

Caversham Good Neighbours celebrate 50 years of service to the community

Almost 100 people celebrated Caversham Good Neighbours' 50th anniversary in May. Volunteers, users of the service and guests, among whom was local MP Mr Rob Wilson, were welcomed by the Chairman, Peter Vallance, and treated to afternoon tea and a celebratory drink at Caversham Heath Golf Club. Peter thanked the volunteers, drivers and office staff for their service, and heartfelt thanks were also expressed by one of the users who lives in a Caversham care home.

Sadly the longest serving volunteer, Jean Sawyer, and the original chairman, Bill Vincent, both of whom had contributed to the service from its very beginnings in 1965, had died in the preceding weeks. Bill Vincent had been looking forward to telling the audience exactly what had happened all those years ago.

In his place, vice chairman Richard Heyes explained that the service had been inspired by

a local GP, Dr Beale, and the priest in charge at St Andrews, the Revd Derek Eastman. Dr Beale saw that some of his older patients needed transport and a helping hand to get to the surgery or hospital. The Revd Eastman had helped to found a service for housebound people in his previous parish, based on the early Christian symbol of the Fish.

Caversham Good Neighbours, like the *Caversham Bridge* newspaper, was one of several developments in community service in 1964/5 driven by the Rector of Caversham, Canon John Grimwade.

Caversham Good Neighbours has had a huge increase in demand in recent years and would very much like to hear from new volunteers, particularly drivers.

For information see: www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk. If you can help, please phone: 0118 948 3466 weekdays 9.30 - 11.30 am, or e-mail: info@cgng.org.uk



Some volunteers with Rob Wilson MP at the celebration



The third annual Holiday @ Home was held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church in the last week of May, when thirty people over four days enjoyed a time of friendship, fun and food. Transport, where required, was provided by a team of willing drivers.

Each day began at 10 am with a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and then our guests were able to choose from a variety of activities. Play reading led by David Cliffe was a great favourite and caused much hilarity. Craft activities were mosaics, card making and picture frames made from rolled up paper strips, planting up containers and flower arranging in cups and saucers - all of which our guests were able to take home with them.

Seated yoga with Aleigh Dindar on Tuesday and Friday mornings kept everyone moving and, after a break for a two-course lunch, afternoon activities included a recital of delicate hand bell ringing by Carol Wheeler, an illustrated American holiday talk by Ray Goodman, bingo on day three with David Hebert as caller, and a reminiscence session with items from Reading Museum on the final day.

Quizzes by Meryl Beck, newspapers, magazines, table games and jigsaws were available for those who preferred quieter activities. Singing took place every day, led on the first day by a group from Reading Bach Choir and on the other days by Jim Plunkett ('Tinkling Jim' as he is affectionately known) on the piano, who managed to get everyone rolling in the aisles at his jokes and raising the roof with the singing. One of the sessions took the form of 'Songs of Praise' and traditionally the final afternoon the 'Last Night of the Proms'.

Tea and cakes were served at about 3pm and each day closed with our Minister, the Revd Jenny Dowding, giving us a *Thought for the Day* based around holiday souvenirs and linked to Bible passages about God's love and Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

In true holiday fashion we all enjoyed ice cream cones on the final afternoon, donated by Elaine Harris.

The whole event was masterminded by Sherryl Quint and her committee, supported by a large team of over 20 volunteers from both Methodist churches in Caversham.



Flower arranging in a cup and saucer



Sherryl Quint giving a lesson in mosaics



Planting up tubs to take home.



Demonstrator Pat Williams with the completed flower arrangements

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

St Barnabas

Rev'd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrews

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

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Rev'd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Jeremy Tear

St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,
Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884

Rev'd Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ
Tel: 947 5834

Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Rev'd Rob Beardsley Tel: 07736 353233
Email: robg.beardsley@sky.com
www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Ministers Rev'd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist
church.org.uk

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)
Crispin Fairbairn. Tel: 947 4529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.
Deacon: Hugh Anscombe

Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

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

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

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

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TALKING POINT

by Mike Smith

*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

We Anglicans use these words most Sundays as part of our communion prayer. They affirm the core Christian belief that it is in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection that our salvation is to be found, and our hope that Christ will come once again to claim us for his own.

Our faith rightly points us time and again towards Christ's resurrection and coming again as the uplifting promise of hope for our lives. The new life of Easter, and its completion in us when Christ returns, sustains most of us.

Yet how often do we focus our spiritual energies on the first sentence in this acclamation, "Christ has died". This is rightly a statement of fact that Jesus died, but is theologically much richer than just a historical statement. It tells us that we, of all peoples on earth, are a people who should do death well. We are in the death business, because dying is an essential precursor to resurrection and new life.

For me, and I presume most clergy, ministry at the time of death, focused most acutely at leading funeral services, is one of the great privileges of our lives. As the Church of God we are offered the opportunity to live and proclaim the Gospel of Hope as we are invited into the intimate space of someone's death, to pray with them, to care for them, and to preside over their sending from this world on their journey towards God. It is our duty and privilege to ensure that, when invited, a person receives the care and prayers of the church as they are commended to God.

But when I acknowledge that "Christ has died" each week I am referring to more than personal death - how in our churches do we practise our theology of death? What might it be like to help our churches have a good death, that they might know the resurrection life? Are there bits of our church life that frankly need help to die? If there are then we have the duty to help them die well, that in God something new might emerge. All too often we cling onto ways of worshipping and being that belong to times past. How do we help them to die well?

My fear is that all too often in churches we are in the business of trying to save our churches and their work - save them from change, and even save them from going out of existence. But as the Church of God, we proclaim that it is only through death that we might know of new life. Ought we therefore to be prepared to let so much of our former life as church go, that through its death might come new life in God?

Death is our business, but Salvation is God's business.

The Rev'd Mike Smith is rector of the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

10.00am Parish Communion (except 2nd Sunday)
10.00am All Age Worship (2nd Sunday)

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

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

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Said Communion (BCP)
9.30am Parish Communion
9.30am COGS for all ages (1st Sunday of Month)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am Parish Communion

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham
10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Meeting at Caversham Park School
11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH South Street

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday
8.00pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) -
2nd Sunday each month
3.45pm Messy Church - for all the family
First Sunday of the month

GRACE CHURCH Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)

Gosbrook Road

10.30am

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Church Street, Reading

10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the **August 2015** issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish office by **Monday 6th July**. The date for the **September 2015** issue is **Monday 3rd August**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the **August** issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by **Friday 3rd July**. The date for the **September** issue is **Friday 31st July**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.00noon
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre
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Priory Avenue Surgery

NHS England has appointed Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to take over the running of Priory Avenue Surgery on an interim 12 month contract from June 1st.

The existing contract, held by Specialist Health Services (SHS), will continue during a period of managed transfer and all services will carry on running as normal. The 7,600 patients at Priory Avenue Surgery have all been written to and advised of the change. SHS said that it backed the move.

Berkshire Healthcare provides mental health and community health services to a population of around 900,000 within Berkshire. They operate from more than 100 sites across the county including community hospitals, Prospect Park Hospital, clinics and GP services, including the surgery at Circuit Lane. They also provide health care and therapy to people in their own homes.

Debra Elliott, Director of Commissioning at NHS England, said: "Our top priority is the patients of Priory Avenue Surgery and ensuring that they have access to good quality primary medical services. We are pleased to announce that Berkshire Healthcare has been awarded the contract to take over the running of the Priory Avenue Surgery in Reading. The trust has an excellent track record and good experience in providing GP services across the county. We are confident that they will provide good quality services and deliver

both continuity of care and a friendly, professional service to all patients at the practice."

Berkshire Healthcare was appointed to run Priory Avenue Surgery, following a process to determine which provider could best fit the urgent needs of the patient population at the surgery. Working with the local North and West Reading Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England has been able to secure this new interim provider.

Berkshire Healthcare's Bev Searle, Director of Corporate Affairs said: "Our priority is the provision of safe and effective care to patients and we are planning to maintain all of the services at the surgery, while working to improve access to appointments. Patients can expect the continuation of friendly and caring staff at the surgery and we are really looking forward to working with both the staff and patients at Priory Avenue."

SHS took over management of the surgery in March 2013. The surgery was one of the first in England to be put in special measures. It was rated 'inadequate' in three out of five categories in a Care Quality Commission inspection (CQC). It was one of three surgeries in England to be placed in special measures for the first time by the CQC. The surgery faced criticism in the November inspection for not ensuring patient records were up to date with recent test results or hospital discharge information.

Bible Friends

Walking, leaping and praising God

Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray.

They saw a man sitting near the door. He could not walk. His friends carried him there every day.

The man held out a bowl.

He hoped Peter and John would give him some money to buy food. Peter said, "I'm sorry. I don't have any money but I can give you something else."

Peter told the man, "Trust us. In the name of Jesus, get up and walk."

The man wiggled his toes, and moved his ankles. His legs did not feel wobbly any more. They felt strong.

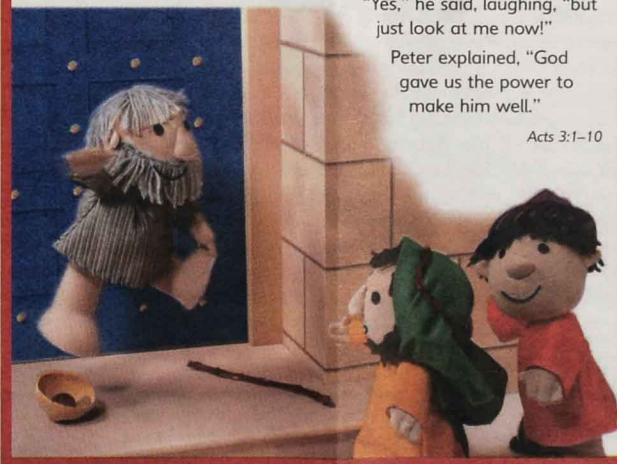
The man stood up. "Look!" he shouted. "I can walk!"

Everybody wanted to know what had happened. "Aren't you the man who always sits by the Temple door?" they asked.

"Yes," he said, laughing, "but just look at me now!"

Peter explained, "God gave us the power to make him well."

Acts 3:1-10



CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I noticed on the back page of this month's *Caversham Bridge* Newspaper that there was an advertisement for a Caversham web site. I realise that you have no connection with this site, but I thought that some of your readers might be interested in the views expressed regarding the annexation of Caversham into Berkshire back in 1911.

I have sent my views to them in the e-mail below, but I did wonder if other readers had an opinion on the subject? This is relevant given the campaign for a third river crossing, I wonder if they are against that as well?

I happened upon your internet site and was looking at the history article.

As a resident of Caversham, I wish to take issue with your views on Caversham being part of Reading, Berkshire rather than staying in Oxfordshire:

"Caversham legally became part of Reading and Berkshire on 9th November 1911" "We at the Caversham website firmly believe that annexation was a black day for Caversham" and that our local area has more affinity with South Oxfordshire".

Given that Reading Borough Council has done more to support Caversham than Oxfordshire CC does for areas just outside of our borders, I do not agree with your views and I suspect that a large number of local residents wouldn't either.

Oxfordshire has in recent years constantly objected to the proposed third river bridge that is needed to ease traffic congestion in Caversham as well as Reading, much of this comes from areas to the north of Caversham. Had the M4 been built through South Oxfordshire as was the original intention, we would not need the third bridge.

But historically, having the residents of Caversham paying rates to Oxford and the folk in Bottley have to come to Reading to pay, common sense at least prevailed.

I would suggest that you revisit your article and also ask some of the local residents for their opinions as well.

Wally Sawyer



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From the Lookout Post

Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA) AGM

The past 12 months was a busy period to look back on! Plans were finalised for St Martin's Centre which look very different from those first proposed. Following the CADRA report, 'Sharing our Streets', Transport Officers are preparing proposals for Caversham Centre for local consultation. This would be funded from the St Martin's financial contribution. The application to build three very tall towers on the Coopers site was robustly refused by the Planning Committee. Following the limited exhibition on Extra Care apartments at Albert Road, more people were able to see the outline plans on the CADRA website and send their comments. These were just some of the issues outlined in a report on the past year on what has been happening locally.

John Roach who has been a very active member of the team for the past 12 years has decided to stand back. Helen Lambert and Stewart Bolton presented a small gift in



Presentation to John Roach

recognition of his widespread contribution, not least in contributing to this column.

CADRA aims to reach out to everyone in Caversham through its website and Facebook page and help build a real sense of community. Members receive more information through emails and the latest newsletters and often help and advice to point them in the right direction. Even more importantly, they support and help shape a clear voice for the community. You can join via the website www.cadra.org.uk or pick up a leaflet from the library.

Adult Care Services and Albert Road Extra Care Housing

Following the formal AGM, Melanie O'Rourke, Interim Head of Adult Care Services at Reading Borough Council, talked about the changes in how Adult Care services are provided for older people and those with particular needs. This is the largest budget heading among council services so is of interest to us all. There is a clear shift away from an institutional model of care towards care plans for each individual, aimed to allow them to retain their independence and individuality. A number of changes in how this operates are set out in Phase I of the Care Act, implemented this April. Phase 2, to be implemented next April, 2016, will introduce changes in charging and a new Care Account which can be transferred across different authorities. Local authorities are waiting for the national guidance due in October and a further consultation later in the year.

The growing demands on the NHS in turn put increasing pressures on adult social care for community packages and care homes. The different agencies are working together through the 'Better Care Fund'. This includes providing new facilities to which patients can be discharged while they are assessed for their care, a 'Hospital at

Home' service for carefully selected individuals and Neighbourhood Clusters.

The council also has an important role to safeguard vulnerable adults. It was reassuring to hear that Reading has now adopted the principle that care agencies must pay their staff a living wage and pay for travel time between visits. You can find a copy of the presentation at www.cadra.org.uk

More locally, there was considerable discussion about the closure of the Arthur Clark home and Albert Road Day Centre. The council has committed to retain this site for services for older people and work with a partner to provide Extra Care housing.

Melanie explained that many residents in Extra

Care housing elsewhere, were previously resident in care homes. With the care available to them, they are able to have their own front door, kitchen and bathroom and make their own choices. The planning issues including the proposed four storeys and parking provision were not covered at the meeting. They will be covered through the planning process and there may well be a planning application submitted before you read this column. There was however a lively discussion on the eligibility criteria on who will be eligible to live in the apartments and the council was strongly urged to ensure that they provide for local people with higher needs.



Helen Lambert with Melanie O'Rourke

The Heights Primary School

As we write this column, the results of the consultation have just been released showing clear support for a school on Mapledurham playing fields. 61% of all respondents gave the playing fields as their first choice, 15% gave Highridge and the lowest was Albert Road recreation ground with 2%. This is by no means the end of the story and the next step will be for the Education Funding Agency to announce in July which site they intend to pursue. If this is the playing fields, then there is a process to seek the agreement of the Charities Commission and, whichever site is selected, a planning application will need to be submitted.

If the final decision is for a school on Mapledurham Playing Fields, we hope that all of Caversham can unite behind the need for good sports and community facilities alongside the school. The football pitches are heavily used and even more so when other pitches in Reading are water logged. Caversham has a significant retired and pre-school population who could really benefit from a base for community activities, particularly during the school day. For a population of almost 32,000, Caversham is badly served for both sports and community facilities to help us keep active and engaged. Is this something we could all actively support?

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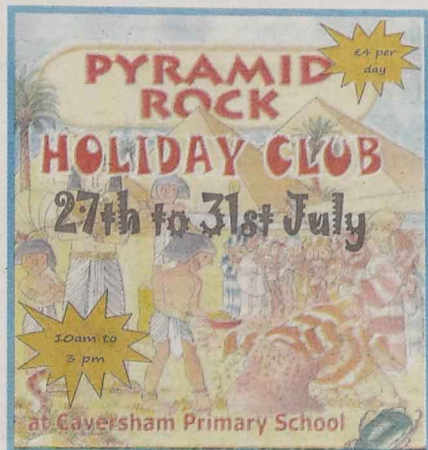
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Pyramid Rock Holiday Club



The Pyramid Rock Holiday Club will run from Monday 27th to Friday 31st July from 10am to 3pm, and will take place at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road. The club is organised and run by Churches Together in Caversham.

Children will have an opportunity to have fun and make new friends while they participate in craft, singing, Bible stories and activities.

Children can register for the whole holiday club or individual days. The cost is £4 per child per day.

For more information call Helen Strong on 954 5353 or email office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Caversham Group Holiday

Straight off the first roundabout as you enter Salisbury from Reading, down a short road, there's a delightful building which turns out to be Chafyn Grove School. If you go there on August 16th you will find that it and its splendid facilities have been taken over for a week by the Caversham Group Holiday.

What's that? Well, it's a group of Caversham residents and others who have been going on holiday together for more than 50 years.

So who goes? 60 or 70 people, many but not all in family groups, of all ages from those born this year to veterans of WWII.

What are the people like? Well, there's a real family atmosphere, with a particular welcome for newcomers.

What happens there? What you like - you can sit and read, you can swim and play sports and games, you can visit local attractions, you can chat over a cup of tea. It's even rumoured that in the evening some of the more disreputable go to the pub or share a glass of wine. Three really nice meals a day are provided and all for a very reasonable outlay.

We have a few spaces left, so if you are interested, please phone Frances on 07973 840362 or Jenny on 07596 498482, there's lots more to say. You won't regret it.

Caversham Church Fete

The Caversham Church Fete, will be held on Saturday 11th July 2015, at 1.45pm. The fete is organised by the churches of St Peter's, Caversham and St Margaret's, Mapledurham

You are invited to come and enjoy all the fun of a traditional English fete in the beautiful surroundings of Caversham Court Gardens.

Attractions include entertainment with music and dancing; stalls from cakes, plants, toys and bric-a-brac, to jams and preserves; sideshows including coconut shy, hoopla and hook a duck; and refreshments including homemade cakes, tea, coffee, ice cream and a Pimms tent by the river.

It all starts at 1.45pm with the ringing of St Peter's bells and a Spitfire flypast.

For more information contact Steve Jenkins, 07768 764783 or stevejenkins100@gmail.com



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MillsTones Dance Band



The MillsTones Dance Band will play at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham on Saturday 18th July at 7.30 p.m. You can dance or just listen to the music of the Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington Big Band era. Tickets are £10 from 0118 947 5120 or on the door. You are invited to bring your own drinks.

Caversham Festival 2015

Reading's largest music and arts festival, Caversham Festival 2015, to be hosted by local charity Readipop, will be held at Christchurch Meadows on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July.

The free festival includes live music and performances from local bands, comedians, poets and artists, family workshops, tasty food, the traditional festival parade and more.

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The cafe is Caversham Heights, named after Saint Andrew the Fisherman, St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PL

CHURCHES

Silent Auction For Nepal Earthquake Relief

On Saturday 30th May Caversham Heights Methodist Church opened its doors for a Silent Auction to raise funds for Nepal's Earthquake Relief. This was our third auction having previously raised funds for the Haiti earthquake and the Syrian refugees. Members had delivered flyers to numerous local homes and the response was magnificent with nearly 400 donations. These ranged from bikes, bookcases, exotic mirrors and paintings to small gadgets, china and glassware, a remote controlled helicopter and a ruby coloured ring. Bidding was at times extremely competitive, particularly over a large iron BBQ. Refreshments and a cake stall were also enjoyed by the many punters. An incredible £1,135 was raised for Nepal. Many thanks to everyone who helped – including *Caversham Bridge!*

Bluebell Ramble

The bluebell ramble to St Peter's Church began at the Fox in Cane End, wound its way through the woods to Nuney Green, ran downhill to Mapledurham (with some stunning views of the Thames valley and Mapledurham House and village), paused briefly for flapjack and elderflower cordial in St Margaret's Church, before climbing up through Chazey Wood where the bluebells were magnificent, sweetly scenting the air and providing a beautiful spectacle. The walk continued along the Warren, ending up at St Peter's Church, where afternoon tea was taken while Richard Havelock regaled the rambblers with some interesting facts about the architecture of the building, and staunchly defended the Victorians

St Barnabas Church

In recent months St Barnabas Church has been presented with a number of stimulating events and speakers with different aspects on the theme of Transitions. The Rev Rachel Ross Smith spent an evening in April speaking to members of St Barnabas and Caversham Park Churches about Partnership for Missional Church and what this initiative may look like in the benefice. This programme, which is by invitation of the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Rev Andrew Proud, begins in September.

The Rev Jonathan Edwards (Baptist Transitional Minister for Caversham Baptist Church) helped us in May to explore the significance of transitions. In other words, providing a way of thinking about Christian ministry in the future.

The Rev Alison Boulton (Baptist Pioneer Minister) talked to the benefice of Emmer Green and Caversham Park also in May about mission and the transition that the disciples of Jesus went through at Pentecost to implement the Acts of the Apostles. We too are called to gather together and learn as a disciple in order to be sent out as an apostle into the world to act as the Body of Christ.

The Gosbrook Garden Growers

The Gosbrook Garden Growers have begun a new growing season at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

The group meets each Friday afternoon from 4.30 to 5.30pm. The free sessions are drop-in, with no commitment to attend each week. Our aim is to grow fruit and vegetables in the raised beds situated in the church grounds. We are very informal, with those attending ranging from two years old to those who have retired. The Brownie group has planted potatoes in the beds. They have also planted peas, beans, beetroots and courgettes in pots and have now taken them home to nurture them there.

Come and join us for a chat while watering, weeding and planting.

Contact Sandra for more information agough4060@aol.com or text 07534716177

The project, which has been running for a year, is supported by Food4families, a community food growing project that has set up over 20 gardens around Reading where people of all ages are supported in growing fresh fruit and vegetables. Visit www.food4families.org.uk for more information.



A group of gardeners with the Bishop of Reading when the garden was inaugurated last year.

Caversham Community Cafe

In May the 3C's café, which is located in St John's church in Gosbrook Road, celebrated its first year of operation by offering free coffee to its customers. For the past year the café has been open every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 2:30pm. It serves a variety of teas and coffees, in addition to a selection of cakes and other goodies. Soup is available at lunchtimes.

The café was the first project for the Lower Caversham Community Partnership (LCCP), a joint venture between St John's Church, Caversham Hall and Newbridge Nursery. It was funded with contributions from the Big Lottery Fund, Reading Springboard and Church House Caversham. Equipment and fairtrade coffee and tea were sourced from Reading's own Kingdom Coffee.

The café is run by a group of volunteers who have been vital to the success of the venture. It is hoped that the café can be open more days each week, but this requires additional volunteers.

The Revd Jeremy Tear, community priest at St John's, said: "St John's is delighted to be hosting the café and working in partnership with the nursery and the hall. Do come and visit us – you would very welcome!"



Some of the volunteers at the café.

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Road Watch

Reading Bridge

Essential works required the closure of Reading Bridge for two weeks at the end of May, and were completed on time. Waterproofing of the 92-year-old bridge was carried out and carbon fibre rods strengthening it were installed in the bridge deck. The road was then resurfaced. The bridge, which normally carries about 24,000 vehicles a day, was closed on Monday, May 18 for its first major strengthening work since it opened in 1923.

Works are scheduled to continue under off-peak lane closures between 9am and 4pm daily, with the remaining concrete repairs and carbon fibre strengthening taking place under the bridge. The bridge will be painted once all the works are completed in late July/early August.

These works mean Reading Bridge is now in a strong condition to carry on its vital role in the area's road network for another 100 years.

There was naturally some disruption to traffic flows during the period of closure particularly in Peppard Road, Henley Road and Caversham Road, but the predicted gridlock of Reading's roads did not occur. However, Whitchurch Bridge experienced an increase

in traffic, and Pangbourne was at times at a standstill. Sonning Bridge traffic was little heavier than normal, and although the road from Sonning to Charvil was closed off-peak for one week, this did not appear to cause any problems.

Many people changed their routine over the two weeks, which helped keep the traffic situation around Reading far more manageable than it could have been.

Traffic was diverted to Caversham Bridge, which carries more than 35,000 vehicles per day, for two weeks, with the second week coinciding with half term.

Pedestrian access was maintained over Reading Bridge throughout the road closure.

New Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

THE first three steel sections of Reading's new pedestrian and cycle bridge were delivered to Christchurch Meadows in Caversham, and the remaining six sections of the bridge - including the 37 metre high mast - to be transported in overnight later this month, were expected in early June.

The pieces of the new bridge were manufactured in Rotterdam, Holland, and will be assembled on site. The main bridge mast was due to be lifted into place in June and then connected up in stages with the bridge sections.

When complete, the bridge will be approximately 120m long, with

a 68m span over the River Thames. The project will be completed in late summer 2015.

The new bridge will provide a direct route from the town centre and across the Thames for pedestrians and cyclists. It will be located to the east of Fry's Island, between the existing Caversham and Reading Bridges. It will provide a key new route for pedestrians and cyclists from Caversham into the town centre, and to and from Reading Station. On the northern side it will link to the existing paths running through Christchurch Meadows. To the south it will link to an improved riverside foot and cycle path and connect, via Norman Place, onto Vastern Road.

Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering started construction work on the new bridge in autumn 2014. The majority of the preparatory work for the bridge has been completed, including new flood storage areas, sheet piling and the main bridge foundations. Balfour Beatty is widening the paths that will lead to the bridge and laying the foundations for the ramp and steps on the south bank of the River Thames.

The bridge is being funded through the Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).

Henley Road Shops

The service road and parking area outside the shops in Henley Road was due to be resurfaced in early June. This is a much-needed improvement to this popular shopping area.

Local Artists Showcase their Work

On the last Saturday in May there was an exhibition of art by the Ted Burnell Art Group. A fabulous array of paintings by local Caversham artists was on display at Church House, where the event took place.

Subjects ranged from local places of interest, wildlife and country scenes to portraiture and fantasy. Many of the items were for sale.

Visitors were also treated to coffee and homemade cakes and a tombola. A total of £117 was raised, which will go towards paying for visiting artists and demonstrators for group meetings. In addition, a good number of the paintings were sold to appreciative art lovers.

Organiser Val Lay said she was very pleased with the turnout. "It is very satisfying to be able to

celebrate the talents of our local artists and it is good that our efforts are recognised", she added.

The Ted Burnell Art Group meets every Monday at Church House. Anyone interested in joining should contact Val Lay, email vlay@talktalk.net, tel: 0118 941 4174.

The group hopes to hold their next public exhibition in October 2016.

Nigel Smith



Many works by local artists were on display at Church House



Some paintings were of familiar local scenes, such as this one by John Skerritt of Caversham Court and St Peter's Church



The event attracted a steady stream of local art lovers

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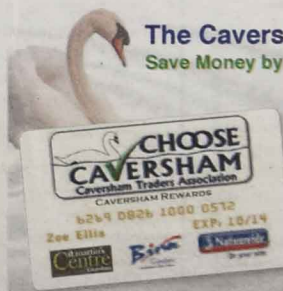
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TRIBUTES

Bill Mander 1930-2015



Former Mayor and long-time resident of Caversham, William George (Bill) Mander died at the end of April, aged 85. Bill spent most of his life in Caversham. He was born in Blenheim Road and moved later in his childhood to Rotherfield Way.

Several generations of his family lived in Reading, then Caversham, and were very involved in the community both socially and politically. His father, George Mander, founded the self build housing project that built the houses in Rotherfield Way and the local Woodcraft Folk group.

Bill attended the newly opened Caversham Primary School, and E P Collier Secondary, going on to study art at Reading University and qualifying in teaching at Trent Park College. He met Margaret, his wife, at university and they married in 1954, spending their early married years in Oxfordshire, returning to Caversham in 1963 to a bungalow they built next to Bill's parents' overlooking the town. They have two children, John and Karen. Bill's career continued as Head of Art at Edgebarrow, Sandhurst and Easthampstead Park, and then Chiltern Edge.

Bill and Geoff, his brother, followed their father as borough councillors with Bill serving in the then run down Abbey Ward which was undergoing rapid redevelopment. He was known for his interest in and kindness towards local residents faced with enormous change, and for advocacy on their behalf. He eventually became chairman of the Leisure Committee at the time of the building of The Hexagon and Civic Offices when his knowledge of art, culture, music and working with children made a good combination for the new venture. In May 1977 Bill became Mayor of Reading and his year included the royal visit to celebrate the Silver Jubilee when he was proud to show off his town to the royal couple. A year as deputy mayor followed and then Bill decided he wanted to leave active politics as a councillor after 10 years.

Bill and Margaret were founder members of the Reading Phoenix Choir and sang with them for 21 years, touring and making friends in many countries.

On retirement from teaching Bill became an expert woodcarver. He started the Berkshire branch of the British Woodcarving Association which still meets locally. Their work can be seen in various parts of the town and locally in the way markers in the copse at Caversham Park and the village sign by the pond in Emmer Green. Bill's

Jean Sawyer 1925-2015



Jean was born in Caversham in November 1925, and was the elder of two daughters of George and Eva Sawyer. The first three and a half years were spent at Shirburn where her father was clerk of works at the Norman castle. In August 1929 her sister was born and the family moved to 90 Oakley Road, where Jean has lived ever since.

She sailed through Kendrick School, gaining school certificate at 14 with matriculation exemption, higher certificate at 16, with inter exemption, and a third year in the sixth form.

With two friends Margaret and Cus, she was awarded a state scholarship to Newnham College, Cambridge, a first for Kendrick, where she and Margaret were joint head girls. In October 1943 all three went to Cambridge, where they all got good degrees. She joined the country dance society, and during the war had to take turns at fire watching. A big achievement was rowing for the first women's eight.

After university Jean spent a year in London gaining her teacher's certificate, and in September 1947 she began her teaching career at Hove County Girls School. Her activities there included having her voice trained, and her love for classical music continued throughout her life. In September 1952 she returned to Caversham and began teaching at Newbury Girls Grammar School, which eventually became St Bartholomew's Comprehensive School, where she stayed until her retirement in 1986. While there she did a year's exchange with a teacher from Vancouver, and travelled extensively in Canada and also in the USA.

She sang in the Reading Festival Chorus for many years. After retiring she volunteered for VSO and went to Tonga in the Pacific, where she lived in a bungalow in the bush away from school, having to travel in pitch dark, no lights at all, but giving a wonderful view of the sky. She concocted many ways to survive, including using a large biscuit tin with holes in the bottom over a gas ring acting as an oven! She enjoyed her time there, and a few years later visited them again. While there she also visited family in New Zealand. She again visited NZ later and was involved in a serious car accident, being hospitalised for three weeks.

Back home she was very involved with Caversham Baptist Church. She had formed a guide company in 1952, which continued until she retired. She served the church as a deacon and often led services. She was a steward, served coffee after services, arranged flowers, helped with Wednesday morning children's groups and Friday dinners, organised Christian Aid collections, Churches Together and helped with Caversham Good Neighbours.

She enjoyed travelling, visiting the Lake District, Canada, Israel, and every year she visited farming cousins in Devon. Her big hobby was gardening, taking part in shows and winning many prizes. She enjoyed playing tennis and country dancing. She was very frugal, with concern for the environment, but was very generous, donating to many charities.

She made jam and marmalade, and bottled garden fruit. She was a self-sufficient person who faithfully used the talents she had been given. We thank the Lord for her life, her dedication and her solid Christian faith. She really was quite a gal!

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I don't know about you, but it seems that I'm in the habit of meeting people unexpectedly in the supermarket in Caversham. And when I do, it's a bit awkward, because wherever the two of you stand, you're in someone's way! It was in the supermarket that I was offered this photograph.

Some days later, good as her word, the kind lady pushed the original print through my letterbox. It shows people of all ages, at a coronation party in 1953, outside St Anne's Hall in Washington Road.

These days, we think of the hall as just the school hall, but when Mrs Florence Crawshay of Caversham Park had it built in 1914, she gifted it to the people of Caversham, or so I have read. In years gone by, I can remember going to dances there, part of the Caversham Charity Folk Festival, and going to watch Caversham Theatre – the talented amateur group, directed by the redoubtable Mrs Dorothy Byers.

The hall was built just as the First World War was breaking out, and for the first four years of its life, it served as the Caversham Auxiliary War Hospital, which opened on 13 May, 1915. It had 23 beds, and in its time served 772 patients.

There is an interesting photograph of the interior of the hall taken during this time, showing the convalescing soldiers sitting round the edge of the hall, and the stage. The stage set looks exactly like the view across the river from the Thames-side Promenade to The Warren. I wonder whose handiwork that was? It looks like a skilled piece of work. You can see the photograph on page 166 of the book, *Berkshire in the First World War*, which was the work of around 30 authors, and published by Reading Borough Libraries last year to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the war.

Mrs Crawshay paid the running costs of the hospital, and herself worked there, nursing and organising the volunteer nurses. Produce from the gardens and glasshouses of Caversham Park found their way down the hill to the hospital, and part of the big house itself was put at the disposal of the War Office.

The architects of St Anne's Hall were the Reading firm of Ravenscroft, Son and Morris. It's a building in the Arts and Crafts tradition, with an unusual curve to the roof, and use of thin bricks under the window-arches. Inside is a pretty stage with a decorative proscenium arch, these days with the emblem of St Anne's School in the middle.

If you'd like to see the photograph more clearly, you can find it on the Reading Libraries website, where you can zoom in on details, and perhaps identify some of the people. If you put 'reading library catalogue' into your search engine, and then search on 'anne's hall', you should find it.

Happy Wanderer

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TRIBUTE

Bill Vincent 1918-2015

It is with great sadness but also great joy that I write this tribute to my dear friend Bill Vincent. My joy is in the fact that Bill wanted so much to die in his beloved family home in Albert Road, which he did on Sunday 17th May 2015, aged 97 years. I had spoken to him the evening before and he was as usual his cheerful positive self.

Bill was six months old when his father died and his mother was left with four children to bring up. They lived in central London and Bill always talked about a happy childhood. His mother had a strong Christian faith and church was part of their lives. Sunday afternoons were spent in art galleries hence Bill's life-long love of art. Like his father and his brothers Bill attended Westminster City School. He then went to agricultural college. His first post was in Cheshire with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In 1939, when World War II was declared, Bill immediately volunteered but, because of his particular expertise, he was required to remain in his job.

His next post was in Cambridge, where he met Daphne. In 1945 they were married. They lived in Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire until 1955 when they moved to Caversham. For the rest of his working life Bill went out to visit and advise farmers over a wide area.

During this time Bill and Daphne were bringing up their children, Ashley, Mathew and Mandy, and a big part of their lives was the church and their work in the Diocese of Oxford and the Parish of Caversham. While Bill was living at Fenstanton he became a Licensed Lay Reader. Bill delighted in taking Communion to housebound Christians in Caversham. His Pastoral care to the bereaved was one of the aspects of his Ministry that he felt called to. It was through Bill's encouragement that I became a Reader which led on to Ordination.

Over the years Bill was a churchwarden, a district warden, vice chairman of the PCC, a Diocesan Reader, and instigator of Churches Together in Caversham Luncheon club. Bill was also the first Chairman of the Caversham Good Neighbours Scheme back in 1965. He and Daphne were also founder members of the Parish Holiday at Embley Park. Last and not least Bill helped to start up the *Caversham Bridge* Newspaper. The list is long!

Bill and Daphne loved cruising and even after Daphne's very sad death in 1997 Bill carried on the tradition of cruising. I remember a phone call from him telling me he was somewhere in the Indian Ocean on a cruise ship without an anchor! Bill took everything in his stride, thoroughly enjoying the adventure. After his wife's death Bill kept himself busy with his love for Family History, his garden and restoring china and antiques.

Bill has touched so many lives and he is exemplar of 'By their deeds you shall know their faith'. Bill was a very modest man and would say that his opportunity for service had been a great privilege.

We will all miss you Bill!

Reverend Marion Pyke

CLUBS

Chazey WI

The May meeting was held on May 5th. The main purpose was to vote on the National Resolution which would give our President a mandate upon which to vote. After much discussion the resolution was carried and our President, Hilary Morrison, will vote accordingly at the AGM to be held in The Royal Albert Hall.

The competition winner was Jill Dibben and the raffle was won by Sonia Smith. Chazey WI meets on the first Tuesday in the month at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd at 7.45pm. We welcome new members.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

June is the time of year when Guild members the length and breadth of the country gather for the Annual General Meeting. Several members of Caversham Heights Guild made the long journey to Glasgow to attend.

Another annual event was our birthday party, a much easier journey to the Methodist Church Hall. We enjoyed a lovely supper and were entertained by Lizzie Cooper.

The Social Studies group held their annual lunch at the Technical College, which was very much enjoyed.

An interesting presentation by Frances Hill, 'Ways and Means', was the subject of the June meeting.

Ambling, scrabble and luncheon clubs continue to thrive.

Our next meeting, on Thursday July 16th, will be a fashion show given by Bonmarche. We meet at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always very welcome.

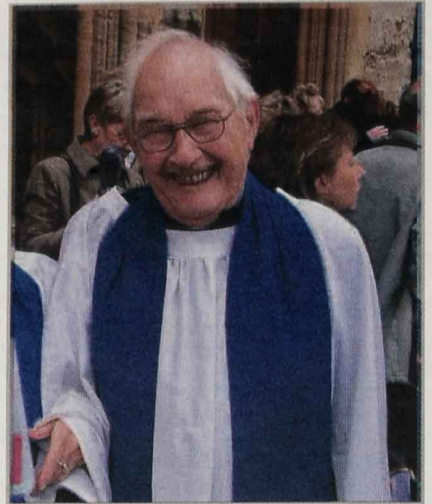
Caversham WI

May is the month when the resolution going to the annual meeting is debated and voted on. The subject "assessment of need in long term care" provoked discussion on members' personal experiences of care needs. The motion was passed by a majority vote.

In the business part details were given of the boat trip in June and dates for summer garden parties. Brains were tested with two quizzes after the tea interval. News was also given of two members who are ill at the moment and will be kept in our thoughts.

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club present Coral Gardiner 'Put Your Garden on a Pedestal' on July 8th at 7.30pm at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Entrance fee £5.50 for visitors. For more details please contact Shirley Sexton 0118 9412329



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Caversham Horticultural Society

Apologies to anyone who turned up for the May talk and found it was cancelled. Our speaker was ill and it was too late to arrange another speaker at such short notice.

July is the season for eating soft fruits. Imagine lounging in your deck chair consuming fruit from your own garden. If growing fruit seems daunting, come to our July talk for inspiration and advice. Joy Lambourn of Sheepdrove Organic Farm will be giving a talk on how to grow fruit successfully on Wednesday 15th July, starting at 7.45pm. Refreshments will be served after the talk.

The talk will be held at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road. Admission cost for non members is £3.00, but you can join the society on the evening for £5.00 and attend the rest of the year's talks for free.

Advance diary date for all gardeners in the RG4 postal district, the society's popular autumn show, to be held at Emmer Green Primary School, will take place on Saturday 12th September. Details of show categories can be found on the website www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk or can be picked up at the Oakley Road allotment trading shed (Saturdays 10.00 - 11.30am).

Caversham Allotment Society

The next meeting of the Caversham Allotment Association will be held on Tuesday 14th July at Church House, Caversham. The speaker will be Gillian Franklin from Cross Lanes Apple Farm who will talk about 'The Apple Year', a subject which I am sure will be of interest to most gardeners. The talk will start at 7.30pm, and there will be refreshments and a raffle. Entrance is free. Contact Carol Wheeler on 0118 9475802 for further details. Don't forget that Church House now has a lift, which will appeal to all those who were prevented from attending in the past due to the stairs.

Caversham Heights Society

The 2014-15 season of lectures and visits for the Caversham Heights Society came to an end in May with a day visit to the Merrimts Gardens in Hurst Green, on the border of East Sussex and Kent, and a mini-holiday to the Gower region of South Wales.

Despite apprehensions about the weather, the visit to Merrimts proved to be both enjoyable and visually refreshing. Not only were we spoilt with a beautiful sunny day, but the gardens provided a splendid display of different

varieties of tulips in full bloom, bluebells and many different tree blossoms with the anticipation of more to come in the weeks ahead. The journey through the Sussex countryside was also a glorious reminder of how beautiful England is in the spring.

A few days later about 40 members of the society embarked on the annual mini-holiday, this time to South Wales. The route to our hotel in Llanelli was via the Bracon Beacons and the Museum of Welsh Life. Given that the weather was a mixture of sunshine and showers it was as well that we were centrally located in Llanelli where we could make day trips in different directions. The first day was spent on the Gower Peninsula, an area of outstanding natural beauty. Getting a feel for the area with a visit to the Gower Heritage Centre we travelled the length of the Gower to the magnificent Rhossili Bay, where the heavens opened and the winds were blowing a gale. Fortunately the day was redeemed by a visit, in glorious sunshine, to Mumbles at the western edge of Swansea Bay.

Because of inclement weather on the following day we decided to go to the Welsh National Wool Museum near Newcastle Emlyn in the morning. There we were shown the whole process of taking wool fleeces from delivery through washing, carding, and weaving until they emerged as blankets or sweaters. For many this was the highlight of the tour. The afternoon was spent in a sunny Tenby.

On the Thursday, after a visit to the National Botanic Garden of Wales we travelled on to the magnificent National Waterfront Museum in Swansea. This was a revelation of the industrial past of Wales and why the country produced so much by way of coal, tin mining, steel production and wool, as well as poets and writers. The return journey was on the day of the General Election results and took us via Blaenavon and the Big Pit, a World Heritage Site, where we could experience life in, and down, a coal mine. The visit made us all appreciate the difficulties and dangers of mining. All in all an interesting and informative few days.

New members to the society are always welcome and they should contact Jill Hodges, the chairman, on 959 5307 or by email at irishjill@southcote.net. The 2015-16 season will begin in September.

Goring, Woodcote and District Lions Club

With much regret, Goring, Woodcote and District Lions Club has announced that it is being wound up and will close within the next couple of months, as they now only have four active members who are getting older and less able.

Having done a 1,000 leaflet drop around a large part of the local area and, despite appeals via local radio and local press articles over the past two years, it has not been possible to develop interest with recruiting any potential new younger members.

Reluctantly therefore the decision has been made to close the club after 34 fun years of serving people in need across South Oxfordshire. During this time the local community has always generously contributed at fund raising events that have enabled the Lions to raise more than £300,000 all of which has gone to charitable causes with not a penny taken out in the way of administration costs.

Over the next few weeks the club will be arranging the careful disposal of all their remaining assets and fund raising equipment, which includes: the 'spinning jenny' that was inherited from Goring Round Table when they too folded almost 20 years ago; several table-top games for children; and the Father Christmas float trailer complete with Santa outfit, great sound system, lights batteries with chargers, and not least Rudolf the reindeer !!!

Rosehill WI

President Margaret Pyle welcomed members and visitors to the May meeting on a very wet afternoon. Well done all those who braved the rain to attend. Margaret said that the record of the April meeting was available for all to read.

A few walkers were able to get out during April and enjoyed a walk to Clayfield Copse to see the bluebells. Margaret Seal handed out buttonholes to three people who had birthdays in May. Margaret then said that Margery Record is now in a home in Tilehurst. Doris Goddard (Treasurer) reported that she had sent £53.50 from the annual collection of 'Pennies for Friendship' to 'Associated Country Women of the World'. Doris confirmed that we have 38 paid-up members.

Brenda Caborn gave a detailed account of the Spring Council meeting which had taken place at The Hexagon on 20th April. Several Rosehill members attended and all said that it was a very entertaining morning. Margaret Pyle reported on the Caversham Group of WIs Baton Lunch which had taken place at Caversham Heath Golf Club with about 40 members attending. Margaret (with Pat Butler) attended the handing over ceremony of the Baton from Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes (BFWI) to Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes (OFWI) at Caversham Lakes, Henley Road.

We then came to the main event of the afternoon when members discussed the current WI Resolution, which reads: 'This meeting calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing'. Some interesting topics were raised and then members were called upon to vote, for or against the resolution.

After the vote members enjoyed a cup of tea before the raffle was called. Also during the afternoon there was a bring and buy stall including a plant stall, which was very successful.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm in St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green and would be pleased to receive any visitors.

Probus

The speaker at the May meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Roger Shaw, whose subject was *Chinese Admiral Zheng He*. Roger is Commodore of the Henley Offshore Group.

Roger's talk was based on a book by Gavin Menzies entitled *1421 The year China Conquered the World*, in which the evidence for China having sent out fleets of ships to various parts of the globe is examined.

In the early 15th century China was a global superpower with a population of 85 million. This was during the Ming dynasty, which ran from 1368 to 1664. China traded with many nations. Emperor Zhu Di ruled in 1421. His admiral, Zheng He, sent several expeditions in various directions to map the world. Crews included interpreters, engineers, architects and members of other professions. Chinese technology was quite advanced, and the ships were

larger and more watertight than ships of other nations at the time. The expeditions stopped after Zhu Di died in 1424, as the country was bankrupt.

It was claimed that the Chinese found America 70 years before Columbus. Some maps have been discovered, including the Father Mauro map found in Venice and dated from 1459, which he claimed was influenced by the Chinese (although it was produced by an Italian). They used stars to calculate latitude and longitude, and used a magnetic compass. As further evidence of these navigations, it is claimed that Chinese DNA is found in American Indians and also in Maoris in New Zealand.

This was an interesting talk, but many of the claims made for these voyages having taken place are refuted by professional historians, who claim that the evidence is sketchy, and say that the book should be treated as historical fiction.

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

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