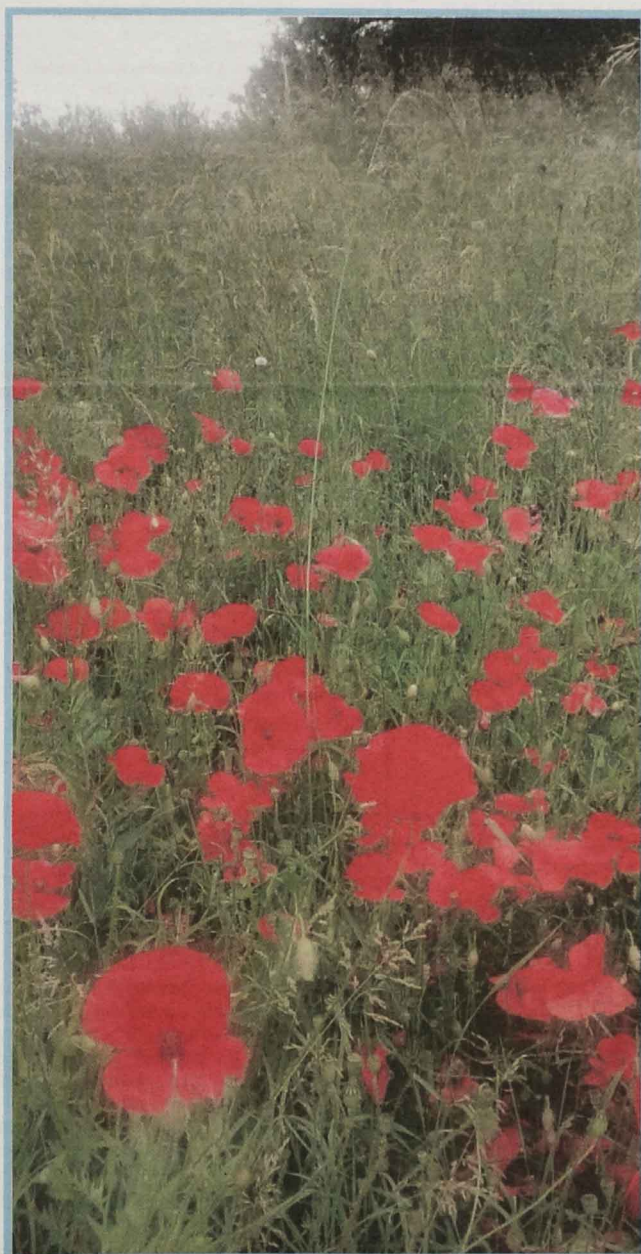


Royal British Legion Remembrance Parade and service



The Caversham branch of the Royal British Legion will be organising a service and parade to mark remembrance Sunday on November 8th.

This year is a very significant one as it marks the 70th anniversary of the end of world war II and the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

In 2014 almost 1400 people attended the parade and service and at least as many are expected this year.

Organisations will form up in Christchurch meadows and proceed to the War Memorial where the service will be conducted by the branch chaplain, Father Paul Martin from Our Lady and St Anne's, Caversham.

The Lower Earley Salvation Army band will be playing the music again this year.

On conclusion of the service the organisations will form up under the supervision of James and Daniel Boyd from the 9th platoon, Caversham Army cadets and march back through the village, accompanied by the police to Westfield park where the parade will be dismissed.

The Salute from the Library steps this year will be taken by the branch president, chairman, chaplain and veterans from the 2nd world war.

The numbers are expected to be large on the way back to Westfield park so all those accompanying the parade are asked to stay on the pavements and not stray into the procession as it will be too difficult to keep the parade moving safely.



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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

St Barnabas

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

St Andrews

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

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

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

Revd Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ
Tel: 947 5834
Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Revd 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

Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Ministers Revd 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

Revd 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 Nigel Jones

Let me know the number of my days

A Christian hermit recalled how he had once been advised by a more experienced hermit that it was his task to think about death all the time. At first he had wondered if this was sane, or appropriate, and whether to follow it would make him depressed. But as the conversation went on it became obvious that thinking about death had given him a relish for life.

With All Souls-tide and Remembrance Sunday (not to mention Hallowe'en), November is a time when the world around us appears to be dying and we are often made aware of our own mortality.

In last year's BBC Reith lecture, Dr Anul Gawanda suggested a new approach to the 'two great unfixable problems in life and healthcare, ageing and death'. He said that asking certain questions of those facing terminal illness can empower them, and help their families come through bereavement with less difficulty. Questions about how people understand their situation or condition; about what fears they might have for the future; and about what priorities or goals they may still have even if time is short. Surprisingly, people can live more positively when they focus in this way on what would be worth living for.

In the lecture, Gawanda made no reference to faith or belief, and even without religious faith, preparation for death has been regarded as a good idea. Most ancient Greek philosophy took the form of what Christians might call spiritual exercises; thought techniques and practices and disciplines about 'how to live and how to die'. The teachings of the philosophical schools were intended to build resilience and virtue, so that the inevitable changes and chances of life and death could be met with proper courage and detachment.

But many attitudes today assume that death is essentially a medical issue, a technical problem which can be sorted. This can lead to the endless pursuit of longevity, and the outrage of families when the medical profession lets them down and their loved ones do in fact die.

Faith tells us that waking and sleeping, dying and living, we are held in God's love. There are many ways today in which we miss the opportunity that the approach of death holds out to us, which is in the end the opportunity to live as fully and fruitfully as we can. If we can be realistic about death, we can use those little 'deaths' we experience in life-failures, setbacks, frustrations, humiliations, disappointments as ways of preparing for that final loss through which we will come to life in all its fullness.

The Revd Nigel Jones is Vicar of St Andrew's, Caversham.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st and 3rd Sundays
Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays
Morning Worship 4th Sunday
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
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 December 2015 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish office by **Monday 2nd November**. The date for the January 2016 issue is **Monday 23rd November**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk
Advertising copy for the December issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by **Friday 30th October**. The date for the January 2016 issue is **Friday 20th November**.

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
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Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk



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From the Lookout Post

Caversham Traders

It was announced at the end of September that Waitrose is no longer progressing with plans to extend its Caversham store as part of the proposal to redevelop St Martin's Centre. Hermes is currently reviewing the plans with the aim of still redeveloping part of the site. Their statement reports:

"We are liaising closely with the Council and other stakeholders on the likely implications to the wider regeneration of the shopping centre... We would like to reassure the local community that we still intend to carry out improvement works to the centre, in line with the approved plans... We hope to make a further statement in due course on exactly which elements of the approved plans will be impacted".

Associated with the Waitrose extension were new public toilets, decked car parking, and a walk way through the store to replace the alley way. Clearly these will not proceed and we await details of what is proposed and how this will be treated in planning terms.

The presentation of the Reading Retail Awards was made at the Hilton Hotel in September and again Caversham independent traders were among the winners. Terry's in the precinct entered for the first time this year. They were a finalist in Independent Retailer of the Year and winner of My Favourite Shop 2015. Mya Lacarte again won Restaurant of the Year and Amanda Champion of Caversham Tiles was Trainee of the Year. Congratulations to the worthy winners! Of course these awards are thanks to their loyal customers and the traders would like to thank everyone who voted.

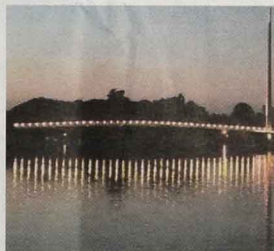


Traffic news

Following the opening of the new pedestrian and cycle bridge on 30 September, the council are inviting suggested names for the bridge. See www.reading.gov.uk/bridgename. The deadline for responses will be December 18th. Following a shortlist of up to six names, there will be an online public vote early in the New Year.

Oxfordshire CC are still working on the problems of flooding and road closures on the B478 through Sonning Eye. Following an unsuccessful funding bid earlier in 2015, a scheme is being examined to reduce road closures from flooding without exacerbating flooding in the area. The intention is to prepare a bid to the DfT Challenge Fund 2017/18.

The upgrade of Reading Station and railway is nearing completion and installation of overhead equipment for new electric trains is in progress. The Compulsory Purchase Order for land at Cow Lane Bridges has been confirmed, allowing road and footway works to start in October 2015, lasting about six months. The council has confirmed that there will be footways on both sides of the road and a cycle way. Additional parking for about 300 cycles on the north side of the station is due for completion this autumn.



Caversham Library

Subject to agreement by the council's policy committee, the first of a two-phase public consultation exercise began on October 12th to gather information on how libraries in Reading are being used. This will shape detailed proposals which will be consulted on in February 2016.

Proposals may include limiting opening days and times or re-providing library services in other community buildings. Further details and the online questions will be at www.reading.gov.uk/libraryreview. Hard copies of the questionnaires will be available at Caversham Library, children's centres and the Civic Offices, these should be returned to: Library Review, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. Email comments can be sent to: libraryreview@reading.gov.uk. This stage of consultation will close on November 23rd. The resulting detailed proposals will be presented early next year as phase two of the consultation. Final decisions will follow in summer 2016.

If you value your local library, please get involved in this process.

Conservation Areas in Reading

CADRA has been working with other groups across Reading to try to address the deterioration in many conservation areas. Meetings have taken place with council officers, the lead councillor and Historic England. A community statement of priority issues will be considered by a council committee on 24 November. There is more information at www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php

Amersham Road

The newly formed Amersham Road Estate Neighbourhood Association (ARENA) has been awarded funding to develop a community plan. It will focus on activity around the community centre, which is due to be extended next year, funded by the Earley Charity. Local residents involved in ARENA, Caversham Children's Fund, the Caversham Compass and Craft Group as well as residents not currently involved will all have the opportunity to contribute to the community plan so that action is driven by local needs. To get involved or find out more, get in touch with Rachel at Amershamroad@gmail.com/0118 973 2054.

Since 2010 the fruit and vegetable community garden by the community centre has been run by Food4Families (www.food4families.org.uk), working with Amersham Road Cooking Club, Caversham Children's Fund, Caversham Children's Centre and more recently the 1st Amersham Road Caversham Brownie group. Free public sessions run every Saturday from 10.30-12.30. Contact Sandra on agough4060@aol.com

Albert Road Xtra Care housing

Following the 18th August update on <http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php>, at the beginning of October, CADRA was still waiting to hear back from the council and a2dominion on how plans are changing and when a planning application will be submitted. In addition to the concerns on the building design and scale, CADRA has continued to press local concern that this new provision should make a real difference to the care services available to local people.

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Priory Avenue Surgery Out of special measures

It was good to hear in September that the surgery had been taken out of special measures even though it still requires improvement. This of course applies to many surgeries as the lack of permanent medical staff is hitting everyone hard.

The Medical Director of NHS England, Dr Geoff Payne, said "We are very pleased to see the improvements that new, strong leadership and the continued excellent work of the practice staff have made at the Priory Avenue surgery"

Gerry Crawford, the Regional Director of Berkshire Healthcare, the new contract holders for the surgery is quoted as saying, "The surgery has an impressive set of committed and enthusiastic staff, focussed on delivering great patient care. They have been fully involved in making the planned improvements and are motivated to demonstrate the positive changes, which are working well in practice".

There are still areas of improvement needed but not in the provision of patient care other than the recruitment of more doctors, a matter which is foremost in the mind of the surgery team. It is a matter for congratulation that they have achieved this improvement in a relatively short time.

We should also recognise the support of the Balmore Park surgery in all this as they took on a lot of new patients in this time to the point where they were unable to take any more. They are now able to do so and to continue the excellent work they have managed to deliver over this troublesome period.

Colin Ferguson

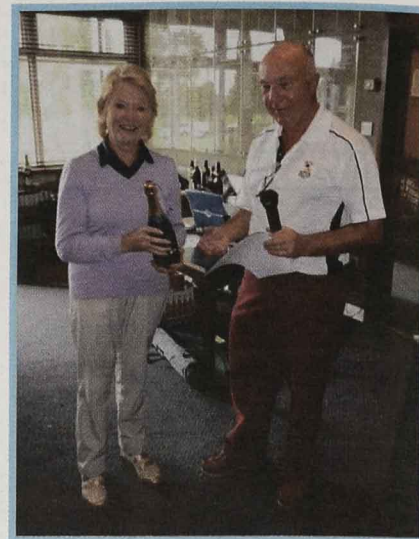
Rotary Club of Reading's charity golf tournament

Principal sponsors at this year's Reading Rotary Club Golf Day held at Reading Golf Club in Emmer Green in September were Lancaster Reading, who are leading agents for Jaguar, Land-Rover and Volvo vehicles. They also featured strongly among the tournament winners- their team carrying off first prize with players James Grimes posting the best individual score and Jerry Boyce taking the award for his tee shot ending nearest the pin at the 8th hole.

Second team prize went to Harpesden Wealth Management while Team Owlett finished third.

There were special prizes for the longest drives at the 18th, Ben Prior being the successful man and Eileen Paddick winning the ladies'.

Immediate Past President Graham Broadhurst thanked the participants and the sponsor firms Lancaster, Dickies, Charles Stanley, Coram Life Education, Fraser's, Dexter Montague, Bennetts, Drews, Haslams, Pro-Tar Pitmans and Vale and West. The proceeds of this annual event, which has raised about £4,000, will go principally to local charities, although Reading Rotary Club also helps hospitals and schools in poorer parts of the world.



Eileen Paddick receiving her Ladies First prize.

Eric Moyse, communication officer, Rotary club of Reading
9511387, eric.moyse@sky.com 07860 727372

Henley Choral Society Christmas Concert 2015

Following sell-out-concerts in previous years Henley Choral Society, together with the Henley Youth Choir, will perform an extra Family Christmas concert this year. Make a date for either a fun filled festive afternoon or the traditional evening concert, both with opportunities to sing carols along with the choirs. The evening performance will feature Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols with the accomplished baritone - Henry Neill. The choirs will be led by their talented musical director, Benjamin Goodson, and accompanied by renowned organist, Richard Pinel. The concerts will take place on Saturday 12th December 2015, 2.30pm or 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Henley - early ticket purchase is recommended to avoid disappointment. Tickets - £15 (under 18s £5) from ticket secretary Jan French 01491 572795 or Gorvett & Stone, 21 Duke Street, Henley-on-Thames or see www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk.



James Grimes receiving his award as individual winner



The Lancaster Reading team being presented with their winners' prize

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Alpha is here.....

What is it

Sometimes it's easier not to ask questions but on Alpha we think life is worth exploring, so your questions are welcome no matter how 'out there' they are. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the meaning of life. It's fun, relaxed and totally no pressure (that's why over 22.5 million people worldwide have already done it).

Who's it for

Got lots of meaningful questions? Never really understood the Christian faith or been to church? Maybe you gave up on it a long time ago. Alpha was designed for you, or anyone who doesn't go to church much, if at all.

What's so great about it

Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith? Maybe you're just curious about church stuff and want to have a nosh? Alpha doesn't care about your background, it welcomes all those big questions and it's free. Can't say fairer than that right?

How does it work

Alpha is made up of small groups of about 12 people with a host and helper. The course consists of ten weekly sessions plus a Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The weekly sessions are between one and two hours long.

How much is it

There's no charge to do Alpha, but a small voluntary contribution can be made towards food.

Alpha at St Barnabas

The next Alpha Course at St Barnabas Church will commence on Thursday 14th January in the Parish Centre. Each week the session will start with food followed by a DVD on a specific topic and then time for discussion.

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith for all those interested in finding out more about it. Alpha is for everyone, especially those wanting to investigate Christianity, new Christians, newcomers to the church and those wanting to brush up on the basics. If you are interested in attending, or know of someone who may like to attend, please contact us on 0118 9475744 or 0118 9479708 or at alpha@saintbarnabas.org.uk.

If you would like to find out a little bit more beforehand, we are holding an Alpha Launch on Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 7pm in the Parish Centre. This is an informal social event for past attendees and helpers from previous Alpha Courses who will answer your questions. There will also be an 'Introduction to Alpha' session on Sunday 29th November 2015 at 11.30am. You would be welcome to join us at either event to learn more about Alpha.

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Autumn Fair – Caversham Heights Methodist Church Saturday 14th November

On Saturday 14th November, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham will be holding an Autumn Fair from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Entrance is free and there will be stalls offering bric-a-brac, plants, cakes and many others. In addition to that there will also be tasty refreshments on offer.

The Church are keen fund-raisers for charity, and last year raised £15,000 for charitable causes including £1600 from the Autumn Fair split between The Alexander Devine Hospice and Wyfold Riding for the Disabled.

This year, the church will be supporting the Racecourse School in Zambia. The Church has had close links with the school and supported them over the years after a previous minister, the Rev. Rosemary Fletcher was introduced to the school, whilst visiting a friend who was a Mission Partner in Zambia in 2004. She then came back and informed the Church Council who were happy to start fund-raising projects to assist the school.

Over the years that the church has been supporting the school, it has sent over £40,000 in donations and several church members have also been out there. The money is used towards the expenses of teaching staff who otherwise would not have been paid. A lot of the pupils at the school are orphans who would, without this facility, not have an education, as they would struggle to afford to attend government schools.

The Racecourse School at Kitwe is the largest community school in the Copperbelt area of Zambia, and has 1700 pupils and 19 teachers. The school teaches Pre-school to Grade 9 in two purpose built blocks as opposed to various churches and taverns around the community which had previously been the case. In addition to this, the School Board sponsors some pupils to attend Grades 10 – 12 at Government schools in neighbouring communities. This year, the teaching staff were joined by two new teachers who as children had been pupils at the school.

Head Teacher Mumba wrote the following in one of his newsletters:

"A big thanks to you all, especially those who fund raise on our behalf. In 2013 99 pupils out of 115 passed to Grade 8 to continue their secondary education. The school also had 91 Grade 9 pupils who sat for their final exams and 86 pupils were selected to continue. We beat all the Government schools in Zone 1."

News from Our Lady and St Anne's

During September, the Social Side team arranged three events at Our Lady and St Anne's church.

The first was the monthly Friday Bingo evening. These evenings were started earlier in the year but had been on holiday for the summer. They provide a great meeting place for young and old since several whole families come to take part. Although silence descends once it is eyes down, during the half time interval lots of chat and sharing of refreshments gets every one mixing. Numbers were down a little for this evening, unfortunately, due to competition from Reading's first game of the season taking place at the same time. The November meeting is on November 6th at 7.30 in the Cenacle.

Next was the MacMillan coffee morning held in the Cenacle. This was well attended with many mothers and toddlers calling in after dropping off older siblings at school. Jo and Sharon were the main organizers. They also served the drinks and looked after the cake table. Chatter was the main ingredient of the morning.

The splendid sum of £301 was raised for MacMillan nurses.

The third event was a car boot sale held in the church car park. This followed on from the car boot sale in July and was again very successful with a number of sellers turning up early and setting up their tables and buyers coming in from the very start and continuing right up to the end. The weather was lovely and warm with some late summer sun. Sharon and Teresa served the refreshments and Lex cooked burgers and sausages on the BBQ. £100 was raised for Parish funds.



Much chatter at MacMillan coffee morning



Jo and Sharon at MacMillan coffee morning



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CHURCHES

Christian Aid Collection

The 2015 collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised the sum of £10,287.71. A sum of £4934.13 was declared for Gift Aid which would add a further £1098.53 to the total.

The street collection for 2015 was therefore up by about 11% on the 2014 total of £8895.00. This is an excellent result and owes much to the church representatives who do the organising.

Many thanks once again to those church representatives and all who valiantly went round so many streets. Thanks are also due to all who did the counting (a very time consuming job) and others who helped in any way.

Reading Family Aid Toy and Teen Appeal

Make Christmas special this year for Reading children by donating toys or money to Reading Family Aid's appeal which was launched in October.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the toys that are donated?

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This year we especially need presents for girls aged 8 to 12.

If you feel unable to select a present but would like to support or find out more about the charity follow us at readingfamilyaid.org, or donate on the 'Grow your tenner 2015' found on localgiving.com/gvt/about, which is now open.

DONATION POINTS

Caversham Library The Club at Mapledurham
Caversham Homcraft Rabbits Vehicle Hire
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St Barnabas Parish Centre Reflex Chiropractors

Christmas Market at St Peter's

The craft group at the church have been working for many weeks producing goods for sale at the market on December 5th. Sewing and knitting to make Christmas decorations, cushions, cases for spectacles and mobile phones, tote bags and fabric Christmas wreaths are some of the items made so far and the picture shows some of them. Nearer to the date Christmas door wreaths and table decorations will be made from fresh foliage and flowers. If you need new items to decorate your home for the Christmas season do come along and see what is on offer.



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The consequences of further government-imposed spending cuts on local councils are again a matter of concern, and I was interested to read the Lookout Post article in the September edition. It set out the facts, spelled out what the effect might be on public libraries and encouraged readers to respond to the Borough Council's consultations.

I was intrigued by the accompanying picture of Caversham Library, with a single clock face set in the wall of the tower, and no figure of Old Father Time. I had assumed that he had been there from the beginning. Looking through the 30-odd pictures of the library on the Reading library catalogue, I came across this photograph, taken on the opening day, 11 December 1907, reproduced here with permission. There is a fair throng of people in Church Street, some of whom have moved, causing blurring, but Old Father Time is clearly in his place.

A little more light is shed on the subject by a letter-book of the Caversham Urban District Council, now preserved in the Berkshire Record Office at the top of Castle Hill. The Clerk of the Council wrote to William Bullivant Williams, who had given the land on which the library was built, on February 7th.

1907, to say that "the Council will be pleased to pay the cost of carving the figure of Time, as you suggest in your letter, and upon hearing from you, I will instruct Mr. Lewton, the architect, accordingly."

So it looks as though the picture in the September edition was an architect's drawing, showing the building as intended, but not quite as built.

It is a pity that the letter-book does not contain the letter from Mr. Williams, and that there is no indication of who the sculptor might have been. It is possible, in a good light, to make out the initials 'B.L.' just below the figure.

When first installed, the clock had a chiming mechanism, and was illuminated by gas – electricity was not installed here until 1931. The cost of main-taining and illuminating the clock was borne by Mr. Williams during his lifetime, and the contractors who did the work – which presumably included winding the clock – were the Reading firm, Bracher and Sydenham.

With special permission, I was able to climb the library tower to take photographs in 2007. The pictures now appear on the library website. I found the clock worked by electricity, with no trace of the chiming, but there was still a triangular metal funnel with a chimney that had once dispersed the heat and fumes from the gas-lights.

The letter-book gives some more interesting insights into how the library was run in its early years. On July 15, 1907, the Urban District Council told the National Telephone Company that they didn't need a telephone at the library. Local clergymen and ministers of religion requested that the horse-racing information in the papers should be blacked out. Frank King, tailor, of Church Street, won the contract to provide a uniform for the library porter. The reading-room was to open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on six days a week, and in the magazine room, there was to be a table reserved for ladies – but children under 14 years of age were not to be admitted at all!

You can find the library website by putting "reading library catalogue" into your search engine, and clicking on the first option you are given. Then you can put "caversham library" into the search box – or anything else that takes your fancy.

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CLUBS

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

This report starts sadly with the death of Angela Lovewell, one of our longest serving members. She had been a very active member of our Guild, both on the committee and as a fund raiser. Many of our older members will remember her coffee mornings, especially those held in her garden.

In October an ex nun, Marian Dante, told us about Dropping the Habit and our chairman, Hazel New, held a coffee morning, always an enjoyable occasion. The social studies group learnt about the wildlife of Tanzania, courtesy of Peter Bean. A team was sent to take part in a quiz organised for all the guilds in the local area. We were invited to Birmingham to discover the History of Fairies, so a group of us fluttered off to join them. The ambling group tried out the new foot bridge over the Thames. Luncheon and scrabble groups continue to thrive. Our next meeting is on November 19th at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road at 7.30pm, and will be 'Houses of Parliament and Guy Fawkes' by Sue Nike. Any Ladies wishing to join us will be very welcome.

Caversham Allotment Association

The next meeting of the association is on Tuesday 10th November at Church House, Caversham. The subject will be *Winter Baskets*, a presentation by Mike McGibbon, a local horticulturalist, so if you are thinking of creating colour for the outside of your house, then come along at 7.30pm to get some inspiration. Entrance is free, there will be a raffle and refreshments. Contact Carol Wheeler on 01189 475802 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.

Rosehill WI

We were welcomed to our September meeting by president Margaret Pyle, who then introduced our speaker, Graham Horn. Graham gave a very interesting and sometimes amusing account of how he became a Blue Badge Guide. He qualified in 2011 and covers most of the south of England except the south west and London. He took his first course in Winchester, and explained how he was taught to convey knowledge but still keep the interest of his group. One of his amusing stories was how he took three unsuspecting people on a trip round Bath, when they thought they were on a National Express coach to London!!

After the talk Margaret thanked all those people who had provided scones for our August tea party.

The walks group is hoping to start up again with longer planned walks. Margaret announced that a Knit and Natter group has been formed and will be hosted by Brenda Strong on the second Friday of the month. The first meeting was held on the 11th September - another chance for putting the world to rights! The other three suggested groups, Book Club, Cinema Club and Lunch Club are all still in the melting pot.

Our attention was drawn to an article entitled 'WI Exhibition at the Berkshire Record Office (BRO)'. This exhibition which is to celebrate both the WI Centenary and the fact that all WI archives at the BRO are now available online, is to be held between 29th September - 31st December 2015 at the BRO which is located at 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF. Secretary Mary Robinson also drew our attention to several items in

Berkshire WI News of events coming up in the future, including a visit to Kew Gardens in November entitled 'Christmas at Kew', and lunch with Ruth Rogers who will give a talk about being a 'War Horse Puppeteer' on 6th November 2015 at Grazeley Village Hall.

The meeting ended with a cup of tea and the raffle.

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

Caversham WI

The president's two favourite subjects, history and food, were covered by the speaker Miss Catherine Sampson, at the September meeting. She showed slides to illustrate Georgian cookery - the dining room settings, the huge menus and recipes all cooked on open fires. We ended with a lovely sample of a 'plain' cake though the original recipe did say 'take 10 eggs'!

There was more cake in the tea break to celebrate the WI Centenary - this one made and iced by Jill Wright. Even more cakes were in the competition for cup cakes. The winner was Romagne Flight with Jill Wright and Sylvia Myszor as runners up. On November 19th there will be a talk on 'Eccentric London.' and in December the Christmas Party will be held.

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CLUBS

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The club present Lee Berrill for an evening of spectacular Christmas flowers entitled 'Deck the Halls' on Wednesday 11th November at 6.30pm for 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham. Entry is £12 in advance and £15 on the door but we advise that you book early to avoid disappointment. Refreshments included. For tickets contact Tricia Toogood 9476811 or Shirley Sexton 9412329.

Probus

The speaker at the September meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Janet Carruzzo, whose subject was Helen and Douglas House. Janet has been working as a fundraiser for the charity. Helen House was the first children's hospice in the world. Helen and Douglas House, which is based in Oxford, provides a service for people in five counties.

The charity provides medical, emotional and practical support, helping families deal with the problems of living with a terminally ill child. It gives support to 360 families a year, providing end-of-life care for children and young adults with terminal illness. It provides a fun-filled environment for children, and also support for their families. Helen House caters for children up to the age of 16, and Douglas House for 16 to 35 year olds.

Helen House started 34 years ago when a little girl called Helen, who lived at home, required 24 hour care. Her family's experience highlighted the need for respite care and support. Helen House was set up to help families cope by providing occasional respite care, and everything was designed around easy access for wheelchair users. Helen House has seven bedrooms, and there are eight in Douglas House.

Much technology is incorporated allowing games to be played and other activities to take place. Everything in the bedrooms costs more than standard items, having to be specially designed for disabled children. Lots of therapy is provided, both on a group and an individual basis, often using music as a basis. Flats are available, allowing families to stay.

Douglas House dates from 2004, and was the world's first house for young adults. It gives them independence from their families, and specially created activities are available.

Janet showed a film depicting some of the children who have passed through Helen House.

Having a terminally ill child in the family is tough for siblings, and a siblings club has been set up where they can meet people in similar situations

The charity costs £5million per year to run. It has some support (about 13%) from the NHS, but this is decreasing in parallel with the cuts in government benefits. The remainder is raised by fund-raising. For more information visit the website www.helenanddouglas.org.uk

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 9470709.

The Caversham Heights Society

The new season began on 16th September with the annual general meeting which was opened by Hugh Nealon and at which the society's chairman, Mrs Jill Hodges, gave a full and positive resume of the previous season's lectures and activities. She noted that a number of members had left the society as a result of ill health, death, or because of moving to another part of the country but that there had been an influx of new members, though not sufficient to make up for the shortfall as yet. She pointed out that new members are always welcome and should contact Jill in the first instance either by phone on 0118 959 5307 or by email at irishjill@southcote.net. Tony Butler then presented the accounts, which showed a healthy surplus for use in times of difficulty or when new equipment was required. He also said that he would be standing down as treasurer after the next committee meeting when a new treasurer would be appointed. The existing committee members were re-elected and two new members were added to their number.

After the formal business Ed Simons, chairman of the Kenton Theatre in Henley, regaled and enthralled members with his stories of how he got into film production, some of the characters he had had to deal with and some of the strangest situations he resolved. He also told of how he became involved with the Kenton Theatre and how things had improved there over the past few years, both

physically and in artistic and production terms. Members were invited to visit and enjoy some of the performances in the new programme.

On the last day of September, a glorious late summer's day, a full coachload of members went to Bashley in the New Forest to enjoy an appetising meal – and later a cream tea – and some entertainment in an old style music hall. Reactions were mixed but on the whole the day was thoroughly enjoyed and voted a success.

Caversham Older Adults Fitclub

Lucinda Lyn-Jones, a specialist in exercise for older adults, has started the club which has sessions in the New Directions building near Waitrose in Caversham. Lucinda said "older adults need to exercise in order to be active and stay independent during retirement. During exercise improved blood flow to the brain releases the endorphins which reduce irritability and memory loss associated with old age.

Benefits of exercise include improvement in muscular strength and endurance which make every day activities more manageable. Older people are more comfortable exercising in a non-gym atmosphere and although the room used has no fancy equipment it is local and friendly". The classes for over 60s are on Tuesdays between 10am and 10.45. This class is now full, however there are places on the Friday class which starts at 10.15am, classes for the over 50s are held on Tuesday evenings at 6.15pm. Seated classes are held on Tuesdays at 11am which is full but a new class on Friday will be starting soon. If you would like to try the classes the first one is free. Contact Lucinda@coaf.co.uk. Or 0790 0906056.

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Bereaved attend Memorial Walk

Scores of bereaved people and their families and friends attended the first memorial walk organised by A.B. Walker & Son.

The walk took place at Dinton Pastures Country Park in Berkshire and was aimed at providing ongoing support for those who have been bereaved.

Melissa Walker is Head of Bereavement Care at A.B. Walker & Son which has an office in Caversham. She said: 'We know that for many people the funeral is the start of their emotional journey. We wanted to offer those who had been bereaved the chance to be with others who have lost a loved one. We are committed to supporting the community.'

The walk is just one of the events organised by the business to support those who have been bereaved.

Every year they hold an annual service of remembrance at Reading Minster of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary's Butts.

The family business has set up The Link Bereavement Care Group which has provided a bereavement course for more than 100 people who have lost loved ones.

The group was set up in partnership with the charity Cruse Bereavement Care and the programme is free of charge.

The courses, which started two years ago, were originally set up to support clients of A.B. Walker & Son. They proved so successful that the service was opened up to the wider community. Anyone in Berkshire who has been bereaved in the past year, and feels they can benefit, can apply to go on the six week course.

Melissa Walker has completed an intensive course, held by Cruse Bereavement Care, to qualify as a professional bereavement counsellor.

Other staff have volunteered and gone on a four day training course to be facilitators for The Link. They include pall bearers and funeral arrangers.

After the course the bereaved are invited to stay in touch and join a Link Up social group which meets once a month.

"People like to share their stories," said Melissa. "They can feel they are not alone, and their feelings are normal, which has resulted in close bonds forming in the groups."

In December those who have been on a Link course will be invited to go on a trip to Winchester to visit the Christmas market and Winchester Cathedral.

Anyone from Berkshire who has been bereaved in the last year and feels they would benefit from The Link Bereavement Care Group can call 9839413 or email Melissa Walker: melissa@abwalker.co.uk

Consultation on admission arrangements for Kidmore End CE School

The Governors of Kidmore End CE Primary School, a Voluntary Aided School, are consulting on proposed changes to their admissions arrangements. These changes would take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2017.

The changes are to Criteria 2 and 3 of the admissions arrangements:

2. Children with a normal address within the agreed catchment area – the civil parishes of Kidmore End and Mapledurham (see note 3) and with a sibling (see Note 4) on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school. Parents may be asked to provide proof of address e.g. recent utility bill when they complete their application.

3. Children with a normal address outside the catchment area with a sibling in the school at the time of application and expected still to be on the school roll at the time of admission and where the sibling entered the school between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2016.

The aim of these changes is to ensure that the arrangements continue to be appropriate and that they comply with all the relevant requirements, while at the same time maintaining consistency for those parents whose children were admitted under the current admission arrangements. The full admissions policy and details relating to the consultation are available on the schools website – <http://moodle.kidmore-end.co.uk>.

The consultation will run from 1st October 2015 to 1st December 2015. If you wish to comment on the proposed changes please contact Mrs Sarah Rodda at the school address or by email to office@kidmore-end.co.uk.



Pictured (l-r): Melissa Walker, A.B. Walker & Son's Head of Bereavement Care, and Yvonne Parks, a facilitator for The Link Bereavement Care Group

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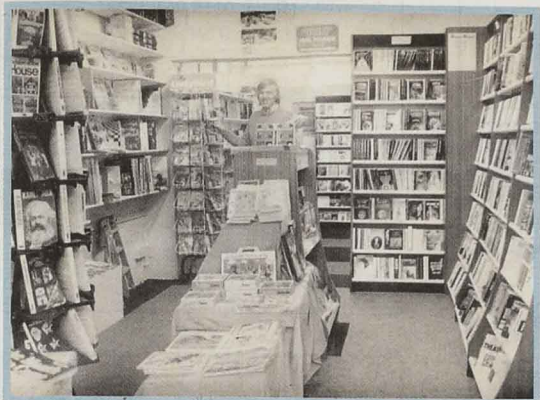
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Caversham's Bookshops – A Swan Song

John and Lindsay Mullaney

Thirty six years ago Lindsay and I opened the doors of Caversham's new bookshop. The grand opening never happened. In a manner of speaking we waited 25 years for that, as you will see.

The first question was what we should call the new business. Simple, but to the point, it was a bookshop and it was in Caversham, so we imaginatively called it Caversham Bookshop. In the middle of all this my father died unexpectedly and we had to dash off to Newcastle.



Soon the stock began to arrive, first from one publisher then another. Finally the Penguin books came along with special shelving called K units. Some of these were still in use in WordPlay. The Penguin rep, John Wraight, had measured the shop up so the units fitted perfectly into the shop's nooks and crannies. But Lindsay had to return to work. I was alone in the empty half-completed shop at 35 Prospect Street. What would happen – would anyone come? It was a warm early autumn day, the door was open. As I laid the last floor tiles in the front display window people started to arrive.

It was only then that I began to appreciate the measure of good will in the community for our new venture. Among the first to enter was Winnie Darter. She wrote a monthly column about local affairs and shops for the *Caversham Bridge*. I soon met Mary Kift who had just published her book *Life in Old Caversham*. It is still in print 36 years on and the best history of the area you will come across. Mary was a retired head-teacher, notable local historian and naturalist.

All our sales and orders were hand written and posted to the publishers. Two or three weeks later the month's supply of books would arrive. No internet, no next day deliveries! Computers were just emerging from their air-conditioned wombs.

Two events which changed our lives happened in quick succession.

First Canon John Grimwade, founder of the Bridge introduced himself. Actually he breezed into the shop and, before I realised what I had agreed to, he had enrolled me onto the 'staff' of the *Bridge*. He was planning his retirement and had a vision for the newspaper. It was to be truly ecumenical and to have editors from all the main Christian churches in Caversham. This is how I met, and became friends with, an even wider group in our community and became one of the four editors of the *Bridge*.

The second event was the closure of Golders Bookshop in Reading. They had supplied many schools in the area who, at the beginning of the new term, found themselves without a book supplier. We were inundated with requests for books. Eventually we supplied most of the schools in Reading and many further afield. It was hard work. All the ordering and invoicing had to be done by hand. When the books arrived Lindsay and I worked on into the night to

re-package the books for delivery the next day.

And so the business took off and within four years we moved to new, larger premises at 18 Prospect Street.

What a difference just those few yards made. Overnight our footfall doubled and turnover increased accordingly. It wasn't all a bed of roses. These were the days of high inflation. We found much of the profit was being taken up by the increased cost of new stock.

Never losing sight of our role in the community, we were involved in creating the first Caversham Festival. It was originally planned as a celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It was such a success that it has continued to this day, though much changed from its original format.

None of us is immortal and this was brought home when, no doubt as a result of heaving 25kg boxes around Berkshire schools, I suffered a slipped disc. Once again the community came to my aid.

It was clearly time to retire and so 11 years ago we accepted an offer for the premises, held a party for anyone who wished to come and asked the Mayor of Reading officially to close the shop. So even if we never had a grand opening we most certainly had a very grand closing ceremony.

And now eleven years on I see that our successor Word Play is ceasing to trade. Caversham once again, after 36 years, will no longer have a bookshop, a community centre where friendships have been forged. One casualty of the closure is the loss of an outlet for Mary Kift's book, *Life in Old Caversham*. When Mary died she entrusted us with its availability. We are looking for a new stockist. In the meantime we are happy to supply it post-free in the RG4



area. You can find out more about this on our website; www.scallophshellpress.co.uk.

Bookselling has changed beyond recognition. Even when we left we were fully computerised and a book ordered at closing time would be with us the next morning.

Is there a place for a community bookshop in today's world? Is the internet eliminating that personal touch? With our local libraries and museums under threat is there a solution which will preserve our cultural and community heritage?

Thirty six years ago Lindsay and I took a leap of faith. Fortune and hard work secured not just the existence of Caversham Bookshop but also, for a time, of its successor and I hope a special place in the history of Caversham.

Most of all Lindsay and I would like to offer our thanks to all who helped, to our customers, many of whom became friends, and to all those who worked with us. It was truly a community venture.

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