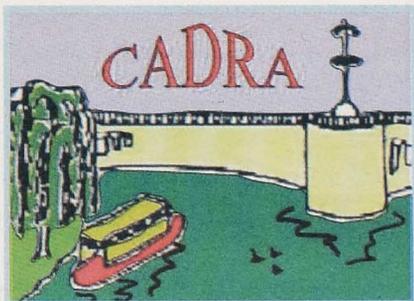


A Stronger Voice for Caversham

If you are reading this, then you, too, are probably concerned for Caversham. Here is something you can do to help!

Although many people will see the area north of the river as a distinct community, there is no obvious way of giving a voice to that community. *Caversham Bridge* provides an important platform for community as well as church news. Each ward has its own councillors but who is there to look out for all the planned changes? Who looks out for Caversham Centre and the areas that so many people care about but are no one person's problem?



This is what CADRA (the Caversham and District Residents' Association) has been trying to do for over 40 years. Although many people look to CADRA for support and information, not many actually take up membership. If an association is truly to allow Caversham people to work together for a common good, it needs a large membership. It

needs you!

CADRA cannot and should not work alone. It aims to develop a strong informal network with many other organisations, both statutory and voluntary. Not least of these are WADRA and EGRA, the local associations for The Warren and District and for Emmer Green.

When there are major community concerns, many people come together. One of CADRA's busiest periods was during the struggle for Bugs Bottom, and CADRA commissioned the village sign as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

During the implementation of the new licensing laws, CADRA supported many people in getting their concerns heard and dealt with. As part of the recent planning process, CADRA joined with other groups in working to achieve long term protection for many of the open spaces north of the Thames. CADRA checks all local licensing and planning applications. The significant planning applications are tracked each month and a summary posted on the CADRA website (www.cadra.org.uk) with a direct link to the plans on the Council website and for appeals, to the relevant page of the Planning Inspectorate website. CADRA committee

Caversham Bridge

The editors are very sorry that, because of circumstances beyond their control, the August issue of this paper inadvertently carried a repeat of page 5 in place of page 6. We apologise to advertisers for the non-appearance of their advertisements and to those correspondents whose copy was unpublished.



membership leaflet or go on line to cadra.org.uk/become_a_member.asp Leaflets are available in Caversham Library, or Word-Play and 'Delicious' in Prospect Street or by calling 947 6984. Membership is £3.00 a year for the household. If you can set up an annual payment or pay for three years, this reduces costs so that more money is available to support local issues.

Or, while you think about it, you could cut out and complete the section below and send to: CADRA Membership Secretary, 121 Upper Woodcote Road, RG4 7LB

met recently with the Lead Councillor, Head of Transport and CEO Reading Buses to discuss the plans for the new Station Interchange. Whether or not you have time to commit to this kind of issue, you can help by swelling the numbers of CADRA and other associations to increase their influence.

The CADRA membership leaflet

As a member of CADRA, you will receive regular newsletters, invitations to open meetings and occasional emails on topical issues which have included Planning, Transport Planning, Bus Services, Parks and Open Spaces and School Places in Caversham. To join, you need either to complete the section of the green

Name for contact:

Address:

RG4

Telephone:

Email address(es):

I agree to the newsletter and other correspondence on local issues being sent to my email address above.

I understand that the details above will be used only by CADRA, will be held on a computer database but will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Signature.....

Date.....

Payment options: - please tick one.

- Please send me a standing order form.
- Please send details for an electronic transfer
- Cheque enclosed for £9 for 3 years.
- Cheque enclosed for £3 for 1 year.

INSIDE

Community News	page 3	Churches	page 6 & 7
WEA	page 4	Environment	page 8 & 9
Tribute	page 4	Clubs	page 10 & 11
Miscellany.....	page 5	Guides	page 11

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.

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

Revd Alveen Thoresen, 25 Ilkley Road,
Caversham,
RG4 7BD. Tel: 946 4786

Revd Keith Knee-Robinson, 8 Hewett Close,
Caversham, RG4 7ER Tel: 947 7868

Revd Jeremy Tear, St John's Vicarage,
Caversham
Tel: 946 2884

Revd Dan Tyndall, The Rectory, 20 Church
Road, Caversham. Tel: 0118 947 9505

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Revd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road,
Caversham Park. Tel: 947 0258
Heather Wilson, 15 Northbrook Road,
Caversham Park. Tel: 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

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

Deacon Becky Lovatt, 1 Forge Close, Caversham
RG4 8BG. Tel: 948 2530

BAPTIST

Paul Rhodes. Tel: 954 5353

GRACE CHURCH (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Giles Goward, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon Mike Walker, Tel: 07786 836146
Fr Christopher Bester, 18 Peppard Road,
Sonning Common. Tel: 972 3418

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

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ST BARNABAS
St Barnabas Centre
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Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the October 2010 issue
should be sent to Caversham Thameside and
Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 7th
September. The date for the November 2010
issue is Tuesday 5th October 2010.
Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the October 2010 issue
should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor,
Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by
Friday 3rd September 2010. The date for the
November 2010 issue is **Friday 1st**
October 2010.

TALKING POINT

by

Fr Giles Goward

An event to celebrate

Later this month the Pope will be visiting our country. This is only the second time ever that the Pope has been to England; the first was when Pope John Paul II came in 1982. This time it is also a state visit: Pope Benedict XVI was invited by the Government and will, as part of his visit, meet the Queen. The fact that it is a state visit means that the taxpayer will meet part of the cost along with the Catholic Church. This has caused a certain amount of controversy, but why?

As I write this the Queen has just returned from Canada, a visit paid for by the Canadian taxpayer. The Prime Minister has just extended an invitation to the president of the United States to visit England, which we will pay for. A couple of years ago the Chinese president visited England for which I presume we paid. I wouldn't say that the Catholic Church's human rights record is perfect but it is a sight better than China's which is described as "disastrous" by Amnesty International! Paying for visits by heads of state and ensuring their security is something we do all the time and Catholics pay their taxes like everyone else. Is the furore about paying for the Pope's visit simply anti-Catholic, or anti-religious prejudice?

As part of the Pope's visit he will beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman. Beatification is the penultimate step on the path to Newman becoming a saint. This should be a cause of joy for all Christian communities in our country. Newman had an Evangelical upbringing, was a clergyman in the Church of England and died as a Catholic cardinal. He was a great academic and scholar whose writings still influence the church in our present age. He was a great aesthete; writing poems such as the Death of Gerontius and some of our best-loved hymns, Praise to the Holiest and Lead Kindly Light among them.

He was above all a faithful pastor and someone with a great love of God and His people. Newman and his fellow Oratorians were often to be found in the poorer streets and alleys of Birmingham bringing comfort and sacramental care to the sick and dying. When he died in 1890 both rich and poor alike lined the streets from Birmingham to Rednal (where he was buried) to pay tribute to such a remarkable man. Traditionalists and liberals alike are trying to claim Newman as their own, but he was bigger than such party divisions. This is an event we should all be able to celebrate and rejoice in, whatever still divides us.

Fr Giles Goward is parish priest at Our Lady and St Anne's

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

10.00am Parish Eucharist

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart
from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am Parish Communion

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

10.30am South Street
3.45pm Hymn Café (3rd Sunday)
6.00pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

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 and 6.30pm

Gosbrook Road

10.30am and 6.30pm

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

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

EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mr Alan Bradbury, Mr Philip DeVillie, Mrs Myra Emerson, Mrs Rhona Flower, Mrs Pat Williams.
c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX Tel: 947 1703. Email: office@ctmparish.org.uk

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Email: Alanwright77@aol.com

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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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Caversham CATS Autumn Art Exhibition

CAT presents new work by members of Caversham Artists Trail for one weekend only Saturday 18th September 11-6pm and Sunday 19th September 12-6pm 2010. The exhibition is housed in Mays Barn, an historic 17th century brick and flint building tucked away in the garden of 234 Peppard Road, Emmer Green RG4 8UA.

This diverse exhibition focuses on the work of ten CAT members and explores themes of the environment and our intimate connection with it. The abstract qualities of water are photographed by Joanne de Nobriga who seeks to create close connections with her environment. Poetical moments of landscape are continued through paintings of driftwood by Julie Simmonds. Charles Burns' energetic life drawings search for the 'essentially unknowable and mysterious personality' within each sitter. The search is continued by Mary Phelan who records her environment using exuberant pastel colour. Louise Spires of Kitsch-en-sync creates unique vintage pieces with eco-friendly materials using paper and textile decoupage techniques or hand-

Painted finishes.

Elsewhere traditional crafts are kept alive through the work of Gloria Pitt who hand dyes and weaves her scarves, creating unique colours and textures. Lauren Denny's slip cast ceramics explore texture and form in zen-like pieces that combine functionality with beauty. Unexpected beauty is also discovered in locally sourced wood, shaped into graceful platters, bowls and Windsor chairs by Peter Quarmby. Natural forms are shaped into the striking designs of Matthew Hitch's silver jewellery. Powerful stone sculptures, created by Roger Smalley, are reminiscent of Celtic imagery. This exciting autumn show is essential viewing.

www.cavershamartiststrail.co.uk
info@cavershamartiststrail.co.uk

Caversham Artists began in 2009 as a small group of like-minded artists wanting to exhibit their work locally. One year on and three successful exhibitions later they are continually expanding and searching for new ideas and inspiration.

DANCE SHOWCASE RAISES £4,000 FOR CHARITY

Caversham-based dancewear store, Dancia International, has presented a cheque for £4,000 to local charity consortium Reading Area Charities Together (RACT). The money was raised at this year's Reading Dance Showcase, which took place at Rivermead Leisure Complex on Sunday 6th June.

In 2009, Dancia International won a Pride of Reading Award in recognition of their work in organising the first ever Reading Dance Showcase, which raised £2,500. Jude Chapman said, "Attendance this year was up 60% on 2009, so the amount raised for RACT reflects this. We had 49 dance performances throughout the day, with 38 dance schools taking part. As you can imagine, the event required a huge amount of organisation, and we are so grateful to all the volunteers who helped to make the day such an outstanding success."

Karen Morton, Chairman of RACT, said: "This money means so much to the small Reading-based charities that come under the RACT umbrella. We are delighted to be the beneficiary of this exciting event that also shows what amazing dance talent we have here in Reading. The Showcase is a spectacular family day out, and we are all looking forward to next year's event!"

For more information, pictures and video of The Reading Dance Showcase 2010, go to www.dancia.co.uk/showcase.

Caversham Prep - Eco Week

Children at Caversham Prep have just celebrated an Eco Week. This continues their effort to gain the Green Flag Eco Award.

The Junior children were able to see the practicalities of recycling when they visited the Smallmead Waste Management Park in Reading.

Other activities included making re-usable bags, creating sock puppets and poetry writing. Each class made its own 'class friend' using recycled materials. The photograph shows them all coming together on Friday afternoon for an Eco Assembly, wearing special recycled T-shirts featuring their own designs!

Head Teacher Mrs Lawson, said "The children have learned so much about recycling and saving the planet. They have realised that small steps can make a huge difference to the way we live."

For further information please contact Jacqueline Lawson, Head Teacher, Caversham Preparatory School tel: 0118 947 8684.



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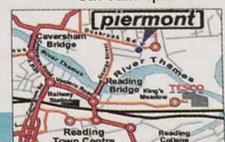
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Classes for grown ups

Limited offer? Reading perhaps the best place in the UK for day or evening classes for grown-ups

Last year, people in the Reading area who like to expand their interests and keep their brains active were panicking at the news of closure of Reading University's very popular Department of Continuing Education. The epicentre of worry was Caversham, where many people have each year chosen new subjects to explore at day and evening classes.

A group of us turned this concern into action, and now for 2010/11 people in the Reading area have perhaps the biggest choice of courses available in any large town in the UK. These are offered by three main providers.

Reading Borough's "New Directions" continue with a wide range of mainly practical courses, and have published a brochure for the autumn with nearly 40 pages of courses.

The re-born Reading WEA branch (started last year by those panicking students) concentrate on mainly academic courses, from art history to literature and music and philosophy. The branch is run by volunteer students, but employs professional tutors. We have recently completed a highly successful first year in which we ran 48 courses and day schools, and jumped from nowhere to become the biggest branch of the WEA in the South of England. Now we have published our brochure for 2010/11, which offers even more courses and day schools for the coming year (mainly in the day time). Bookings are rolling in at the time of writing (30th July) and two autumn courses are already full.

And now **Oxford University**, who started Reading University well over a hundred years ago, are back in Reading offering nearly 100 courses for 2010/11, mostly in the evening. Inevitably

their charges are much higher than the WEA's, but they offer (as I see it) some mouth-watering subjects. (Ours I hope are pretty good too.)

Now's your chance - use it or lose it. That's both your brain, and this splendid range of mind-stretching courses. In 2010/11 you can study ideas from "Does God exist?" to "A brief history of philosophy", study places from Venice and Constantinople to (would you believe it?) Reading, and study music from Mozart to Mahler to Elgar, and lots more. The more people go on courses, the more courses will be run (this year and to come).

Ask for all three brochures in your local library, or look up classes on the web:

WEA courses: www.wea.org.ukOxford courses: www.conted.ox.ac.ukNew Directions courses: www.newdirectionsreading.co.uk

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TRIBUTE**Marian Fallowfield 1923 - 2010**

Marian was a longstanding member of both CADRA and Reading Civic Society and was responsible for so many things behind the scenes. She was born in Steyning in Sussex and travelled by steam train to attend Worthing High School for girls complete with a satchel of books and her gas mask in its cardboard box.

After two happy years at Homerton Teacher Training College, Cambridge she taught first in Middlesex and then back in Worthing. In a double wedding ceremony in 1947 with her sister Rosemary, Marian married Derek and they started their married life in Kent.

Their children Michael and Val were born in London, and in 1954 the family settled in Caversham at Woodcote Way. Marian later joined the staff at Hemdean House where she taught many different subjects, including needlework. The meticulous and painstaking approach required was to characterise much of her later work. Her friends in the staff room say that she was above all, "fun" and had a very dry wit. Despite this, she could be very severe over misbehaviour in class!

It was at Hemdean House that she met Molly Casey and the two were to work together in both CADRA and Reading Civic Society. Together, they organised the Civic Society programme of visits, and worked in the successful campaign to protect the Mansion House in Prospect Park. The meticulous preparation, note-taking and timetabling for which Marian continually made herself responsible contributed much to their success.

In 1967 Marian joined the CADRA committee on which she was to serve until 2006 - just short of 40 years. She was Membership Secretary for many years, and took part in the long but sadly unsuccessful campaign to save Bugs Bottom. Meanwhile she pursued a keen interest in archaeology and was a member of SOAG, the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group, taking part in digs. When SOAG decided to undertake Parish Surveys, Marian, Mary Kift and Pat Preece were to meet every Friday morning over a period of 30 years to compile information, not just for Caversham but also many of the parishes in south west Oxfordshire.

Marian was a friend of the Museum of Reading and, over a period of seven years, worked with her friend Phyllis Trafford on the painstaking but valuable task of cataloguing all Museum exhibitions from Victorian times onwards and tracing information about the Museum from Council Minutes and local newspapers. With her self effacing support, often behind the scenes, Marian leaves an important legacy to Caversham and to Reading.

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MISCELLANY

ORCHARD OPEN DAY

Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledrham will hold its annual open day on Sunday 10th October from 10.00am to 5.00pm. At Cross Lanes we grow over fifty varieties of apples, and visitors to the open day will be able to try many of them. Sweet, juicy pears will be out for tasting too.

There are a host of other attractions. Children will enjoy the apple games and seeing the array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel? They can see how the fresh apple juice is made and sample the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, jams and jellies with local eggs and plants too.

Take the opportunity to find out about the work that goes into producing the apples by joining one of the guided walks at 11.00am or 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. Problems with pest and disease or with your pruning? Displays in the barn will answer your questions. Many surprising stories about apples will be there too.

Try your hand at the conkers. The Goring, Woodcote and District Lions will be there running the annual Conker Challenge to raise funds to support Lions charitable activities in the local community.

The farm shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open as usual. Tea and refreshments will be available all day.

Entrance and car parking are FREE. For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk

NOTE: If you miss the day, the Farm Shop is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm until the apples run out in January, or see us at Farmers' Markets in Reading, Purley, Wallingford, Henley, Abingdon and elsewhere.

Sponsored walk with Lions

The Summer having passed and with the children back at school why not enjoy a beautiful autumn walk and help in raising some funds for needy local causes?

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club are holding a sponsored walk on Sunday 12th September 2010. All money raised is principally in support of the Sue Ryder Hospice, with a proportion also going towards other local community projects supported by the Lions.

Every single penny raised from the public by Lions is used in community projects and none is taken up in administration costs.

Two walking routes have been selected. One course is approximately four miles, and the second is about three miles long. Both expected to take around one and a half hours to complete.

The start will be at Goring Lock between 11.30 am and 12.30. Both routes follow the Thames Towpath along to Ferry Cottage and then into the Hartslock Nature Reserve (incorporating the steep hill). From here you will take the Gatehampton extension road through Gatehampton Farm to Manor Road before entering Ferry Lane in Goring and finishing at the Green, where a pay-as-you-go BBQ will be available with soft drink refreshments will be available until 3.30pm. (The shorter course will bypass the hill in Hartslock Nature Reserve)

To encourage younger family members to take part, a Treasure Hunt is to be run with prizes for the 3 highest scoring participants.

Lions Club members will be available on the day to talk to you about the invaluable work they do in the community and how you can help.

Marshals will be positioned at strategic points around the course.

When registering at the Start point you will be provided with a map showing the planned routes together with a Treasure Hunt competition form.

Sponsorship forms are available at a cost of 20p (to cover costs) from all outlets displaying the Lions Sponsored Walk poster, or by contacting Paul Chandler on tel: 01189 588 541 or via-mail: fundraise@lions-gwd.org.uk

STAY-A-WHILE LUNCH CLUB

This long running lunch club for the over 65s is held every Monday at Caversham Heights Methodist Church from 11.30am to 1.30pm. A three course lunch is served followed by light entertainment or a chance to chat with new friends. The 22 bus stops outside the church and some members use the Readi-Bus service. New members would be very welcome. For more details please phone 947 9275.



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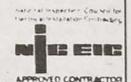
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CHURCHES

BISHOP ARRIVES BY RIVER

The bells of St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham have been re-dedicated by the Bishop of Reading.

The Right Revd Dr Stephen Cottrell rededicated the peal of six bells in front of a congregation, packed to overflowing. It was one of his final duties in the Reading Episcopal Area before he moves to become Bishop of Chelmsford. It was appropriate that Bishop Stephen should arrive in Mapledurham by boat, as the newly formed parish of Caversham, Thameside and Mapledurham has the Thames as its southern boundary. He was accompanied on the boat by sixty parishioners and friends of the parish.

The bells were taken to the world-famous bell foundry in Whitechapel in London to be refurbished as they had suffered from the elements and from continuous use over the years.

The oldest bell in St Margaret's tower was cast in 1623, when James I was still on the throne. The second oldest

was cast in 1664, shortly after the restoration of the monarchy, under Charles II. Four of the six bells were originally cast in Reading by members of the Knight family who had a business there from 1518 to 1710. This secluded parish church has had some notable vicars over the centuries. The Revd John Sumner later became Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Revd Edward Coleridge was the nephew of the poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The present Rector is the Revd Dan Tyndall, who is assisted at Mapledurham by the Revd Keith Knee-Robinson.

St Margaret's Mapledurham has been a centre of Christian worship for well over eight hundred years and the eucharist continues to be celebrated there every Sunday morning at 11.00am. The baptismal font, which lay buried in the churchyard for many years, is thought to date from the early Norman period.



WHAT A WILDLY WONDERFUL WORLD

The above title is the theme for this year's Creation Time being the period between 1 September and 4 October adopted by English Church Leaders, in 2008, as the period in the church's calendar for thinking specifically about God's creation.

In 1990 the Anglican Consultative Council added a fifth Mark of Mission to the four created in 1984, urging the church to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. All five marks were subsequently adopted by Churches Together in England. This year Creation Time has even greater significance since it comes within the United Nations Environment Programme International Year of Biodiversity, seeking to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity to both the global ecosystem and humanity.

In Caversham the environment has been the focus of One World Week on more than one occasion and several of the churches have drawn attention to the environment, either directly or through the Christian agencies of Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD. Caversham Heights Methodist Church gained the Eco-congregation Award in 2008, St Peter's aims to be carbon neutral by 2015 and St Barnabas is working towards the Eco-congregation Award. The

Churches Together in Reading Environment Group is also the Reading branch of 'Christian Ecology Link', which was founded in 1982. It is also affiliated to the Greater Reading Environmental Network. In Caversham there is one of the town's GLOBE Groups (Go Local on a Better Environment).

Further afield the Oxford Diocese has an Environment Group which, during September, under the heading "Inspired by Creation" is inviting people to enter a photograph and/or a poem/prayer that captures the place where they encounter God through creation. Nationally the Church of England has a Shrinking the Footprint campaign aiming to reduce the environmental impact of churches, church buildings and its members. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are promoting Creation Time and are making available a wealth of resources under the title "Creation flourishing: a time for celebration and care". While there are plenty of resources available and many enthusiastic groups, the extent to which we engage in a closer relationship with God through His creation may well depend on His example of taking time to rest on the seventh day and reflecting on His creation.

For further information see www.arocha.org/gb-en/resources/1257DSY.html or www.earththingfaith.org

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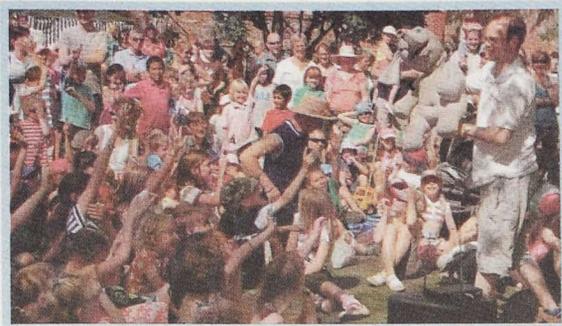
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CHURCHES

Fete brings Community Spirit to Caversham



Fred the shed

Nigel Smith

The St Peter's and St Margaret's Grand Fete took place on Saturday 10th July. This was the first time the event had taken place since the creation of the new Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish, which includes St Peter's, St Margaret's and St John's churches. Once the St Peter's church bells had been rung to welcome fete-goers, the Rector of the new parish, the Reverend Dan Tyndall, declared the fete officially open.

The Fete is an annual event sponsored by Walmsley Estate Agency and run entirely by volunteers. This year it featured traditional entertainments such as morris dancing from the Kennet Morris Men and music from the Berkshire Maestros Big Band. There were also stalls selling home-made cakes and bric-a-brac, tombola stands and various sideshows. Children's entertainment, including face-painting, crafts, hoop-la, skittles and 'Fred in the Shed' ensured it was an enjoyable afternoon for the whole family.

The recently renovated Caversham Court gardens provided a beautiful backdrop for the occasion and the brilliant sunshine combined with a cooling breeze from the river attracted a record number of people.

Nigel Smith, chairman of the fete committee, explained the importance of this event in demonstrating the pivotal role the churches play in maintaining the spirit of community in Caversham. A number of local voluntary organisations were represented, including the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, the Caversham and District Residents' Association, Caversham Good Neighbours, Reading Guide Dogs and the parish itself.

Mr Smith thanked all those who contributed to the success of the afternoon. These included members of the three churches, the St Peter's Brownie pack, the 3rd Reading Scout Group, the Rotary Club, the Round Table and Rotaract. He also thanked Reading Borough Council for the use of the gardens. The event raised over £6,000 for parish funds.

A NEW GARDEN AT ST BARNABAS

When St Barnabas Church opened its new Parish Centre last summer an uneven area overgrown with laurel bushes was left adjacent to it on the north side of the church. The original intention was to add a patio area but to keep the Parish Centre within budget this was shelved until a later date. Subsequently it became clear that with appropriate landscaping much more could be made of this area and another fundraising project was launched so that the work could be undertaken professionally. Sufficient donations were received by the spring for the work to be started in faith that the remaining monies would be raised during the summer. Landscaping work was completed by the time of the Church Garden Party in July, which this year was in support of the garden. Planting will take place in the autumn and a water feature is to be added.



Our picture shows the landscaping of the enclosed area which can be used as a quiet oasis for relaxation and reflection, an additional facility that enhances the Parish Centre.

Summer Fete at St Anne's

The annual summer fete took place at St Anne's Hall with a theme of silly hats. There were the usual stalls in the hall, including tombola, plants, cakes and groceries, books, toys and bric-a-brac. A special stall this year had a draw for five magnificent cakes to raise funds for the "Wells for India" campaign which helps villages in Rajasthan gain access to clean water. At another table, people were trying to write down, in three minutes, the longest list of words made from the letters in Our Lady of Caversham - no plurals or proper names allowed. The highest number during the afternoon was 37 words and a nine-year old found the longest single word. The summer raffle took place at the end of the afternoon.

Outside were various sideshows mainly aimed at the younger visitors, a face-painting and transfer-tattoo table. The barbecue supplied hot dogs, burgers and soft drinks, and other refreshments were available in the tea room.

As always, the purpose of the event was to raise funds for the Church Building fund and to provide a focus for parishioners to meet and socialise. Both aims were achieved with raffles and fete raising over £1600 and those attending having enjoyed a pleasant afternoon.



The plant stall

J. Shaw

Well-loved Visitor to Parish of Our Lady and St Anne

During June, Father Tom Meagher came to visit his old parish and to say Mass in celebration of his 80th birthday and the 55th anniversary of his ordination. After Mass, the congregation moved to the Cenacle for refreshments and Father Meagher was presented with a gift. He later sent his thanks to Father Giles and the parishioners for what he described as a memorable occasion.



Fr Meagher with his gift.

Corpus Christi Procession



The procession to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi took place on a perfect day on the lawns of Mapledurham House in mid June.

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CAVERSHAM COURT - WINNER!

You knew Caversham Court was special; we knew it was special and now it is official! Caversham Court has won not just a prestigious Green Flag but also a Green Heritage Site award.

The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens are delighted that the hard work of the RBC parks department staff has been recognised and especially that of the head gardener, Emily Waters and her assistants. On judging day the sight of so many people enjoying the gardens was a great plus point as far as the judges were concerned - so thank you to all of you who were able to be there.

To win a Green Flag, Caversham Court reached the benchmark standard for parks and was judged to be clean, well-run and welcoming. Methods of gardening must be environmentally sustainable and there must be community involvement. Over a thousand other parks won Green Flags including Forbury Gardens, the Linear Park at Calcot, the Abbey Gardens at Abingdon and Wallingford Castle Meadows.

Green Heritage Sites are more special as there were only 52 awards for 2010-2011. So it is a great accolade for Reading to have two: Caversham Court and Forbury Gardens. Other award-winning parks you might like to visit include the War Memorial Garden in Basingstoke and Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens. To become a Green Heritage Site a park needs to have local or national historic importance and show that this is valued, acknowledged and conserved and that people are helped to appreciate it.

To mark this great achievement RBC organised an open afternoon at Caversham Court on July 30. There were lots of activities for children and many children enjoying them. They could try out yoga and tai chi, test their knowledge of Caversham Court in a quiz, or join one of the tours of the gardens. Congratulations to young quiz winners Joseph Parkins and Joel Anning and to S. Tidbury.



The climax of this celebration was the presentation of the Green Flag. The chief executive of GreenSpace, one of the sponsors of the Green Flag scheme, presented the flag to Councillor Tom Stanway, lead councillor for culture and sport. She was joined by other councillors, the head gardener and representatives of the Friends.

September events in Caversham Court

Sunday, 5 September (and October 3), 2.30 - 5.00: First Sunday tours - Volunteers from the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will lead informal guided walks and answer questions about the gardens and the refurbishment.

Sunday, 12 September Heritage Open Day: Explore historic Caversham with local historian Joan Dils, who will be leading a walk in the afternoon, starting from Caversham Bridge and ending in Caversham Court. Booking details of this and all the other Heritage Open Days events taking place across Reading between Thursday 9 and Sunday 12 September are in the Reading Borough Council Heritage Open Days leaflets, available from libraries. Booking is essential.

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ENVIRONMENT

ROSEBAY WILLOW-HERB

Just what did happen to rosebay willow-herb? It has grown wild in Great Britain since prehistoric times, and the first printed record of it comes in John Gerard's "Herbal" of 1597, but until about 1850, it wasn't a common plant at all. The first edition of "Flowers of the Field" by the Rev. C. A. Johns, published about 1850, said that it was "not often met with in a wild state, but common in gardens".

About this time the plant was beginning to spread, and no one seems to know why: there were probably several factors at play. The fact that people grew it in gardens must have meant that there were many small patches of it up and down the country. Then there is a theory that strains of the plant brought in from abroad were more vigorous than the native strain. Then there were the railways. The years after 1840 were the years of railway expansion, so that there would have been swathes of bare earth for the seeds to take hold across the country, and the downy seeds would have been swept along in the air currents which followed speeding trains.

In a fairly short space of time, the status of the plant changed from being a rarity, which botanists made pilgrimages to see in out-of-the-way places, to that of a common weed of road verges, railway banks and waste places which gets hardly a second look from most people today.

The London blitz in the Second World War

enabled the plant to take hold on the bomb sites on a massive scale. In North America, it's known as fireweed, making one suspect that it evolved in a time and place where forest fires were commonplace. This in turn makes me wonder what the terms "native plant" and "wild plant" really mean.

It will flower into September, and then the long seed-pods take over, and split into four to reveal the seeds and the cottony material which helps them fly away in the breeze. It has been estimated that one stem will produce about 80,000 seeds in a season.

The name rosebay willow-herb looks very much like a name made-up by botanists - I can't imagine the Victorian country people who knew the plant giving it such a convoluted name. In this part of the country, they

called it flowering withy, withy being an old name for a willow.

The explanation of the "official" name is as follows. The willow-herbs are a group of plants with leaves shaped more or less like those of a willow. The bright pink flowers of the rosebay willow-herb were reminiscent of those of the oleander, the English name of which was rosebay, and rosebay must have come about because the oleander has bright pink flowers like a rose, and leaves like those of a bay tree - which are a bit like those of a willow!

Happy Wanderer



August news from Clayfield Copse

This month volunteers were cutting back the nettles and brambles along the pathways in the woods. The day was sticky and warm and mosquitoes were about, but the workers saw a dragon fly zooming up and down as well as several butterflies.

Next month's job is clearing the wild flower area which on 3rd Aug was alive with honey bees, bumble bees, hover flies, soldier beetles and skipper butterflies feasting on the purple knapweed. A good selection of flowers, replacing the wild strawberries that were there last month, were alongside the football field which volunteers planted up with the help of a local primary school some years ago.

The volunteers have received some criticism of their work. This is unusual as most passers-by say how much they appreciate what they do. Volunteers can't do everything, there are not enough of them, and they are bound by health and safety and the management plans from Reading borough. It is far too easy to whinge! Some volunteers wear tee shirts [courtesy of BBC Breathing Places project], saying "Do one thing for nature". So before people whinge, please, would they at first find out what it is volunteers are doing and why, and then get out and do something. See our website for suggestions!

Next month the wild flower areas need attention, later in the year there are four black poplars to plant, there are ash to be cleared to make glades, and the inevitable brambles to remove from the bluebell areas. Plenty to do!

On the first Sunday of the month, meet in the car park at 10am.



Caversham Horticultural Society

If you are reading this before 5th September it is not too late to enter the Autumn Show. Schedule details can be found in society's website www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk or contact the show secretary 0118 961 4561.

Repeating the information printed in the August issue, the society extends a warm welcome to everyone to visit the show which will be held at the Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road on Saturday 11th September between 1pm and 4.0pm.

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Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Mrs Jean Dyer was the speaker at the July meeting and she brought her collection of character dolls. A brief history of dolls was given, the earliest being a Mexican doll of the year 7AD found in a little girl's grave. For many centuries dolls were owned by adults. Samuel Pepys had two made in the likeness of an uncle and aunt. In Victorian times there were piano dolls, made to sit on the top of pianos as ornaments and Frozen Charlottes which had fixed arms and legs. The 20th century brought a swift development in doll production, 1920s Bed Dolls and latterly Cabbage Patch and Barbie dolls, all popular and collectable. Mrs Dyer was inspired by a talk given by a lady who makes dolls and decided to try making them herself. She uses all types of materials turning them into beautiful dolls depicting Mrs Schilling of Ascot fame, Betty Boop and many from her own imagination. Mrs Margot Sutherland gave the vote of thanks.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs Joyce Woodage for organising an excellent coach tour of the Cotswolds and Mrs Marion Cooper and her many helpers for the Ascot-themed strawberry tea celebrating T.G. Day. Still to look forward to is the 58th Birthday in October.

The chairman read an account of the annual general meeting of the National Union of Townswomen, held in Birmingham and mentioned the forthcoming federation presence at the Henley Show in September.

All four groups are flourishing and visitors are always welcomed at Guild meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm at St. Barnabas' Church Hall, Emmer Green. The next meeting is on 14th September when David Goodwin will speak about the Royal Berkshire medical Museum.

St Peter's Wives Group

Members enjoyed our meeting in June, when Mrs Shirley Longstaffe told us about her time as a magistrate. She had many amusing anecdotes to relate and was pleased to answer questions afterwards.

Our July meeting was more of an outing. We met at 'The Spring' on the Bath Road near Burghfield, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch, and then made our way to the Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead where Ken Wells, a retired police officer, was on hand to show us around. He first of all introduced us to Bill, a dive technician, who gave a very interesting talk on the work of the Underwater Search Team.

We had a short break in the canteen, with a very welcome cup of tea, and were then introduced to a young lady who looks after the police dogs, most of whom are now bred at the centre. When puppies, they are placed with puppy-walkers for some weeks and then undergo a training programme for about three months. After this they are put to work, in the case of the spaniels at the centre as sniffer dogs or, in the case of the large german shepherds, as back-up for police officers when dealing with criminals. The dogs greeted us noisily as we approached their compound and we were warned not to put our fingers anywhere near the wire netting! They soon calmed down and we were struck by the cleanliness of the area and the obvious health of the dogs.

We then made our way to the Police Museum, where there were many interesting exhibits. Ken Wells enlarged on the exhibits about two notorious cases - Amelia Dyer of Caversham, the baby-murderer, and the Hungerford murderer, Michael Ryan. All in all, a most stimulating visit.

New members are always welcome.

Rosehill WI

Members and visitors were welcomed to the July meeting by President Brenda Caborn, who after conducting the business part of the meeting with Secretary Margaret Seal, introduced the speaker Nick Channer.

Nick Channer has written a number of books about walks in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Our walking group particularly enjoy these talks. Nick took members along the River Thames following the story of Wind in The Willows.

He showed some slides of picturesque views of villages starting in Cookham and finishing at Mapledurham. All covering the story of where Ratty and Mole lived. This was a very relaxing and enjoyable talk for a very hot afternoon.

During June the walking members had enjoyed 2 walks and lunches. The scrabble groups had met also. In spite of the hot spell of weather the knitters had made some beautiful blankets and jackets for the Buscot ward at the The Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The meeting finished with a welcome cup of tea and the Raffle. Meetings are held at St Barnabas Church Hall on the first Wednesday of the Month.

Visitors are welcome.

Chazey WI

Acupuncture is one of the most popular forms of complementary medicine in the UK and there was a great deal of interest when Ruth Wood came to talk to Chazey WI at their July meeting.

With her own clinic in Reading and a wealth of experience, Ruth talked about the training she had undertaken in order to qualify as a member of the British Acupuncture Council and then went on to describe the conditions she is able to treat. We were all very interested in seeing the sample needles she handed round, and were reassured by the strict code of ethics governing how needles are used.

Following a question and answer session, Ruth was given a well deserved round of applause for a fascinating talk.

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

The speakers' title 'Fabulous Fabrics' did not really do justice to Mr & Mrs Turner's presentation. Slides of the places they visited in the Middle and Far East were shown and Mrs Turner displayed beautiful lengths of fabric and illustrated how they were used in traditional costumes. A really colourful experience and the various fabrics were available to feel.

The competition - a pretty thimble - was won by Jean Hay, second Doreen Stallwood and third Sylvia Myszor.

Caversham Community Association

This will be the last report of Caversham Community Association as it has been decided to end the group after 59 years. While feeling very sad, the few remaining members agreed it was the most sensible decision.

The last month included a sports evening, a bingo session and ended with a party with a fish and chip supper. Members have agreed to keep in touch and meet informally for meals out and social events

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**St Andrews Social Club**

The club visited Oxford in July, St Swithin's Day! Well we had wind, rain and sunshine in Oxford.

Meeting at The Ashmolean Museum, we had a short guided tour of some of the highlights of the new extension, opened in November last year. The building and the innovative displays are attractively set out on themes of Crossing Culture & Crossing Time. We then walked to Christchurch Cathedral, where we had a guided tour led by the entertaining and informative Michael Walker. A spirited discussion on the role of women in the church took place while looking at St Frideswide's window, then we were privileged to be allowed to sit and listen to the choir practice before the service of Sung Eucharist. The choir, the Cathedral Singers, are volunteers from the diocese. The service began with a hymn for St Swithin ['He was a man from Winchester' sang to a jolly Tyrolean tune]. The service, the architecture, and the music, were everything you would expect from such a place, a peaceful uplifting experience away from the busy, busy world.

This is so easy from Caversham, the bus takes you to Aldgate, a short walk to The Ashmolean which is worth many visits, [there are 6 floors and 39 galleries to see and a shop!], a stroll down to Christchurch for Evensong at 6 pm. and the bus is waiting just outside to return to Caversham!

All of the St Andrews social events are on the web site calendar page www.standrewscaversham.org.uk

The Christchurch cathedral services and other info are on www.chch.ox.ac.uk

NB cathedral time is 5 minutes later than standard time !

Reading & District Probus Club

Cricket. What a change from football. Robin Thorne gave a talk on "South AfricaN Cricket then and now". He was a cricketer from 1949 when he lived in South Africa until his final match in 1966, after which he was an all rounder at hockey, rugby and later golf.

Not being a member of an England County club, he could not play any first class cricket when he lived in England, so he returned to South Africa, playing with amateurs.

Professional cricket was introduced, playing one day matches, then two day and eventually five day matches. Runs scored per team averaged 110 runs. Why? Batsmen walked between wickets! As the game changed, bowling got faster and protection was introduced.

Cricket became high tech and the personal touch was lost as prizes, caps, cups and money took over. Spectators were charged to watch and teams became managed. Cricket families still provided continuity and what became known as 'services to cricket' and Mrs Thorne took up scoring.

Lots of facts led to an interesting discussion illuminated with personal memories of players and matches.

One night at Guide Camp

Having missed out on a Region Centenary Camp, some girls from St Peter's Brownies were lucky enough to be able

to join the 2nd Caversham Guides at camp for one night in early August. For some of the girls, this was their first experience of sleeping under canvas. The Brownies started off by putting up their own tent; a fabulous, enormous light weight hotel with sleeping compartments and lots of space to fill with their belongings. After a session of grass sledging and land boarding all the Brownies and most of the Guides had a water fight, with sponges and water bombs as the weapon of choice. Dormouse, to her relief, was in charge of the hose pipe. After a dinner of spaghetti bolognese and strawberry flan, we all went down to the camp fire circle and enjoyed camp fire singing and then melted marshmallows on sticks over the embers. After a bedtime hot drink the Brownies could not wait to go to bed so they could have their midnight feast - doughnuts, crisps, biscuits, chocolate and sweets. Their capacity to eat knows no bounds. A very late night was, of course, followed by a very early morning with the Brownies awake and talking before 6.00am. After a breakfast of cereal, egg bread, sausages and beans they began the task of attempting to get their belongings and bedding back into the bags they all came in which is never an easy task. Finally the tent was taken down and, 19 hours after they arrived, they were gone with their commemorative badges and lots of smiles. Thank you to the 2nd Caversham Guides for being such generous and kind hosts.

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

A flower demonstration entitled "The Italian Job" by Annette Urquhart is to be held by Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club on Wednesday 8th September, starting at 7.30p.m., doors opening 6.45p.m. The venue is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd., entrance fee £4.50 for visitors, who are always very welcome. A book stall and sales table will be available, and also refreshments. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and is a great source of inspiration to those who enjoy all things floral.

The Club is holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 18th September, at Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, starting 10.00a.m. Entrance 20p. This ever-popular sale is known for its excellent quality goods at amazingly low prices.

For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400

Reading Gardeners

Our Winter Programme begins with a talk on 29th September when Emily Waters, head gardener, will give a talk on 'The Restoration of Caversham Court Gardens'.

Meetings start at 7.30pm in Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road.

For the full programme please go to our website at www.readinggardenersclub.org.uk or ring our Membership Secretary, Amanda Waterman on 0118 924 2614.

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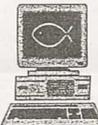
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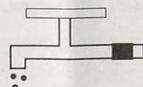
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