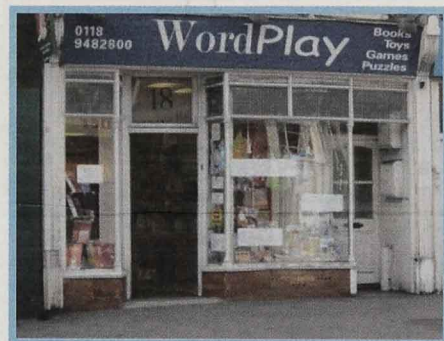


The changing face of Caversham

A number of businesses in Caversham have closed in recent months, while new businesses have started up. We are fortunate in Caversham that there are very few empty shops, since vacant premises in other parts of the country have soon led to graffiti and general vandalism, which generally gives an area the aura of decline. Even areas outside the centre of Caversham, such as Emmer Green, Henley Road and Caversham Road have large occupancy rates for retail premises, with very few, if any, empty shops.

WordPlay

Deirdre Smith of WordPlay in Prospect Street announced the closure of the shop which she had run for the past five and a half years. The lease for the premises is due to run out early next year and Deirdre was concerned that when the work



starts on the development of the Precinct, footfall in the area would decrease. Rather than invest in new stock for Christmas the decision was made to close the shop at the end of September. There has been a book shop in Prospect Street for many years: the Caversham Bookshop was run by John and Lindsay Mullaney at the same location, and on their retirement the shop was

reinvented as WordPlay. Many residents will be sad to see this tradition come to an end. We wish Deirdre good luck in her new job and thank her for selling *Caversham Bridge* in the shop. We are now looking for a shop or cafe in Caversham to sell copies of the paper.

Cross Lanes Fruit Farm

Although not in the centre of Caversham, Cross Lanes Fruit Farm was a popular venture patronised by a large number of Caversham residents. Gillian Franklin, former proprietor, writes:

"You have probably heard that after the last season we decided it was no longer possible to go on running Cross Lanes Fruit Farm and selling the fruit as we had. After 37 years we have sold up and we moved on in mid August. I understand that the new owners are not intending to continue with the fruit business so I can now confirm that we will not be advertising in your publication any more.

"I thank you for all the help and publicity you have given over the years. Local magazines are such a good way of reaching those interested in local enterprises and informing people of events such as our annual Apple Day.

"Perhaps if you have a small space you could mention that our Farm Shop has closed, we will not be at Farmers' Markets and there will not be an Apple Day this year. We will miss all our lovely customers and thank them for their support and friendship over the years."

Many Caversham residents have purchased apples and other fruit from Cross Lanes over many years, both from the fruit farm itself and from their stalls in the various farmers markets at which they traded, and it is a great loss to the area that this business has closed. As well as selling fruit, Gillian was a source of much knowledge on the subject of fruit growing, and often gave talks to local horticultural and other societies. She also ran pruning courses from time to time,

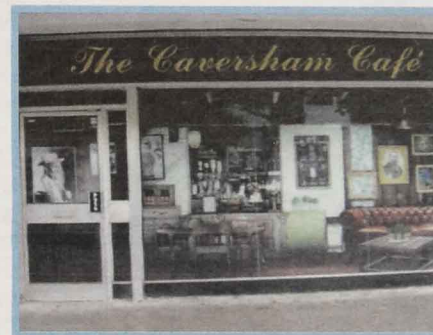
in which participants could learn the finer points of caring for fruit trees. The Apple Days were very popular annual events, when people were encouraged to tour the orchards and to sample some of the great varieties of apple grown at Cross Lanes. These Apple Days also included a 'conker challenge', organised by the now defunct Goring Woodcote and District Branch of the Lions Club to raise money for charity. We wish Gillian and her husband well in their retirement.

Other changes

Other businesses which have closed in the last few months include the Blue Duck Gallery in Hemdean Road, which is now the site of Siblings coffee shop and cafe, the Caversham Cafe in St Martins Precinct, and Quality Seconds, which finally closed after holding

many Closing Down Sales. These premises will probably remain empty until the redevelopment of the area occurs (see page 4 for the latest news on this). The Wendy House in Prospect Street closed, and is being reopened as a delicatessen, named 'Lewis and James', under the proprietorship of Pat McGregor who runs the Delicious cafe next door.

It is worth noting that an effort has been made to disguise the closure of some shops by creating a window display with pictures which give the impression that the shop is still in business. See the picture of the Caversham Cafe for an example of this artwork.



CARA

A rumour has been circulating that this shoe and clothes shop is closing down. Fashion conscious women in the area will be relieved that this is not correct. CARA will continue to trade on the site fronting Church Street. There may be disruption when a new window is installed as part of the Precinct development but that is all.

New flats revealed

The covering over the new block of apartments in Church Road, opposite The



Griffin, which was in place during construction, has recently been removed. This four storey block replaces a three storey office block, and incorporates retail premises on the ground floor. The picture shows the building when it became completely visible, but at the time of writing it is still unoccupied.

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Caversham Clergy

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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 Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ

Tel: 947 5834

Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Rev'd Ray Coates Tel: 07894 545603

Email: ray.coates@ntlworld.com

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@cavershambaptistchurch.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 John Ogden

An ancient proverb (Chinese, I believe) bestows upon us this wish: 'May you live in interesting times'. We hardly need reminding that in 2015 we do indeed live in such times, though we may feel that we would be well content with times that were less 'interesting'. The Christian hymn *Abide with me* echoes what we might be feeling: 'Change and decay in all around I see'.

How do we understand the volume marked '2015' in our library of history? I know it is not yet complete – neither the year nor the volume – and no doubt there is much drama ahead, in 2016 and beyond.

Over the centuries Christians have been equally perplexed by the last book in the Bible, known to Protestant Christians as 'Revelation' and to Catholic Christians as 'The Apocalypse'. It is full of nightmare images and visions to which the word 'weird' barely does justice. Beasts of bizarre and terrifying appearance stalk its pages again and again; fierce battles are fought in heaven and on earth; angelic figures deliver draconian judgements, which is hardly surprising since one of the beasts is a dragon!

It is tempting to look at such a strange book and try to see an exact correspondence between the events it describes and the 'interesting times' we know today. Wise interpreters, however, would do well to stand back and think long and carefully at what might be going on in the lives of people at that time, and why they might have found this book a source not of nightmares but of hope.

I have been reading some of the writings of H G Wells, who wrote about a hundred years ago. Among his best known novels is 'The War of the Worlds' (which I first heard as a Radio adaptation on the BBC Home Service in the 1950s!). It tells of an invasion of visitors from Mars. They commanded astonishing and awesome powers of destruction, which they used with utter contempt for the population of the English Home Counties. It's a thrilling yarn, taken at the level of science fiction; more fiction than science of course.

But I found it illuminating to recall that Wells, like us, was also living in interesting times. The social structures of the nineteenth century were crumbling; the First World War was part of this turbulence. Warfare was increasingly dominated by novel weapons of apocalyptic power. Humanity was plunged into a prolonged period of very unsettling change. H G Wells was attempting to get to grips with the social, political and industrial earthquakes that were raging around him; he wanted to help ordinary people do the same, so that they might be better prepared for the profound changes that yet lay ahead.

Continued on page 3

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st and 3rd Sundays
Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays
Morning Worship 4th Sunday
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

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

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

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

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

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

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

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

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

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

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Meeting at Caversham Park School

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

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH South Street

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday
8.00pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) –
2nd Sunday each month
3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family
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 November 2015 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish office by **Monday 5th October**. The date for the December 2015 issue is **Monday 2nd November**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk Advertising copy for the November issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by **Friday 2nd October**. The date for the December issue is **Friday 30th October**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday, and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk



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Talking Point Continued from page 2

In the end the Martian invasion came to nothing, because these grotesque and cruel visitors soon fell victim to fatal infections for which their home planet had given them no immunity. Well, not quite 'nothing'; the world was indeed laid waste, and people had to face a question: 'do we simply rebuild our land as it used to be, or do we build in new ways for a different social and industrial world?'

It is a reminder that our interesting times are by no means the first. To the challenges I've already mentioned we must now add that of learning to live together with people of different faith traditions, from which they have gained distinct and (to them) precious identities and loyalties.

The Book of Revelation (or the Apocalypse) describes a world apparently crumbling into disorder and chaos. But at its heart is a message of hope. These disasters do not represent the final collapse of life and meaning. Hope does endure. And, for me at least, it raises the same sort of question as that posed by H G Wells. 'What sort of world do we build for the future?'

Rev Dr John Ogden is a retired Methodist Presbyterian.
He has been active in Caversham since 2001

Bible Friends

Jeremiah and the scroll

Jeremiah was God's messenger. He told the people what God told him. But the people did not want to listen. They told Jeremiah to stop.

Jeremiah kept speaking God's words. His helper, Baruch, wrote the words on a scroll. Baruch read the words aloud to the people. The people did not want to listen. They took the scroll to the king! "Read!" ordered the king.

One man opened the scroll. "God wants you to obey him," he read.

"I don't want to listen to this!" growled the king. He cut a piece off the scroll and threw it into the fire. Each time the man read a few words, the king cut them up and burned them - until the whole scroll was gone!

God spoke to Jeremiah again. Jeremiah told Baruch what to write. And Baruch wrote it all down again on another scroll. The king could not stop God's words!

Jeremiah 36



More about Jeremiah, God's messenger, next month...

Caring about Justice

Among the cuts that have been made to services in the last few years none has been as severe as those to the justice system. The government's own watchdog has expressed serious concern about the effect on the courts and police. When I first came to Reading I became a member of the Romilly Association which took its name from Sir Samuel Romilly, one of the first members of parliament to bring more humane law to this nation. Formed just after the second world war it provided a forum for all who were involved with criminal justice both in the town and the University. It is now known as the Reading Criminal Justice Associates and still holds its main meetings at the University.

This year the association is opening its meetings to the public and over the Autumn it has three sessions on the topic of 'Justice for sale'. These meetings are on 12th October, 2nd November and 30th November. The sessions will be led by probation, police and prison staff.

The meetings are held at the University in the evening and include a glass of wine or fruit juice. If you are interested please contact roybailey@btinternet.com for further information and to register your attendance (as required by the University).

Colin Ferguson

Editors' Notes

From time to time we hear comments along the line that there isn't much news about my area, church, club, society, charity etc. The reason for this is that we are not sent information about it. We do not employ reporters to seek out news, but rely on our correspondents to send us their reports etc. Otherwise we have to tap the information known by our various contacts.

If you wish to see such articles then please persuade a person with the necessary knowledge to submit the material, or if all else fails, 'put pen to paper' and get writing. If the text is accompanied by relevant pictures then so much the better.

As well as reports on or advertisements for events we welcome stories of individual achievement that are of interest to the local community. We also welcome letters for publication.

All articles submitted should be relevant to the Caversham area. The address to which to submit contributions is given on page 2.



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From the Lookout Post

Energy Saving in the Home

The next CADRA open meeting will be held at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 21st October in the Caversham Baptist Church. CADRA has taken advice from members of the Reading Climate Change Partnership. Recognising that Caversham has a large proportion of older buildings which have particular issues for energy efficiency, advice was also taken from the Society of Protection of Ancient Buildings. As a result, three very knowledgeable speakers will make up the panel.

Ian Gough, Energy Manager for Wokingham Council, is also Director of Reduce Energy so is well able to give an overview of the range of options and some potential pitfalls. Tony Cowling, a former research chemist who ran a local building firm, is now involved with both community hydro and solar PV projects. After he retired from his business he built himself a very low energy home and will introduce its design concepts. He will talk about the Reading Draughtbusters project and more generally about saving energy in the home.

Richard Oxley, a Chartered Surveyor, established the Oxley Consultancy on the conservation of historic buildings. Richard leads a homeowners' course elsewhere on energy efficiency in traditional buildings and is highly regarded in the field. After a presentation from the panel and a few general questions, each member of the panel will take a small 'surgery' answering individual questions. We expect that representatives of Citizens Advice at Reading will also hold a surgery. They have a long-running project, providing impartial advice on energy saving and switching suppliers, particularly to those who are 'fuel poor'. Anyone is welcome to attend and it will be a good opportunity to join as a member.

St Martins Centre

There has been some delay on the planned start date in September 2015 but we understand that Hermes are finalising arrangements to start on site before the end of the year.

Xtra Care Housing Albert Road

A2dominion, who are developing the extra care units on the site of the Albert Road Day Centre and Arthur Clark home, circulated new information to neighbours during August. It is expected that a planning application will be available before this column appears. Links to the latest information will be available at www.cadra.org.uk.

Conservation Areas

The last few years have seen a marked deterioration in Conservation Areas in Reading. The Baker Street/Russell Street area is a major concern and St Peter's Conservation Area in Caversham has also suffered. Many of the problems stem from conversions to Houses of Multiple Occupancy. This often leads to multiple satellite discs, bins, cables and a failure to care for what remains of the front garden and garden walls. Community groups across Reading, including CADRA, are working with the Council and Historic England to identify priorities and to work towards better protection and understanding for these important areas. If you would like to contribute to this work, please contact info@cadra.org.uk.

Reading Neighbourhood Network

RNN held a very successful summer event bringing together community groups

from across Reading. The next event will be the AGM at 6.30 for 7pm on Tuesday 24th November in the Town Hall. The theme will be 'Growing your Group', and anyone interested in helping to promote community activity is welcome to attend. For more information please visit the website: rgneighbours.net

A permanent location for the Heights School

The consultation on five different sites for the Heights Primary School showed that overall, Mapledurham Playing Fields was the first choice site for the majority of people and had the least opposition to it. The Education Funding Agency announced in August that they had decided to pursue this site for the school and to start the work necessary to put forward a proposal to Reading Borough Council. RBC do not own Mapledurham Playing Fields. They are the trustees because the land was donated and is held in a charitable trust, the prime objective of which is the provision of recreational facilities. Therefore, any proposal agreed between the EFA and RBC will require the consent of the Charity Commission. Detailed plans will also require planning permission.

In the meantime any refurbishment work on the dilapidated pavilion is in abeyance. A planning application has been made for a first floor addition and a time extension to 31 August 2018 on the school's temporary site on Gosbrook Road.

Development proposals will be complicated if sports and community facilities are to be accommodated alongside the school. The EFA have pledged to continue working with the steering groups on which many local groups are represented. Rob Wilson MP has set out a series of commitments that he believes would help frame a positive and constructive dialogue:


1. That there should be appropriate compensation for any space given over to the school, so that there is little or no overall loss of green/open space in the area.

2. That there is no loss of playing space to the sports clubs using Mapledurham Playing Fields. Indeed there should be improvement and investment in the leisure facilities currently available, in which relevant local sports clubs should be closely involved.

3. That sufficient space is provided for a new community pavilion to complement the school plans and additional resources to ensure it happens alongside the school building programme.

4. That sufficient reassurances and commitments are made to ensure there is no further development on Mapledurham Playing Fields, including a strengthening of the covenant if that is deemed to be necessary.


These commitments would require action from both the EFA and RBC and involvement from local groups.


Caversham and District Residents Association

Open Meeting

7.45 pm, Wednesday 21st October 2015
at Caversham Baptist Centre

Energy Saving in the Home



Ian Gough,
Director of Reduce Energy

Tony Cowling
Builder of Eco Home

Richard Oxley
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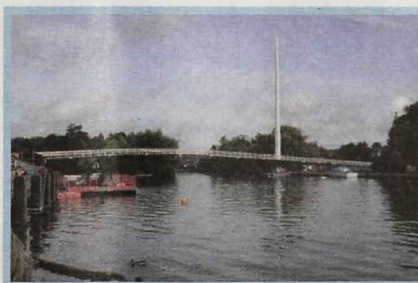
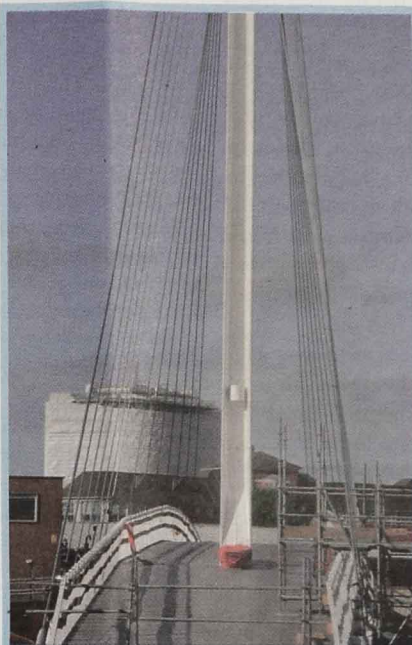
Reading Bridge

The £25 million project to strengthen Reading Bridge is now complete, and the road is open to traffic. The work was necessary to allow the bridge to continue to be used as a main traffic artery for the foreseeable future, and unavoidably caused some disruption to traffic, although this has been kept to a minimum. The road was closed to all traffic for a two week period when the road surface was completely replaced, but pedestrian access was maintained at all times. The picture shows the bridge during the resurfacing works. The work took longer than originally anticipated due to the extent of the concrete repairs being greater than expected.



for cyclists between Caversham and Reading.

The first picture shows the view across the bridge from the Caversham side, the second picture shows a view of the bridge from Reading Bridge, and the third picture shows the slope down to the bank on the Reading side of the bridge. All the pictures on this page were taken by local photographer Graham Wootton



grants for such work. At the same time, a number of gas mains have been replaced in areas of Caversham, particularly in Caversham Heights. The old metal gas pipes, which were up to a hundred years old, have been replaced by pipes made of more modern and durable materials. This work has obviously involved digging up the affected roads, but the effect on traffic has been fairly minor. The scheduled work should also be complete shortly.

Road to Sonning Bridge

A public meeting of the Eye and Dunsden Parish Council was due to be held on Tuesday September 15th at Dunsden Village Hall.

At this meeting David Bullock, Highways & Transport Asset Manager at Oxfordshire County Council, was to talk about OCC's possible solutions for the B481, the road between Playhatch and Sonning. His talk was entitled 'B481 - raising the road or not'.

This road has been particularly prone to flooding over the last few years, leading to the road being closed and consequent congestion over a wide area, including much of Caversham. It was proposed earlier in the year that the level of the road surface be raised in order to combat this, but so far no improvements of this nature have been made. It will be interesting to learn the latest thoughts of OCC on this subject.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Would you like to have this paper delivered to you monthly?
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Road Resurfacing

During the summer period a programme of road resurfacing has been carried out by Reading Borough Council, involving a number of roads in Caversham which had deteriorated over time due to the effects of heavy traffic and weather conditions. A number of detours had to be put in place while the work was in progress. This has resulted in a marked improvement to the roads affected, but there are a number of other roads which still require similar remedial work. The extent of resurfacing carried out was much reduced from previous years due to cuts in government

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CHURCHES

Parish Barn Dance

The Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish barn dance will take place on Friday 16th October at 6.30 pm at St John's church, with the same band and caller as last year. Tickets are available in advance only, £8 for adults, £4 for children and £20 for a family group of 2 adults and 2 children, from Sabita Clark (St Peter's), Jenny Wright (St Margaret's) or Sylvia Purkis (St John's). You are invited to bring your own drinks and food.

Writing for God

Did you know that nearly a thousand new hymns are written every year? Only a few will ever see the light of day. I count myself fortunate to still be alive and to have two of my compositions being sung internationally; one was recently translated into Norwegian. It was tricky when they sent the text in Norwegian and asked me to say whether I agreed with it or not! Sometimes you just have to have faith in what is done in your name. This year the Hymn Society had an international conference in Cambridge with hymn writers from almost every nation.

There is even more Christian literature around and even more Christians writing for the secular market. Some of them meet at my house and our next meeting is on the 7th November. Although we meet under the umbrella of the Association of Christian Writers you do not need to be a member of the national

organisation to come to local meetings. We start at 10.00am with a cup of whatever you wish, (please bring a packed lunch) and soup provided for £2.00. You can be writing anything, poetry, novel, worship material.

If you are interested contact me on colindf@btinternet.com or on 0118 9482557.
Colin Ferguson

Network Fellowship

The Network Fellowship is a meeting for everyone, whether or not they are members of the church. The network fellowship meets at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church (at the corner of Highmoor Road and Woodcote Road) on alternate Thursday afternoons (except August) at 2.30pm in the church hall.

A varied programme of speakers has been arranged. The programme for the coming weeks includes:

1st October – AGM with the Revd Jenny Dowding

15th October – an afternoon with Meryl Beek

29th October – a talk (including tastings) on continental chocolates by Bob Whelpton [Chocolates Continental is a family business set up by husband and wife team, Bob and June Whelpton]

12th November – Jewellery Making (beading) – speaker Patricia Blundell

26th November – Trading Standards (SCAMS) – speaker Steve Hambridge

10th December – Christmas Musical Afternoon with the Revd David Jenkins

There is no charge for admission, but a collection is taken during the afternoon. Tea and biscuits are served at the end of the meeting.

All are welcome, both ladies and gentlemen.

For a copy of the full programme please contact Janet on janet@offords.idps.co.uk or 0118 947 0903.

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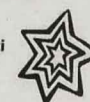
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Concerts in Caversham

Autumn Concert - Yuko Sano (Pianist)

The Autumn Concert in the series 'Concerts in Caversham' will be held at St Andrew's Church in Caversham Heights on 10th October, starting at 7:30pm. Incidentally, this concert will mark almost exactly five years of Concerts in Caversham. At this concert the brilliant young pianist Yuko Sano will play a delightful programme to demonstrate both her wonderful virtuosity and musicianship.

Yuko studied at the Liszt Music Academy in Budapest before being awarded a full post-graduate scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where she won the Maud Hornsby Award at the end of her first year. She also won the highest prize at the Burckhardt International Piano Competition and the first prize and Grand Prix in all categories at the PIARA Piano Competition. She has performed piano concertos with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and made her London debut for the festival 'The Rest is Noise' at the Southbank Centre. She has given recitals throughout the UK and in Europe, and is a Young Concert Artist for Steinway Pianos.

Yuko's programme will include works by Liszt, Chopin, Haydn, Ravel, and also by the thought-provoking Japanese composer Takemitsu.

Reviewers of previous concerts in this series have said:

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And 'If you haven't already discovered the excellent series of concerts at St Andrew's Church, I urge you to come along to the next. The performances were top quality and yet the concert was relaxed.'

See www.concertsincaversham.co.uk for further details.



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Reading Festival Chorus are excited to announce their forthcoming concert of Handel's Messiah. This will be a joint performance with our partner choir, the Johanneskantorei from Düsseldorf.

The conductor is Edward-Rhys Harry, and the choir will be joined on the day by British Sinfonietta and four excellent soloists.

The concert will take place at 7.30 pm on October 17th, 2015 at Reading University Great Hall, London Road, Reading RG1 5AT

Tickets are £17 (under 16s free) and can be obtained from Alison Mackay at 0118 983 4523 or tickets@readingfestivalchorus.org.uk

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WADRA Christmas Fayre

A date for your diaries: The annual Christmas Fayre organised by the Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) is to be held at the Pavilion on Mapledurham Playing Fields, Woodcote Road, Caversham Heights on 6th December 2015, 10am - 2pm.

There will be something for all ages, and we may even have a visit from Santa Claus and of course a raffle with some great prizes. We are pleased to announce that St Peter's Church Choir will be joining us to sing carols and get us in the festive mood.

We will also be selling nearly new camping equipment that was

collected from Reading Festival with the kind permission of Festival Republic. It is amazing what good stuff is left behind!

If you would like to book a space for a table it is just £10 for an outside table or £15 for an inside table. Space is limited so will be on first come first served basis. Please email Carol Morton on MPFChristmasfayre@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your space.



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Embroiderers' Guild 70th Exhibition

Seventy years of sewing will be celebrated in Reading on 17th October. The Reading branch of the Embroiderers' Guild will be holding an exhibition in Park United Reform Church, Palmer Park Avenue, Reading from 1:30pm. The exhibition will include needlework completed by members of the branch over the decades, craft stalls selling needlework and craft items, and refreshments including a celebratory cake. The special guest is Lindsay Taylor and entrance to the exhibition is £5.00 on the door.

Lindsay Taylor is an embroiderer who is based on the edge of a wood on the Isle of Wight. She specialises in embroideries which are three-dimensional tableaux frequently featuring natural scenes. No doubt, she will bring some examples of her work with her, but if you wish to have a preview you can check her website www.lindsay-taylor.co.uk.

The Berkshire branch was formed by a group of men and women who were keen on sewing and met in a café in Broad Street, Reading, in October 1945. Over the years, the meeting place has moved around including The Friends Meeting House in the centre of Reading. They currently meet once or twice a month at Park United Reformed Church, and have displayed their work at some Church events.

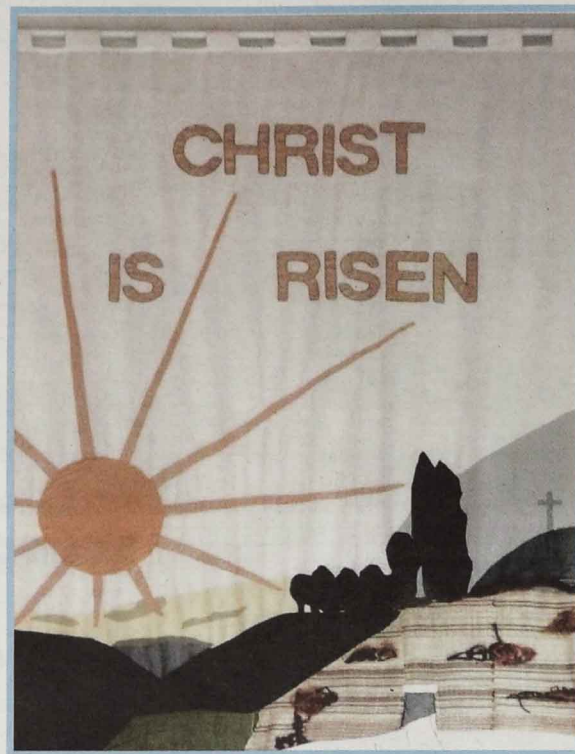
Caversham Heights resident Jill Green had lived in Caversham for about two to three years when she needed advice on a bedspread she was sewing, based on patterns she was transferring by carbon paper. She saw an open day for the branch advertised in the newspaper, at the Friends Meeting House (where they were meeting at the time). It said if you have any queries come along. She went and was pleased with the friendly response she received, and has now been with the branch over 30 years. During that time she has held various posts and currently organises the sales table at the monthly meetings as well as being a member of the committee.

One of the members, Sheila Anderson, is also a member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church and has produced a number of banners for them, as well as producing smaller gold work pictures and Hardanger embroidery. The picture shows a banner designed by her late husband Eric for display in the church on Easter Sunday.

Over the years, the branch in Reading was joined by branches in Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead and so has changed its name from Berkshire to Reading branch.

The Reading branch are always looking for new members, their membership covers the complete range, from the person who loves creating with needles, threads and textiles to the newcomer looking for advice and encouragement. If you are interested, why not give them a try, share your interest with like-minded people or let them help you teach your child or grandchild. So that they can appreciate stitching and textiles in the same way you do.

Come along to the exhibition and meet the members, or alternatively come along to one of the afternoon talks on the last Wednesday of the month at Park United Reformed Church 1:10 - 3:15pm. The group also has classes prior to the meetings and workshops throughout the year that you can book onto. Further information is on their website www.embroiderersguildreading.org.uk.



The banner designed by Eric Anderson for display in Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Easter Sunday.

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ENVIRONMENT

PARASOL MUSHROOMS

Parasol mushrooms are aptly named: when they come up from the ground, their caps are close to the stem. Then they expand, and the caps become flat, but with a raised boss on the top. Below the cap, when it has expanded, there is a ring round the stem, which can be slid up and down, and the base of the stem is swollen, like the handle of a parasol. The old Latin names, too, are apt. The two commonest species are *Lepiota procera*, the Parasol Mushroom, and *Lepiota rhacodes*, the Shaggy Parasol. It is the Shaggy Parasol which is pictured here, growing near Theale. *Lepiota* signifies something with scales, *procera* signifies something tall, and *rhacodes* comes from a Greek word meaning a shaggy coat. The Parasol proper is taller than its shaggy cousin.

The botanists, not content with this state of affairs, have divided off the larger parasol mushrooms into a separate genus, *Macrolepiota*, and want us to call all of this group of fungi 'dapperlings', rather than parasol mushrooms. According to The Oxford English Dictionary, a dapperling was a dapper little fellow, a dandiprat, and a dwarf. I trust that the name 'dapperling' will never catch on in common parlance.

Other differences between *procera* and *rhacodes* include the fact that the Parasol has brown scales on the stem and the flesh is white, whereas the scaly cousin has a shaggier cap, a stem without scales, and flesh that turns pink when you break it.

Both species are among the best when it comes to eating. Roger Phillips, in his *Wild Food* book, recommends discarding the tough stems, cutting the caps into four, dipping them into batter, and frying them. He says that "the mushrooms are unbelievably tender when served like this." He also gives a recipe for mushroom and potato scones, cooked in a frying-pan. Other authors suggest stuffing the caps, before they have expanded, and using the expanded caps to make a kind of toasted sandwich. When fully expanded, the caps can reach eight inches across.

Some of the smaller Parasol Mushrooms are not suitable for eating, and some are downright poisonous.

The most anxious night I ever spent was on account of the Shaggy Parasol. About twenty years ago, I was staying on a bee-farm in Poland with two friends and a dog. We were in a wooden building in a forest, with no telephone, no electricity, and about a mile and a half from the nearest road. I had spotted these Shaggy Parasols during the afternoon, and we had gathered them, taken them back, and cooked them over a wood-burning stove for dinner. They were delicious. But, in the early hours, I was awakened by violent stomach pains and profuse sweating. I thought I must have poisoned everyone, and tiptoed round the beds to make sure everyone was breathing normally! I need not have worried – I was the only one to suffer any ill-effects. They gave me some concoction which involved alcohol and dill, after which my digestive system soon settled down.

On my return to Caversham, I looked up the Shaggy Parasol in a book, and read: 'edible, but may cause gastric upsets in some people'. So the mushrooms in the picture were left well and truly alone!

Happy Wanderer



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CLUBS

Probus

The speaker at the August meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Ian Gibb, whose subject was 'From cadet to commodore and beyond'. Ian told us of his career at sea, having worked in the merchant navy for 43 years. Seafaring was in his blood, because since the 1850s four generations of his family had been sea captains. Some of them lived and worked in Rotterdam, but their wives were always sent to England to give birth. At the age of 15, Ian attended the School of Navigation at Warsash in Hampshire, which is part of Southampton University. In 1953 he graduated with first class honours, and joined P & O, where he stayed for 43 years. His first trip was to Calcutta, and he has since sailed all over the world.

In May 1954 he was appointed as a cadet to a passenger liner, which was a state of the art ship. He spent the winter in Australia, returning to work on the ship Iberia. At the age of 42 he married Ann, a paediatric nurse. He became captain of a cruise ship in 1975, travelling to Alaska. Ships then got steadily larger and more sophisticated, and he found the passengers a constant source of interest, and recounted many interesting tales of his encounters with them.

He eventually became commodore (senior captain of the fleet). His favourite ship was the Canberra, which went to the Falklands. In 1994 he took a shipload of veterans to the D-Day 50th anniversary celebrations. He was captain of the cruise ship Oriana for the last two years of his service, retiring in 1996.

Years before he had joined Trinity House as a 'younger brother'. Trinity House has a maximum of 31 elder brothers, and when a vacancy arose in November 1996 he was appointed to the position, and worked six days a week, serving as a court judge in the Admiralty Court. He also had the task of distributing funds to a number of charities. He helped the chairman of the port authority at Harwich and Felixstowe, and with Trinity House's flagship Patricia visited all the lighthouses once a year. None of the lighthouses around Britain's coasts are now manned on a permanent basis.

Ian retired at the age of 80, having had a very enjoyable career that spanned 65 years.

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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Rivermead Indoor Bowling Club are holding two open days for people to come and have a go. Located at the Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading, RG1 8EQ the club welcomes you with or without any bowling experience. There will be coaches on hand to get you started, bowls and shoes are provided, although it would be helpful if you have some flat bottomed shoes of your own to change into.

The dates for the open days are Saturday 3rd October, 10.00am – 2.30pm and Sunday 11th October, 1.00pm – 5.00pm.

For more information please contact Joan Strong 0118 9425269 or visit www.rivermeadindoorbowlingclub.co.uk

You have seen it on TV, so now come and try for yourselves

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs

I sat down today on my return from holiday and read though my copy of Caversham Bridge. I was absolutely astonished to read the article on the Mapledurham Playing Fields Action Group. It is completely unacceptable for you to take sides and allow one organisation to have a public voice without asking other lobby groups to have the right to reply.

The vote (rightly or wrongly) was overwhelmingly in favour of Mapledurham playing fields for this much needed school. It is disgraceful that you are enabling one organisation to encourage Reading Borough to take expensive legal advice using public money which would be better spent educating our children and grandchildren. I do hope that the money intended for the pavilion is not to be used to fight any planning application. You should immediately disassociate yourself from this political article and show a community focused approach accepting that there is more than one view regarding the school and the site. I am not a member of any of the various groups but I do know what being even handed and equitable means in public decisions.

Yours in expectation of a full apology in the next Caversham Bridge.

Yvonne Edgar
11.8.15

Editors Note: This is the second letter we have received expressing similar views on this subject. Do you agree with this point of view? To date no other group has written defending their position.

As we wrote last month, we welcome letters for publication and are happy to have our pages used for discussion on local issues, whether important or trivial. This does not mean that we support or oppose any of the views expressed.

Caversham Horticultural Society

Gardeners are invited to two events this month. Firstly we will be holding our autumn plant sale on Saturday 3rd October at the Oakley Road allotments between 10.00 and 11.30am. Stock up with plants to settle in this autumn to make a display next spring. Secondly the October talk will be held on Wednesday 14th October on the subject of 'Apples: their History and Cultivation', with Gill Franklin the former owner of Cross Lanes Fruit Farm. The talk starts at 7.45pm and will be held at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road, Caversham. Refreshments will be served after the talk.

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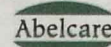
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Caversham Allotment Association

The next meeting of the Caversham Allotment Association is on Tuesday 13th October at Church House, Caversham. The subject will be 'Gardeners' Question Time', and the panel will be Geoff Hawkins, a regular speaker at Caversham, and Jacky Biddle from Wyevalle, Playhatch.

So if you want to know what is eating your apples, or why your tomato leaves are turning yellow, or any other problems, come along at 7.30pm to get the answers. Entrance is free, and there will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

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 and Chiltern Flower Club

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club present Dawn Keitley, who will talk on 'Something Old,

Something New' on October 14th at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham. Entrance fee £5.50 for visitors. For more details please contact Shirley Sexton 0118 9412329

On a fine August day members were invited to a garden party in the garden of the chairman. Pimms and afternoon tea were served and members and their guests enjoyed looking around the interesting garden and viewing the flower designs floating on the swimming pool. Although not intended as a fund raising event £80 was raised and given to a member who had just completed a 100 mile walk on the coastal path in Cornwall for cancer charities.

In September members and friends visited the flower festival in Salisbury Cathedral. This was held to celebrate Magna Carta, a copy of which is kept in the Cathedral.

Caversham Heights Society

The 2015-2016 season of the Caversham Heights Society began on 16th September when, following the Annual General Meeting at which a new committee was elected or confirmed in office, Ed Simons, film producer and current chairman of the Kenton Theatre in Henley, regaled members with stories. He was involved with some of the biggest stars in the film industry such as Joan Collins, Barbra Streisand, Madonna and the late Robin Williams whose final film performance was in the new Monty Python film, 'Absolutely Anything'.

The next event in September was a visit to Bashley in the New Forest where a full coach load of members enjoyed a lunch, cream tea and a performance of an Old Tyme Music Hall, which was quite nostalgic for many of the audience.

Forthcoming events include the History of Oxford Colleges [Oct 7th], the life of a London Bar Mizvah Boy [Oct 21st], the History of the John Lewis Partnership [Nov 4th] and the Changing Face of Royal Weddings [Nov 18th].

New members are always welcome so if anyone is interested please contact Jill Hodges on 959 5307 or by email to irishjill@southcote.net

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The main event during the summer for Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was the Picnic in the Park at Langley, organised by the Chiltern and Castle Federation, with market stalls, competitions, a band, and, of course, food.

The August meeting was a bring and buy with a salad supper and convivial chat.

More food was served when we visited Boaters for lunch.

In September we had an interesting presentation by Sally Botwright about 'Hidden Gardens in London'.

Following their talk in June, the Social Studies group visited Greenshoots Manor Farm at Rotherfield Peppard, a facility offering work-based training for adults with learning difficulties. They were shown round the workshops and plant nurseries and served a lovely tea by the students.

Local History was the theme in September, when John Brierley gave a talk about the Siege of Reading.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 15th October at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham at 7.30pm, when we will be 'Dropping the Habit' with Marian Dante.

Any ladies wishing to visit or join us will be very welcome.

Reading Gardeners

Our Winter Programme begins on Wednesday October 7th.

Refreshments will be served at 7pm. This will be followed by a brief Extraordinary General Meeting at 7.30, after which there will be a talk at 7.45 on 'Garden and Wood: Developing a Passion for Antique Garden Tools'. There will be tools for sale too.

On October 21st Troy Scott Smith, the Head Gardener at Sissinghurst, will speak on 'Sissinghurst: Revitalising Vita'.

[Editor's note: The garden at Sissinghurst Castle, at Sissinghurst village in the Weald of Kent, is owned and maintained by the National Trust. It is among the most famous gardens in England and is grade I listed. Vita Sackville-West, the poet and writer, began transforming Sissinghurst Castle in the 1930s with her diplomat and author husband, Harold Nicolson. Harold's architectural planning of the garden rooms, and the colourful, abundant planting in the gardens by Vita, reflect the romance and intimacy of her poems and writings.]

Our meetings are held in Caversham Primary School and usually begin with refreshments, which are served at 7.15pm.

Please see our website for more details: readinggardenersclub.org.uk

Non-members are welcome at a visitor's fee of £3.

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