing – now Elliotts Way.

2004

Caversham Post Office in Prospect Street closed after more than 100 years: the service was to move to the Day Lewis Pharmacy in Church Street.

July 2004

John and Lindsay Mullany retire from running the Caversham Bookshop after 25 years.



Number one in the charts in October 2014

Meghan Trainor – All About The Bass

Events in the 2010's

2010's

The decade of the smartphone.

27 July to 12 August 2012

The 2012 Summer Olympics held in London.

23 June 2016

BREXIT referendum.

December 2019

COVID-19 emerges in China.

Local events in the 2010's

30 September 2015

Opening of Christchurch Bridge between Reading and Caversham for pedestrians and cyclists.

November 2015

Survey work for a new primary school starts at Mapledurham Playing Fields. Despite strong local opposition, The Heights Primary School was built on part of the land, opening in September 2021.

November 2018

BBC monitoring finally left Caversham Park after 75 years.



Les Cooper



Miracle grow

ALTHOUGH SOME people do not believe in miracles, they occur all the time in our gardens. Every year tiny seeds grow into wonderful creations. Even the most novice gardener can sow a small dark speck and it becomes a large onion, a small bean which develops into a tall runner bean plant, and a yellow speck growing into a magnificent sweetcorn plant.

Sowing seed and caring for the tiny seedlings is so rewarding when the proud owner surveys the result. Even in the dodgiest years, when there has been prolonged drought or too much rain, there is always something in the garden to gladden hearts.

Sowing sweet peas at this time is a really good idea, because it results in bigger and stronger plants than those sown in Spring; such good results for so little effort.

Obviously, there are 'correct' times to sow seed but, if you are a busy person and other things are getting in the way, and with our warming climate, it is worth a try outside the months suggested on the packet. Last year at this time I had two packets of seed lingering on the shelf. They were

free packets attached to a magazine. For something to do, I sowed them in pots and placed them in the greenhouse. Slightly annoyingly, the seed germinated like mustard and cress, and I had to prick-out quite a number into trays.

The seedlings flourished, and in the Spring, I had a number of Eschscholzia (California poppy) and Godetia plants ready to be planted out. My usual doubts about where to put them ensued, but nature helped when the multitude of slugs waiting around the corner finished off the Godetia. Having moaned about the slugs, I planted the poppies in large containers in our front garden. Guess what? They have been really floriferous and beautiful, so now I am pleased with myself because I bothered to sow the seed in the first place.

Given the right conditions, seed will germinate at any time of the year. Clearly it is the aftercare which then matters. On 16th February, I sowed Rudbeckia "Goldsturm" seed in my unheated greenhouse. The seed germinated well and, in early July, large seedlings were planted out. Now in August we have beautiful flowers.



Rudbeckia

photo E Cooper



The riverside jewel that is Caversham Court Gardens in the 1960s

photo Dr Gillian Clark

A Riverside Jewel

Submitted by Friends of Caversham Court Gardens

THE HISTORIC gardens at Caversham Court have been the scene of Church Fêtes, Christmas Tree sales and family fun for many decades. This photo from the 1960s shows the view from the Church Road entrance across the herb garden to the former gateway into the allotments.

...same as having hair cut...

Sixty years ago, the gardener was 56-year-old Sam Reed, a gardener since he was 14, with six grandchildren and a passion for raising and showing bantams. In an interview reported in the November 1964 edition of the Caversham Bridge, his advice for keeping the lawns in good order was to mow regularly. He said, "It's the same as having your hair cut, the more you cut it, the quicker and healthier it grows"; maybe this is why the lawns are so lush today!

The Friends of Caversham Court Group was established in 2007 as part of a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to refurbish the gardens. Following the work, the gardens were re-opened in 2008.

See their website at fccg.org.uk for details of their events.



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Time for an Electric Vehicle?

by Tricia Marcouse



Image by frimufilms on Freepik

GIVEN THE new government will restore the 2030 deadline for the end of sales of new petrol and diesel cars, and has retained targets for the sale of electric vehicles (EVs) which encourage manufacturers to offer discounts, this may be the time to think about making the switch. There isn't a standard Yes/No decision to fit everyone's situation, but here are some facts to emphasise and myths to debunk.

All EVs improve local air quality by eliminating tail pipe emissions and reducing brake dust particulates, because regenerative braking reduces brake wear. Of course, providing the electricity to run the vehicles results in emissions to atmosphere elsewhere until renewable energy can provide an alternative to fossil fuels in a consistent manner. In addition, there's an issue of pollution and energy requirements associated with the mining

and processing of the rare minerals required in the batteries. We'll need effective recovery systems for these units.

The myth about electric vehicle batteries catching fire regularly needs to be debunked. The much-quoted example of a major fire at Luton airport was due to a diesel vehicle, not an EV, and research shows battery fires are rare and slightly more likely in a diesel or petrol vehicle than in an EV.

The cost of running an EV can be much lower than running a diesel or petrol vehicle, although the current zero road tax disappears in April next year. Maintenance costs are lower, although insurance can be higher, but all of this depends on size and features.

...consider solar panels...

The cost of charging depends on your home and how you use the car. If you have off-street parking next to the house, and your normal daily journey is less than the battery can deliver without recharging, then setting up a home charger unit is the answer. Various electricity suppliers will offer reduced prices per unit if you can charge at specific times of the day when there is surplus electricity. Better still,

consider solar panels if they would work with your driving pattern.

Note that the quoted mileage on the sales brochure is the mileage delivered by a NEW battery. All batteries will hold less charge as time goes by, and all are affected by cold weather, giving a shorter range in winter months. In addition, you are advised to charge the battery to only 80% to maintain battery life, unless about to do a long journey. Maybe do your calculations on daily use using 70% of the quoted range as long-term availability.

...occasional necessity...

Charging at home is the economic method at the moment. Dependence on using fast chargers at commercial outlets is expensive, possibly more expensive than running on diesel or petrol, and should be an occasional necessity, not a regular action. It's also not brilliant for the battery life if used too often.

The alternative option is charging at work. Businesses, charities, and government offices can get workplace charging scheme grants for installing units. Ask your employer about their plans for EVs, both for company cars and for employees to charge during the day.

Future developments will make EVs more accessible to everyone as we move towards 2030. Perhaps a season ticket for trickle charging in a station car park or at a park and ride with free bus travel into town. On-street charging points is a goal in Council policy. Watch this space for developments.

MORE TRICK THAN TREAT

IN 2019, ENVIRONMENTAL charity Hubbub reported that more than 39 million UK families dress up for Halloween, with 90% buying new costumes every year. Their research showed that the majority of these costumes (69%) were made from polyester, a synthetic plastic, and 40% are worn once and discarded. That's around 7 million costumes weighing in at 2,000 tonnes.

Their top tip for a 'less spooky, more sustainable Halloween' is to reuse and repurpose what you already have at home, saving money, reducing plastic use and cutting waste. Getting creative with what you have in your wardrobe also means nobody else will have the same outfit! Alternatively, why not swap costumes with your friends and family? Get together and bring back the ghost of Halloween's past.

For more details and tips on how to be creative, see their website at www.hubbub.org.uk/sew-spooky

Based on information from Hubbub at www.hubbub.org.uk



Image by freepik

New Caversham Heights Bridge Club by Duncan Knight

THERE IS an old story about two bridge-playing couples who met in the street. One of them said, "Why don't you come round tomorrow night for a nice, friendly game of cards?" The immediate response was, "Oh, no, let's play bridge instead!"

This tale should not put anyone off the New Caversham Heights Bridge Club where we play in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

We meet in an upstairs room at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church in Highmoor Road, Caversham at 14:00 every Thursday. If you can play the game, you are welcome to arrange a session with us and try things out for free, with no obligation to join. You do not need a partner to apply but, as bridge is a game of such close proximity, please note our rule that members must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

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50 years on the river

by Tim Deaton and Phil Chatfield

THAMES RIVERCRUISE is celebrating 50 years on the Thames this year. In the early '70s, owner Tim Deaton was working in theatre set design and construction. This kept him busy except in the summer. Tim had started working on boats at the age of 15 and saw a chance to fill in the quieter time by buying his first vessel, the *Windsor 3* from a friend in Windsor. This 45-foot launch was renamed the *Scenic 1*. The owners of Mapledurham Estate liked the boat, and a service was started between Caversham and Mapledurham. The company, D&T Scenics Ltd, was registered in 1974 and boating activity became the main business.

Spotting a trend towards evening parties, Tim found a second vessel, *Pride of Test*, a former naval pinnacle. They were able to lift it out of the river at Mapledurham for repairs and refitting, and night parties started the next year. Following further modifications, it was used as a support boat during the filming of *The Eagle Has Landed* at Mapledurham. She was used to lunch and cruise by the actors, including Jenny Agutter and Larry Hagman (later famous as JR in the TV series *Dallas*).

A third vessel, *The Windsor Lady*, joined the fleet, and the Beale Wildlife Park became a regular upriver destination. Tim



The Caversham Princess begins another river cruise

photo C Hadler

then took the brave step of selling all three boats to fund the construction of the 60 foot *Caversham Lady*. On delivery from steel fabricators, Hancock and Lane in Daventry, she was nothing more than a hull and engine, but Tim and his team completed the fitting out in two to three weeks.

Business was good but demanding, with day trips and evening party cruises. After a few years, a further vessel was required and keel laying for a 72-foot boat, *The Caversham Princess*, took place in February 1982, only to be delayed because of the Falkland War. In the end, when only half finished, she was loaded onto a lorry for the trip from Hull

with welders still working on her during overnight stops at motorway service areas. All in all, the vessel had an eventful genesis, but has hosted many hundreds of thousands of guests since entering service in 1982.

Although COVID-19 impacted the business and customer patterns and tastes have changed, the company still offers a chance to enjoy the River Thames in comfort and is preparing for the future, including consideration of electric propulsion if and when it becomes viable.

To find out more about the company and its services, visit their website at www.thamesrivercruise.co.uk

True Food Co-op: local sustainable living, community shop celebrates 25 years



The True Food shop front

photo P Chatfield

"We are so proud to be celebrating 25 years of True Food. Thank you to everyone who supports us – we couldn't have done it without you!" Cathy Hughes, True Food Chair

by Tayma Cannon

TRUE FOOD CO-OP began in 1999 as the True Food Club. Members of The Club pooled their resources to buy organic foods in bulk. The Club grew, and within two years was buying a wider range of goods and starting to operate more as a market.

Between 2004 and 2009, True Food operated mobile markets around the Reading area from a small warehouse base in south Reading. By 2009, new larger facilities were needed and premises were found in Emmer Green, which is where it continues to operate from today.

True Food started as a community endeavour, and this continues to be fundamental to its vision and strategy. As a community co-operative, it is owned by its Members, who are encouraged to volunteer in a variety of roles, alongside a small part-time staff team.

Like all businesses, True Food has faced hard times and has had to make difficult decisions to adapt and survive over the years. Long-time volunteer Michael Bright remembers, 'The Covid-19 pandemic proved a challenging time; the shop operated reduced opening hours. To support



The True Food shop during covid

photo P Chatfield

our community, we offered a collection service, where customers could email their order, which would be picked and packed during closed hours.'

The principal aim of supporting more ethical and sustainable lifestyles has remained central to the co-op's vision over the past 25 years. The product range has expanded to include organic fresh fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread, meat and alcohol, alongside over 100 organic, zero-waste refill products.

Over the last 25 years the harmful impact on our environment of single-use plastic, the detrimental reliance on fertilizers and chemicals in food production, and the health impacts of ultra-processed food have come to the fore of public concern. As the number of consumers seeking more sustainable ways of shopping increases, True Food will continue to grow and prosper.

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS SOCIETY

by Christine Bradbury

NEARLY 50 YEARS ago, Martyn Allies set up the Caversham Heights Society. Its aim was to promote an interest in educational, cultural and scientific topics, without political or religious bias, amongst residents of Caversham and the surrounding area. This took the form of a series of talks during the winter months, along with visits to places of interest, and even a short holiday to a location too far away for a day visit.

The 48th season, for 2024-2025, still with similar objectives to those envisaged by its founder, started on 18 September. Our introductory talk, requested by one of our members, was on Artificial Intelligence, a very different subject, one would guess, to those introduced in the inaugural season. Other talks for this season include further lectures on artificial intelligence, showcasing its use in medicine and the controversial subject of driverless cars. In addition, members will enjoy a concert by a group from the Rivariate choir to celebrate the Christmas season, a talk about the history of Caversham Park and an introduction to the geology connected with the Emmer Green hidden chalk mines, to name just a few of our fascinating lectures.

Our trips will be to The Mill at Sonning for its amazing Christmas show, then into 2025 visits to the London Courts of Justice and in the summer, Polesden Lacey, a National Trust property. The holiday in May, to Devon, has a host of interesting activities planned, whilst staying in a four-star hotel in the vicinity.

Why not find out more about this friendly society, which meets at Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall, by looking at our website www.cavershamheights.org or phone 0118 947 2273.

We would very much like to meet you!



Caversham Heights Methodist Church

The Local Scene by Martin Andrews

The White Horse, Emmer Green



Drawing by Janina Maher

www.janinamaher.artweb.com

THE PUBLIC HOUSE, The White Horse, has been at the centre of Emmer Green for many centuries. There is said to have been a pub on the site since the 16th century and now, while retaining its attractive period features and traditional atmosphere, it is a thriving modern business. Graeme Humphries, the manager, started work there in 2020 during the second Covid-19 lockdown, and can remember the building being boarded up and he had to view it in darkness – thank goodness those days are over. Since then, the pub has come back to life, and is now a popular family and dog friendly venue offering a great range of beers and an extensive menu of ‘modern pub grub’. It is much bigger than I expected, with a number of bars and dining areas and plenty of tables outside on the surrounding patios. One important feature is a large car park, which is free for customers.

According to the book *Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries*, at one time a blacksmith's was adjacent to the pub which in Victorian times was owned by the Eynott family. Street directories of the time list George Eynott as the blacksmith and Henry Eynott is described as a ‘beer retailer’. Perhaps it was the smithy that inspired the name of the White Horse? And maybe even the name of their friendly rival, the Black Horse pub, over the road? It appears that

at one time the pub sold groceries and even baked bread, and overnight accommodation took the form of an open dormitory. Apparently the name of the pub was changed in 1993 to the ‘Pickled Newt’ but thankfully, probably due to popular demand, it soon reverted to its traditional name.

The White Horse is popular for all sorts of functions and regularly holds quizzes, discos, evenings of live entertainment, and there are a number of large screens for enjoying sport. Its friendly staff will always give you a warm welcome.

This drawing, along with many others, appears in Janina's book *A Stroll through Caversham*, which is available from Fourbears Books in Prospect Street.



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Looking After Yourself



by
Katy Reay

Anxiety

ANXIETY IS a very common symptom and understandably can be really scary to deal with. It is a normal response to a stressful situation such as public speaking, a big test, or a significant meeting at work. Importantly, we should know how to tell if it is a problem we should get help with.

What is Anxiety?

Anxiety is what we feel when we are worried, tense or afraid – particularly about things that are about to happen, or which we think could happen in the future.

Anxiety is a natural human response when we feel we are under threat. It can be experienced through our thoughts, feelings and physical sensations. Most people feel anxious at times – especially when something stressful or difficult is happening in life.

Common symptoms associated with anxiety:

- a sick feeling in your stomach
- feeling light-headed or dizzy
- pins and needles (usually in the hands)
- feeling restless or unable to sit still
- faster breathing
- a fast, thumping or irregular heartbeat
- sweating or feeling flushed
- having panic attacks

When does anxiety become a condition that needs medical attention?

- Your anxiety or worry is affecting your day-to-day life
- Your anxiety or worry feel difficult to control
- You avoid situations that may cause you to worry or feel anxious – it's stopping you doing something you want to or need to do
- Your anxiety or worry are out of context or proportion with the situation
- Your symptoms have been bothering you for a long period of time (months)

Who should you contact if concerned about anxiety symptoms?

The first point of contact should be your GP (or NHS 111). Remember to get support from friends and family as well.

See www.mind.org.uk for more information on getting help with mental health symptoms.

Simple things to help cope with anxiety?

- Breathing exercises – focus on extending your exhale and taking slow deep breaths
- Talking to someone you trust
- Mindfulness and tuning into your senses – what can you see, feel, smell, hear or taste?



Image by freepik



Community Connections

This month Sarah Stuffins speaks to Meena Arch

MEENA ARCH, who runs the Angel Bar on Prospect Street, is a Reading native. She was born on the other side of town and grew up in a variety of the hotels and guesthouses run by her parents. She went to school at Hemdean House and St Joseph's, starting working life at 14 in the Gorge Café. She worked in the hospitality industry for several years before moving into corporate training, but was then made redundant. She worked at Caversham Lakes but was always looking around for a new challenge. She was a fan of the Chapter Wine Bar and, when she spotted it was closing, arranged a meeting with the then owner and quickly found herself the new owner. The Angel Bar name was inspired by the Angel of the North, which she knows from a period of living in Newcastle. The angel wings painted on the rear wall of the bar have become a favourite selfie spot for customers and feature regularly in social media.

Her family are all local and close, and work is often a family affair. Her parents run the Thameside Hotel and flowers from her mother's garden often decorate the bar. Her sister sings in a local band which plays occasionally in the bar.

Reaching out beyond the bar, Meena is keen to promote the local business environment and is a member of Caversham Traders. She is also a member of the local Pubwatch and is passionate about educating young people on how to stay safe on evenings out.

Meena is always keen to try out new ideas to bring people into the bar, from singles mixer nights to live music and regular co-working sessions. She hires out the space for private events from baby showers to funeral wakes. As well as the bar, she has a converted horse box which pops up regularly, particularly supporting other local businesses and venues. Her mantra is whatever comes through the door we'll try it!

How long have you lived in RG4?

The bar opened in 2022, though Meena has lived in Reading for most of her life.

Where are your favourite places to eat, drink and shop in our area?

She loves eating at the Crown at Playhatch and likes the variety of local independent shops and the Sunday market, using local suppliers where she can, for example balloons for the bar come from House of Cards.

How do you think we can be eco-friendlier here?

Use more local suppliers – she's a big fan of the refillables available from Nood Stores

How would you strengthen our sense of community?

Put on more pop-up events and get the local community involved.

If you could bring anything here, such as an event, experience or a shop, what would it be?

It would be good to make more use of the space at Caversham Court Gardens for local events.



Meena Arch

photo S Stuffins

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Sad loss of inspirational musician

Timothy Watts –
11.4.1957-8.6.2024

FAMILY, FRIENDS, local music lovers, and regular attendees of Concerts in Caversham will have been saddened to learn of the death this summer of oboist Timothy Watts, husband of pianist Adrienne Black, joint co-founders of the concert series. Having performed in the *Mostly Mozart* concert at St Andrew's in April this year playing music by Mozart, Britten and Goossens, Tim's illness and sudden death early in June has been a shock to all.

Tim was raised in Liverpool and read history at Cambridge; he then went to the Royal College of Music in London, where he met Adrienne. As a professional oboist, he performed with Welsh National Opera, English Touring Opera, was a founder member of Oxford Philomusica, and

played with numerous other ensembles. Following a busy freelance career, he fulfilled a childhood dream when he was appointed to join London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) in 2002, travelling the world with the orchestra – later to be joined by his cello-playing daughter, Naomi. In recognition of his lifetime dedication to music, he was one of the musicians picked to play at the Coronation of King Charles III last year.

The funeral took place in a packed Douai Abbey, and friends and members of the RPO formed an orchestra conducted by John Rutter, playing music chosen by Tim, including pieces by his beloved JS Bach, as well as Rutter's arrangement of *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

Eulogies were given by RPO Principal Flautist, Emer McDonagh, who spoke of Tim's playing as 'pure, pristine, unaffectedly honest', as well as his 'admiration of the musicianship of others'. Adrienne's and Tim's son, Peter, spoke of his father's competitive nature – as well as his unfailing passion for his football team, Everton. 'The



bond that Dad and I built together during the trials and tribulations as Evertonians was quite warming', Peter recalled, remembering their annual trips to Goodison Park. Members of the RPO have written tributes to their colleague Tim on the orchestra website, recalling his friendship, energy – as well as his devotion to his instrument, the oboe.



Nineteen years a-wandering

by Happy Wanderer

60TH
Anniversary
Edition

The first 'Happy Wanderer' article appeared in April 2005, which means that by now there must have been well over 200 of them. In those days, the 'Bridge' was entirely black-and-white – colour arrived in October 2006.

IN 2005, many of the regular contributors had pen-names; we had 'Nomad', 'Bystander', 'Watchdog', and a feature called 'From the Lookout Post'. The natural history column was written by 'Scops Owl', which I thought odd because the Scops Owls don't live around Caversham. The column was always about birds, and often birds which had been seen elsewhere in the country, or even on foreign holidays.

...mustn't tread on toes...

I was invited to take over when 'Scops Owl' stopped writing, by someone who was, and still is, a proof-reader for the 'Bridge'. I asked if I could write something about local history as well, but was told that I mustn't tread on the toes of 'M.K.', who already did this. 'M.K.' was of course Mary Kift, who had written a couple of books on Caversham history. Since Mary's death, I have tended to alternate between natural and local history.

It is a pleasure for me to write these pieces, because every one of them makes me think about something different. I'm often struck by the way that many younger people seem to need some kind of artificial mental stimulus, via an ear-piece or headphones or a smartphone, at times when I'm happy to let my mind wander.

I've sometimes been asked how long it takes to write an article and I say, '20 minutes or so', but then add, 'but I might have been thinking about it for a month or more'.

So, when I was asked to choose a nom-de-plume for the 'Caversham Bridge', the decision seemed obvious.

...It is a pleasure for me to write these pieces, because every one of them makes me think about something different.

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First Impressions Matter

Organisation

by Laura Harmsworth



NO MATTER how many jobs you apply to, keeping organised will ensure you don't miss key parts of your job search, and it will be easy to see what actions you need to take each day.

Create folders

On your computer, create a new folder for your job search. You can organise this as you wish—maybe a sub-folder for each role, using the company name and job title as the folder name. Create the same in your email account and remember to back up your email and folders.

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Capture a screenshot of the job ad—if the job is taken down from the internet, you will no longer have the key information. Save the screenshot and any other downloaded documents from the website, e.g. the job description.

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You can do this in Excel to keep up with all your applications. Include columns such as:

- A. Date applied:** Note the date so you know when to follow it up if you haven't heard
- B. CV used:** Save each tailored CV with a different filename so you know which you've used for each application, e.g. your name+company+job role
- C. Cover letter:** Save each tailored letter with a different filename so you know which you've used for each application, e.g. your name+company+job role
- D. Company:** Name of company and other relevant info
- E. Job title:** Job title and you can add in job reference if applicable
- F. Contact/Job Board/Agency:** Where did you submit the application, for example via LinkedIn or an agency
- G. Copy of job ad saved:** Yes/No
- H. Interview:** Were you offered a 1st/2nd interview?

- I. Interview date:** Note the date so you know when to follow up if you haven't heard
- J. Thank you sent:** Sending a thank you note after an interview is a good idea. Note here who you sent it to and the date
- K. Offer:** If no, ask for feedback and complete the following column. If yes, note the offer, if you accepted it and if yes, celebrate!
- L. Feedback from the company:** What feedback did you get regarding the strengths they identified from your application/interview, areas you could improve upon, feedback on your application or interview technique? Build on all of this for your next application
- M. Notes:** Add anything else here, such as your thoughts on the company, do their values/culture align with yours, and whether there are other opportunities within the company you can pursue

You can also add a tab entitled 'Networking' – record who you've contacted or met, their role, any notes from the conversations, and follow-up actions.

Schedule Regular Reviews

- Book into your diary for daily check-ins to review job boards, your inbox, and application statuses
- Review progress at the end of each week, follow up on any applications, and make a plan for the next week

Taking these actions will keep your job search organised and documents easy to find, and you won't forget to take any outstanding actions.

You can follow Laura on:

www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting
on LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/in/lauraharmsworth
website: www.cavershamcvwriting.co.uk
Email: contact@cavershamcvwriting.co.uk



For the youngest members of our community

LISTED BELOW are regular term-time events for toddlers, babies and their carers. All are free of charge, although donations towards costs are welcome.

Tuesdays – Babies and Toddlers – Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, RG4 8EB. 10:00 - 11:30. Refreshments available. All welcome.

cavershammethodist.org.uk/baby-toddler-group

Tuesdays – St. John's Baby and Toddler Group – Caversham Hall, St. John's Road, RG4 5AN. 09:30 - 11:00. All welcome.

Thursdays – Toddler Thursday – St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA. 8:45 - 10:00. Friendly group for preschoolers and parents/carers, refreshments available. www.saintbarnabas.org.uk/whats-on

Fridays – Tiddlers for Babies and Toddlers – St Andrew's Church, Albert Road. Caversham Heights. RG4 7PL. 9:30 - 11:00. All are welcome, refreshments available. www.facebook.com/groups/209815529592564

THE CHALLENGE SOLUTIONS:

(From left to right from the top)

clean, kin, cash, vice, wash, sin, squash, **pumpkin**, din, crush, noise, brush, bouys, crash, sound.



The Caversham Bridge is a community newspaper produced by Caversham Christian News Ltd

Future editions:

Contributions for the November issue should be submitted by 1 October and for the December edition by 1 November. These should be emailed to: editors@cavershambridge.org

Dates for advertising copy are 1 October for the November issue and 1 November for the December issue. These should be emailed to: advertising@cavershambridge.org

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Wellbeing *with Ami Roy*

Olfaction and wellbeing

THE HUMAN sense of smell is still much underappreciated, despite its importance for vital functions such as warning and protection from environmental hazards, eating behaviour and nutrition, and social communication.

Human beings typically have an excellent sense of smell, when compared to many other animals.

Our evolutionary journey involves several olfactory interactions, right up to modern times. These days they can come from potted plants and private gardens, public greenspaces, the sea, wilderness, and other natural areas. Sailors crossing vast ocean expanses report smelling land long before seeing it. Smells of nature may be tied to an individual's sense of place and call to mind associations or memories of specific natural landscapes.

Just imagine walking past a bakery in the morning and catching the smell of freshly baked bread. Suddenly, the appetite is triggered, which may result in the irresistible

urge to treat oneself! On the other hand, when we have a cold and our nose is blocked, food does not taste so good, because the olfactory component is missing.

If our sense of smell indeed plays an important role in the dietary choices we make, this may exert longer-term effects, such as changes in our weight or body mass index.

Additionally, human sweat produces behavioural, psychophysiological, and neurophysiological consequences in us, in line with the emotional condition at birth and through our growing years. This goes on to determine our choice of partners, pets and environments.

Having no or reduced ability to understand the social world through the lens of olfaction can severely affect attachments, limit the ability to 'read a room', and the strategies used to initiate emotional regulation, associated with the experience of having an invisible illness.

Researchers are trying to understand how, and under which circumstances, olfactory signals influence food

intake, using this to steer overweight people towards healthier foods, or to enhance appetite in malnourished elderly people or patients. Similarly, social chemosensory information can be used to foster accurate social information processing and emotional regulation, and this may be used to reduce the negative consequences of these inabilities.

In most indigenous cultures, there is a greater reverence for olfaction. I have very fond memories of a childhood in India filled with fragrant incense and flowers, transporting me back instantly across time and distance.

When we stop to smell the roses, we are connecting to one of our most powerful senses. One very much linked to our wellbeing.



Image by freepik

Local Clergy and Church Services

ANGLICAN

Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Ministry

St Margaret, St Peter, St John

Rev'd Mike Smith,

The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4 7AD

Tel: 0118 947 9505 rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331 810

penny@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Rachel Ross Smith Tel: 07884 371688

rachel@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Dr Catherine Radcliffe Tel: 07740 475697

catherine@ctmparish.org.uk

Contact: admin@ctmparish.org.uk or 0118 996 8836

Correspondence address: Church House,

59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX

Current services

St Margaret's Church

Mapledurham – 11:15. 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday Service of the Word.

St Peter's Church

1st Sunday of the month: 9.30 All Age Service of the Word, with music group and choir

18.30 Holy Communion with prayers for healing, with choir

2nd and 4th Sundays: 8.00 said BCP Holy Communion

9.30 Holy Communion with choir and activities for young

people, primary and secondary age

3rd Sunday: 9.30 All Age Holy Communion in a shorter

format, with choir – 18.30 Choral Evensong

Wednesday: 9.30 said Holy Communion

All services live streamed on Zoom. For Zoom details go to www.ctmparish.org.uk/services/online/

St John's Church

Gosbrook Road Sunday services

8:00 Online CTM Youtube channel (stays available to watch anytime)

9:30 1st and 3rd Sunday Holy Communion, 2nd All Age Worship, 4th Service of the Word

Sunday Club for children on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays

St Andrew's

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrew's Vicarage, Harrogate Road.

Tel: 0118 947 2788 www.standrewscaversham.org

Current services

St Andrew's weekly services are Sundays at 8:00 and 10:00. The 10:00 is also livestreamed on the St Andrew's YouTube channel. Prayer Book Communion at 11.30 on the first Sunday of each month. More info on the parish website. www.standrewscaversham.org/services
Compline: 8.30 on Mondays during BST (in church)

St Barnabas, Emmer Green and Caversham Park

Rev'd Kevin Lovell, vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Church Office Tel: 0118 947 8239

Current Services

Sundays: 8:00 BCP Holy Communion (1st Sunday only)

9:30 Parish Communion (Service of the Word on 2nd Sunday)

11:30 All Age Worship (Café Church or Family Communion)

Wednesdays: 10:30 Midweek Communion

Morning Prayer: Tuesdays 8:30 in church; Mon/Weds/

Thurs 8:00. online at

www.facebook.com/StBarnabasEmmerGreen/live_videos

Full details at www.saintbarnabas.org.uk/whats-on

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church Caversham

Rev'd Jeongsook Kim Tel: 0118 947 2223

Rev'd David Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

www.cavershammethodist.org.uk

Current services

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Highmoor Road

Sunday – 10.30 – Also available on YouTube.

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Current services: Sunday – 10:30

New Testament Church of God

Rev'd Dr Garrick Wilson

Tel: 0118 946 3009

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

United Reformed Church, Caversham Park

Contact: Dr Alison Johnston

Tel: 0118 947 5152 www.cavershamparkurc.com

Current services

Sunday – 11:00 – Livestreaming on YouTube

Details on their web site at:

<https://cpurc.org.uk/live-stream>

BAPTIST CHURCH

Caversham Baptist Church

Pastor: Colin Baker

Church office Tel: 0118 954 5353

Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Current services

Sunday worship 10:30 each week, including groups for children and youth

Sermons are recorded and uploaded to

www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Hymn Café 15:00-16:00 on the last Sunday of each month

Grace Church (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Elders Nick King and David Steed

Tel: 0118 947 4529 www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

See their web site for details:

www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

Riverside Church (Reading)

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne

Fr Joe McLoughlin, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue

Tel: 0118 947 1787 www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

Current services

See their web site for services at:

www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

St Michael, Sonning Common

(including Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village)

Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michael's, Sonning Common

Tel: 0118 972 3418

<http://saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk>

For details of the services being held at each of our churches, please visit their respective websites (on this page) or the Churches Together in Caversham website www.cavershamchurch.org



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