

PIANIST WHO WAS SAVED BY EINSTEIN

A much loved and respected local lady, Miss Ruth Ascher, died in August at the age of 96. She was a professional pianist who lived in St Anne's Road, Caversham, for many years, and taught music at both Queen Anne's School and at Reading University.

She came to England from Germany in 1933, already a promising young musician, with just one year at Heidelberg University behind her. The story of her life revealed how playing Mozart for Albert Einstein saved her from certain death in a Nazi extermination camp.

As a Jewish teenager of 19 she had left her home in the German industrial town of Mannheim to meet the physicist, a personal friend of her uncle. Einstein was living in exile in Belgium and was himself an accomplished violinist. She explained: "I had a beautiful holiday on the Belgian coast, and a tea party was organised where I played Mozart's concerto in C minor for him, and afterwards he came over and kissed me. My aunt asked if he would write some letters to influential people in England". This helped her to come here and start a new life.

While supporting herself by giving piano lessons, she met the pianist Solomon, who arranged to take her on as a pupil. She later became the first refugee student to gain a gold medal at the Guildhall School of Music. Eventually she was in a position to bring her mother over from Germany, and many of her older friends remember this lady to this day. Her father had already died, and of her two sisters, one came to live in London and later in Majorca and the other in Israel.

Soon after the war she played with Gerald Finzi at Newbury, and her career has included two appearances at the Wigmore Hall, as well as numerous other recitals.

Latterly she was a lively member of the Reading University of the Third Age (U3A), holding regular music appreciation classes in her home for many years, where she lectured and played the piano, quite often with her good friend, the eminent violinist, Maria Lidka.

On many other occasions she gave free local recitals, and in her 90's she became involved in contributing her skills to "Singing for the Brain", a venture which is proving invaluable therapy for people with diminished mental capacity.

Her active participation in the Reading Hebrew Synagogue meant very much to her. To celebrate her 90th birthday, she gave a number of cellos, trumpets and violins to the Tiberias music centre in Israel. Friends and ex-colleagues made a collection in her honour totalling £1,100 towards this gift.



Ruth Ascher at her piano. Photograph courtesy of James Watkins.

Last year she recorded a CD with the proceeds going to a musicians' charity.

Her wide circle of friends tell of the warm personal interest she showed in them, and of her essential generosity and modesty throughout such an illustrious career.

Sylvia Chumbley

Chance to study town's history

Two new opportunities have been set up by Reading WEA for people keen on studying the town's history. They are in addition to the 10-week course currently being run by popular tutor Margaret Simons.

The course at the Hamilton Centre in Bulmershe Road on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm is called A New Century 1900-1939, and covers how Reading started as a commercial hub for beer, biscuits and bulbs and then developed cinemas, theatres, department stores and leisure parks. Then came the impact of the First World War with working women in the factories and later home ownership, the Labour movement and the rise of the council house.

Margaret is backing it up with a study day next year on late Georgian and Regency Reading through the works of local 19th century writer Mary Russell Mitford. This is at RISC on Saturday May 5. Using this source and other contemporary writings, the course will attempt to establish the reality of life for all classes in Reading during that period.

Also the museums of Reading, working with the WEA, are presenting a series of museum visits and talks in a weekly course beginning on 19th January (2-4pm). It includes Reading Museum, the Museum of English Rural Life, the Berkshire Record Office, the Ure, the Cole, the Medical and the Aircraft museums.

Brochures and application forms for Reading WEA courses can be found at most local libraries or by contacting Carole Kingston on 946 4137 or WEAreading@googlegmail.com.

Caversham Bridge

Caversham Bridge is looking for someone with relevant experience to become responsible for the layout of this paper prior to the preparation of the monthly proofs. Payment (negotiable) is offered for this work. Further information can be obtained by emailing the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office (office@ctmparish.org.uk).

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Tel: 947 8450
Revd Marion Pyke
26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ Tel: 947 5834

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

BAPTIST

Paul Rhodes. Tel: 954 5355

GRACE CHURCH (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the December 2010 issue
should be sent to Caversham Thameside and
Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 2nd
November. The date for the January 2011
issue is Tuesday 23rd November 2010.
Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the December 2010
issue should be sent to Mr A Wright,
Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue,
Caversham, by **Friday** 29th October 2010.
The date for the January 2011 issue is
Friday 19th November 2010.

TALKING POINT

by

Eric Chappell

In the community then and now

I have recently seen what Canon John Grimwade, the founder of this paper, wrote in the final Caversham parish magazine before the first issue of Caversham Bridge was published in 1964. He described how, at the time of the first issue of the parish magazine in 1884, Caversham was a small but growing Oxfordshire village becoming a suburb of Reading. Church services had begun in Emmer Green; the church was responsible for the local schools and was generally at the centre of community life. As Caversham grew over the years the local authority took over the schools and secular organisations came into being so that the church lost a lot of its influence in the community.

While the Anglican Church has remained the largest Christian community, by 1900 Roman Catholic and Free Churches had become established. By 1964 the ecumenical movement was growing and local congregations were coming together to share differing activities. It was in this setting that Caversham Bridge was established to fulfil one of John Grimwade's visions, that of producing a publication to speak on behalf of the whole of the Christian community in Caversham in a form that would appeal to those outside the church. His dream was that through the paper the church would again be at the forefront of the community as it had been in the nineteenth century.

He was proud the Roman Catholic Church was taking part in something that was unusual in the 1960s. He emphasised that the whole church community was blessed with happy relations between all the congregations and that in them a number of able and enthusiastic people, who had the time and ability, could make the venture possible.

The paper remained under his guidance from the beginning until he retired. At that time he set up a board of editors drawn from the three strands of the Christian community to assume responsibility after his departure. It is in this form that the paper continues to be edited and published.

As editors of a paper seeking to be a bridge between the Christian community and the community beyond we are conscious that a bridge is a two-way affair. We seek to share church news and views with the rest of the community and bring to church people news of what is happening elsewhere in Caversham. It is our aim to further the breaking down of walls that separate communities so that we all are aware of what is taking place. We are gratified that so much of the news we publish covers a lot of what goes on in and around Caversham. As we seek to be inclusive we are proud that people from across the entire community undertake work on our paper. In this way we see that today the church is taking its part at the centre of the community.

Eric Chappell is a member of the editorial board.

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)
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

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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WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

This year marks many anniversaries - not least the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the 70th anniversary of Dunkirk and the 65th anniversary of VE & VJ Days. While memories dim of these distant conflicts and those who were actually there diminish in number, we and future generations must not forget how much we owe those who defended our freedom and our Country.

We have the freedom they fought for but we must also remember all the bloody conflicts since the end of the Second World War and especially remember those now serving, and their families who are affected by fighting for that same freedom.

During the whole of the 20th and 21st century to date, there has only been one day when a British service person has not died or been injured in some conflict somewhere in the world - a very sobering thought and one that brings home the need for support and comfort for all those affected by war.

As the years pass and science moves on, more and more people are being saved from death from many of the conflicts, but their injuries are so severe they are surviving to face a life with many



more profound difficulties than any other generation. They, and their families, need help more than ever before.

The Royal British Legion, formed in 1921, strives to help all the service people and their dependents who call on them for assistance. The Legion in Caversham collected just under £38,000 for the Poppy Appeal last year - every penny (no expenses- no deductions) went to the central pot that provides the finance for all the help given - wheelchairs, financial support, welfare breaks, computers etc. The Legion tries to provide help for ex-service personnel and their families when it's needed.

The Poppy Appeal organiser

for Caversham, Pauline Palmer, says 'Without the support of the people of Caversham who, over the years have been so generous with their help and donations, Caversham could not have collected all this money. I am hoping that this year will again be a record year and anyone who wants to help please give me a ring on 0118 947 5345. Please help us to help them' - thanks.'

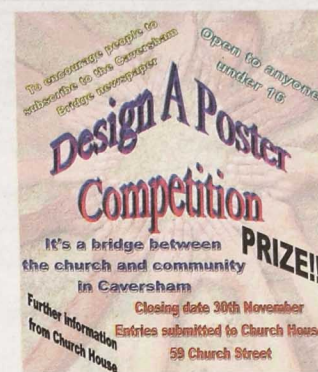
WE WILL, WE MUST, REMEMBER THEM.

CAVERSHAM ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE 2010.

Thursday November 11th (11.11.11) at 11 o'clock. Standards from various service organisations will be lowered outside the working men's club, near to the library, a prayer and two minutes silence will be observed. (Caversham usually comes to a complete halt for this - traffic, tills, everything).

Sunday 14th November. Parade and service at Caversham's war memorial (off Promenade Road by the river in Christchurch Meadows).

The parade, of various organisations, will assemble in Westfield Park at 10.25am and march to the Memorial for the Service. Over 600 attended last year.



Will your design bridge the gap?

Do you have an eye for graphic design and are under 16? If so why not enter a competition being launched by the board of Caversham Bridge?

The poster will be part of a campaign to encourage more people to read the newspaper and make use of it as a means of communication within the community.

See Talking Point opposite to find out how the newspaper was set up to form a bridge between the churches in the area and the people who live here.

The paper is read in several thousand homes in the area but many people, particularly newcomers, do not know of its existence.

To kick off the competition we asked Caversham Rangers to design this poster announcing the competition. It also helps by showing what can be done.

There will be a prize for the winning design.

If you want to enter contact Church House, 56 Church Street, Caversham, tel 947 1703 or email office@ctmparish.org.uk.

The closing date is 30th November and we hope to announce the winner in the December issue of Caversham Bridge.

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Ex Libris

RESURREXI

It was very touching to hear several concerned comments about the lack of an *Ex Libris* last time round. In fact my colleagues from CADRA, who write *From the Lookout Post*, had asked if I was happy to forego a month so that we could include a special piece in the Bridge. As it was summer and I was going to be away, it was quite a relief. Anyway, I have risen from temporary obscurity to write once again.

PANEM ET CIRCENSES

Juvenal satirically wrote how the citizens of Rome, instead of discussing and voting on how best to promote their ideal state, were more concerned with self-gratification through festivals and freebies.

Whatever our criticisms of the new government I don't think they can be accused of bribing us with the promises of good times ahead. And yet I do sense an air of scepticism. The two words *bankers* and *politicians* do not immediately call forth, from the depths of our beings, feelings of trust and good will. For this reason alone we now expect the highest standards of probity from them both.

It was therefore with some surprise over the summer that I followed the deepening bitterness of the exchanges between our local politicians over the question of free Reading Festival tickets. I have previously raised this issue in this column. To my chagrin (do any politicians read this community paper?), I received no comments. Perhaps my language was so well measured and so moderate that it gave no offence.

However the thought that festivals and freebies are still on the political agenda, after 2000 years, is an interesting one. In these times of austerity, of council redundancies and of general belt-tightening, many might wonder if defending the £22,000 or so (two tickets each to approximately 40 councillors, at £275 a ticket, if they were all to be taken up) of free Reading Festival tickets available to councillors is quite the message that we expect to read about. To put it bluntly when freebies of *bread and festivals* go to the people then, as the ancient Roman politicians understood, you can probably get away with it, but when bankers and politicians reward themselves, it becomes a little difficult for the rest of us to accept.

I am going to make a suggestion. These tickets are apparently available without harming the financial security of the event. My proposal is that our new Council initiates a lottery or lucky dip where those residents of Reading, who so wish, can put their names forward and 80 or so lucky people will enjoy these tickets which for so many years have gone to councillors, their friends and families.

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

This quote from Acts continues my theme of thanksgiving and generosity through these hard times. All around us there are examples of people giving of their skills and time as volunteers in so many areas of our life.

It was reassuring to read that our very own Royal Berks Hospital was named as top of the national listings for heart attack care. A recent report showed that within 90 minutes of arrival 94% of patients received the primary angioplasty procedure.

Of course this is due to the professional staff of the RBH. But we should also thank the hundreds of volunteers who back up the professionals within the hospital. These are ordinary people who weekly, even daily, give up their free time to work around the hospital, directing and welcoming people as they arrive, visiting patients on the wards, providing refreshments, comforting the bereaved. No festival, no freebies for them, just generous, selfless giving!

NEWMAN AND LINDSAY

The Pope's visit was controversial. The Pope is controversial. However, whatever the differences in faith and custom between Christians, during the visit his message was one of reconciliation and cooperation between people of faith. The *Caversham Bridge* newspaper has been a living witness to this true spirit of Christianity across Caversham for several decades.

One man who bridged the gap between Christian traditions that were often hostile to one another was John Henry Newman. A 19th century Anglican theologian, who became a Catholic, he continued to uphold the radical tradition of independent thinking that characterises the Anglican and Protestant churches. This remained true even after he became a cardinal in the Catholic Church. The beatification of Newman is a cause of celebration for all Christians in our land and a public recognition of a great Englishman. So how is it that I have the audacity to put Lindsay alongside this great man?

Apart from giving me what I hope is a striking heading, it is fitting that Lindsay's quiz in 2010 should have a connection with Newman.

THE NEWMAN HOLIDAY TRUST

Established in 1981, the trust began by running a one week summer holiday for children with special needs. The trust now provides holidays for over 120 disabled children aged 5-16 each year, in various locations around the UK. One of these locations is based at the Oratory School, Woodcote. For detailed information visit their website www.newmantrust.org

I have to express a personal interest. My elder son first went as a volunteer to help at one of the holidays over 15 years ago. He now edits the newsletter, works on the committee and goes to help out on the holidays.

But as ever money is needed. Each of the five holidays costs in the region of £10,000. It is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are from

various sectors of the health service, including practising nurses.

TIME FOR THE NEW MAN

This year Lindsay thought it appropriate to choose this charity to be the beneficiary of her quiz. Many of you are familiar with Lindsay's Quiz. For any new readers or new comers to Caversham, Lindsay has been running an annual quiz for over 25 years. The quizzes have raised over £11,000 and have been strongly supported by the community, most especially by the local churches.

As ever the quiz is a cryptic word puzzle and you have until the end of January 2011 to complete it. The clues and answers are based on the words Time, New and Man.

This year, and for the first time, the quiz has well and truly entered into a new age. It will be available on-line as well from the usual outlets. On-line you will be asked to make a minimum contribution of £3, hard copies will cost £2. The extra on-line cost is to cover the admin charges incurred from the 'giving site'. The basic cost is to cover printing and to give the charity an initial income. We really would like to receive far more than this and encourage all who have bought a quiz to return it, hopefully with an extra donation. Apart from the fun of it, its raison d'être, is to raise money for a worthwhile cause. So remember the injunction in Acts that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'

For more information visit -
www.lindsaysquiz.co.uk

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TRIBUTE

Marjorie Burnside 1908-2010

Canon John Grimwade, former Rector of Caversham, writes: My earliest recollection of Marjorie Burnside, who died aged 102 in September, was the gift of a white starched tablecloth and a beautiful leg of lamb as we moved into the Rectory in September 1962.

It was the first of so many examples of hospitality shown by her and Cyril, then churchwarden, to so many people, not least the curates of the parish over many years.

She was born in 1908 in the home above her father George Aldridge's leather shop in Friar Street Reading, opposite Greyfriars Church, which the Aldridges regularly attended. Her early years were spent there.

When she was about five, the Aldridges moved to Matlock Road in Caversham and Marjorie went to Hemdean House School and later to the Abbey. Her first job on leaving school was at Huntley and Palmers.

She met Cyril at a tennis club and they were married in 1934; their connection to St Peter's dates from



then. Among other things, Marjorie was a member and in due course, enrolling member of the Mothers' Union.

They lived for many years in Albert Road and regularly had holidays in the Lake District with their St Peter's friends, Keith and Mollie Brow who lived opposite them.

Cyril was manager of the main branch of Barclays Bank in Reading and was an outstanding and caring churchwarden and also for many years parish treasurer. They later moved to Ilkley Road and Marjorie remained there

for several years with her son Michael after Cyril's death. Eventually she had a granny flat in the house of her other son, David, at Whitchurch Hill before finally going into a residential care home.

She had many friends in Caversham and her death is the last link with an earlier generation of St Peter's congregation.

Her funeral was at St Peter's on Friday October 15th. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Girlguiding centenary update

Readers may have noticed that the Brownies and Guides in Caversham have managed a lot of coverage in the last year. We very much wanted to share with you our activities throughout our centenary year. It kicked off back in September 2009 with a big launch party and, by the time you read this, we will be drawing breath after our Centenary Finale - which all culminated at 20:10, 20/10, 2010.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the board of the Caversham Bridge, who gave us a very generous donation towards the cost of our Finale event. We think that it was well spent -

and it has helped us to create a very memorable - and indeed once in a lifetime - event for the girls, their families and their leaders.

Throughout the year we have been fortunate to have had the support of our volunteer leaders, who have put so much hard work into all the events. We have done our best to share the wide range of activities with the readers of the Caversham Bridge, as examples of how we fit into the community.

We've celebrated 100 years of Girlguiding, and are looking forward to the next 100.



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Impressions of the Pope's visit to England

After being received by the Queen and celebrating Mass before crowds in Glasgow, his Holiness Pope Benedict came to the south of England to continue his visit to Great Britain. Parishioners from Our Lady and St Anne's parish were involved in three of the events over the next three days.

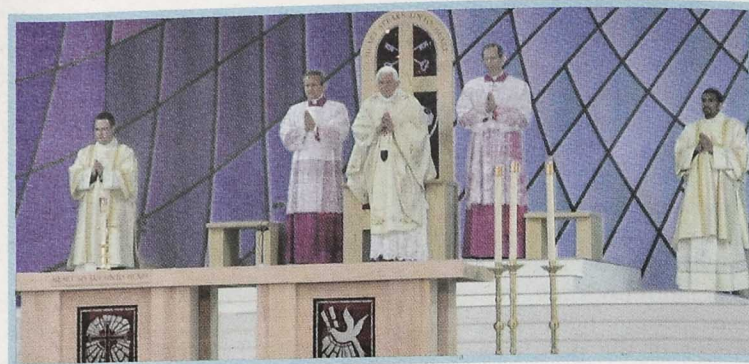
On Friday, the Pope presided over a Big Assembly with several thousand schoolchildren at St Mary's University College, Twickenham, and with many more watching in schools throughout the country via a live feed. The children of St Anne's school watched with parents and friends on their classroom white boards. Julia Feeney was responsible for getting 25 schoolchildren from the Reading area to the assembly.

The Pope first visited the chapel where he spoke to the gathered priests and religious and gave a mosaic picture of Our Lady to the college. He then drove in his Popemobile, amid rapturous applause, to an outdoor stage.

The theme of the assembly was taken from St John's gospel, "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full", and was based on four aspects of Catholic education - faith, sport, friendship and community. Presentations were made to illustrate each of these aspects and gifts were presented to the Pope.

The assembly also included the Inauguration of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport. Finally, the Holy Father addressed the children, in English, exhorting them to live their lives to the full according to their Catholic principles.

On Saturday, a group led by Paddy and Paula Thompson went to the prayer vigil in Hyde Park. Before the Pope arrived there was an afternoon of prayer and singing interspersed with lay people telling us about their lives. The vigil itself was marked by respect, silence and contemplation which made a strong and appropriate contrast to the glorious singing which had preceded



Picture: Sally Murray

The Pope at the Beatification Mass - Birmingham.

the Pope's arrival. When, however, the Pope said, "The peace of the Lord be with you", the sentence took on new meaning as 80,000 people replied "And also with you". Peace was felt by all. With the sun setting and banners waving there was a real festive atmosphere.

The climax of the papal visit was the Mass, on Sunday, of the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman at Cofton Park, Birmingham.

Three coach loads left from Our Lady and St Anne's Church at about two in the morning, one coach filled with the South Oxfordshire deanery regional choir. This choir, trained by Patty Naxton (choir mistress at St Anne's), was part of the 2000-strong choir which had been preparing the music for this occasion since early May.

It was cold and wet at 5 am and the rain continued his Holiness processed out to start Mass, when a single shaft of sun broke through the cloud, bathing the area in golden light.

The Beatification itself was a surprisingly short rite, consisting of a request by the Archbishop of Birmingham that Cardinal Newman be

from now on considered 'Blessed', and the Pope responding by saying that henceforth he would indeed be invoked as Blessed and that his Feast Day would be October 9th, the date (in 1845) on which he was received into the Catholic Church. This was followed by some of Newman's relics being brought in procession to Pope Benedict for him to venerate, after which the Mass continued as normal.

The Pope's homily was mainly about Newman and his legacy, both as a theologian and a loving and caring pastor to his people, but he also paid tribute to this country and its stand against Nazism, and the courage of all, particularly those who suffered during the Coventry blitz, so near to where the celebration was taking place.

The music chosen for the occasion had been a mix; the new Mass setting by James Macmillan which had been specially commissioned, some of Newman's hymns and other music ancient and modern, all of which, with the huge choir, sounded fantastic.

Contributions by Patty Naxton and Paddy Thompson.

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CHURCHES

Bishop blesses new classroom

In September, Bishop Kenney came to St Anne's School to bless the new infants' classroom. This is a purpose built room with all facilities including disabled access and infant size toilets. A wet morning meant that Mass could not be said outside as had been hoped so all the children and staff were joined in church by parents, parishioners and those of the governors who could make it. Pupils took part in the Mass, helping with the readings and the bidding prayers. At the offertory, representatives of each year carried

examples of their work to the Bishop.

After Mass, Bishop Kenney, Father Giles, altar servers, Mrs Nash and Year 6 representatives went to the new classroom. Here the reception class was waiting and the Bishop blessed the classroom and all those in it. He said a few words to the children and, before departing, left photographs of the Pope which His Holiness had given to him for the children the previous weekend. Back at the Cenacle, the Parents Association supplied refreshments.



Bishop Kenney talking to the children.

Picture: Jane Shaw

NOTABLE FIRST FOR READING CHURCH

Interest in and a concern for the environment is growing among Reading churches. In 2008 Caversham Heights Methodist became the first church in the town to gain the Eco-congregation Award. The Anglicans followed last year when St John and St Stephen's Church also gained the award.

Nearly 18 months ago the environment group of Churches Together in Reading, which is also the Reading section of Christian Ecology Link, floated the idea of a prominent church in the town setting an example by allowing its south facing roof to be used for the solar panels to generate renewable energy. This caught the

imagination of Park United Reformed Church, of which several Caversham residents are members, and an ambitious proposal was formulated to install not only the panels on the roof but also to reduce its carbon footprint further by installing a wood-pellet boiler.

The church prepared a detailed plan, gained the approval of the United Reformed Church Wessex Synod, together with the offer of a loan and grant funding up to £25,000, and in July submitted an application for a grant to the community sustainable energy programme. In late September the Revd Robert Weston, the minister, heard that the Church had been awarded a

'conditional offer' of a grant of almost £40,000. The church is now looking to raise a further £15,000 for this flagship project. Further details may be found on the website (www.parkurc.org.uk).

One of the marks of mission of a Christian, which were agreed nationally by the church leaders in 1990, is to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. This bold initiative by a church to reduce its carbon footprint is a practical demonstration of this and a contribution to the Government target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

Services for All Souls

The Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham will be hosting two special All Souls services in early November. All Souls is a Christian tradition dating back hundreds of years in which the Church remembers the lives of those who have died.

At both services, there will be an opportunity to remember the departed by name and by lighting a candle for them. The parish will be inviting the next of kin of those whose funeral services the clergy have taken in the past 18 months, as well as inviting others, to this special act of remembrance. The services will take place at St John the Baptist Church on Gosbrook Road, on Thursday 4th November at 10 a.m. and at St Peter's Church, St Peter's Hill (next to Caversham Court) on Sunday 7th November at 6.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The parish community priest, Rev. Jeremy Tear said: "As our thoughts naturally turn towards remembrance in November, so these services offer those who have lost loved ones the opportunity to do that in the company of others in church. All are very welcome, no matter how long ago their loved one died."



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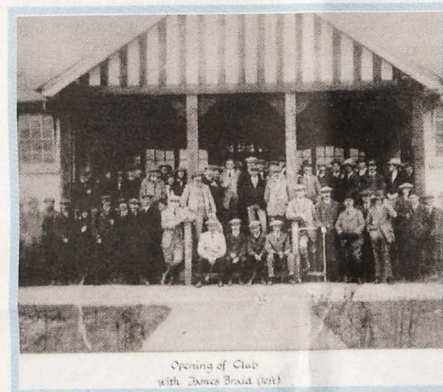
Reading golf club is having a busy year celebrating its centenary with a varied programme of events enjoyed by members, visitors and guests.

The club was founded in 1910 as South Oxfordshire golf club and in 1940 adopted the present title. The opening ceremony was a grand affair attended by local dignitaries including the MP and was extensively reported in local newspapers.

The course and clubhouse have changed a great deal over the past 100 years and there has been a large amount of housing development around it. However, it still retains an aura of peaceful tranquility as it is almost free of traffic noise and is acknowledged to be one of the most beautiful courses in the area.

The changes made have resulted in a course recognised as a true test of golf; this together with a warm and friendly atmosphere have made it very popular and, despite the recent increases in the number of local courses, it has retained a full and active membership.

This year matches have been played against other clubs also celebrating centenaries and there have been competitions for which special medals have been struck.



Flashback to the opening of the club in 1910

Lions walk helps hospice

A sponsored walk organised by Goring and Woodcote Lions in September raised almost £350 in support of the Sue Ryder Hospice, with a number of participants coming from far away places. An additional boost to the funds raised was made possible by donations being gift aided.

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

The weather on the day was perfect for such a beautiful scenic walk which started at Goring lock and went through the Hartslock nature reserve, finishing in Ferry Lane, Goring. Here walkers and quite a few passers by enjoyed a barbecue provided by the Lions.

Two walking routes were selected, one approximately five miles, and the second about four miles long. A treasure hunt was run for younger walkers. Certificates were presented to all who took part and prizes awarded for the three highest scoring walkers.

The club wish to thank all those who helped to make the walk such an enjoyable event, in particular Richard Donald from Costco for providing barbecue food. Commenting on the success of this inaugural walk, acting Lions president Jon Solman said: "It was such an enjoyable event that we have already decided to organise another around this time next year".

A book, available to members, has been written by the club's archivist, Mike Tierney. A firework display and party has been arranged for a date in November as close as possible to the actual anniversary.

The highlight of the year was a gala ball and dinner in July in a gigantic marquee erected on the practice fairway attended by 350 members and guests. The club was honoured by the presence of the captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and other dignitaries from the world of golf. The evening was unanimously acknowledged to have been the highlight, not just of the centenary year, but of all the years of the club's existence.

The year's festivities will close with the taking down of the centenary flag by the captain at midnight on 31st December exactly one year after it was raised by his predecessor, thus bringing to an end a memorable year in the history of Reading Golf Club.

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ENVIRONMENT

AMAZING FUNGI

The appearance of fungi never ceases to intrigue and delight. It seems that every year brings something that I hadn't noticed before.

The present damp autumn seems to have brought the fruiting bodies up in greater numbers than usual, and as I sit writing this on a warm and wet Sunday evening at the beginning of October, I have already dined off St George's mushrooms, shaggy parasols, oyster mushrooms, wood mushrooms, and the odd giant puff-ball this year.

The subject of this month's photograph is something you can't eat. Its consistency is something like cork, so you'd have considerable difficulty sinking your teeth into it. The books say that it's common, but I hadn't noticed it before,



until last winter, when I happened to sit down by an old oak table outside a country pub not a thousand miles from here. I was taking off my boots, before going inside for lunch.

I happened to grasp the table when getting up, and felt something strange under the table top. It wasn't something disgusting, as I at first feared, but one of those bracket fungi, hiding away there. After lunch, by dint of lying on my back under the table, I attempted to photograph the fungus, but found I couldn't get a decent shot. What the other customers at the pub must have thought, I hesitate to imagine!

So I broke a piece off, had a good look at it, took it home, and then plonked it on the grass plot that passes as a lawn and took this picture.

A look in the literature confirmed that this was *daedalea quercina*. It is quercina because it grows on oak, and the Latin for an oak tree is quercus. The first name comes from Daedalus, who in Greek legend, among many other exploits, built the labyrinth in which King Minos of Crete kept the fearsome monster, the Minotaur.

Minos had conquered the Athenians, and demanded that every nine years, seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls be sent to him to be sacrificed to the monster. Theseus took the place of one of the youths, and on Crete he met Ariadne, the daughter of the tyrant. She gave him the ball of thread, to enable him to find his way out of the labyrinth, on his return

with the minotaur's severed head.

I vaguely remember the rather bloodthirsty story because, at the age of nine or ten, I was given a copy of "The Heroes" by Charles Kingsley to read at school. I can still remember having to ask the teacher what a bosom was – the place Theseus was told to hide his dagger. Now, thanks to the wonders of the Internet, I have been able to refresh my memory, before committing myself to paper.

The English name of this fungus is much more down-to-earth than the botanical Latin, and just as apt – it's the oak mazegill – except that the maze-like grooves aren't technically gills at all. The spores in this kind of fungus are produced in vertical tubes, down which they fall when they are released.

Happy Wanderer

Caversham Court

This autumn a volunteer group from Boehringer, the Bracknell chemical company, a gazebo, a van load of trees and a tractor descended on Mapledurham playing fields to plant an orchard. The 56 trees were donated by Boehringer, mostly apples of several varieties but also cherries, plums and pears.

There is currently a national campaign to protect existing orchards and to establish new ones, led by the National Trust and Natural England, because of the loss of traditional orchards, primarily to housing developments. Orchards are a particularly important habitat for native birds and insects.

The trees have been planted on a six metre grid, and will be managed traditionally, with wildflower-rich long grass below the trees. Any worries about maintenance of the trees and grass have been overcome with commitment from volunteers from Caversham Court and the Friends of Mapledurham who, along with a majority of local residents



Volunteers planting trees.

have welcomed this planting.

So that the orchard is accessible and can be enjoyed, there will be wild flowers sown around it and close-mown walkways through it.

A rather uninteresting part of the fields will be transformed for wild life and visitors. In spring we [and the bees] will enjoy the blossom and in September/October next year we and the wild life could be enjoying the fruit that is grown there.

The fruit will be for everyone to help themselves.



Poplars planted at the copse

The October volunteer task was to plant four black poplar trees in Clayfield Copse. The trees about a metre tall, were donated by John Notton. The volunteers, including three students from Reading University, braved the rain and mud, and cleared the ground and dug the holes in the Clayfield dip, near Green Lane, where the trees should have plenty of water. The black poplar is fairly common in Buckinghamshire but rarer elsewhere. There are other poplars on site but these are a welcome addition to the woods' diversity.

Further work in the winter will include clearing some of the excessive ash sapling, thus widening pathways and creating glades for wild flowers. Much of the wood taken will be used for local hedge laying projects, including work at the Wolf Conservation Trust at Beenham. Also time will be spent in the next months on bramble clearance so that the bluebells will be seen at their best in the spring.

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Caversham Heights Society

The Caversham Heights Society meets twice monthly on Wednesday evenings from September to April in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist Church for talks on a wide range of subjects. We also arrange occasional visits to theatres and places of interest together with a 'mini-holiday' usually in May. The talks, 14 in number and mostly illustrated, are given by invited speakers.

The first talk of our 36th season on 15 September was given by Lt-Col Dan Bradbury and entitled *The British Military in Afghanistan*. Colonel Bradbury painted a graphic picture of the perils our young men face and the severe conditions in which they live and operate, much of the time in searing heat. Fortunately they are now adequately equipped though their personal equipment is extremely heavy. Many of us have mixed feelings about the wisdom of our involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq but that should not detract from our support for the servicemen and women who put their lives at risk at the behest of our political leaders.

The illustrated talk on 29 September was given by John Brearley and was on *Medieval Craftsmanship*. The speaker described the evolution of craftsmanship, particularly in wood and stone, over that period; it was amazing how such a high standard of workmanship, unsurpassed in modern times, could have been achieved with such primitive tools. John is an accomplished craftsman in wood himself and showed some fine examples of his own work.

The subject at our meeting on 3 November is astronomy and on 17 November we will hear about the history of Huntley and Palmers.

A forthcoming coach trip to London on 16 November will visit the Olympic village followed by the musical *Jersey Boys* at the Prince Edward Theatre, returning by way of the London Christmas Lights. There are sometimes spare seats for these trips which non-members are able to book.

Further information about the society, including membership details, can be found on our website at www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk or by telephoning the secretary, Beldon Bensley, on 0118 934 5004.

St Peter's Wives Group

At the September meeting Peter Smith brought along his wonderful scaled-down models of the royal coaches, which are housed in the Royal Mews. They are all hand-made and hand-painted and are meticulous down to the smallest detail. He creates them from measurements and photographs taken at the Royal Mews.

The models included the state landau of 1838, an open coach with a folding hood and drop-down steps, Prince Philip's park drag, a large black coach used for shooting parties, where the guests sit, rather precariously, atop the coach, and the Scottish state coach, which is a road coach with postilion. All the models are beautifully made and this one was especially so, with its silk and glove leather upholstery.

There was also the Queen Alexandra state coach, the original of which is used for the State Opening of Parliament, the 1902 state landau and the Irish state coach.

Peter also has other coaches in his collection and has won many gold cups in international competitions.

The group's next meeting at Church House will be on Tuesday, 16 November, which will be the AGM. This will be followed by a talk by Mrs Jean Pugh on her year as mayoress.

New members are always welcome.

Caversham Horticultural Society

The final talk by Chris Bucke for the society is entitled '*Alpines in the Wild and in the Garden*'. The event also includes the Christmas social get together to which non members are welcome. This will

take place at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road, on Wednesday 8 December starting at 7.45 pm.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

David Goodwin was the speaker at the September meeting. Mr Goodwin was a surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, retiring in 1988. The Medical Museum opened at the hospital using half of the old laundry in 2001. It received a lottery grant of £44,000, was renovated by a professional designer and has six permanent staff and volunteers. It opened to the public in 1988.

Members were treated to a history of surgery, details of early operations and shown various early items of equipment used. At first the RBH only performed gall bladder and stomach operations plus "cutting stones" and amputations. Samuel Pepys and Judge Jeffries were two who survived the "cutting stones" operation.

A recording of Florence Nightingale was heard and also the sound of a bugler who played at the battle of Balaclava.

Mrs Edwina Child gave a vote of thanks.

Mrs Ann Davies was presented with flowers and thanks for her hard work and hospitality in running the annual garden party. It was a cold, wet day, but the event was well supported and enjoyed and raised over £300.

In November we welcome Angela Spencer-Harper to speak on '*Dipping into the Wells*'. The guild meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Emmer Green, visitors and new members always welcome.

Reading & District Probus

Laugh and the world laughs with you was the title of a talk by Ray Jelliff (a club member) when he told of his work as an illustrator and cartoonist. It started when, as a young lad, he scribbled on walls, tables and other things at school, a talent diverted when he was appointed as artist for the school sports. Later on he signed on at Reading Art School to learn architecture and found he was in the art class (figure drawing) quite an eye opener for a 16 year old in those days.

Called up into the RAF, he was posted to a bomb dump somewhere near Salisbury and later transferred to the Army and found himself working with Americans and Russians! His talents resulted in a transfer to the Education Corps and a course at Perija university. The result...sergeant's stripes!

Forty years on he realised that advertising was a young man's game, so with three other like minded chaps, they formed their own company, fortunately, commissioned by Standard & Charter Bank working on commercial contract accounts, one of which was Haigs whiskey and other top names.

Now retired he still "talks better with a pen in his hand" as he illustrated with spontaneous cartoons in front of us and having members guess the characters.

Caversham Globe

Readers may know of Caversham Globe (Go Local On a Better Environment) a small community-based group doing rubbish clearance, graffiti removal, planting trees and hedges. GLOBE also makes representations to the council on issues such as Christchurch and Kings Meadows and planning matters.

On Thursday 4 November at 7.30pm at Church House, Caversham, there will be a chance to hear about how the Earley Environment Group works and their differing challenges. Their initiatives have won awards and may stimulate others to do likewise.

Interested in improving your surroundings and feel like being more involved? Just come along, free entry.

Contact Richard Denney on 07768 958407 or see www.cavershamglobe.org.uk

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EVENTS AND CLUBS

NEW TAKE ON CAROLS

As so often before, the **South Chiltern Choral Society** Christmas concerts will offer a wonderful variety of seasonal music, both very new and traditional. The centrepiece of the programme will be *The Manchester Carols*, a sequence of Christmas carols, written in 2007 by the poet laureate, **Carol Ann Duffy**, and the composer, **Sasha Johnson Manning**. The sequence re-tells the Christmas story for the 21st century and adds to and extends the canon, the carols being inter-linked through a narrator, Graham Phillips.

The choir, conducted by Gwyn Arch, will be accompanied by Ian Westley (piano) and a group of woodwind instrumentalists. The Society has again invited Caversham primary school choir to join them and they will contribute extensively to the main work.

There will, of course, be the usual opportunity to join in singing traditional carols and, as always, there will be a charity collection.

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear the first performance in Southern England of this fresh and melodic new work and, as has been the choir's custom over very many years, the concerts will take place on the week-end immediately before Christmas, thus heralding the festive season.

The concerts will be held on Saturday 18th December 2010 at 7.30pm and Sunday 19th December 2010 at 2.30pm at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common

Tickets costing £10 adults (including interval refreshments) or £5 under 18s (Children under 5 free), can be obtained from the SCCS Box Office: Heather Clark 01491 575727

Further information is available on the choir website: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk.

LANGTREE SINFONIA

The Autumn concert of the Langtree Sinfonia will be held in St Mary's Church, Wallingford on Saturday, November 13th, at 7.00pm.

The evening starts with Dvorak's *Czech Suite*, a sequence of characteristic Czech dances in the brightest orchestral colours. The second item will be Vaughan-Williams's evergreen *The Lark Ascending* with Sharon Warnes as soloist. This will be followed by *On Mighty Pens*, an aria from Haydn's *The Creation*, sung by Betany Cox

The evening will be rounded off with Schubert's exhilarating 2nd Symphony, in B flat. Paul Cox conducts.

Tickets will be available at the door. They can be purchased in advance from 0118 941549 or from *Inspiration* The Arcade, Goring. Adults £7.50; patrons £6.50; students £3.50.

FLOWER CLUB'S NEW VENUE

The Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club has a new venue for its annual open evening. On Wednesday 10th November, at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common, Johathan Moseley will give a demonstration entitled *The Night before Christmas*, starting at 7.15p.m. Jonathan is a

renowned national demonstrator and teacher, and his designs are inspirational. To allow time to view the Christmas sales table and have some festive cheer, the doors will open at 6.15p.m. Admission £10.00 to include refreshments.

The next day, Thursday 11th November, Jonathan will hold a day school with a Christmas theme at St. Michael's Church Hall, Peppard Rd, Sonning Common, from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Tickets £20.00.

For information on any of the above, contact Sara Steward on 9473006 or Berna Macdonald on 9477400.

TITUS THE UNSUNG HERO

The Open Bible Trust, for which Michael Penny, the new chairman of Churches Together in Reading, is administrator and edits its magazine Search, is holding a conference on Titus from 2.30 to 6.30 pm on Saturday 20 November to which there is an open invitation. There is no fee and refreshments will be provided. The venue is St Stephen's Church Centre, Upper Basildon RG8 8LS.

Titus is an unsung hero of the New Testament. He was Paul's trouble-shooter. A group of four speakers: Sylvia Penny (Reading), William Henry (Glasgow), Andrew Marple (Aberdeen) and Cliff Richmond (Nottingham) will be there to inform.

Further information may be obtained from Michael Penny, tel on 01491 671357 or e-mail: michael@pennymfamily.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB

A free Christmas craft club for adults starts at Langtree on Wednesday 10th November, 10.00am to 3.00pm

This will run for six weeks (up to Christmas)

Although it's free provisional booking is required as space is limited.

For more details contact: Zoe Wigginton 01491 680514 Ext: 227

CAVERSHAM BRITISH LEGION

This year has been especially busy for the branch - in fact so busy it has missed the deadline for printing on more than one occasion!

The monthly suppers and socials are still proving very popular. There has been a coach trip or some event nearly every month of the year - mostly over or at least, fully subscribed.

As 2010 marks so many anniversaries - 70th Dunkirk, 70th Battle of Britain, 65 VE & VJ Days - the Legion marked the occasion in September with a cruise on the Devon Belle one of the original little ships that helped at Dunkirk in 1940.

Tim Deaton, from Thames Rivercruise, gave the branch support and even took control of the boat.

The Poppy Appeal is now the main concern of the branch and anyone who would like to help with the appeal or become a member of the branch please just give either Ron on 9481147 or Pauline on (9475345) a ring.

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