

Caversham Bridge

No 723

www.cavershambridge.org

May 2025

New sources of inspiration

by Elestr Lee

AS SPRING GETS into its stride, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate – and certainly, there will be plenty of chances to find inspiration in the incredible range of locally produced arts and crafts which can be viewed this month, and into the summer.

Caversham Arts Trail will be back this May, and, as usual, nearly all the venues will be open on two weekends, 10-11 May and 17-18 May. This year there are many new artists to discover, including Ron Moody, Vibha Kapur, Nic Read and Carolyn Carter. Jewellery makers Grant Forsyth and Lisa O'Brien, who join the trail for the first time; Sally Castle will be exhibiting her linoprints and lettering. Artist Yuliya Martynova, originally from Kazakstan, who moved to Caversham during lockdown, will be opening her studio to show her extraordinary work.

Queen Anne's School in the Henley Road will be welcoming visitors to the trail, the first time a local school has taken part in the trail. The school's art department will open its doors from 13:30-17:00 on 10 May, and from 11:00-17:00 on 11 May – this

venue is part of the trail for the first weekend only. Four artists will be exhibiting at the school; artists Julie Simmonds, Tasha Arkell, blacksmith Billy Goodworth and newcomer Rhiane Szmidt, who will be showing her ceramics. There will also be an activity for visitors in the school's new Print Room.

Meanwhile, Caversham Picture Framers is also making its first foray as a venue as part of the trail; local artists will be found exhibiting in their newly opened Print Club space. And of course, many old friends will be opening their studios as usual, such as Nina O'Connell, whose beautiful painting *Celandine Walk* is pictured right.

'Trail' fans can get their art fix even earlier in the month, as Henley Arts Trail is taking place during the Bank Holiday weekend, from 3-5 May. Artists from Caversham/Emmer Green can be spotted at some of the 30+ venues in the Henley area and, as we move into June, will also be busy taking part in this year's Whiteknights Open Studios. This event is marking its 25th year and will be featuring 48 artists showing their work in and around the University area.

Caversham Arts Trail Map: see pages 10-11
Creative Caversham: see page 9



Celandine Walk by Nina O'Connell

**How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour**
Isaac Watts (1715)

by Phil Chatfield

photo La Toya Atkinson

The Busy Month of May

THERE IS a lot going on in and around our area this month! As the weather warms up you don't need to go far to find a variety of events and activities over the next few weeks.

The Caversham Arts Trail marks its 15th anniversary this year and continues to evolve, with both well established artists and those who are new to the trail (see above and p10-11). We also have the return of the Fourbears Fest, with its intense programme of literary events over three days for adults and children (p16). For those who wish to explore the wider Reading area actively, the Reading Walking Festival is on from 10 to 18 May with around 50 walks planned (p16).

This year marks 80 years since the end of the war in Europe – VE Day – on 8 May 1945, and we have a reflection on war poetry from Roslyn Weaver this month (p14). The desire to remember those who died in the Great War was behind the construction of the Lady Chapel at St Peter's Church (p4).

Fitness and wellbeing feature in several articles this month. In addition to our regular contribution from Ami Roy, who considers disagreements (p19), we have a contribution

from Katy Reay with recent information about keeping active (p15). The benefits of bowls for physical and mental health are emphasised in articles from two local clubs (p2 and 8), and Rob Bowen of AW Cycles is our Community Connection this month, with his passion for two wheeled activities (p5).

Our *Kind Community* subject this month is midwife Katie Bettle, who works with new mums and their babies at the Weller Centre (p2). On the same page is this month's *Talking Point*, from Rev David Jenkins, who considers 'Majorities' (p2), and has also just published a new book of daily prayers (p3). There is plenty more inside, with contributions from all of our regular writers.

We do hope you enjoy this May edition of the Caversham Bridge.

You can contact us by email at editors@cavershambridge.org or by post, c/o Church House, Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX with your contributions.

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Majorities



Talking Point

by Revd
David Jenkins

WHEN YOU are part of a majority, it can feel comfortable, but it has its dangers – of complacency and distorted viewpoints.

For example, I'm white, as are most people in Caversham. It would be easy to think that whiteness is the norm. It would also be easy to take a few more steps and start feeling that there is something superior about being white, and the kind of mindset which justified the slave trade and apartheid could creep in.

I am male, and it is still very much a man's world; in most places men continue to have the lion's share of power and privilege. It could be easy to see that as the norm and even to take further steps to think that there's something right about that. It could be easy to forget the appalling way girls and women are treated by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

I'm Christian, and Christianity is still the leading religion in the world. It would be easy to think that we Christians have all the truth, until I see friends I am making through Reading Interfaith Group – Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs. Is my devotion to the Living God stronger than theirs? I don't believe so.

I'm also heterosexual, and we are definitely in the majority. When I first hear a female neighbour speak of her wife it surprises me, but is her love for her wife any less than my love

for my wife? I have male friends whose life-long commitment to one another is of a depth and quality that is not lacking in comparison to my own marriage.

There is an ideology being pushed by the US President and his cronies. It favours white supremacy, male aggression (including support for the Tate brothers), Christianity (Trump and Putin both purport to be Christian, though their ways are light years away from the values of Jesus), and heterosexuality: diversity and inclusiveness become swear words in their vocabulary.

The majority don't always get it right. It was on a majority vote that Jesus of Nazareth was condemned to death.

With Trump, Putin and their ilk, we are faced with the cosy club of land-grabbing, bullying and corrupt world leaders, and it becomes very important to stand alongside the people of Canada, Greenland, Ukraine and elsewhere, as 'a coalition of the willing'.

It becomes very important to examine our own background and biases.

There's nothing wrong in being white, male, Christian and heterosexual. It's the way I'm made, and my faith is a conviction I hold; but I need to be aware of potential dangers that come with being in a majority – and you might too.

Revd David Jenkins is a member of the Methodist Team Ministry



Katie Bettle outside The Weller Centre

Our *Kind* Community

text and photo Caroline Gratrix

Katie Bettle: A Midwife Bringing Community Support to Caversham



KATIE BETTLE HAS devoted her career to supporting new families, both as a midwife at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and through her voluntary work in the local community. After qualifying in London in 2006, she trained under the Sure Start programme, which provided vital support to families navigating early parenthood. When the government discontinued Sure Start and Katie relocated to Caversham in 2014, she felt compelled to continue offering guidance and care in her new community, at the Weller Centre.

Determined to bring back elements of the programme, Katie launched a weekly baby massage class, held every Wednesday from 12:15 to 13:00. Open to up to 12 mothers, the classes are free, with voluntary donations going to the Weller Centre. In addition to baby massage, she offers advice on feeding and general infant

care, and directs parents to Health Visitors for development-related queries.

Beyond her work with new mothers, Katie's community service also involves running the Weller Centre's community café for two hours each week, creating a welcoming space for parents to connect and support one another.

The spirit of giving extends further, with local businesses like M&S and Gails Bakery donating surplus food to the Weller Centre Food Bank, helping families in need while reducing waste. Katie's commitment to child development also shines through her role as a Cub leader, where she continues to nurture young minds.

"There are a lot of people who hold up the community – it's the magic of Caversham," Katie says. Her passion and dedication serve as a reminder of how one person's kindness can make a lasting impact.

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A Hidden Gem

by Myra Fowler

TUCKED AWAY in the corner of Albert Road Park in Caversham is a little gem of a club you might not know about. It offers social activities, a bar and the most important of all, a chance to take part in a fun and rewarding game – lawn bowls.

Many people think this is a game for the older generation, but did you know that you can walk up to three miles in an afternoon playing bowls? But maybe it's not just the physical activity which is the most important part of this club, it's also the improvement to your mental health, offering a chance to meet new people and to join in the social aspects.

Having a club house with an affordable bar allows us to run social events, from quiz nights to watching the football. It's all included in your membership costs,



The Green

photo C Adams

which are very affordable, at only £70 a year for new full members for the first year and trial sessions are free. If you don't fancy playing, Social Membership is available for only £10 a year. Even the equipment costs are low, with bowls provided if you don't want to buy your own, so all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes.

Fancy coming along for a go? We have open sessions on Friday evenings from 18:00, just turn up or let us know you are coming by dropping a message to Gary on 07740 731502.

Club website www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/p/Caversham-Bowls-Club-100091450692625/?locale=bn_IN

Six Reasons To Play Bowls (British Heart Foundation)

www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/activity/bowls

Prayers for everyday

ALL TIMES

Prayers for everyday
By David Jenkins



by Pam Gumbrell

LOCAL MINISTER, David Jenkins, is a regular contributor to our Talking Point feature (see opposite page). He has recently published a book of prayers called All Times, described as 'Prayers for everyday'.

The book has three sections, with prayers for morning, afternoon and evening, basic prayers of praise, confession, thanksgiving, etc, which can be used each day, and then 31 prayers, one for each day of the month, accompanied by a word picture parable of the Kingdom of God. Each page is illustrated with one of David's own photos.

David originally started to write the prayers for his own use during lockdown and last year thought they might be useful for others. With the encouragement of a member of Emmanuel Methodist Church on the Oxford Road he added photos and parables and then received help in the editing and layout of the book from church members in Oakley.

The book is self-published and costs £5. It is available through most local churches and throughout the Methodist churches in the local circuit.

One in three hundred

by Fred Smith

SOCIAL MEDIA was full of questions about the queue in Caversham on Saturday 12 April. There was a simple answer! Pop Classics was one of three hundred independent record shops in the UK taking part in Record Store Day 2025. This celebration of the world of vinyl records started in 2007 and has become an annual fixture. Musicians from around the world support the day with special, limited edition, releases of their music on vinyl. Around 400 special pressings were produced by acts which included Adam Ant, English Teacher, Oasis and Elton John.

The terms for participating stores prevent them

from reserving records for their customers, so the only way to obtain them was in person. The first fan started queuing at 22:00 on Friday and, by 7:00 on Saturday morning, there were more than 100 people in the queue. This grew to around 200 by opening time, stretching from the precinct towards the Esso garage. It was a cold night, but at least it was dry. Spill Bar opened early to provide refreshments. Fans came from a wide area, with visitors remarking on what a pleasant place Caversham is and enjoying the live music instore. Owners Damian and Martina were delighted and sold out of many of the special records, including the Oasis release of all their singles on a set of four coloured vinyl records.



Queuing for Record Store Day

photo M Aparc



From the chair

by Phil Chatfield

Renewing subscriptions

£7 for 2025-6

THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE is written, produced and delivered by a team of more than 100 volunteers, who freely give their time to support this community endeavour. The costs of designing and printing the paper, along with overheads such as insurance and accountancy, are covered by both advertising and the annual subscriptions. We are particularly grateful to our regular advertisers, many of whom have been with us for more than 20 years. Please do support them and make sure you tell them you found their details in the paper!

Renewing subscriptions - £7 for 2025-6

All subscriptions were due on 1 March this year. At the time of writing, about two thirds have been renewed, with a significant proportion paid by bank transfer. We would like to thank all who have already paid and to remind those who have yet to pay of our bank details.

For direct bank transfer our bank account details are:

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Some payments which did not contain address details have been received, meaning we have been unable to allocate them to the subscriber.

If your name is S and S Smith, please do contact us at subscriptions@cavershambridge.org as we have an unallocated payment with this name!

You can still pay your deliverer by cash or cheque or by post to **Church House, Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX.**

Given the paper has been published for more than 60 years now, I am always surprised when talking to people in our area to discover how many have never seen the Caversham Bridge. Word of mouth recommendation is by far the best introduction to the paper, so please do tell your friends and neighbours about the paper. We can always arrange to deliver a complimentary copy – email subscriptions@cavershambridge.org.

Can you help?

Do you have any experience in writing, editing or proofreading?

Would you be able to help with deliveries once a month?

We are looking for some new volunteers who could help in the production and with the delivery of the paper in the Emmer Green area. If you think you could help and would like to become involved in this community activity, please contact chair@cavershambridge.org to find out more.

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Centenary of St Peter's Lady Chapel



The Lady Chapel at St Peter's, Caversham

text and photo Francis Sarjent

THE SCALE OF First World War casualties had a profound psychological effect upon local communities throughout Britain. After the armistice came a push to commemorate the names of local combatants killed in this war. So many public war memorials, inscribed with these names, were erected in towns and villages. However, in the case of St Peter's, this was manifested by extending the church with the construction of a Lady Chapel. The chapel would include a wooden glass cabinet containing the Caversham Roll of Honour names. The 1939-1945 war Roll of Honour has been added to this cabinet.

The idea for a memorial chapel occurred immediately after the war. However, as a vicar's 1919 parish letter makes clear, 'I am reluctantly come to the conclusion I am not justified in going any further with the scheme of a memorial chapel to our Caversham heroes [at a cost of £2500]' as he had not received sufficient support to justify starting upon such an expenditure. As an alternative, a tall churchyard memorial was suggested. No progress occurred until January 1923. Following a church bequest, other donations were sought and a subscription appeal set up. The rector was asked to invite the ecclesiastical

architect, Ninian Comper, to visit and to advise for the chapel scheme, which included extending the chancel and sanctuary at the east end of the building.

Work commenced in June 1924 and was expected to be completed for November. This included moving the original chancel's 13th century east stone window, with 19th century stained glass, to form the new Lady Chapel east window. Inclement weather delayed building, so the November completion target was not met. The planned dedication service by the Bishop of Oxford was postponed until Shrove Tuesday, 24 February 1925.

Various chapel fittings were donated by members of the congregation. The Haslem sisters, whose family had been generous benefactors to the parish, donated the wood panelling behind the altar as a memorial to their father, Dryland Haslam, a former church warden, and their brother, Captain James Haslam, who was killed in the war.

The centenary was marked at the February service nearest in date to the original dedication. Our main celebration will be on the afternoon of Sunday 18 May. Anyone with a past or present link with St Peter's is invited to join us for a short service, followed by a cream tea. No charge for the tea for Friends of St Peters members, £5 for non-members.

Details will be found on the parish website www.ctmparish.org.uk

CAFOD Walk

by Evie Porter

On Saturday 8 March, Catholic parishes across Reading got together for the fifth annual Big Lent Walk in support of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), the international development charity of the Catholic Church.

CAFOD WORKS with Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular partners in troubled parts of the world like Gaza, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The charity helps families to meet basic needs, and fights poverty and injustice wherever it is found, helping anyone regardless of faith, gender and ethnicity.

The Big Lent Walk commenced with reflection, prayer and song at Our Lady and St Anne's Church in Caversham, before beginning the trek to the first checkpoint, which was the Camino mural on Friar Street. The route continued to the Hospitium at St Lawrence Churchyard, to St James' Church and the Abbey Ruins, through the Oracle and along the canal. At each spot we learned a little of the history of pilgrims of the Middle Ages as we followed a route trodden by centuries of pilgrims in a section now known

as the *Camino Inglés*, which makes its way to Southampton and eventually to Santiago de Compostela in Northwest Spain. We listened to messages of hope, prayers for Creation, and some inspiring words from St Teresa of Calcutta and the Holy Father Pope Francis.

...bathed in sunshine...

Our own pilgrimage brought together a diverse group from three-month-old baby Sofia to the 81-year-old legend, Maria, who championed the walk with her zimmer and a beautiful smile. These two were accompanied by so many others. We walked 650km in total and raised £4,076 for CAFOD. The walkers were bathed in beautiful sunshine, as we passed through the stunning countryside alongside the Kennet to the final destination of The Cunning Man in Burghfield.

With so many groups from around Reading joining as one force, the Big Lent Walk was an inspiring celebration of what a change we can make when we all come together, and it was so wonderful to see our Christian faith in action. In the words of St Teresa of Calcutta, 'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.'



The Camino mural, Friar Street, Reading

photo A Bepari

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love...



Outside St James's Church

photo A Bepari

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For your bookshelf...

by Alex Forbes

Welcome to 'Fourbears Reviews' where we briefly review a couple of titles chosen from our book shop Fourbears Books in Caversham on Prospect Street. May sees the return of Fourbears Fest, our celebration of literature of all kinds. For details see page 16.

I'M GOING to be cheeky and try and fit three books in this month. The first is a Non-Fiction title. *Wintering* by Katherine May is a beautiful, gentle exploration of the dark season of life and the light of spring that eventually follows. Katherine thoughtfully shows us how to come through these times with the wisdom of knowing that, like the seasons, our winters and summers are the ebb and flow of life. A moving personal narrative, interwoven with lessons from literature, mythology and the natural world.

My children's choice is one of my favourite Picture Books at the moment. *A Dress with Pockets* is an entertaining rhyming story of an aunt who takes Lucy to buy a new dress. The shopkeeper shows her all sorts of dresses, but all are 'Not Quite Right'. When the shopkeeper is aghast, Lucy explains that she just wants a dress with pockets, going on to explain all the cool things a little girl can store in her pockets when out exploring. A lovely book, celebrating little girls doing whatever they want to do. My two-year-old loves it, and dressed up as Lucy for *World Book Day*, with a little toy mouse sewn into her dress pocket.

I also want to mention briefly *Shades of Grey* by Jasper Fforde. I have tried hard for years to get Jasper to come to the shop, so I'm delighted he is coming as part of *Fourbears Fest*. I can't really summarise this book, perfect for fans of Douglas Adams, but hundreds of years in the future, after the Something that Happened, the world is an alarmingly different place. Life is lived according to The Rulebook and social hierarchy is determined by your perception of colour. We follow Eddie, who is an above average Red who wants to marry up, until he meets a lowly Grey and it's love at first sight. I can't wait to get into Jasper's mind about this book!

Do check out the events page on our website. We have Linwood Barclay coming on Monday 9 June. This bestselling author from the USA doesn't come over often, so we are delighted to have secured him. Don't miss out on Fourbears Fest 16-18 May (details page 16).

Happy reading, whatever book you are enjoying at the moment.

www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk



Nothing grey about the Bear!

photo A Forbes



Community Connections

This month Sarah Stuffins speaks to Rob Bowen of AW Cycles



Rob Bowen

photo S Stuffins

ROB BOWEN is a force of nature, and it would be impossible not to be swept along by his passions – for the outdoors in general and for bikes and all things cycling in particular.

He grew up on a farm in Mapledurham and still describes being out in the local woods as his happy place. He now owns AW Cycles in the row of shops on Henley Road at the top of Donkin Hill. He first started working there in 2005 as a Saturday boy and, over the years, undertook most jobs in the shop. When the old owner wanted to give up in 2016, he leapt at the chance to take over the business. Nine years later, he sees the shop as a community hub, sharing his passion to get people back onto bikes and giving them the opportunity to come in and learn how to do their own repairs, as much as selling new bikes.

AW Cycles has been a main sponsor of Sonning Common's *On Your Bike* initiative since its inception. The ride this year is on Sunday 8 June, and Rob would love to see you there, getting out in the fresh air and enjoying a bike ride.

How long have you lived in RG4?

Rob has lived locally all his life and loves being part of the local community.

Where are your favourite places to eat, drink and shop in our area?

For a man who is a self-confessed adrenaline junkie, he loves nothing more than taking time out one day a week to spend with his baby daughter – taking life at her pace.

How do you think we can be eco-friendlier here?

Rob would love to see more people cycling in Reading but sees road safety and the high numbers of bike thefts as the main barriers that need to be resolved.

How would you strengthen our sense of community?

He believes that a sense of community comes from a shared space to follow a passion and would love to see a community space in Reading that brings people together, similar to Adrenaline Alley in Corby.

If you could bring anything here, such as an event, experience or a shop, what would it be?

He would love to build a pump track like the one at Longbarn Lane Recreation Ground, in south Reading, somewhere north of the river for local people to enjoy.

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What's On

IF YOU have an event planned, please send details to whatson@cavershambridge.org. We need to receive these no later than the 10th of the month before the event for inclusion in the printed paper. Later submissions can be included in our online What's On, which is updated regularly. To see what has been added check: cavershambridge.org/archives/category/around-caversham

Please note, a listing of baby and toddler groups can be found on page 18.

Caversham Library – 09:00-17:00 Tuesday and Friday, 13:00-19:00 Thursday and 10:00-15:00 Saturday. Regular events include:

Rhymetimes for the little ones – popular, so please book first! Every Tuesday at 10:15 and 11:15.

Games Club, Friday mornings 10:30-12:00. All adults welcome – refreshments!

Sit and Stitch 17:30-19:45, on 2nd and 4th Thursdays every month. Refreshments – come and be inspired. Tel: 0118 9375103 or see reading.gov.uk/leisure/all-libraries/caversham-library

Geo Café – *Artists Against Homelessness*, an ongoing and changing exhibition of art by local artists at Geo Café, Prospect Street. For each sale the artist makes a donation to Launchpad Reading. Open every day.

Mondays – Caversham Park Bridge Club – at the Milestone Centre, 19:15 for 19:30 start. Phone Lin 0118 3348195 for further information. bridgewebs.com/cavershampark

Tuesdays – Rivariate Choir – Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. 19:30 in term time. Enjoy singing together. For details see rivariate.com

Wednesdays – Caversham Writers – Welcoming enthusiastic hobbyists and aspiring authors alike. Meeting weekly in person or via Zoom. Free to all. For details: meetup.com/CavershamWriters or [@CavershamWriter](https://twitter.com/CavershamWriter) on Twitter (X)

Wednesdays – Light on the Hill Café – 19:30-21:30 at Grace Church, 119 Peppard Road, RG4 8TR. A wellbeing café for adults 18+. Come as you are for tea and a chat. Please see: www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

Thursdays – Friendly Over-60s Social Club – 10:00-13:00 at Milestone Centre, Caversham Park Village. Hot lunch, quizzes and the chance to chat. Contact Cheryl at 07964 750182 or Trina at 07477 570541

Thursdays – Weller Centre Craft Group – 13:00-15:00. Be creative with friends. For details contact Pam Chatfield at pamch32@gmail.com Mobile 07986 905784 or Weller Centre 0118 947 5828

Thursdays – New Caversham Heights Bridge Club – 14:00 at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. For details contact Duncan Knight on 0118 9475544 or email duncan.knight@googlemail.com

Fridays – Warm Welcome Space – 10:00-13:30 at Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, RG4 8HY. All welcome, just drop in for free refreshments, including hot soup from 12:00. Tel: 0118 954 5353 www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Saturdays – Keep Caversham Tidy – A local charity dedicated to eliminating litter and improving public spaces in Caversham. Free to join and no ongoing commitment. Families welcome! Email Keepcavershamtidy@gmail.com, FB [Keep Caversham Tidy](https://www.facebook.com/KeepCavershamTidy)

Sundays – Caversham Artisan & Farmers Market – Caversham Precinct, 10:00-15:00. See www.facebook.com/CAFMarket

Sundays – Nordic Walk (or just walking). Free to all. Tel: 07931 754096 or email Pat at Wirralbird@hotmail.com

Sundays – Redifolk Song and Music Club – 20:00-22:30 in the Community Hall, Watlington House, RG1 4RA. £8 admission for performances, £3 on singing nights. See www.redifolk.co.uk

Until Saturday 10 May – Exhibition of original pastels and oil paintings by Keshani Douglas – Caversham Picture Framer, Church Road – for details see cavershampictureframer.co.uk/events

Friday 2 May – Chazey Women's Institute – 14:30 at St Andrew's Church Hall. Tel: 0118 947 0964, or email rowena@primology.com

Friday 2 May – Bereavement Café – 14:00-15:30 at St. Barnabas, Emmer Green. A safe place to find others who have had their own loss and can appreciate something of your experience. For further info Tel. Gill at 0118 947 8772

Saturday 3 May – Caversham Horticultural Society Plant Sale – 10:00-11:00, Oakley Road Allotments (next to vets)

Saturday 3 - Monday 5 May – Henley Arts Trail – For more information, visit www.henleyartstrail.com or follow them on social media [@henleyartstrail](https://twitter.com/henleyartstrail)

Sunday 4 May – Dawn Chorus Walk at Clayfield Copse – 5:00 for the early birds, tea/coffee available at 6:15. Walk continues to 7:00. Children welcome with an adult. Meet in Caversham Park Road car park, RG4 6AA. Contact 07748 766340. Confirmation would be appreciated. To see a list of last year's sightings visit www.econetreading.org.uk

Sunday 4 May – May Bank Holiday Market – 10:00-15:00, The Weller Centre, Amersham Road, RG4 5NA. Arts, crafts, bakes, children's activities, food and drinks vans. Contact eftihia.candles@gmail.com

Monday 5 May – Island Bohemian Bowls Club open day – 14:00-19:00 See page 8 for details. www.islandbohemianbowls.club/give-bowls-a-try

Monday 5 May – Community tea party to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day – 14:00-17:00. If you are not involved in a street party, why not join this celebration? Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8HY

Tuesday 6 May – Caversham Women's Institute – 19:30 at Church House, Caversham. www.thewi.org.uk or Tel: 0118 947 5176

Wednesday 8 May – Cookley Green circular walk (SU692902) 4.6 miles – 10:30 A walk down through the woods towards Swyncombe Church, enjoying views over the Chilterns. Then join Swans Way and up a gentle uphill stretch for approximately 2 miles to Ewelme Place before heading back through the woods to Cookley Green. This walk may be muddy in places. One of a programme of regular walks in the area – see <https://pvrblers.org.uk/walks-programme>

Wednesday 8 May – Rosehill Ladies – 14:00 at St Barnabas Hall, Emmer Green. Tel: Sue 0118 947 7570 or email suegreen@hotmail.com

Saturday 10 May – Artists & Makers Fair – 10:00-16:00 at Caversham Methodist Hall, Gosbrook Road. Local artists and craftspeople display their work for sale. Free entry. For further information phone Jean at 07808 966928 or visit www.cavershamcrafts.co.uk

Saturday 10 May – Five Days that Changed the World (Chilcott) complemented by music spanning six centuries – 19:30 Concert at St Andrews Church, Caversham. RG4 7PL Tickets, £18 / Under 18's £5, via the website or on the door. www.readingbachchoir.org.uk

Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 May – Reading Walks Festival. See page 16 for details

Tuesday 13 May – CADRA AGM and Open Meeting – 19:30. The New Testament Church of God, next to Caversham Library. Caversham and District Residents Association AGM (brief) followed by two speakers from Savills, who will discuss Planning – how the system works and what is changing. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday 14 May – The Story of Chiltern Seeds, a talk by Nina Deadfield – 19:30 Caversham Horticultural Society. Caversham Baptist Church (opposite Waitrose). £3 for non-members. Light refreshments post talk. For details, see www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk

Thursday 15-Saturday 17 May – Plant Sale to support Water Aid and the Red Cross – 10:00-17:00 daily, 97 South View Avenue, RG4 5BB. See advert on page 11 for details.

Friday 16-Sunday 18 May – Fourbears Fest literary festival. See page 16 for details.

Wednesday 21 May – Tiles for the Abbey: A medieval Tillery and Occupation at 40-68 Silver Street, a talk by David Sanchez – 19:30 The History of Reading Society, Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading. Open meeting. £2 for non-members.

Thursday 22-Saturday 24 May – Murder At Bedside Manor, a play by Roger Utting – 20:00 Thursday/Friday, 19:00 Saturday. Caversham Park Theatre at the Milestone Centre. Bedside Manor – a quiet, gentle retirement home for doctors and nurses. Or it was until murder raised it's shocking head. Tickets £13.50/Concessions £12. Details and tickets from www.cavparktheatre.org

CADRA Planning Bulletin

A summary of planning and transport matters affecting the RG4 area, provided by Caversham and District Residents Association www.cadra.org.uk

Proposal to build 70 homes on land in South Oxfordshire owned by Reading Golf Club

THE MAIN NEWS this month is the launch of a virtual consultation by Fairfax, seeking views on their proposal to build 70 homes on land in South Oxfordshire owned by

Reading Golf Club. rgc.your-feedback.co.uk

This is presented as an extension to the current development under construction. Any planning decisions would be for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), but all access would be through Kidmore End Road and the current development. Fairfax requested responses by mid-April, but it may still be possible to send comments to mail@your-feedback.co.uk There will be some complex issues once a planning decision is submitted to SODC. If you would like to understand more about the general process, the CADRA Open Meeting following a brief AGM will hear presentations on: The Planning System – how it works and what's changing. Everyone is welcome at the New Testament Church of God next to Caversham Library at 19:30 on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

92 Albert Road, the large Edwardian House has applied for conversion to two semi-detached properties and a new modern house behind (PL/25/0422 and PL/25/0425). **53 Prospect Street** has applied for a loft conversion including a large dormer at the front (PL/25/0269). **The Thames Valley Service Station** on George Street has applied for a digital advertisement screen (PL/25/0468). Approval has been given at **10B Bridge Street** for a studio flat behind and five HMO rooms above. A detailed Management Plan for refuse management must be submitted and approved (PL/25/0468). See below.

See www.cadra.org.uk for links to these planning applications.

AGM & OPEN MEETING
Following the brief formal business

**The Planning System:
How it works and what's changing**

Speakers:
Jon Sebbage, Associate Director
Róisín Moyne, Planner
Savills Planning Division

Tuesday 13 May 2025, 7.30pm

New Testament Church of God
Church Street, Caversham

www.cadra.org.uk

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Advice from Happy Wanderer on **The Wood Spurge**

HERE'S A curious plant which you can find on the edges of woods around Caversham, and which flowers about now. The first part of its name describes where it grows. The name 'spurge' is recorded in English from 1387, and it arrived via Old French and is connected with 'purge' and 'pure'.

I've already written about Spurge Laurel, which might look superficially like a spurge but isn't, and about the Caper Spurge, which definitely is, and which turned up unexpectedly in my garden in 2017. Perhaps I should mention here the Sun Spurge, which is the one which usually turns up in gardens and on farmland as a weed. Opinion varies as to how many species of spurge occur in Great Britain in the wild, but there are at least ten native species, and as many non-native species which have a foothold.

...avoid touching...

The Wood Spurge is usually around two feet tall, with upright woody stalks. The whole plant is green, occasionally flushed with red. The leaves tend to become larger as they go up the stalks, and are a darker green than the rest of the plant. It's worth giving the flowers a close look, but please avoid touching the plant. The sap is irritant and corrosive, and the whole plant is poisonous – except that the nectar in the flowers is perfectly wholesome for the insect pollinators. The poison protects the plant from being eaten, but pollinators are welcome.

I recall coming across the caterpillars of the Spurge Hawk Moth whilst on holiday in Greece – a very large caterpillar, more or less black, with a protuberant red horn on its back. It must have evolved along with the spurge plants it feeds on,

Like other plants with white milky sap, and dandelions in particular, the sap has been used to cure warts despite its irritant and corrosive properties...

and can tolerate the poisons, becoming itself poisonous to the birds which would otherwise eat it. Apparently, the adult moths sometimes appear in this country in summer and early autumn, but I've never seen one.

Wood Spurge flowers are tiny, and carried on green 'saucers' – thin rounded green leaves at the ends of the stems, with each one having male and female flowers on it. An old English name was 'the devil's cup and saucer'. The female flowers mature first, extending their pollen receptors. When fertilised, the stalk carrying the potential seed-box elongates, and then the male flowers shed their pollen, thus preventing self-pollination.

Like other plants with white milky sap, and dandelions in particular, the sap has been used to cure warts despite its irritant and corrosive properties but, whereas you can eat dandelions in salads, the Wood Spurge contains poisonous flavonol glycosides. There are records of its having been used as a purgative and people surviving, but not always so. *Poisonous Plants in Britain: a Celebration*, a book I bought from a charity shop in Henley, describes some of the bizarre reactions experienced by people who have dosed themselves with the sap. Besides the pains followed by unconsciousness, there was 'the illusion of a smell of mice'. These days, it's hard to imagine why anyone would want to take a purgative!



The Wood Spurge – best avoid touching

photo Happy Wanderer

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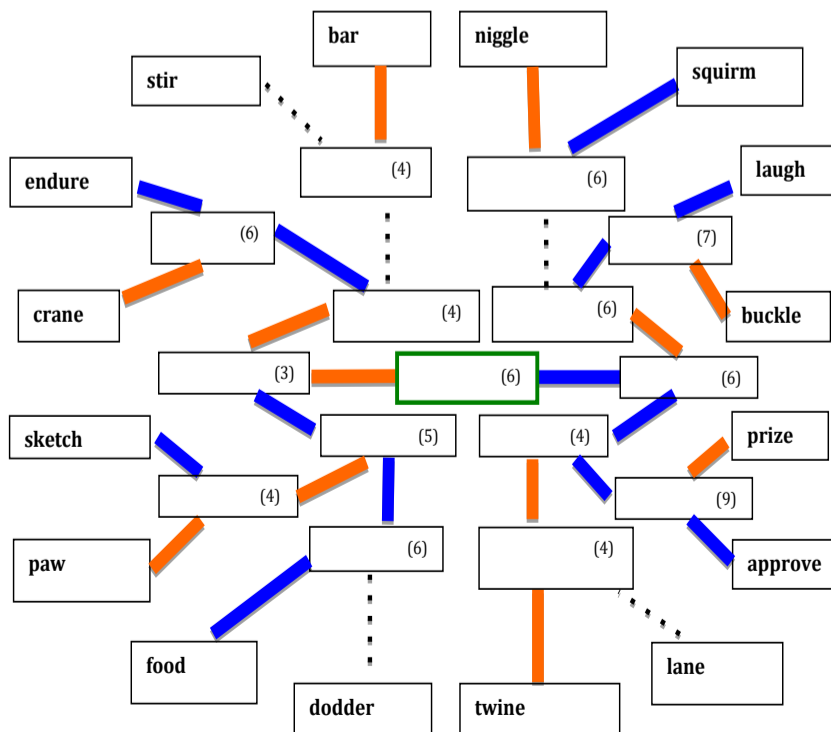
Puzzle Corner

The Challenge by Rachel

WORD PUZZLE

Find the word that has the same meaning as the clue; or rhymes with; or has one letter that is different. For example: *tingle* has 6 letters, rhymes with *shingle* and means *thrill*.

Rhyme ———
Letter change
Meaning ———



Answers on page 18

AN IMPERIAL PAST

Can you find 24 Imperial units of measurement in the grid?

C L P H E L I M K H C A N Y
F H N B U S H E L U G R J T
E I A O N R E T R A U Q R H
N G M I D P D R A Y K A E G
O W A O N Y T O N E P C R I
T H D L N D N A H L I R D E
S P X I L F O O T N N E I W
P O U N D O H C N I T Q L D
O H V R O D N L T R R U L E
H U C I O X C E P U P A I R
R I N R M O Y A E L V R G D
T H Y C E O D G C E K T W N
I Y P J E P A U K R X Q S U
G N O L R U F E M N X K R H

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| Acre | Ounce |
| Bushel | Peck |
| Chain | Perch |
| Foot | Pint |
| Furlong | Pound |
| Gallon | Quart |
| Gill | Quarter |
| Hand | Rood |
| Hundredweight | Ruler |
| Inch | Stone |
| League | Ton |
| Mile | Yard |

The hidden world beneath our feet

text and photo Martin Osborne



The new water main

YOU MAY have heard about the burst water main and 'sinkhole' that has closed Kidmore Road. It is, almost literally, on our doorstep and we have seen the whole story unfold. The good news is that the water main is now repaired but, at the time of writing, it is not clear if the ground movement is just in the soil around the burst pipe or is a more serious deep sinkhole. We are waiting for the results of the extensive ground investigation work to confirm this. Only then can work start on rebuilding the road.

We are now long past the initial challenge of almost three days without mains water until a temporary supply was installed, but the road disruption goes on. Everyone is considerate over where to park to keep access open. The delivery drivers and bin men and other services continue to get here despite the difficulties. And for us it is much quieter without the traffic noise. Other neighbouring roads on the diversion route may be less happy.

In the same period there have also been two leaks on the gas main – the workmen repairing those told me that they happen quite often and are not related to the water main problems.

...hidden network...

It reminded me how much we rely on the hidden network of pipes and cables beneath our streets. The water and gas mains could be almost a hundred years old but are still in service long after the end of their expected life. And we also rely on the people who maintain them.

The first crew who came out to deal with the burst water main were all working away from their homes and families in South Wales, because the jobs were here in Caversham. This echoed the experience of the unemployed Welsh miners who, in the 1930s, built the sewer that runs underneath the gas main. Others who took over the repair work have been travelling for two or more hours each way every day to get here to work.

We need to be thankful for the people who keep our little world turning and be aware of the work and money that is needed to maintain and improve the foundations of our lives.

And the silver lining? Well, the road will probably still be closed for the eightieth anniversary of VE day. A perfect opportunity for a street party.

A unique history and location



Fry's Island and the club

photo Island Bohemian Bowls Club

LAST YEAR, the Island Bohemian Bowls Club Open Days had to be cancelled due to the dreadful wet weather. With Spring now upon us, the 2025 Bowls Season is just around the corner. The Club, situated on Fry's Island between Reading Bridge and Caversham Bridge, has a unique history and location. Access is by ferry, which the Club provides.

We need more members, so why not give bowls a try? Bowling is for everyone, regardless of age, gender or ability, and you can play to whatever level you wish. Our Club has national, county and league players, but also members who wish for nothing more than to play amongst themselves on the Island. It is an excellent way of keeping active and will bring you lots of friends and social events. We have many teams visiting us for friendly, mixed team fixtures, as well as men's and ladies' teams which play in league games. The club has a bar, kitchen and full changing facilities, and hosts a number of social occasions throughout the year.

The Island Bohemian Bowls Club is holding two Open Days this year. Do take advantage of them to come to the Island for an introduction to the sport. You will receive some initial training on how to play the game and get a hands-on experience to help you decide if you wish to take up the sport. Coaching is then every Monday from 5 May at 18:00. Please wear flat-soled shoes or trainers, and the rest of the equipment will be provided.

The Club ferry can be taken from the Reading side of the river and will pick up at the end of Brigham Rd, RG1 8DP. Just turn up for the ferry on the Open Days which are:

SUNDAY 4 MAY and MONDAY 26 MAY – both 14:00 to 19:00

We would love to see you on one of our open days, welcome you to the unique setting, and get you started on bowls. If you are unable to attend these days but would like to give this lovely game a try, then call our New Member's team on 07825 394683 to arrange a visit or email recruitment@islandbohemianbowls.club

Our web site is: www.islandbohemianbowls.club

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Creative CAVERSHAM



New faces, new spaces

Now celebrating its 15th year, **Caversham Arts Trail** is well-established in the local calendar. It's not only a chance to catch up with old faces – there's lots of new talent and venues to visit, as **Elestr Lee** discovered

Plenty of new artists will be introducing themselves during this year's trail, as well as new venues to discover including the art department of Queen Anne's School, the first time a school has opened its doors.

"So many people go past, it will be nice for people to be able to go in through the gates and see Queen Anne's School for themselves," explained Julie Simmonds, Caversham Arts Trail organiser. "The new Head of Art, George Tarrant, was keen to open the department for the first weekend of the trail, and it so happened some of



One of Julie's 'favourite things' **photo J Simmonds**

the artists were also only able to do that weekend. It's been very accommodating for everyone!"

George Tarrant has been determined to raise the profile of Queen Anne's art department, both by organising opportunities for his students to make art in the community – for example, some of the girls have been making art with elderly residents in the Signature care home – but also to give his students the chance to meet and see local artists' work up close. "We are keen to raise our community involvement, we want to engage with local artists who will inspire our students," he explained.

With the encouragement of head teacher Elaine Purves, art technician Karen Vass contacted Julie about the school becoming a venue; Karen and other staff from the school will be on hand during the first trail weekend (the afternoon of May 10; all day Sunday May 11) to guide visitors to the art department. Four local artists will be exhibiting, and there will also be an activity suitable for both adults and children in Queen Anne's newly opened Print Room.

Julie herself will be exhibiting her work at Queen Anne's – "Currently I am mostly doing still lifes, favourite objects which have

a meaning behind them. My work is a mixture of print, painting and drawing," Julie said.

Blacksmith Billy Goodworth and botanical artist Tasha Arkell will also be at Queen Anne's. "I'm inundated with work just now, and it was a matter of trying to squeeze in the local arts trail!" Billy explained. "I'm doing a lot more market events, but I have also just moved my workshop, and I'm busy teaching blacksmithing skills. Showing my work at Queen Anne's on the first weekend of the trail made sense."

Tasha, who took part in the arts trail for the first time last year, will be exhibiting her range of botanical prints and cards. "Although I studied art at school, at college I did makeup design – but then the industry stopped during the pandemic. I have always been drawn to botanical art, so I designed a few Christmas cards which I sold on Etsy – and I haven't looked back!"

"I moved on to a stationery range, and I also do original paintings of plants and wildflowers, as well as selling prints. I had met Billy at other events, so last year, he suggested we shared a venue in Emmer Green. There was such a lovely feel to the trail – and we had a lot of visitors. We are hoping this year the footfall will be even better!"



Botanical art by Tasha

photo T Arkell

then also did some freelance work in social media. A friend who had a job with Kari Ceramics in the Netherlands was about to return to the UK so Rhiane was keen to step into her shoes, starting off by packing orders, then began learning everything she could about ceramics, "falling deeply in love with the craft."

Last year she took the step of opening her own ceramics business. "Recently I took a big leap and launched my first full collection online, with my website, Connect. It's been an incredibly fulfilling journey!"

This year will be her very first art trail. "I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "I'm excited to meet the other artists, connect with the community and share my ceramics in a space that celebrates creativity."

It's also a case of "coming home" for Rhiane, who grew up in Caversham, and who has recently moved back. "I have fond memories of visiting the trail with my mum when I was younger!"



New to CAT is ceramicist Rhiane **photo R Szmiddt**

The fourth artist showing her work at the school is ceramicist Rhiane Szmiddt, a newcomer to the trail who creates large ceramic platters incorporating melted glass. Rhiane explained the chain of "beautiful coincidences" which led to her launching her career as a ceramicist. She had just completed her degree in International Communication Management in The Hague when everything stopped due to Covid. Wanting to stay in Amsterdam she initially worked in a factory,

Find out more:

Caversham Arts Trail complete guide to venues and artists: pages 10-11

**Queen Anne's School,
6 Henley Road, RG4 6DX**

Venue open

Saturday May 10, 13:30-17:00

Sunday May 11, 11:00-17:00

(Please note, first weekend of the trail only)



Blacksmith Billy will be showing a range of his beautifully crafted items

photo B Goodworth

Caversham arts trail

MAY 2025

Sat 10th & Sun 11th
Sat 17th & Sun 18th May
11am-5pm

47 artists
14 venues
across Caversham
& Emmer Green
www.cavershamartstrail.co.uk

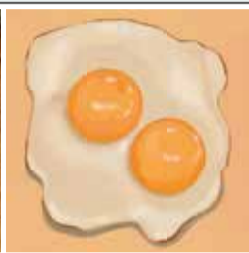
Artists & Makers FAIR
Artists & Makers Fair
 Saturday 10 May
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FREE ENTRY

Artists offering demonstrations. Wheelchair access
 Venues offering refreshments
 All information correct at time of printing.

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14 5 Woodford Close, RG4 7HN

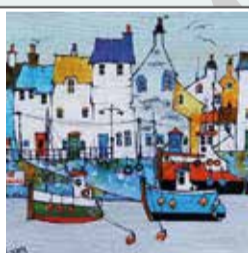
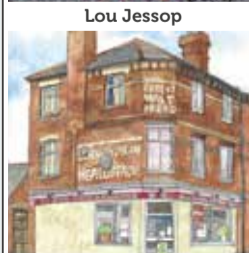


2 29 Grosvenor Road
RG4 5EN



11 14 Kidmore Road, RG4 7LU

9 4 Hemdean Rise, RG4 7SA

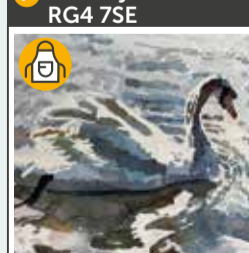


10 16 Albert Road, RG4 7PE

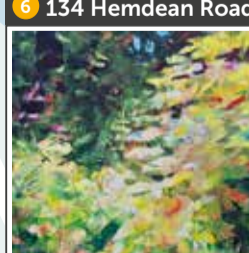
8 Caversham Print Club, 5a Church Road, RG4 7AA



7 5 Priory Avenue
RG4 7SE



6 134 Hemdean Road, RG4 7ST



#CavershamArtsTrail

Parking at Truefood or Emmer Green Shopping Precinct



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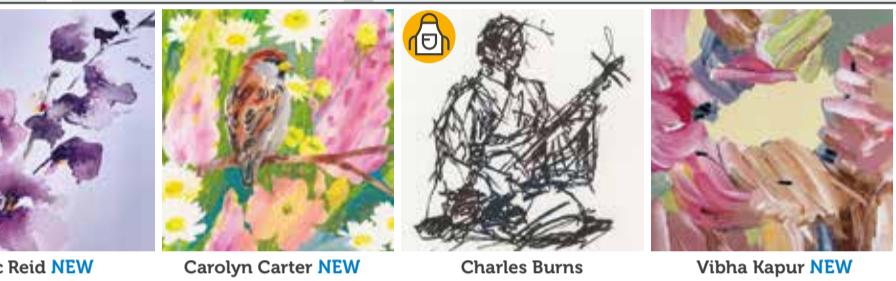
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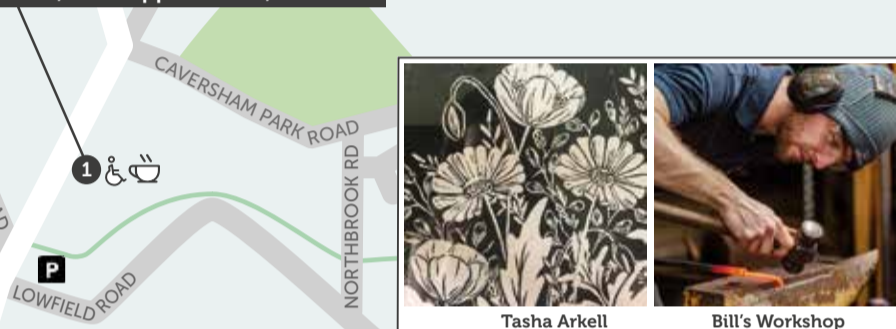
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Charles Burns

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Tasha Arkell



Bill's Workshop



Libby Ryan NEW



Julie Simmonds



Rhiane Szmidt NEW

3 Queen Anne's School, Henley Road
Sat 10th (1.30-5pm) and Sun 11th (11am-5pm) only



Pam Chatfield NEW

5 Creativ.Spaces, Unit 2B Southview Park
Marsack St, RG4 5AF



Sue Pix Art



Grant Forsyth Jewellery NEW



Ormerod

The Welsh Woodman



Art by Alina Luchianov



Karen Tomalin

Caversham Arts Trail Artists and venues

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www.saatchiart.com/en-gb/martynova
contact@martynova.co.uk | 07432 218325
Demonstrations 2pm each day

3 Queen Anne's School, Henley Road
May 10th (1.30-5pm), and 11th (11am-5pm) only

Teachers: George Tarrant, Tanika Ahlawalia, Peter Lang, Karen Vass
Demonstrations 1.30-5pm on 10th, and 11-5pm on 11th
Sixth-form students: Beth James, Candice Choi, Danny Jones, Elise Chu, KC Leung, Libby Ryan, Poppy Taylor

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#CavershamArtsTrail



All clear to generate text and photo George Grubb

HAVE YOU ever noticed a small team in yellow jackets working by the hydropower station at Caversham Weir and wondered what they are doing?

The station generates renewable, low-carbon electricity from the power of the River Thames. It is owned and operated by Reading Hydro, a Community Benefit Society, which is a type of not-for-profit business. It was financed by community investment and is run by volunteers and has been generating electricity since September 2021.

The electricity is produced using two Archimedes Screws, which are protected from river debris by the steel screens which can be seen from the path. Something like a tree branch could damage the screws, so the screens are essential. But they can become clogged with leaves and litter, reducing the water flow to the screws and the amount of electricity generated.

This is where the teams in yellow jackets come in! These volunteers give their time and energy to keeping the screens clear and the water flowing. In the summer this may need no more than a short check once a week. But in the autumn, as the leaves fall, the clearance may be needed daily and can take an hour or more of hard work. Just as good as time spent in the gym!

To find out more about Reading Hydro, visit <https://readinghydro.org>

The Local Scene by Martin Andrews

Our Lady and St Anne's Church, South View Avenue



Drawing by Janina Maher

www.janinamaher.artweb.com

HAVING LIVED in South View Avenue for over forty years, I have always taken an interest in the comings and goings of the lively congregation and church activities at Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Church. In particular I have enjoyed seeing families and young children peeping in at the little window set in the wall of the stone chapel facing the road. Inside, when lit by candles, you see a beautiful statue of the Madonna and child which dates from the fifteenth or sixteenth century. This is the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham.

A few months ago, the Caversham Bridge reported on the re-pointing and internal redecoration of the church; passersby will have seen all the scaffolding, and this has created a fresh and tranquil space. The church itself was built in phases – the foundation stone was laid in 1903 and, by 1907, a tower and south aisle had been added, followed by a north aisle in the 1920s. In July 1933 it was consecrated by the Archbishop of Birmingham.

In the 1950s work began on the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. It is built of limestone in a Romanesque style, in contrast to the bright red brick of the Gothic main church. Since medieval times Caversham has been a place of pilgrimage. There were two chapels dedicated to Our Lady and Saint Anne, but there is some confusion as to which chapel housed a silver statue of Our Lady. The Holy Well of St Anne, with its healing waters, was another focus for pilgrims. One chapel

was situated on the north end of Caversham Bridge and was destroyed during Henry VIII's reign and, over the centuries, the chapel's foundations fell into the river. In the 1920s, a number of stones thought to be from the foundations were recovered and built into the walls and altar of the new Shrine. The precious statue that now sits in the chapel was purchased to replace the destroyed original. In a spiritual way the Shrine is a continuation of the one built in medieval times, with its history of miracles and pilgrimage, although the location has changed

In 2017, an artist and specialist in Byzantine iconography, Marcelo Lavallen, was commissioned to decorate the chapel. Around the apse is a mural depicting the medieval Caversham bridge with historical figures crossing on a pilgrimage. Figures include King Henry II, Queen Katherine of Aragon, Abbot Hugh Faringdon, and many other important people of the time. All around the walls symbolic religious images appear: palm trees, the burning bush, a white dove, and pomegranates. The ceiling is a night sky with stars aligned exactly as they were at 20:00 on the night of the 8 September 2017 – the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a peaceful, beautiful and very special place.



A stroll through Caversham

Janina's illustrated book, which is available at **Fourbears Books on Prospect Street.**

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Bugs Bottom tree planting team

Supporting Bugs Bottom

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago – the second-best time is now

text and photo Kay Perry

Last month we reported on recent tree planting in our area. Kay Perry of the Friends and Supporters of Bugs Bottom Facebook Group sent us these further details.

BUGS BOTTOM is a well-supported, much loved and ecologically important local wildlife site at the end of Hemdean Road. It is composed of lowland chalk meadow, a nationally scarce habitat, with native hedgerows and deciduous ancient woodland. It is visited by hikers, dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders, community groups, and local residents, who all enjoy the diversity and beauty of Hemdean Valley.

Local resident Iuliana Davey contacted the Friends and Supporters of Bugs Bottom Facebook page after some of the saplings along the main path were mown during the recent tractor cutting of the grass. She wanted her little boy and other children to grow up alongside new trees and thought it would be a wonderful addition to Bugs Bottom. Reading Borough Council provided more

than 100 replacements, including rowan, small-leaved lime, yew, spindle and dog rose. Early in February, with the help of Reading Tree Wardens, local residents and Karen Rowland, lead councillor for Environmental Services at the Council, these were planted and given additional protection with stakes and tree guards. Nature will provide the watering!

...they sound delicious...

In addition, later in the month, the Tree Wardens, volunteers from Freely Fruity, a local charity who donated the trees, and local residents, all worked together to plant a small orchard. Nine trees were planted, mainly apple, along with medlar and greengage. Hopefully, before too long there will be a harvest of apples including Blenheim Orange, Discovery and Laxton's Superb. They sound delicious!

We hope that the local community will embrace these changes and help to support and nurture the amazing natural environment on our doorstep.

Please follow us at www.facebook.com/Savebugsbottom and show support for the wonderful work done by Reading Tree Wardens and Freely Fruity. An enormous thank you to everyone who gave their time and effort, and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour soon.... anyone for crumble?

For more on Reading Tree Wardens, see their Facebook page www.facebook.com/ReadingTreeWardens



EcoTip

by Tricia Marcouse

Dawn Chorus Day 4 May

Great Tit

photo P Chatfield

THE DAWN chorus is a wondrous musical treat (punctuated by off-key noises from the odd pheasant or a cackling gull), and at its best in May, as birds announce their breeding territories, advertise their availability as a mate, and the summer visitors arrive.

You don't have to head for the country at crack of dawn to hear the dawn chorus and struggle to identify the different songs. Just download Merlin at <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>, get up early on several days, make a cup of something, open the bedroom window or go out into the garden, and let your ears and the Merlin App listen. Click on Sound-ID, which identifies the frequencies of the bird song, compares this pattern with its sound database and suggests the species. It isn't perfect, and you do need to accept a time delay between the song you hear and the suggested species, but it's a great way to learn. You'll be surprised to discover which birds you've never seen around are living nearby.

If you'd rather have more expert help, then come to the Dawn Chorus Day walk on 4 May at Clayfield Copse, starting at 5:00, and be introduced to a huge range of bird song by the local expert.

Apart from the free concert, why should you bother? Well, there's loads of advice for helping wildlife out there, and umpteen places selling feed for birds and oddly designed bee and bird boxes. In fact, every species has its own niche for feeding or nesting and the generic advice tends to promote some garden species over the others. Few of us have the spare hectares of land to develop a mosaic of habitats, so your starting point should be to find out which species are living around your area, which ones you don't see or hear often, and whether you could provide these species with a good place to live and breed.



Clayfield Copse
Sunday
4 May
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Tea and coffee available at 6:15

Meet at the car park, Caversham Park Road, RG4 6AA

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See www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/HomeFoCC



for details and list of birds seen on the 2024 walk



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Les Cooper



A Taste of Spring

GUESS WE all love the month of May, when everything in the garden is fresh and new. Everywhere the trees have a mass of sparkling green leaves; in the countryside the hawthorn is overflowing with white blossom and buzzing bees. I have a few crab apple trees that are brimming with pink and white flowers, welcomed by the masonry bees as they awake from their winter hibernation.

There is a slight snag, in that we gardeners should have been out there sooner cutting the grass and trying to keep the weeds at bay. Which does beg the question as to what is a weed? In February I attended an on-line

talk by an excellent speaker who spoke fondly of Arum Italicum (Italian lords and ladies), a lovely variegated green and white leafy plant. A few years ago I was given one of these by a kind friend and, striving to be a good gardener, I carefully planted it in an excellent position. The darned thing repaid me by deciding to take over my garden and I have been trying in vain to get rid of it ever since!

Of course, it's all down to your taste. I love dahlias and as usual I shall be planting a few out soon; they are so easy to grow and there is such a wide choice of varieties. My personal preference is for decoratives, but they are all beautiful.

On the other hand, I am not very fond of hostas. Yet in March I bought six new ones which I will plant out soon. I can't think why, because I am not sure I like them as much as the slugs and snails do. I presume I was thinking I ought to have them because all good gardeners have foliage plants and grow hostas. If I think them uninteresting, why did I buy them? I suppose they were cheap, and I couldn't resist a bargain.

Writing about taste, we should be sowing sweet corn in deep pots now. Then in June there will be young plants to plant out. I enjoy growing sweet corn, possibly because they grow well in my soil. I enjoy gnawing away at the buttery cobs, but I know my neighbour has no taste for them whatsoever.

Finally, rhubarb is out there longing to be watered with liquid fertiliser but also ready to be eaten... if you actually enjoy rhubarb – some do and some don't. It is all about what suits you.

Editor's note.

According to Stephen Barstow in the April edition of the Royal Horticultural Society magazine, *The Garden*, hostas are edible and delicious, with an almost crispy texture. So if all else fails, Les could eat them!



Arum Italicum **By Consultaplantas - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49180306>**

The Pity of War: Wilfred Owen and War Poetry

text and photo Roslyn Weaver



Caversham's Thameside War Memorial

IT WAS FIVE years ago that the Imperial War Museum released a forgotten poem of Edmund Blunden, titled V Day. Blunden himself served in World War I and his writing reflects this, noting in the V Day poem that 'once more we have come through'.

War poetry takes many forms, from the patriotic and noble to disillusioned and angry, and every response in between, reflecting the array of emotions many feel: joy when conflict ends, respect for those who serve, despair and sorrow for the fallen, and a profound desire for peace. It is also poets who have given us many enduring symbols of war. For example, the poppy symbol worn in many countries for Remembrance Day each November is partly attributed to the poem In Flanders Fields by Canadian poet, physician and soldier, John McCrae. Many of us are also familiar with those oft-recited lines 'They shall not grow old...' from Laurence Binyon's For the Fallen poem.

...romanticised and heroic...

One of our local literary connections is Wilfred Owen, famous for his war poetry from World War I. Owen lived in nearby Dunsden as a vicar's lay assistant from 1911 to 1913, also taking classes at what is now the University of Reading, and he enlisted in 1915. Owen's poetry tends more to the bleak and gritty rather than romanticised and heroic, with Dulce et Decorum Est famously rejecting war being noble or glorious, and Strange Meeting about an encounter between two dead soldiers, with its unsettling line: 'I am the enemy you killed, my friend'.

Much of Owen's poetry was written in the space of barely a year, between late 1917 and 1918. He was killed in battle on 4 November 1918, one week before Armistice Day. As Owen himself put it, his interest was not about the glory of war, but the pity of war – a sentiment that makes VE Day all the more meaningful for everything it symbolises about an enduring hope for peace.

War poetry takes many forms, from the patriotic and noble to disillusioned and angry, and every response in between, reflecting the array of emotions many feel...

Gill Madeley NAHort.

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by
**Katy
Reay**

Keeping Active the latest research

THERE IS SO much research on exercise and activity out there — much of it contradictory — I want to present to you some more recent robust research, and then put together easy to understand recommendations you can follow to improve your overall health.

We all know exercise and activity are good for us. But how much, when and what type of exercise or activity is best?

The NHS/UK government recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity per week.

They define moderate intensity activities as those which make you breathe harder and heartbeat faster than usual, but you should still be able to have a conversation whilst doing them. Vigorous intensity activity makes you breathe hard and fast. If you're working at this level, you will not be able to say more than a few words without pausing for breath.

Researching the world's elite athletes tells us that when training you need 80% at a lower intensity and 20% at a higher intensity. Higher intensity workouts or exercise will cause your body to go into a stress response. When you train too much at a higher intensity, recovery takes longer and the risk of injury increases. For the general population, we want an exercise or activity programme which is enjoyable and sustainable. If you can't recharge back to full overnight, you will eventually burn out or risk injury.

A research study of nearly 80,000 people showed walking a bit more every day reduced the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease or an early

death. This pattern continues until you reach about 10,000 steps a day. It also shows higher step intensity may provide additional benefits.

Increasing physical activity of any intensity is beneficial for health, but new research published in the *European Heart Journal* shows there is a greater reduction in cardiovascular disease risk when more of that activity is of at least moderate intensity. This can be equivalent to taking a brisk walk for a lot of people.

So, what does this mean for us?

Some exercise or activity is essential for good heart, mental and overall physical health. However, too much high-intensity exercise can lead to burn out or injury.

Aim to do around 150 minutes of exercise or activity a week. That's 22 minutes/day or three sessions of 50 minutes, or even two sessions of 75 minutes over the weekend. 80% of this should be at low-moderate intensity, which means you are breathing more heavily, and your heart rate has increased but you could still have a conversation with someone.

Find a programme that incorporates a form of exercise you enjoy, which is realistic for you and fits in with your lifestyle; this will make it much more sustainable.

For more information see links here:
www.medicalmentor.uk/blog/exercise

Local resident Dr Katy Reay is a Medical Mentor who runs her own health coaching business and writes an occasional series of articles on health matters for the paper.



Shabaz Says: I'm Rich, You're Poor

South Street Arts Centre – 4 April 2025

by **Richard Wells**

SHABAZ ALI has had an amazing couple of years. His tongue in cheek videos, poking fun at the many ostentatious displays of wealth on social media, have gained him millions of followers and resulted in him changing careers from teaching to full time entertainer.

When we saw he was embarking on his first stand up tour, and was visiting Reading on the 30 date run, we knew we had to be there.

Starting off the evening, in support, was local comic Nayim Ali. He soon had the audience warmed up with commentary on his time spent in Reading.

Shabaz then took to the stage and instantly had a seemingly effortless rapport with the audience. Incredibly quick witted and cutting, whilst also being warm and likeable, he had us all in stitches from the outset. I was impressed with how he ably made the transition from short form videos to a stage show of over an hour in length, whilst keeping the show fresh and engaging.

The tour certainly looks to have been a success, and South Street was a sell out, so I'm sure we will get the chance to see Shabaz again before long!

Reading's South Street Arts Centre has always been a favourite of mine, with an eclectic and diverse range of music, theatre and comedy shows, there's always something worth seeing.

They've also undergone a refurbishment in recent years which has resulted in a more comfortable and versatile space, and they can now host more than one event in any evening. We especially love seeing comedy at this friendly and intimate space, and personally I am a big fan of the local beers on tap in the bar!

I thoroughly recommend keeping an eye out for what's on next at South Street. Maybe go and see something you're unfamiliar with, you might be pleasantly surprised!



Richard with Shabaz Ali

photo Mick Perrin Worldwide

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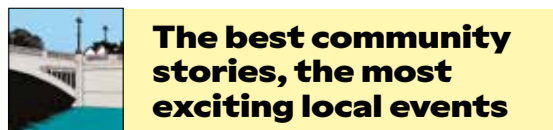
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Fourbears Festival 2025 Friday 16 - Sunday 18 May

MAY IS Fourbears Fest month. 2025 sees the second annual festival where we host author events for adults and children over the weekend of 16-18 May. The events are held at four locations; Queen Anne's School, Caversham Baptist Church, Fourbears Books and Progress Theatre in Reading. There are still tickets available so do take a look at our website.

For Younger Readers:

Saturday programme

At Caversham Baptist Church

- 9:30 Draw Along (5+)** – Rose Linou (Tiny Dogs series) If you are a fan of animals and want to learn to draw like Rose then come along to this super session.
- 11:00 Comic Book Draw Along (8+)** Illustrator Neill Cameron returns to celebrate his brand new book, *The Donut Squad*. Come along to this fun draw-along session.
- 13:00 Graphic Draw Along (6+)** Happy Hills is the brand new series from bestselling, award winning author Sophy Henn. Come along for a graphic draw-along session.
- 14:30 Ukelele Accompanied Story Masterclass (7+)** – Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Wait hold on, it is a bird, not just any bird, Its Adventure Duck! Steve Cole's coming to talk all things superheroes to superhero fans.

Sunday programme

The Reading Progress Theatre

- 10:00 Teddy Bear Storytime (18m-4yrs)** –

At Fourbears Books, Prospect Street

- 11:30 Creative Nature Workshop (6+)** – Yuval Zommer
- 14:00 Creative Writing Workshop (9+)** – Iszi Lawrence

Adult Events:

Friday programme

Queen Anne's School

- 19:00 Robin Ince** discusses his new book *Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal*.

Saturday programme

Progress Theatre – Reading

- 14:00 Crime panel with authors Tom Hindle** (*Death in the Arctic*), **Kate Wells** (*Death in the Hills*) and **Stuart Turton** (*The Last Murder at the End of The World*)
- 16:00 A conversation with Jasper Fforde**, Best-selling author of The Thursday Next series and then *Shades of Grey* and *Red Side Story*. Perfect for fans of Terry Pratchett and Douglas Adams.

Sunday programme

Progress Theatre – Reading

- 12:00 A conversation with Curtis Chin**, author of *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*
- 14:00 A conversation with Amy Jeffs** writer of *Saints: Medieval Legends of Heroes, Humans and Magic* a beautiful book, which uncovers and analyses the strange and wonderful legends of saints and what they tell us about the medieval world
- 16:00 Poetry Special**. Local Publisher Two Rivers Press showcase some of the best poets around.

Tickets available online at www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk

Step Into the Story: Reading Walks Festival Returns!



Walk Works at Burghfield

photo Walk Works

by Caroline Gatrix

GET READY TO lace up your walking shoes – *Reading Walks Festival* is back from 10-18 May, and this year it's bigger, bolder, and bursting with new adventures! With over 50 walks, two scenic bike rides, and a fascinating talk, 2025's programme is packed with ways to explore Reading like never before.

But this festival isn't just about walking – it's about discovering the stories which have shaped our town for over 1,000 years. From its days as a centre of medieval religion to its rise as a Victorian industrial powerhouse, Reading's rich history is etched into its streets, buildings and waterways. And you don't need to be a hiking pro to join in – most walks are relaxed, sociable, and led by friendly volunteer guides who love to share hidden stories and surprising facts.

...suit every stride...

Urban explorer? History buff? Nature lover? You'll find something to suit every stride. Think secret gardens, riverside rambles, family-friendly strolls, and even a two-day pilgrimage! With the Thames and Kennet & Avon Canal flowing through the town, and the Chilterns, North Hampshire, and West Berkshire within easy reach,



Reading is a walking wonderland waiting to be explored.

Hot tip: Don't miss the special *Reading Independent Gems and Visitor Spots Walk* led by local walking group, Walk Works on Sunday 18 May at 10:30. Discover the indie gems, cultural hotspots, and hidden treasures which make this area such a brilliant place to live and visit.

Pick your pace using our handy grading system, whether you're after a light-hearted tour or a longer journey. Printed festival booklets are available at local libraries, Reading Museum, Reading Station, and more.

Bookings opened 14 March, and the most popular walks sold quickly, but there may still be some availability. Head to readingwalksfestival.org or visit *What's On Reading* for more information and to grab your tickets.

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Five Days that Changed the World



photo Bach Choir

by Susan Cruddace

READING BACH CHOIR asks: 'What would you choose as one of the five events that changed the world?' Might it be the discovery of penicillin?

On 10 May the choir will be performing *Five Days that Changed the World*, a choral piece composed by Bob Chilcott, a British choral composer and former member of the King's Singers based in Oxford. This work was composed in 2013, using specially written text by award-winning poet Charles Bennet.

The five events are: the invention of moveable type, the abolition of slavery, the first powered flight, the discovery of penicillin, and the first man in space.

These might not be your choice. No-one is suggesting they are the most important events, but they all did change the world, hopefully for the better.

The Reading Bach Choir will ensure there is something to suit a variety of musical tastes. Each movement in the Chilcott will be paired with one or more pieces of music reflecting on the same milestone. With composers from Melissa Dunphy to Eric Whitacre; Josquin and De Orto to Samuel Barber and Laura Mvula, the Choir will present music spanning six centuries.

This programme is the work of our Musical Director, Daniel Mahoney, who will be leading the Choir, supported by accompanist Gavin Roberts.

The Concert will be held at
St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PL
on Saturday 10 May 2025 at 19:30.

Tickets are £18 / Under 18s: £5 and can be bought via the choir website: www.readingbachchoir.org.uk or on the door. Visit the website to find out more about the Choir.

THEN & NOW



photo P Chatfield

ONE OF OUR readers, Charlie Scola, recently found some historic photos of Caversham when sorting out his father's old photos. This one (above), taken in 1950, shows the Henley Road, looking east. We have paired it with a recent photo taken from

approximately the same position. Although you can just make out the shape of the distant hill, the growth in trees and hedges has completely changed the view, obscuring the houses which can be seen in the earlier photo. *The Editors*

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First Impressions Matter by Laura Harmsworth

Job searching in the age of online meetings



YOU'LL NO doubt have seen those unforgettable moments from online meetings (mostly made famous during lockdown)—whether it's a lawyer stuck in a cat filter, or a newsreader with an unexpected background.

While these incidents may be funny, they highlight the importance of being mindful when attending a virtual interview.

Here are some simple steps to ensure your background leaves a professional impression.

Pre-call check

Before joining a call, make sure your lighting is good, and your background is free of distractions. A clutter-free environment helps you focus on the conversation.

Tidy up

Avoid a messy workspace, and be mindful of things like mirrors, bookshelves, or posters that could send the wrong message. If you're unsure, it's better to keep the space simple.

Virtual backgrounds

If your environment isn't ideal, use a virtual background. Tools like Zoom, Teams, and Google Meet offer options, or you can upload custom backgrounds using tools like Canva. But

remember, these can be glitchy—parts of you might disappear or the background might shift when you move. If all else fails, use the 'Blur Background' feature to create a neutral and professional atmosphere.

Alert your household

If you live with others, give them a heads-up about your call to avoid unexpected interruptions or surprises, like pets or family members wandering through.

Technical aspects

Check that your video and microphone work, that the picture is sharp (clean your camera), and that the sound is clear. Ensure your settings are correct, that your microphone doesn't mute itself (mine always does on Teams), and that you don't have any AI bots attending your call.

Check it out

Hold a call with a friend or family member or record yourself to check all the above points.

A little preparation can go a long way in helping you make the right impression during your job interview.

You can follow Laura on:

www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting

on LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/in/lauraharmsworth

Website: www.cavershamcvwriting.co.uk

Email: contact@cavershamcvwriting.co.uk

The Caversham Bridge is a community newspaper produced by Caversham Bridge News Ltd



Future editions:

Contributions for the June issue

should be submitted by 1 May and for the July edition by 1 June. These should be emailed to:

editors@cavershambridge.org

Dates for advertising copy

are 1 May for the June issue and 1 June for the July issue.

These should be emailed to:

advertising@cavershambridge.org



Image courtesy of Freepik.com

THE CHALLENGE SOLUTIONS:

(From left to right from the top)

star, wiggle, remain, chuckle, stay, giggle, hay, **mayday**, signal, straw, sign, draw, authorise, fodder, line.



Image courtesy of Freepik

For the youngest members of our community

LISTED BELOW are regular term-time events for toddlers, babies and their carers. All are free of charge, although donations towards costs are welcome.

Mondays – Little Lambs and You – Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, Caversham RG4 8HY 10:00-11:30. Baby and toddler group. Numbers are limited, so there is an online booking system. See

www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/Groups/382970/Little_Lambs.aspx

Mondays – Busy Bees – Parish Centre, St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA – 14:00-15:00, including half terms. Contact Debbie children@saintbarnabas.org.uk for more information

Tuesdays – Babies and Toddlers – Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, RG4 8EB. 10:00 - 11:30. Refreshments available. All welcome.

cavershammethodist.org.uk/baby-toddler-group

Tuesdays – St. John's Baby and Toddler Group – Caversham Hall, St. John's Road, RG4 5AN. 09:30 - 11:00. All welcome.

Thursdays – Toddler Thursday – St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA. 8:45-10:00. Friendly group for preschoolers and parents/carers, refreshments available.

www.saintbarnabas.org.uk/whats-on

Thursdays – Baby Massage with midwife Katie – 12:15-12:55 at the Weller Centre during term times. Suitable for babies from 6 weeks to crawling. 50p donation towards costs, refreshments available.

Fridays – Tiddlers for Babies and Toddlers – St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham Heights. RG4 7PL. 9:30-11:00. All are welcome, refreshments available.

www.facebook.com/groups/209815529592564

Fridays – Baby and Toddler Group – Church House, Church Road, Caversham, RG4 8AX. 9:30 – 11:00. Step-free access at the back.

See www.ctmparish.org.uk/stpeter for details



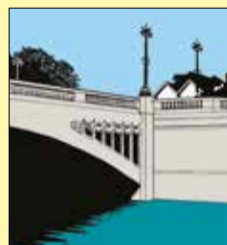
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Wellbeing *with Ami Roy*

Disagree kindly, kindly disagree

Disagreement literally means the state of being at variance. It means that we are willing to go against what other people, or the crowd, are thinking. The root words mean not conforming, not settling.

It is our disagreements that can set us free

We have to begin by disagreeing with ourselves - then we can disagree with other people. But we have to be prepared to be annoying and even misunderstood sometimes.

Disagreement is not the same thing as being disagreeable.

Disagreement may not make us richer, more attractive or more positive. But it will bring out our true friendships. It will mature and ground us.

Disagreement is mostly about questioning. Asking ourselves questions and not settling for surface answers. Some of our answers may disturb us. And being disturbed is the first sign that change is on its way.

Here is what disagreement is NOT:

- **It is not negativity or negative thinking**
However, negative thinking is probably more important than positive thinking because it prepares us by looking for the weakness in our plans and our mindset, and then we can make corrections
- **It is not pessimism**
- **It is not being a hater or a troll**
Looking to smash anyone who has an original thought or challenges your thinking. Trolls and haters find solace in their small-minded tribes. Disagreement means you are willing to stand up for your opinion and care about the opinions of others enough to think about what they are saying to you
- **It is not living without concern for other people**
Living without compassion leads to isolation and emptiness

- **It is not discussing politics or religion**
These are easy topics to disagree with and become personal attacks just because we think we know the answer to the world's problems. Don't avoid these topics, just think about your questions first.

We could ask ourselves:

- **Do I feel more at peace, or more disturbed?**
Sometimes our disagreements will disturb us... and they should.
- **Am I disagreeing because I am rebelling for its own sake, to gain power, or because I have a point?**
Sometimes you and I just want to vent at the world or those in authority. Anger and rebellion are not the same as disagreement. Rebellion can be a working out of our family issues or may be a reaction rather than involving any deep thought at all. Taking the time to have a point, rather than just knee-jerk reactions is healthy.
- **Am I connected or am I using my disagreement to further isolate or distance myself? Am I trying to push people away, or just presenting my opinion?**
Our disagreements should come from a place of commitment to each other and caring.

Only when we are honest with ourselves and others even if we don't see eye to eye, and we agree to disagree kindly, can we truly benefit ourselves and others around us.

Local Clergy and Church Services

ANGLICAN

Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Ministry

St Margaret, St Peter, St John

Rev'd Mike Smith,

The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4 7AD

Tel: 0118 947 9505 rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331 810

penny@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Rachel Ross Smith Tel: 07884 371688

rachel@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Dr Catherine Radcliffe Tel: 07740 475697

catherine@ctmparish.org.uk

Contact: admin@ctmparish.org.uk or 0118 996 8836

Correspondence address: Church House,

59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX

Current services

St Margaret's Church

Mapledurham – 11:15. 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday Holy

Communion, 3rd Sunday Service of the Word.

St Peter's Church

1st Sunday of the month: 9.30 All Age Service of the

Word, with music group and choir

18.30 Holy Communion with prayers for healing, with choir

2nd and 4th Sundays: 8.00 said BCP Holy Communion

9.30 Holy Communion with choir and activities for young

people, primary and secondary age

3rd Sunday: 9.30 All Age Holy Communion in a shorter

format, with choir – 18.30 Choral Evensong

Wednesday: 9.30 said Holy Communion

All services live streamed on Zoom. For Zoom details go

to www.ctmparish.org.uk/services/online/

St John's Church

Gosbrook Road Sunday services

8:00 Online CTM Youtube channel (stays available to

watch anytime)

9:30 1st and 3rd Sunday Holy Communion, 2nd All Age

Worship, 4th Service of the Word

Sunday Club for children on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays

St Andrew's

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrew's Vicarage, Harrogate Road.

Tel: 0118 947 2788 www.standrewscaversham.org

Current services

St Andrew's weekly services are Sundays at 8:00 and

10:00. The 10:00 is also livestreamed on the St Andrew's

YouTube channel. Prayer Book Communion at 11.30 on

the first Sunday of each month. More info on the parish

website. www.standrewscaversham.org/services

Compline: 8.30 on Mondays during BST (in church)

St Barnabas, Emmer Green and Caversham Park

Rev'd Kevin Lovell, vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Church Office Tel: 0118 947 5214

Current Services

Sundays: 8:00 BCP Holy Communion (1st Sunday only)

9:30 Parish Communion (Service of the Word on

2nd Sunday)

11:15 All Age Worship (Café Church or Family Communion)

Wednesdays: 10:30 Midweek Communion

Morning Prayer: Tuesdays 8:30 in church; Mon/Weds/

Thurs 8:00. online at

www.facebook.com/StBarnabasEmmerGreen/live_videos

Full details at www.saintbarnabas.org.uk/whats-on

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church Caversham

Rev'd Jeongsook Kim Tel: 0118 947 2223

Rev'd David Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

www.cavershammethodist.org.uk

Current services

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Highmoor Road

Sunday – 10.30 – Also available on YouTube.

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Current services: Sunday – 10:30

New Testament Church of God

Rev'd Dr Garrick Wilson

Tel: 0118 946 3009

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

United Reformed Church, Caversham Park

Contact: Dr Alison Johnston

Tel: 0118 947 5152 www.cavershamparkurc.com

Current services

Sunday – 11:00 – Livestreaming on YouTube

Details on their web site at:

<https://cpurc.org.uk/live-stream>

BAPTIST CHURCH

Caversham Baptist Church

Pastor: Colin Baker

Church office Tel: 0118 954 5353

Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Current services

Sunday worship 10:30 each week, including groups for

children and youth

Sermons are recorded and uploaded to

www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Hymn Café 15:00-16:00 on the last Sunday of each month

Grace Church (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Elders Nick King and David Steed

Tel: 0118 947 4529 www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

See their web site for details:

www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

Riverside Church (Reading)

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne

Fr Joe McLoughlin, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue

Tel: 0118 947 1787 www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

Current services

See their web site for services at:

www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

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Sonning Common – Tel: 0118 972 3418

<http://saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk>

For details of the services being held at each of our churches, please visit their respective websites (on this page) or the Churches Together in Caversham website www.cavershamchurch.org



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