

FOXGLOVES

The tall spires of flowers, brilliant in colour, and their habit of growing in clumps and colonies, make the Foxglove one of the most handsome of our wild plants. Here you see a colony by the edge of a wood near Rotherfield Greys, which I photographed last year. The slight variations in colour make them particularly attractive.

In Britain we have only the one native species, but if you venture onto continental Europe, you can find several different foxgloves, including tall yellow ones. However, in Reading, you don't need to go quite as far to see other species and cultivars. The Harris Garden at Reading University has a good collection, and a few years back, on one of their open days, they had one of the glasshouses open and you could see foxglove species from around the world, many of them very curious in colour and shape.

I suppose as children we have all played with the flowers, sticking them on our fingers to make "claws," despite being warned of their poisonous qualities.

It is worth peering into the bells, to see the patterning inside and the structure. The forest of hairs on the "floor" of the tube deters small insects from entering. They would steal the pollen and nectar without doing the job of pollination – only bumble-bees are welcome. The pattern of dots shows the bees where to go for the nectar. The stamens and stigmas are against the "ceiling" of the

tube, waiting to brush against the furry back of a visiting bee. And the arrangements are even more ingenious than that: to prevent self-pollination, the stamens shed their pollen before the stigmas are receptive.

Given my long-standing interests – I studied the history of the English language at university – I can't really write about the Foxglove without saying something about its name. The "glove" part is obvious, but no-one knows why it is specifically a foxglove. On reaching down the appropriate volume of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, it becomes clear that from the beginning – from Anglo-Saxon times – the first element of the name was definitely "fox."

Nevertheless, this hasn't stopped writers from telling us that it is really the

Folk'sglove, the glove of the little folk, the good folk, or fairy folk. It is true that the plant has many different names connected with the fairies in different parts of the country – Fairy Cap, Fairy Fingers, Fairy Gloves, Fairy Thimbles, and so on – but these must all be much later names.

All this leads me on to speculate about the size of a fairy. The poet, Hartley Coleridge, son of the more famous poet S. T. Coleridge, wrote about "the fays that sweetly nestle in the foxglove bell." Surely, foxglove bells would have been a bit on the large size for the folks to use as gloves?!

Happy Wanderer



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Final Letter From Sri Lanka from Rosemary Fletcher and James Rowley

We are in the 'last of everything' phase here: the last set of exam papers to mark, the last Faculty Meeting, the last services at the Methodist Church. James has an exam paper to set and mark – a re-take in June. As Development Officer he is writing procedures and processes for a new Administrative Officer yet to be recruited.

Although we had hoped after May 19th to stop work and get around the island, James is busier than ever. We also have to pack up our house and leave it ready for whoever will live there next and we have to pack things for shipping – mostly books, clothes, and bits and pieces. We are also getting many invitations to meals with church and campus folks and we cannot fit them all in.

Apart from our lovely weather (it is rather like an ideal June all the time here!) and the wonderful wildlife and beautiful tropical flowers, what will we miss? We think it will be the contact and relationships with the students. When times have been tough here, the students have kept us going. Inevitably, we have forged the closest bonds with those who spoke English best. We will also miss the beautiful colourful saris and other costumes.

We have been to most of the island – visiting former students has often been the focus of our travels. One area that was significantly absent from places visited was the Jaffna Peninsular. It is still not easy for foreigners to get military clearance to visit and even harder to get a permit to drive your own vehicle there. However, we were able to do this in April. There were signs of destruction everywhere – bullet holes, headless statues and ruined buildings, as well as ruined lives. All the people we met had war stories and now for 11 months they have had peace for the first time for nearly 30 years. There was a general exhaustion and a real appreciation of peace – no-one we met even hinted that they might prefer to continue to fight. But freedom also brings a new set of problems. To the outsider it seems neither the Government nor the Army is addressing the issues of justice for the Tamils. Unless that happens, it will not take long for another group to rise up.

People ask us if we are looking forward to coming home, but for us home has been here for the last 5 years. We have all the feelings about leaving a place where we have been loved and have loved, as anyone does when moving. The main reason for returning is to be near Rosemary's elderly parents. Sri Lankans understand this and, in fact, they often sound surprised that Westerners care that much. One of their stereotypes is that people in the West do not care for their elderly relatives as much as they do here. We all have stereotypes about the other, and living and working in another culture challenges them. It has been an amazing 5 years we would not have missed for anything.

(Rosemary Fletcher was formerly Methodist minister in Caversham)

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Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the July 2010 issue should be sent to St Peter's Parish Office by Tuesday June 8th. The date for the August 2010 issue is Tuesday July 6th 2010.

Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the July 2010 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 4th June 2010. The date for the July 2010 issue is Friday July 2nd 2010.

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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COMMUNITY NEWS

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FOCUSES ON TRANSPORT

It has been the practice of the Emmer Green Residents' Association (EGRA) to enliven its annual general meeting by following it with a presentation on a topical subject. This year transport in and around Reading was covered in two interesting presentations. Pat Baxter, the Reading borough council's transport strategy manager, described a number of the major planning and transport issues currently before the council, with particular reference to north Reading and the new station development. The latter was explained further by Paul Newman, RailTrack's project manager, who spoke about the aims, design features and timetable for the planned redevelopment of Reading railway station; this included changes to the track system and to the relocation of depot facilities.

At the preceding AGM Mrs Margaret Ormonde, introducing her chairman's report, drew attention to the successful 25th Anniversary celebrations held at Emmer Green School last June, which was the highlight of the year, pictures of which will soon be available on the EGRA website (www.egra.co.uk/index). Among other matters the re-routing of the number 24 bus had been the topic that had generated the greatest interest and had taken most time. While representations against the original planned changes had not been successful, they resulted in some improvements being made; the issue remained under discussion. Work continued

on planning issues, footpath preservation and maintenance of seats.

In the discussion that followed matters were raised concerning tree preservation, keeping bus routes open in bad weather and the operation of the planned temporary one-way system in Kidmore End Road.

The association, which now has over 500 households in membership, re-elected the present officers and committee members, all of whom were thanked for their efforts during the past year.



Barry Prior, vice-chairman, Pat Baxter, RBC's transport strategy manager, and Margaret Ormonde, EGRA chairman.

Big Easter Eggs and Spectacles from Lions

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club collected £509 at the Easter weekend through the sale of £1 draw tickets to win 5 extra large chocolate Easter eggs. The giant eggs were put on display for tickets to be sold at various places in the area.

The Lions also raise funds for charity projects through users of the "Great Weather Lottery" and "Cottage Cakes for Charity" which are sold at Sue Ryder Care Centre sales days in Nettlebed, and at several other local events during the year.

All throughout the year local Lions members also collect unwanted spectacles which are recycled free to visually impaired people in third world countries who would not otherwise have access to spectacles. 1,300 pairs of old or unwanted spectacles were received at collection points this year including Sonning Common Health Centre, Woodcote Medical Centre and Woodcote Way Post Office, Caversham.

HENLEY LADIES BADMINTON CLUB

Henley Ladies Badminton Club is a very old established Club. The first Minutes recorded were in the year 1909 and originally it was a mixed club. The Minute Book makes fascinating reading – in 1913 the Club considered adding two gas jets at each side of the net to improve lighting. If a shuttle hit a gas mantle, it would be a point against the hitter. In 1934 a Mrs Browning volunteered that her chauffeur would paint the lines on the court and mend a hole in the wall to prevent a draught.

Over the years there have been many venues, The Town Hall, Trinity Hall, Henley Squash and Badminton Club in Friday Street and for the last 30 years, Shiplake College.

Like many clubs, we are now having difficulty in recruiting new members, so if there are any lapsed lady badminton players interested in joining a very friendly bunch on a Tuesday morning at 9.0 am, please get in touch with Joan on Reading 947 4772.

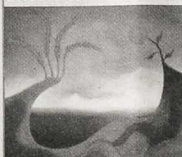
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From the Lookout Post

CADRA AGM

Members of CADRA met in the Baptist Centre for the AGM on 21 April to review action over the year and agree steps to maintain a strong and healthy organisation looking out for common interests in Caversham. Increasingly, this is best achieved through a strong informal network between the various groups and organisations north of the river and close links with councillors and council officers. As usual, the brief formal business was followed by a presentation and this time, the invitation had been to the Council's Street Care team and to the re3 partnership. Pete Thompson, RBC Street Care technical support manager and Oliver Burt, project manager, re3 recycling partnership, addressed the meeting on the topic of 'Our Rubbish, Our Streets.'

56,000 tonnes of rubbish is collected and processed in Reading every year. Oliver Burt outlined the long term private finance initiative within re3, to manage and dispose of waste for Reading, Bracknell Forest and Wokingham. This has enabled investment in facilities to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill including a complex recycling scheme and also a combined heat and power facility. Several approaches were specified in the contract so that as technological developments and market forces change within the life of the contract, different options can be employed. It also allows them to try to dispose of different materials without long distance transport. Mr Burt showed photographs of the different facilities including the sorting of recycling materials from the red bin collection. This led to questions about the waste which can be mechanically separated. For example, only plastic bottles can be processed as other plastic packaging cannot be separated out. Similarly, shredded paper should not be put loose into the red bin as it clogs the equipment, though it can be sealed inside a cardboard box.

Mr Thompson explained the role of the Street Care services for Reading which includes the collection of rubbish as well as street cleansing, public toilets and enforcing aspects of environmental law. This can include dealing with abandoned vehicles, graffiti on public property, fly posting, litter, and detritus on the streets and pavements. Problems are often tackled by the team working jointly with other council services. There is also an important link with the work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups which includes the programme of environmental visual audits – a planned structured 'walkabout'. For more information, you may like to link in with your local NAG. See uknags.org.uk.

In addition to collections, there are bottle banks across town. The bank in Caversham centre is particularly well used and there is consideration of a more frequent collection. The new Smallmead waste facility has receptacles for a wide range of recycled items, including batteries, shoes, books, textiles and oil. More recently, there are a number of more local collection points for batteries and cartons. The number to ring for information on Street Care issues, including the removal of bulky waste items is 0800 834035.

Caversham parks

It is a pleasure to see people in Caversham Court, admiring the spring flowers which have given a tremendous showing. Indeed, they look as if they have been there for years. The tea kiosk, operated by supporters of various local charities, is also enjoying good custom. The outcome of the large Caversham Court rejuvenation project, and the nurturing by head gardener, Emily, is a great asset to us in Caversham.

You may also have seen the lines of daffodils along the path through Christchurch Meadow and the wonderful wave of yellow and white around the Westfield Road park. They were an uplifting sight; do not miss them next year! However, if you are in Christchurch Playing Fields, the four refurbished tennis courts are a facility that we should be using. Dust off that old tennis racquet and get down there!

Reading station

During May, a series of public exhibitions are due to be held by Network Rail about the planned changes to the station. See www.networkrail.co.uk/reading. Over the next few years, we will see a number of road and railway closures to allow work to take place. If you have plans to travel over the Christmas and New Year period 2010/11, then check well ahead.

Triangular plot at corner of Bridge St and Church Road

This prominent site, between the dental surgery and the bank, has been an eyesore with the block wall broken, various materials dumped and a large red waste bin, from a local restaurant, permanently located there. Thanks to the efforts of Tracey Ward, the Street Care officer responsible for Caversham, the area has been tidied up. CADRA is now continuing to work, with other supportive local organizations and businessmen, to try to make it not just tolerable, but an attractive feature. This objective is complicated, due to the ownership and tenancy of the plot. All help welcome!

Volunteer community responders

The flyer in Caversham library asking individuals to volunteer to

help with this scheme has been made very relevant by a couple of incidents witnessed in the past weeks. Volunteer Community Responders are individuals trained to deal quickly and effectively with specific types of medical emergencies while the ambulance is en route. On one occasion, in the couple of minutes the writer was inside ringing for the ambulance, the Community Responder had already arrived on the scene, capably offering first aid, and gathering information to pass on to the ambulance crew. This information is shared so that everyone is aware that the fluorescent bibbed community responder, complete with large first aid kit, is likely to arrive, on the scene, within just a couple of minutes. This quick response time is dependent on having local volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, more information can be obtained from Hugh Whitaker, tel. 0800 587 0207, email cfr@scas.nhs.uk or web site www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk

Reading Minster Organ Fund

Four Thursday evening recitals, each followed by sung Compline are being held as part of the initial round of concerts in aid of the organ restoration. Do look out for more details on page 5 It looks an excellent programme.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sprig of Thyme

Reading Festival Chorus present their summer concert of English and American Folk Music on Sunday 27th June 2010 at 4.00 p.m. at Reading University Great Hall, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.

The programme includes Rutter's The Sprig of Thyme, Grainger's Folk Song Arrangement and Copland's Old American Songs. The concert is conducted by Janet Lincé and the accompanist is Jane Seymour (piano). The Concert will be followed by a picnic.

The cost of tickets is £10 (£7 concessions, Senior Citizens, Your Reading Passport holders, NUS card holders and £2 for children) and can be obtained from Alison Mackay tel 0118 962 6214 or via the website - www.readingfestivalchorus.org.uk

Reading Haydn Choir

The Haydn Choir Summer Concert will be held in Caversham at the Methodist Church, Highmoor Road on Saturday 26 June 2010. Conducted by Mandy Kessel with Ian Westley at the organ and piano, the choir will perform a wide variety of music. This will include the Cantata Domino (O sing unto the Lord a new song) by Henry Purcell, John Rutter's cycle of folk song settings 'The Sprig of Thyme', and works by Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov and Stravinsky. The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets will be available at the door, £11, £10 concessions, £5 child and £25 family.

The MillsTones Dance Band

will be playing the sounds of the Glen Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington Big Band era at St John's Church, Caversham on Saturday 19th June from 7:30 pm. Dance or just listen! Tickets are £7 from Richard Purkis, telephone 0118 9475120, or on the door. The event is held in aid of the Alzheimer Society (Singing for the Brain).

The Ted Burnell Community

This Local group, Art Centre, invite you to an Exhibition and Sale of paintings and crafts at Caversham Baptist Church on Saturday 12th June, 10am -4pm. Come and see local scenes (and many more) by local artists: light refreshments will be available. For more information please contact Kate on 0118 969 3709.

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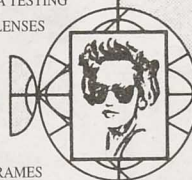
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CHURCHES

MORE STREET PASTORS COMMISSIONED



Since October, Street Pastors have been in Reading town centre helping to make the town a safer place. Street Pastors are an inter-denominational church response to urban problems, engaging with people to care, listen and talks. Until the second commissioning service in Greyfriars Church on 23

April there were 27 very committed Street Pastors patrolling the streets between 10pm and 4am in teams of six to eight every Friday night and on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. This expression of the church in action is already starting to make a difference. An impressive list of statistics in the first newsletter says that they have already chatted with over 900 people, calmed 33 aggressive situations, supported 71 vulnerable people, picked up 210 glass bottles, dealt with six first aid incidents, prevented hypothermia by handing out 15 safety blankets, protected 51 pairs of bare feet by giving away flip-flops, handed out over 88 lollipops, which help to reduce anti-social behaviour by boosting sugar levels, handed out hundreds of widgets to prevent drinks being spiked, enjoyed volunteering over 600 hours by caring, listening and helping those in need.

Reading Street Pastors are in partnership with Impact Reading, Thames Valley Police, Reading Borough Council, Safer Reading Campaign, Reading Christian Network and Churches Together in Reading, representatives of most of which took part in the commissioning service. This included an appreciation of the Street Pastors' work by town centre PC Simon Wheeler. Matt Hearn, the co-ordinator, reciprocated by expressing appreciation for the support of the partnership,

describing the development of the work. Street Pastor Di Addison gave a graphic and anecdotal account of her nights on patrol.

The Christian context of the activity of the Street Pastors was given in an address by the Bishop of Reading, who had himself been out with them on one of the coldest nights of the winter. In an exposition of the parable of the Good Samaritan he reminded us that help came from the most hated member of society in Jesus' time and, turning the parable on its head, he pointed out how we might be helped by those we might like least, thus indicating how the Street Pastors themselves might benefit from those they seek to help. He said that what the Street Pastors are doing in Reading needs to be celebrated. They are a presence for God in the town supporting an overstretched and remarkable police force.

Alison Murray, co-ordinator of the Enfield Street Pastors and a representative of the Ascension Trust, which pioneered Street Pastors in London and is also responsible for setting up Street Pastor schemes around the country, gave an affirmation from the Ascension Trust. Subsequently she and the Bishop of Reading commissioned 25 new Street Pastors who had recently completed a training course. First they were handed their uniform cap and then they joined in an act of dedication. The total of over 50 Street Pastors, aged between 18 and 76 and drawn from 22 churches in the town, will now enable the patrols to be extended to Saturday nights. On the night they patrol their work is supported by Prayer Pastors and Prayer Partners. It is also supported totally by donations and a supporters club donating £10 a month is being set up. Further information and details of volunteering opportunities may be obtained from the co-ordinator Matt Hearn (e-mail: reading@streetpastors.org.uk Tel: 0753 3325 504).



Helyn Collins

Our photograph shows the new Street Pastors about to be Commissioned by the Bishop of Reading.

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METHODIST NEWS

Olive Morgan

As this paper goes to press, we have heard of the death of the Methodist reporter for the Caversham Bridge, Olive Morgan, following a heart attack while in hospital. We hope to publish an appreciation in a forthcoming issue.

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

June 6	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Revd George Simons
	6.30pm	Colin Ferguson
June 13	10.30am	Deacon Becky Bawden
	6.30pm	Holy Communion - Revd Jenny Dowding
June 20	10.30am	Dr Tracey Darling
	6.30pm	Robin Gowers
June 27	10.30am	The Stewards
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Bawden

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

June 6	10.30am	Deacon Becky Bawden
	6.30pm	Mrs Danie Neads
June 13	10.30am	Holy Communion - Revd Jenny Dowding
	3.00pm	Pets Service - Deacon Becky Bawden
June 20	10.30am	Church Anniversary - Revd Jenny Dowding
	6.30pm	Holy Communion - Revd Jenny Dowding
June 27	10.30am	Stuart Beecham
	6.30pm	Peter Frank

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June 13	9.45am	Mrs Judith Norris
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89th READING SCOUT GROUP ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

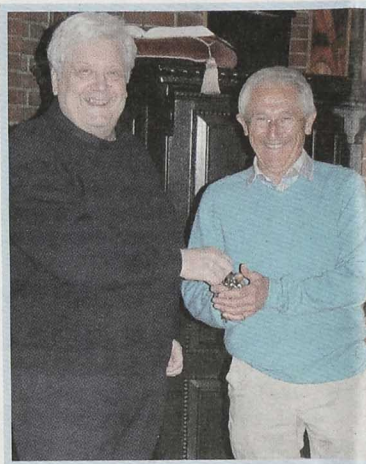
Rain did not deter members of the 89th Reading Scout Group, their friends and relatives, from turning up in large numbers for their annual St George's Day parade at a special service at St Barnabas Church in which members of all ages were active participants. Through quiz, reading and sketch nobody could have failed to leave



O. Jewiss

The 89th Reading Scout Group outside the St Barnabas Parish Centre.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH WARDEN RETIRES AFTER 19 YEARS



O. Jewiss

Mr Walter Williams, who has been Churchwarden at St Barnabas Church for the past 19 years, retired at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at the end of April. The warm thanks by the Vicar, the Revd Derek Chandler, for Walter's outstanding service were endorsed with acclamation by the meeting. He is seen on the left of our photograph handing over the keys of office to his successor Jim Dunkley. Robin Kent continues in office as the other Churchwarden.

Quiz Night at Our Lady and St Anne's

One Saturday evening in April, a battle of wits took place in St Anne's hall among about 80 people. A quiz night was organized by John Webb in which teams of six competed against each other answering questions on a variety of subjects. John was helped by his wife Helen with Michael Kennedy keeping the score and one of the few rules was that John's answer was the correct one - even if it was wrong! A marathon round consisted of black silhouette pictures of famous landmarks to be identified and this gave rise to much heated discussion while the first six rounds were taking place.

Halfway through the evening, Maureen and Peter Lennon went off to collect fish and chips. After all had eaten their fill, a raffle was drawn before the questions continued.

The scoreboard was closely watched as the final rounds were completed and the scores were updated. Was there a little bit of divine inspiration in that Father Giles' team was the overall winner?

Thanks go to all the contestants and to all the members of the social and fundraising committee who helped in any way. £250 pounds was raised for the Church Building Fund.



Jane Shaw

Winning team with John and Helen Webb.

without a thorough knowledge of our patron saint and his selfless example of rescuing someone in distress, something the Scout movement by encouraging its members to Be Prepared follows by example. Set within the service was the renewal by the Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Leaders of their promise. It is salutary to us all that such a group can stand up and say: "On My Honour, I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law". This law says that a Scout is to be trusted, is loyal, is friendly and considerate, belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts, has courage in all difficulties, makes good use of time, is careful of possessions and property and has self-respect and respect for others: a fine list of qualities which should be cherished by all those who denigrate the youth of today.

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BROWNIES GO MAD IN MARCH

In March Brownies from 5th Caversham St Peter's and 1st Emmer Green St Barnabas were lucky enough to take part in March Madness, one of the national events taking place to celebrate Girlguiding's Centenary.

Along with over 100 other Brownies from all over the south of England, they took part in an Alice In Wonderland themed weekend holiday at Foxlease, the Girlguiding UK Training Centre in Lyndhurst.

With a wide variety of activities including flamingo croquet, craft, archery, giant games, jam tart making, a treasure hunt and more, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The highlight of the weekend was a Mad Hatter's Tea party for 150 people, presided over by the Mad Hatter, the King and Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit, Alice and Tweedledum and Tweedledee, all looking fabulous in their costumes. The Brownies were wearing their party clothes and their mad hats, which they had made on Friday evening. Party games followed with St Peter's Brownies wiping the floor with the opposition during the musical statues game and winning three out of four prizes.

With a trip to the shop to spend their pocket money, chocolates and jelly sweets on tap from Brown Owl and the Toy Story dvd on the coach on the way home, it could be called a perfect Brownie weekend.



Gorgeous and golden Brownie celebration

As part of the ongoing celebrations for the Girlguiding Centenary, Brownies from Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village came together at St Anne's Church Hall in April, to take part in an afternoon of craft, games and singing.

The girls were very pleased that the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Fred Pugh and Mrs Jean Pugh came to the start of the event before dashing off to a Scout service. The Berkshire County Commissioner, Miss Sue Kidd, also joined the event during the afternoon and had a few words with the girls at the end.

The girls decorated golden boxes, masks, photo frames with jewels and compact mirrors with sequins, designed patterns on baseball hats, and made bracelets. They decorated biscuits with yellow icing and gold edible glitter, got their nails painted gold,

took part in sport challenges, quizzes, parachute games and sang gold-themed songs.

The two hours flew by and the girls went home with lots of goodies and happy smiles



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ENVIRONMENT

Spring in Caversham Court

Easter Saturday saw nearly 200 children taking part in an Easter egg trail organized by the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens. What a joy to see so many youngsters scampering around seeking answers to the quiz - despite the grey skies! Caversham Court is always popular with small children as there are so many interesting nooks and crannies to explore, and the trail introduced many new visitors to its delights. The Friends hope to make it an annual event in the gardens.

The Bishop of Oxford briefly visited Caversham Court to hear about its history and restoration on a cold wet Good Friday as he walked between St Peter's and the newly refurbished rectory.

Though we had unbroken sunshine for a fortnight in mid-April, the weather did not smile on the day of Art and Leisure in the Park on 1st April. This was staged by New Directions, Reading's service for adult learning and employment. Those brave folk who did arm themselves with warm clothes and umbrellas were able to try out some of the arts and crafts on offer at Caversham centre: sculpture, pottery, embroidery, painting, tai chi and meditation. The hot drinks from the kiosk were much appreciated! The Friends were there and took the opportunity to show interested visitors around or tell them about the history of the gardens.

Typical early May bank holiday weather made for a damp start to the Friends' launch of guided walks round the gardens, too.

Future events

6 June - First Sunday tours, 2.30 - 5.00. Volunteers from the Friends will be on hand on the first Sunday of every month to give informal guided walks or to answer questions about the gardens and the refurbishment.

23 June - New Directions are organising The Big Art Picnic with live performing arts. This outdoor event will be open to the public to watch the performances and visit the open-air art gallery among many other free activities for the whole family. Performances will play throughout the day.

4 July - First Sunday tours, 2.30 - 5.00.

4 July - Mikron Theatre: Striking the Balance . . . fighting all the way for equal pay, 19.30.

10 July - Parish fete.

What to see in Caversham Court gardens in June

• Nepeta - flowering under the yew hedge on the long walk - the blue flowers are beloved by bees. The nerines in the same bed are looking promising - they should make



Competing for Easter eggs at the Easter egg trail.

a lovely show of colour in the late summer

- Roses should be in full flower - there were none last year as a visiting deer ate all the new shoots
- Vinery bedding plants will be at least as sensational as last year's show and reminiscent of a recreational greenhouse in a wealthy Victorian household
- Purple grape vines are already growing up the trellising newly erected over the vinery.
- The last flowers on the Wisteria, which is flourishing despite the rebuilding of the wall which supports it
- Look for Acanthus in the west border and the allium in the east herbaceous border. Could the herbaceous border really be better than last year? Emily Waters, the Head Gardener, anticipates that it will be.
- The Japanese pagoda tree (Sophora Japonica) is in flower - look for it between the Magnolia and the Tea Kiosk.
- Enjoy the tea / coffee and cakes overlooking the river - the tea kiosk is open Thursdays to Sundays (and Bank Holiday Mondays) from 1pm to 6pm

Join the Friends . . .

. . . to support their work of publicising and protecting Caversham Court. Please contact Philip Darlow, Treasurer FCCG, Kalewa, The Warren, Caversham, , RG4 7TQ - Tel: 0118 947 2205 / E-mail: FriendsOfCavershamCourt@googlemail.com. Membership costs £2.00 per person to December 2010 or £5 for a 3-year membership until December 2012.

Local Conservation News

Up at Clayfield and Blackhouse spring has sprung with the bluebells appearing later this year. The volunteers work such as clearing brambles and coppicing the hazel has really paid off with more wild flowers and butterflies seen in the woods. There were two guided bluebell walks and a dawn chorus walk [well early morning walk really] but the birds were there such as wrens in the undergrowth, nut hatch halfway up the trees, thrushes at the top in the woods and white throats in the brambles and a pheasant croaking in the distance. Apparently birds sing without needing to stop to take a breath! A deer was spotted briefly like a shadow among the trees. The pear trees have blossomed and the cowslips have increased their numbers - there is always something that catches your eye or ear.

Coming up in the next few months, there will be a tree walk, possibly a butterfly walk and a fungus foray in the autumn as well as the monthly work tasks!

BTCV are planning a blackberry session up there I believe.

Up at Mapledurham playing fields, volunteers have thinned out some of the clumps, and helped the local Brownies with their annual tree planting. They are planning a bat walk this summer, and a flower survey. Any experts or lovers of flowers would be very welcome to join in.

Both volunteer groups belong to Econet, who co-ordinate conservation volunteering in and around Reading. For info www.econetreading.org.uk

Econet joined forces with Green Shoots at Caversham Court on 24th April, to raise funds for their respective organisations. Green Shoots sold herbs they had grown and Econet sold bean poles and pea sticks taken from local coppicing projects in and around Reading. Both groups did very well and are hoping to add similar events next year.



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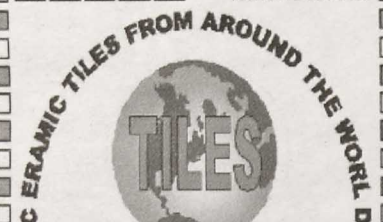
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St Peter's Wives Group

The speaker at the April meeting was Chris Goode of Two Rivers Travel, who spoke about the various guided day trips and short breaks which the company organises throughout the year. His main driver, Trevor Adams, accompanied him and many recognised him as a driver for Reading Buses. Having now retired from Reading Buses, his demeanour is rather more sunny than it used to be.....!!

The trips and short breaks are many and varied and cover areas in Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex, Devon and Kent, as well as Bruges and Boulogne. There is literally something for everyone, wherever ones interests lie, whether to admire beautiful buildings or countryside, take shopping trips or visit places of interest. Major roads are often avoided and, instead, minor roads are used to visit interesting villages and small towns, which are slightly off the usual tourist trail. More well-known destinations, such as Bath, Salisbury, Chichester, etc. are also included in the brochure and Chris showed slides to illustrate many of the places they visit. The coaches are air-conditioned, with on-board toilet facilities and complimentary hot drinks. There is always a coffee stop in the morning, sometimes at garden centres, a lunch stop and usually a cream tea in the afternoon to look forward to. The short breaks offer a full programme of entertainment each day and include half board at a reputable hotel. All in all, very enticing, and no doubt many members will be studying the brochure and booking trips this summer.

The next meeting will be at Church House on Tuesday, 15 June at 8.00pm when a member, Mrs Shirley Longstaffe, will be giving a talk entitled 'Life of a Magistrate'.

New members are always welcome.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At the April meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, Christine Brewster spoke about basket making. She mentioned the different materials she uses, willow, cane and rushes but also plastic carrier bags, which are crocheted into shopping bags; video tapes which receive the same treatment; packaging woven into baskets, electrical wiring and telephone cable either knitted or used to make coil dishes pots. She employs plaiting and weaving techniques and the 'stake and stand' method. Recycling is a passion and the results of her work and creativity are practical, beautiful and very commercial. There seems to be no material that she is unable to use in her basket making. Dorothy Colverson gave a vote of thanks. Her brother had been treasurer of the Basket Makers Association.

There is plenty to look forward to in the coming year with a varied programme of speakers, an outing to the Cotswolds and a strawberry tea, not to mention various Federation functions for the members to enjoy. New members are very welcome. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, starting at 7.30pm. The speaker for June is Nick Channer, talking about 'Waterside Walks in Berkshire'.

Rosehill WI

President Brenda Caborn welcomed a well attended meeting in April.

After the Secretary Mrs Margaret Seal had read the correspondence, Brenda gave first details of a Summer outing for a day to be spent at Denham College. The walkers had enjoyed 2 walks in March around the Woodcote area and at Collins End and Goring Heath. The Scrabble group had 2 very enjoyable meetings.

The speaker Carol Wheeler from Caversham Horticulture Society was introduced. Carol demonstrated choosing plants and planting in containers. She gave useful tips on filling containers and members went away inspired to try some of the ideas. The containers and two bouquets of flowers were donated to the raffle. Mrs Rosemary Weekes gave a vote of thanks.

Meetings are held at St Barnabas Church Hall Emmer Green on the 1st Wednesday of the month and visitors are very welcome.

Chazey WI

With trees coming into blossom and a spell of mild Spring weather, Janet Prescott's talk on Easy Maintenance Gardening was the perfect choice for Chazey WI's April birthday meeting.

Even the not-so-confident gardener could not help but be inspired, and with the help of a projector and slides she took us through examples of easy garden design, planting techniques, and a few helpful tips along the way. Her enthusiasm was infectious and the talk much appreciated by everyone.

In celebration of the birthday meeting our newly elected President, Valerie Wing, afterwards invited members to share a lovely iced birthday cake with refreshments.

Chazey WI meet on the first Tuesday of every month (7.45pm) at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

Caversham WI

Members were pleased to welcome back Mrs Jean Shepherd to their meeting, this time telling about appearing on the Alan Titchmarsh show in 2007. As it was a live programme there were rehearsals, sound checks etc before their appearance.

The appropriate competition 'my favourite tv programme' written on a postcard was won by Maggie Hill, Ann Hall was second and Freida Miles third. 'Larkrise to Candleford' proving to be one of the most popular. After tea, reminders were given of future events including the group meeting in May. A report was given on the recent Spring Council meeting held at the Hexagon. The raffle ended an enjoyable evening.

Reading and District Probus Club

Reminiscences Sans Frontiers' of Michael Welling on his work as a trade adviser, his travels to 65 countries world wide made him continually aware of the meridian of Greenwich which is recognised everywhere except for Oxford (which is five minutes behind and known as Oxford Time)! This produced the date line and Australia starting the day. Once again local time steps in: countries which are land locked (42 of them) are the most difficult to keep track of time.

His journey to the Rhone Glacier revealed that it had receded 1 mile between 1880 and 1960, verified by two stone pillars built to mark the dates. Another lighter discovery in Switzerland was their invention of the 'Swiss golf club', having a triangular 3 sided pyramid head.

Following on in a more serious vein, speech and pronunciation can be difficult in Trade Talks, particularly in the European Union. 19 nations and they speak 23 languages. Classifying goods such as ARKANSY BERINA (if that's the word) into meaning a jam doughnut!

Corruption prevails especially in developing countries. At one border crossing 'payment' was requested on both sides. It turned out that the Police are not paid wages. What they collected was theirs.

The illustrated talk ended with a tip: if you are travelling in a car in tornado country and see one approaching, if it's behind you turn left - tornados veer to the right; if it's in front of you, turn right around and go back quick! (really needed to know that!)

Need to know about Probus and you're a retired chap? Give the secretary Raymond Head a ring on 0118 941 1445 or see www.readingprobus.talktalk.net

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club is holding a demonstration by Gill McGregor entitled "Summer Sensation" on Wednesday 9th June, starting 7.30p.m., doors opening 6.45p.m. The venue is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd., Caversham, and the entrance cost is £4.50 for visitors. To support Marie Curie Cancer Care, the Club is having a cake sale with a yellow theme, and there will also be a plant and book stall. Refreshments will be available. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for demonstrations or hands-on fun with flowers, and is a very sociable evening for members and visitors alike. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400.



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The following were rung in memory of Roy T. Harris, Tower Captain and ringer at Caversham from 1961 - 2007				
Tuesday 12th October 2007				
A quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples in 43 minutes				
Ann K Osborne	1	Julie A Champion	5	
Gillian M Hopkinson	2	James M Champion	6	
Jenny M Page	3	Douglas J Beaumont	7	
Diana McClure	4	Ralph A Elmes	8	
Conducted by Douglas J Beaumont				
Rector: Rev. Canon Richard J. Kingsbury				
Saturday 16th October 2007				
A peal of 5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 2hrs 43mins				
F. John Wells	1	Alex F Byrne	5	
Jenny M Page	2	Stephen A Rossiter	6	
June D Wells	3	James M Champion	7	
Julie A Champion	4	Douglas J Beaumont	8	
First peal				
Composed by Roy T. Harris				
Conducted by Douglas J Beaumont				
Churchwardens: (Michael G Crasbie (Barbara M Kendall				

This peal board is to be hung in the Ringing chamber in memory of Roy Harris, who was a ringer at St Peters from 1961. Roy took up ringing when he left the choir at 16; his grandfather was a ringer in Sevenoaks so it was a natural progression. Within 10 years of joining the band he became Tower Captain a role he held until his death in September 2007.

The board shows the details of 2 different pieces of ringing that took place at St Peters, dedicated to Roy. The left hand side is a Quarter Peal a set piece of ringing lasting 43 minutes by members of the St Peters band who regularly ring on Sundays. The right hand side gives the details of a Peal. Also a set piece of ringing which was composed by Roy, the Method (tune) was Yorkshire a favourite of Roy's and rung by some of St Peters ringers and friends of Roy's.

The ringing chamber at St Peters also contains a number of similar peal boards dating back to the 1800's. There are also some marble ones set in the walls.



Photos courtesy Ann Osbourne



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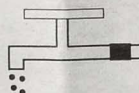
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