



Caversham Bridge

No 735

www.cavershambridge.org

May 2026

Caversham – a great place to live

by The Editors

CAVERSHAM WAS in the media spotlight in March when the Sunday Times announced its annual guide to the Best Places to Live in the UK. The list was published on the 20 March and featured 72 locations across the UK, including Caversham. The paper's team of expert judges travelled the country, with the top spot going to Norwich. Their judging criteria included schools, mobile signal coverage, broadband speeds and the quality of transport links.

Of Caversham, the judges said it offered the best of both worlds, with its quiet riverside streets and Victorian and Edwardian homes a short walk from Reading, with its fast rail links to London, major employers and cultural venues. A BBC Local

News report on 21 March included interviews with residents who spoke about the independent shops, friendly atmosphere, and its sense of community as contributing to making it a perfect place 'where you just have a mix of everything'.

Matthew Davis, writing in the Times, described this as 'athleisure country with an emphasis on leisure, and culture', referencing the Reading Festival and Thames Lido amongst other attractions. He also mentioned our golf, tennis, croquet and bowls clubs, as well as the Redgrave-Pincent Rowing Lake.

Whilst Caversham's good communication links and schools are important, local independent businesses were prominent in his article, including Fourbears Books, Nood Stores and the Edit, as well as the artisan and farmers' market every Sunday.



Dining out also featured, with venues from The Last Crumb to Vegivores named, and Spill was described as the place in which to be seen! Our access to the Thames for walks or boat trips, and the nearby Chilterns for countryside escapes may be taken for granted by many of us but really do help to make this a special place.

Whilst all these things are important, it is the sense of being

a community which differentiates Caversham and which newcomers find so appealing. The Caversham and District Residents' Association and the Caversham Bridge Newspaper were both cited in the article, but perhaps the quote from a someone who moved here just two years ago, interviewed by the BBC, sums it up. "Everyone says 'hello' when you walk past them and they're super friendly".

Caversham Village sign and library behind
photo F Smith

the judges said it offered the best of both worlds, with its quiet riverside streets and Victorian and Edwardian homes...

Art and community



The Lane by Nina O'Connell, one of the paintings she will be exhibiting as part of the Caversham Arts Trail in May
photo N O'Connell

by Phil Chatfield

WITH THE Caversham Arts Trail coming up in the middle of the month, it seems appropriate to have a number of articles focusing on creativity. Our centre pages (p10-11) reproduce the map for the Arts Trail – do take the opportunity to visit the venues and perhaps be tempted to buy the work of our talented artists.

A different form of community public art is the subject of our Yarn Bomb article (p4), and our Creative Caversham (p9) features Arts Trail participant, John

Nicholls, whose sculptures will be on show. The Artist and Makers' Fair returns in a new form this month (p8) with the work of its wide variety of creative talents displayed for sale.

Our contribution from Happy Wanderer is inspired by a painting of Fisher's Builder's Yard in Emmer Green by an unknown artist (p7), and the Local Scene subject from Janina Maher is Spill Bar in the precinct (p13).

It can sometimes be interesting to learn how our community is seen by others, and Caversham has been in the spotlight recently because of a national newspaper survey (above and p8). Volunteers play an important part in local life, from Caversham Good Neighbours, who are appealing for drivers to help with their work (p17), to our own volunteers who deliver your paper.

This month we remember Una Waters, who for many years delivered the paper and was a familiar sight in Caversham (p16). We also celebrate kindness in our community, with the inspirational story of the Muston family (p2).

Other regular writers include Les Cooper considering summer bedding in his garden (p12), Tricia Marcouse, whose Ecotip takes a timely look at energy saving (p15), and Ami Roy with thoughts on wellbeing and showering (p19).

Contact us at
editors@cavershambridge.org
or by post at Church House,
Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX.
Please note, it is currently not possible to contact us by phone.

INSIDE



Talking Point – Penny Cuthbert

p2



An Ancient Art – Bell Sunday

p4



Horticultural Society – Spring Show

p12

If you were a musical instrument, what instrument would you be?



Talking Point

by
Penny Cuthbert

LAST WEEK I went with a friend to a concert at the Hexagon, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra playing pieces by Rossini, Dvorak and Rachmaninoff. I am not a musician or a music scholar, but I do enjoy all types of music, and there's something very compelling about watching a live orchestra – violin bows all rising and falling in unison, and the speed at which fingers travel around fingerboards and turn pages! The guest cellist, Andrew Byun, was mesmerising. And all conducted by Nil Venditti, who led with joyful panache.

...extraordinarily beautiful...

Before it began there was a cacophony of noise while the musicians tried to get their instruments in tune. Then the first violin played a single note, and the whole orchestra tuned to it. Then there was silence. And then suddenly they were off, launching into the beautiful harmonies that sometimes moved the audience to tears. No duff notes as far as I could hear. The whole thing was extraordinarily beautiful.

In his book *Praying by heart – the Lord's Prayer for everyone* Stephen Cottrell writes that, 'The will of God, the good purposes of a good and loving God, for this earth and everything in it, is like a single, beautiful, clarifying note played throughout the universe.' He says everything

And then suddenly they were off, launching into the beautiful harmonies that sometimes moved the audience to tears...

else can be, and should be, tuned to it. When we pray 'Your will be done' it's not a prayer of defeat, a shrugging of the shoulders, or a resignation to the inevitability of the evil so evident in our out-of-tune world. It's more a prayer of longing, of pleading, even of defiance. 'YOUR good and perfect will be done,' – rather than the selfish will of tyrants and despots.

Perhaps we feel a little helpless in the face of the barrage of bad news we see on our TV screens. But we are not. We can all pray, 'Your will be done'. And we can all make an effort to tune – or perhaps to let God tune – our own hearts to the one single, beautiful, clarifying note of the will of God, the God who calls us to love one another with the same kind of love Jesus showed when he walked this earth. Selfless, sacrificial, merciful, gracious, joyful, courageous, holy love.

May your life, and mine, play a beautiful tune.

Penny Cuthbert – Associate Vicar, St John's Caversham



Our Kind Community

text and photo Caroline Gratrix

Dan Muston: Sometimes kindness is something much bigger...



KINDNESS CAN BE a small gesture, a kind word, or holding a door open for someone. But sometimes kindness is something much bigger. Sometimes it quite literally saves a life. That's exactly what happened in the Muston family.

Reuben Muston was a promising young boxer with 19 wins under his belt when, in March 2022, a routine fight suddenly took a frightening turn. A blow caused his nose to bleed, and the bleeding didn't stop for five days. After two weeks in hospital, Reuben received devastating news; he had the rarest form of blood cancer, Aplastic Anaemia.

Doctors explained that finding a bone marrow match would be extremely unlikely because the condition was so rare. His mum's match probability was around 1 in 100. His dad's genetic type was even rarer - only about 15 people in the world were likely to match him. The message was stark, survival was uncertain and, even if he did survive, boxing again might never be possible.

...best hope...

But neither Reuben nor his dad Dan accepted that. Dan's best hope of helping his son was to become his donor. As his father he was a 'haplo-identical' match, about 50%. It wasn't perfect and it meant Reuben would need double chemotherapy and double radiotherapy.

Reuben was a lean 49kg fighter and was told he would need to gain 20kg just to survive the treatment; so he trained a lot and gained 20kg in muscle.

Meanwhile Dan did the same. He took vitamins, went to the gym five times a week, stopped drinking alcohol and focused on being as healthy as possible. He said, "I didn't care if Reuben never boxed again – I just wanted him to live."

In March 2023, Reuben received the transplant.

A year later he ran the London Marathon in 3 hours 34 minutes. By September 2024 he was back in the ring and won a national title.

The family now work closely with Anthony Nolan and DKMS', encouraging people to join the stem cell donor register. Signing up is simple: a cheek swab kit arrives in the post and is returned in a prepaid envelope.

You never know when you might be the one person in the world who can save a life.

And thanks to a father's determination and a son's refusal to give up, Reuben is living proof of what kindness and firm belief in yourself can do.

Find out more at

www.anthonynolan.org and www.dkms.org.uk

1. DKMS is an international charity dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders

“ You Wrote

Belle Boutique article, April 2026

Dear Editors

I remember the lovely fashion shop Belle Boutique featured in the Caversham Bridge paper.

It was around 1978 that my husband and I were going to a party and he gave me some money to go and buy a new dress. I went to Belle Boutique and chose a dress, it was a lovely shade of pink with a halter neck.

There was also another one I liked which was sparkly white and looked like a dress Shirley Bassey would have worn.

Beautiful clothes in that shop. The dress was £25. I don't know what that would be now!

Mrs Elizabeth Scott

The perfect blend of Compassionate care and luxury living



Person-centred care is at the heart of Signature. Through a holistic approach to wellbeing, we create personalised experiences that help every resident feel supported, valued and empowered to live life to the fullest, every day.

To find out more call us on 0118 227 0995.



May Fayre

**SATURDAY 23RD MAY
12.00PM - 4.00PM**

Stalls, bar, live music and bouncy castle. £2 entry for Alzheimer's Society. (Charity number: 296645)

SCAN HERE
TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE



RESIDENTIAL | NURSING | DEMENTIA CARE | RESPITE | REHABILITATION

Signature
AT CAVERSHAM

SIGNATURE AT CAVERSHAM
2 Willow View, Caversham RG4 6LB
signature-care-homes.co.uk/caversham



On the hunt for the best full English breakfast in Reading

NATHAN'S NIBBLES in Prospect Street hit the podium with local foodie Dean when he published his Reading Fry-up Rankings in March this year.

Dean ate ten fry-ups across Reading as part of his EatDrinkWithDean fry-up series, available on Instagram and YouTube. Checking out everything from sausages and black pudding to proper builders' tea, he has been on the hunt for the best full English breakfast in Reading. After sampling the ten fry-ups, he ranked Nathan's Nibbles second only to 3Bs on the Oxford Road.



You can view his reports at www.youtube.com/@Eatdrinkwithdean or on Instagram at [instagram.com/meat_whiskey](https://www.instagram.com/meat_whiskey)

Join the Caversham Bridge team!

DO YOU WANT to be part of our well-loved community newspaper?

Are you familiar with basic bookkeeping, invoicing and accounting? Have you used online accounting software?

Would you like to play a part in shaping the future of this invaluable community asset?

If so, then maybe you could be our next treasurer. To find out what is involved, please contact

Phil Chatfield at chair@cavershambridge.org

We'd love to hear from you



Subscriptions Renewals *by The Editors*

£7 for 2026/7

THE ANNUAL subscription for the Caversham Bridge is £7 for 12 editions and runs from 1 April 2026 for all our subscribers. We would like to thank those who have already renewed – at the time of writing more than half have been paid. Our deliverers will include a reminder slip with this May edition for those who have not yet renewed. You can pay by bank transfer, or by cash or cheque to your deliverer, or by post.

Payment details are as follows:

Cheques for £7 should be made out to Caversham Bridge News. Writing your postcode and house number or name on the back of the cheque is helpful. If you prefer to post a cheque, it should be sent to Caversham Bridge News, Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX

For direct bank transfer or standing order, our bank account details are:

Name: **Caversham Bridge News;**

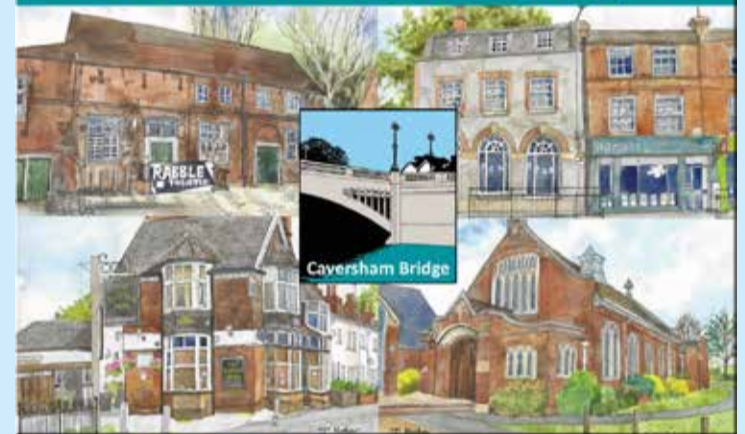
Sort Code: **30-67-99**

Account Number: **72808960**

Please include your postcode and house name or number as a reference. We have already received several payments without address details, meaning we are unable to allocate the payment to the subscriber!

NEW OPTION The proposed membership payment facility on our website has been delayed. However, this should go live within the next month, allowing you to register your details and to pay by credit card. The system will also enable automatic subscription reminders if appropriate.

A Gift subscription for you



Gift Subscriptions

are available at the same price, with a colourful gift card featuring some of Janina Maher's paintings of local buildings.

Contact

subscriptions@cavershambridge.org



BOILER REPLACEMENT SPECIALIST

- All Gas Work Undertaken • Servicing
- Landlord Safety Certificates • Central Heating

Remove years of sludge which causes your heating system to under-perform or even fail by having a Specialist Power Flush with our state of the art Magnetic System.

PEPPARD HEATING & PLUMBING
07956 566317 / 0118 9545478 / 01491 699158
for free quote



OPTICIANS



- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Full contact lens service
- Free specs for children
- Extensive range of designer frames
- Main agent for Zeiss and Rodenstock lenses
- Free parking

0118 947 2099
www.robinjames.co.uk
44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)



Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors

est. 1999

Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors create personal and unique funerals to celebrate your loved one. Caring for families of all faiths since 1999 in Reading and the surrounding areas.

- Private Chapel of Rest • Probate
- Prepaid funeral plans
- Memorial Masonry
- International Repatriation

0118 321 6843

Tamela House, RG1 8BB

Other branches located in Winnersh, Twyford, Binfield, Crowthorne, Maidenhead, Tadley & Whitley

milesfunerals.com

Funeral Partners



The best community stories, the most exciting local events

All of your trusted local traders, and all for just £7 a year
Don't miss out, subscribe today!



Yarn bomb at Caversham Court Gardens

Floral Yarn Bomb Caversham Court Gardens

text and photo Hester Casey

AT THE START of May, there will be a stunning new community craft installation on display featuring a colourful array of gorgeous flowers made over a four-month period with the help of more than 25 local knitters and crocheters.

The decorative panel, measuring 11 by 6 feet, will cover one of the many unsightly temporary fence panels which are fencing off dangerous sections of the historic walls. The idea for this came to me on a dreary day in November when the much-loved gardens were looking particularly forlorn, surrounded as they are by security fences. I decided I would like to design and create a sort of comfort blanket to show the gardens are still cared for. It has been heart-warming to have so many people on board with it and meet fellow crafters from the Caversham Library Sit and Stitch Group and the Caversham Parish Craft Group and I would like to thank them all for their work on this.

...very suitable...

The result is a beautiful panel reminiscent of Elizabethan embroideries, which is very suitable for these historic gardens. Nearly every flower is different and a work of art in itself. Hidden amongst them are bees, butterflies, ladybirds, and even a very Hungry Caterpillar!

Our team has taken a lot of pride and pleasure in creating this. It would have been even more satisfying if the Council had been able to get these walls repaired sooner. Unfortunately, due to long drawn-out procedures, raising the money, and finding suitable companies able to repair the damage, this has not yet been possible. In the meantime, please enjoy looking at our yarn bomb.

We hope that it will survive the summer in situ.

For more information on the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, visit <https://home.fccg.org.uk>

An Ancient Art

by Richard Bisgrove

DID YOU know that St Dunstan is the patron saint of bell ringers? Of course you did! To commemorate our patron saint, St Margaret's Church, in the picturesque estate village of Mapledurham (RG4 7TR), will be marking Bell Sunday on 10 May, by demonstrating the ancient art of bell ringing. Some of our ringers will be in the church from 10:00 on Sunday, before the 11:15 service, to talk about the bells and bell ringing, and to give visitors the opportunity to try their hand. You don't have to be religious to ring bells, and you can leave before the service if you wish, but the bell-themed service will end with coffee and bell-shaped biscuits!

Bell ringing helps to ensure a longer life. The gentle physical exercise, mental concentration and social activity it provides are hot topics in 'wellbeing' circles. The bell ringing community is also nation-wide. One of our ringers, commuting from Reading to London, was posted to a project in Wales, so he looked up *Dove* (the bellringers' manual), found a tower local to the project, and instantly had a dozen new friends — ringing in Wales in the week and in Mapledurham on Sundays. If you are interested in a lifelong hobby challenging the brain and — mildly — the body or simply want to know more about this ancient tradition, come along at 10:00 on 10 May.



St Margaret's Church

photo R Bisgrove

For further information please contact richardbisgrove52@btinternet.com



The team which rang for the King's Coronation

photo D Park

ABBEYCREST
ARIA CARE

Come and
enjoy a break
with us

Laughter, joy, and companionship - Enjoy a winter retreat this season with Aria Care. Whether you're looking for care for yourself or a loved one, our respite stays are here to lend a helping hand.

0808 281 5107 | ariacare.co.uk
Sonning Common, Berkshire, RG4 9RG

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- Guttering Installations & Repairs • Roofing
- Fascias & Soffits • Painting & Decorating
 - All Interior & Exterior maintenance
 - Pest Control Service
- Full Public Liability Insured • Police Checked



We welcome inspection of previous work

info@theabelgroupreading.co.uk
0118 329 0175 or 07974 089978
for a free estimate

Jones & Jacob
Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers

Jones and Jacob Ltd offer an easy way to sell your unwanted items. We can assist with everything from single items to a full house clearance.

We hold auctions on the second Wednesday of every month, selling silver, jewellery, collectors' items, pictures and furniture.

Next auctions: 13th May - 10th June

Simon has a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing valuations and as an auctioneer. He is happy to conduct valuations at your home or on site at our saleroom in Watlington.

PROBATE and INSURANCE VALUATIONS

tel: 01491 612810
jonesandjacob.com
Ingham Lane, Watlington
OX49 5EJ





For your bookshelf...

by Vicky Barnes

FOURBEARS FEST 2026 has been so busy and exciting this year, but we've still found time for some reading (let's face it, there's always time for reading...).

The pick for little readers this month is picture book *Meanwhile Back on Earth...* by Oliver Jeffers. This is yet another captivating story paired with charming illustrations from Jeffers for kids and parents to share and enjoy together. A father takes his children on an adventure through time and space, looking back at human history on Earth as part of an immense cosmic timeline. Jeffers's beautiful story conveys a fundamental lesson about the futile nature of conflict in the grand scheme of the universe. A big message indeed, but poignantly captured through Jeffers' distinctive illustrations and careful storytelling that children aged 3+ can grasp. *Meanwhile Back on Earth...* is now available in paperback at Fourbears.

For adults, this month doubles as one of our book group's picks: *Really Good, Actually* by Monica Heisey. Meet Maggie, a 29-year-old divorcée who is attempting to get back on her

feet after her marriage unexpectedly ends after 608 days. Relationships, love, careers, modern life, Maggie has it all figured out... until she doesn't. Alone and struggling to pay her rent, she immerses herself in the world of dating, 'sadness hobbies' and midnight takeaways to distract from her newfound loneliness and some nagging questions. From her vague PhD to her failed marriage, she begins to wonder about it all. Heisey's debut is genuinely hilarious, sharply observed, and instantly recognisable to anyone trying to work it all out whilst trying to maintain that they are doing 'really good, actually'. We can't wait to hear what the book group has to say about it.

We have two book groups that both run on the first Tuesday of every month in the shop. Our afternoon session runs from 14:00 to 15:00 and the evening group starts at 19:30. It's free to join and a 10% discount is offered when you purchase the chosen book from us. Register online or in the shop, we'd be delighted to see you!

www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk



This bear is staying firmly on Earth

photo V Barnes

Fourbears Fest children's author events



by Sarah Stuffs



Eve Wersocki Morris

photo RCBG



Yuval Zommer

photo RCBG

THIS YEAR'S children's programme for Fourbears Fest took place on the weekend of 14/15 March. Organised by Reading Children's Book Group (RCBG) on behalf of Fourbears Books, the two author events on Saturday and three on Sunday were an unprecedented success.

For the first time in the festival's three years, an author was popular enough to fill the hall at Queen Anne's School. Families came from as far afield as the New Forest and Letchworth to see Harriet Muncaster, creator of the hugely popular *Isadora Moon* books, who was introducing her new series about Wiska Wildflower.

The other events took place in Fourbears bookshop. Picture book author and illustrator Steve Anthony opened the programme celebrating the 10th anniversary of his classic *Please Mr Panda*. On Sunday the shop was busy all day. Toddlers enjoyed Teddy Bear Story Time, performed by Charlie from Reading Rep Theatre. Older children got creative with Yuval Zommer, author of *The Big Book of Nature*. They crafted beautiful butterflies out of card, which they decorated with colouring pens, leaves and flowers. Eve Wersocki Morris, author of *Clem Fatale Has Been Betrayed*, sadly got caught in traffic and missed the beginning of her creative writing event, so Sarah Stuffs, of Reading Children's Book Group, started the session off. Eve was very impressed by the variety and inventiveness of the mystery stories created by the children and enjoyed answering their questions about being an author.

Reading Children's Book Group hold regular monthly sessions for children at Fourbears Books. Attendance is free but must be booked in advance. For more information see www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk/whats-on

awcycles
110 Henley Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 6DH
0118 946 3050 • awcycles.co.uk

Call in to our Caversham Store for Bikes, Clothing, Accessories, Components, Servicing, Repair
t: 0118 946 3050
e: info@awcycles.co.uk

Caversham Osteopathic Clinic

Richard Weatherall BSc OST

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

Treating many conditions

For more information or to book an appointment

0118 947 5775

07885 454 092



Caversham Electrician
All your Electrical requirements

For a free quotation Phone

07771 798485 or 0118 954 6338

CURTAINS, BLINDS, PELMETS,
TIE BACKS ETC
ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
CALL CAROLINE ON
0118 954 2448
OR 07815 610 007



Get involved in your community

Caversham Good Neighbours offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled in the neighbourhood.

We're looking for volunteer drivers and people to help in our office. Why not join us?



All expenses paid



Complete autonomy over how much help you offer

Create strong friendships within our community

0118 948 3466

Monday to Friday 9:30am - 10:30am

www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk

What's On

If you have an event planned, please send details to whatson@cavershambridge.org. We need these no later than the 10th of the month before the event for inclusion in the paper. It is helpful if they are submitted in the standard format below, using Calibri font. Later submissions can be included on our online What's On, which is updated regularly. To see what has been added check: cavershambridge.org/archives/category/around-caversham

The format of our *What's On* page has changed. Weekly events and meetings are now listed in our *What's On Weekly* feature on page 16. A listing of *Baby and Toddler* groups can be found on page 18.

Until Saturday 9 May – *The original medieval manuscript of Sumer is icumen in, also known as the famed Reading Rota has returned to Reading for the first time since the dissolution of Reading Abbey in 1539. It is on loan from the British Library to Reading Museum. It is believed to be the earliest known English song with surviving music.* The Museum is open, free, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 09:00 to 16:00 (17:00 Saturdays). See their website www.readingmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/sumer-icumen

Until Saturday 16 May – *Exhibition and sale of Jane McDonald original monoprints* – 10:00-16:00 Tuesday – Saturday, The Caversham Picture Framer, 5a, Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AA Website <https://cavershampictureframer.co.uk>

Friday 1 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 2 May – *Household and Handyman Sale* – 10:00-12:00 St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road Emmer Green RG4 8LJ. Home and garden items for sale, including tools and small items of furniture and a "Tool Sharpening" service will be available.

Saturday 2 May – *Caversham Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale* – 10:00-11:00 Oakley Road Allotments (next to vet surgery). Please bring plants and cutting for sale between 09:45 and 10:00 to allow time for pricing/labelling. See www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk

Sunday 3 May – *The Dawn Chorus at Clayfield Copse* – 05:00 Join Friends of Clayfield Copse for a stroll around Clayfield Copse and secondary woodlands to hear the best early music available with a local expert. Meet in the carpark next to the tennis courts on Caversham Park Road. The group will come back to the car park to pick up late starters at 07:00 for a shorter walk, but some birds will have finished singing by then. Tel Peter on 077487 66340 for further information

Tuesday 5 May – *Caversham Women's Institute* – 19:30 at Church House, Caversham. www.thewi.org.uk or Tel: 0118 947 5176

Wednesday 6 May – *Rosehill Ladies* – 14:00 at St Barnabas Hall, Emmer Green. Tel: Sue 0118 947 7570 or email suegreen@hotmail.com

Friday 8 May – *Chazey Women's Institute* – 14:30 at St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road. Tel: 0118 947 0964, or e-mail rowena@primology.com

Friday 8 May – *Chance 2 dance 4 charity* – 19:30-21:30 Peppard Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road, Peppard Common RG9 5JA in support of Amnesty International and Wyfold Riding for the Disabled. Bring your own refreshments as there will be no food or drink on sale. Tickets £8 on the door or online www.trybooking.com/uk/FSWD (+15p booking fee)

Saturday 9 May – *Open Day at Reading Sailing Club* – 11:00 to 15:00 Sonning Eye, Reading RG4 6TT. A day with free taster sessions, sailing activities, a BBQ, and plenty happening on and off the water. The club also offers model yacht racing, windsurfing and paddleboarding, so there really is something for everyone See www.readingsc.org.uk for more details and location map.

Saturday 9 - Sunday 17 May – *Reading Walks Festival 2026* – 43 guided walks led by local experts, exploring Reading's history and natural heritage, with over a quarter celebrating Reading's great waterways to tie in with the 30th anniversary of the Thames Path National Trail. Tickets sold out fast last year, so check ReadingWalksFestival.org for availability and to book. A printed programme is also available at Reading's libraries, Reading Museum reception and other outlets.

Sunday 10 May – *Bell Sunday* – 10:00-10:40 at St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham RG4 7TR. An opportunity to find out about and try your hand at the ancient tradition of bell ringing. For details see article on page 4 or contact richardbisgrove52@btinternet.com

Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 May – *Plant Sale to support Water Aid and the Red Cross* – 10:00-17:00 daily, 97 South View Avenue, RG4 5BB. Plants for your garden, Fair Trade goods, crafts and refreshments in the garden. Donations of plants welcome. Contact Phil & Pam Chatfield 0118 947 2444, email phil.chatfield1@gmail.com

Monday 18 May – *Churches Together in Caversham Annual Meeting* – 19:30 Caversham Baptist Church Celebrating the work of CTC, including the work done through REinspired, the Caversham Drop-In and the Summer Holiday Club, and commissioning volunteers for the year ahead Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tuesday 19 May – *Caversham and District Residents Association Annual General Meeting and Open Meeting* – 19:00 for 19:30 Caversham Baptist Church. Caversham and District Residents Association AGM (brief) followed by talks entitled *Caversham: our bridge, our river and the Royal Show. As Caversham Bridge reaches 100 years old, our speakers will take you back to 1926 to look at the creation of the new bridge, the importance of the river and the Royal Show held at Caversham Park.* This is an open meeting and all are welcome.

Wednesday 20 May - Saturday 27 June – *Exhibition: Aftershocks & Echoes: Healing Through Making – Art as Therapy and Transformation* – 10:00-16:00 Tuesday – Saturday, The Caversham Picture Framer, 5a, Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AA A group show featuring Imy Moon, Jenna Fox and Paul Askew. Website <https://cavershampictureframer.co.uk>

Wednesday 20 May – *From Blackboard to Mortarboard: Adult Education in Reading, a talk by Margaret Simons* – 19:00 doors open, 19:30 start. Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading. The History of Reading Society. This meeting is open to all, visitors are asked to pay £2 each to attend. There will also be a book sale. www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk email historyofreadingsociety@yahoo.com

Friday 22 May – *Ma vie comme professeur de français et auteur – Gwen Brookes talks about her life as a Primary School French teacher and the challenges faced when producing her Berthe the Witch storybooks for children learning French or Spanish* – 19:30-21:30 Le Cercle Français at Church House, 59 Church Street, RG4 8AX. For those who are learning French, love France and for French nationals. Admission £5 welcome drink included. See www.readingfrenchcircle.co.uk for programme. Email readingcerclefrançais@gmail.com

Wednesday 27 May – *Cocoa, Chrysanthemums and the Chelsea Flower Show, a talk by Andy Wetten University of Reading* – 19:30 at Caversham Baptist Church, opposite Waitrose. Caversham Horticultural Society. £3 non-members. Light refreshments. For details visit www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk/talks

Coming Soon:

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June – *Reading Amateur Regatta* – River Thames at Thameside Promenade. Racing runs downstream on a two-lane course. 1500m on Saturday and 1000m on Sunday. A brilliant day out for spectators, with plenty of space for picnics in Caversham Court Gardens and along the Promenade. For details, see www.reading-amateur-regatta.org

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June – *The Regatta Vintage Fayre* – 10:00-19:00-Saturday, 10:00-17:00 Sunday. Caversham Court Gardens. A chance to watch the Reading Amateur Regatta boat races and to enjoy garden games, a craft market and live music. Food and a bar on site. Entry free. See www.angelbar.co.uk for more details

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

THE APPEAL for a 70 home development on part of the former golf course at Land West of Kidmore End Road will run from 6-14 May. South Oxfordshire District Council will defend its refusal. Reading Borough Council accepts that the land may be accessed from Reading but is seeking compensation for the development's impact. Kidmore End Parish Council and local community groups will be represented at the inquiry, and all seek its dismissal.

Two significant applications have been submitted this month. **Hemdean House School (PL/26/0138)**: Churchill Living is seeking permission for 51 retirement apartments on the former games field, the conversion of the School House into 10 open market apartments, and the conversion of the gate lodge into a single dwelling. The proposal includes communal facilities and an additional access road. As the house and lodge are Locally Listed, their preservation, sympathetic landscaping (including tree loss), traffic impacts and the loss of educational facilities will all need careful consideration.

The second is **Caversham House and Park (PL/26/0311)**: This application concerns the Construction Method Statement, raising issues around construction traffic management and protection of the listed house and parkland's heritage and biodiversity.

In Thames Ward, **2 Mill Green (PL/26/0252)** has a retrospective application for a singlestorey rear extension and a change of use to an HMO. The house is locally listed as an unspoilt example of the 1930s Moderne style.

At the **Seat Garage, Peppard Road (PL/26/0332)**, the existing fascia and pylon signs are to be replaced with illuminated versions. Light levels for sites of this type are considered acceptable.

The appeals relating to the waterfront extension at **The Persian Palace, 2 Bridge Street**, have been decided. The extension may be retained, although flooding concerns remain.

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

CAVERSHAM & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CADRA)

Open Meeting, AGM & Talk

**Caversham 1926:
Our bridge, our river
and the Royal Show**

**Tuesday 19 May 2026
7pm for 7.30pm**

Caversham Baptist Church
Caversham, RG4 8HY

ALL WELCOME



Caversham & District Residents' Association

www.cadra.org.uk

carlhutchinslandscaping

**LANDSCAPE • DESIGN
• CONSTRUCTION •**

**M: 07980 992267
jardinmesser@yahoo.co.uk**

**Emma's
Barber
Shop**

Goes Mobile!

Now operating in Caversham,
Emmer Green, Sonning Common
and all surrounding areas

Contact me to book
07901 966303
emmaruane@gmail.com

**The best
community
stories,
the most
exciting
local
events**

All of your trusted local
traders, and all for
just £7 a year

**Don't miss out,
subscribe today!**

IN MARCH I was presented with a box of 'treasures' which had belonged to Molly Casey. I never met Mrs Casey, but had certainly heard of her from her work for the Reading Civic Society, and the Caversham and District Residents' Association.

In the box were two watercolour paintings; skilled, attractive, and representing immediately recognisable Caversham scenes. One of them is signed P Seaby. The one I've chosen to write about is unsigned, but may well be by the same artist. I thought I'd write about them, before giving them to Reading Museum and Art Gallery.

I recognised Fisher's Builders' Yard on Peppard Road, by the bus stop just past the junction with Kidmore End Road. The business of W N and E Fisher closed down in the 1980s, and the site was sold to a developer in 1988 who built apartments on it called Fisher's Court.

...various enterprises...

The story of the family and its various enterprises over a century or so is told in the book produced by the Emmer Green Residents' Association in 2001, Emmer Green, Past and Present, and much of what follows comes from the book.

The Fishers arrived in Peppard Road in the 1880s. William Fisher was a wheelwright and timber merchant, who was eventually joined by his sons, Noah and Edwin. Edwin was a blacksmith, with his forge on Peppard Road. I would guess that the building with the ventilator in the roof and the boarded gable, to the left of the picture, is the forge. In later years the building became the Emmer Green Barber's shop, and it's now the Blunt Lines Salon. The book says that the old forge is a listed building, but I have to say that so far, I have failed to find it on the official list.

With the decline in horse traffic, the demand for wooden wheels with iron tyres, and for shoes for horses became less, and the new generation of Fishers became builders. As



Watercolour of Fisher's Yard prior to redevelopment as Fisher's Court

well as houses in the area, they built the new St Barnabas' Church, Emmer Green, in the 1920s.

On the other side of Peppard Road these days is the blank wall of Budgen's supermarket and, among the papers which came with the painting, was a document from the Department of the Environment in 1971 which concerned a dispute over the position of the shop. It was in Oxfordshire, but Peppard Road itself was in Reading. The Borough Council had asked the County Council to ensure that the new shops were set well back from Peppard Road, so

that it could be widened if necessary. Oxfordshire hadn't insisted on this and had granted Planning Permission for the supermarket to be built right up to the pavement. There had been complaints and an official enquiry, and now, in 1971, came a document from the Secretary of State for the Environment to the Clerk of Oxfordshire County Council. He had decided that 'he would not be justified in exercising his powers' and the shop could remain. The Reading/Oxfordshire boundary was moved farther east in 1983.

M D Howlett

Architectural Consultant

30 years experience in all aspects of domestic and commercial architecture, including designs, local authority applications and contract administration

0118 947 7117
pmaarc@globalnet.co.uk

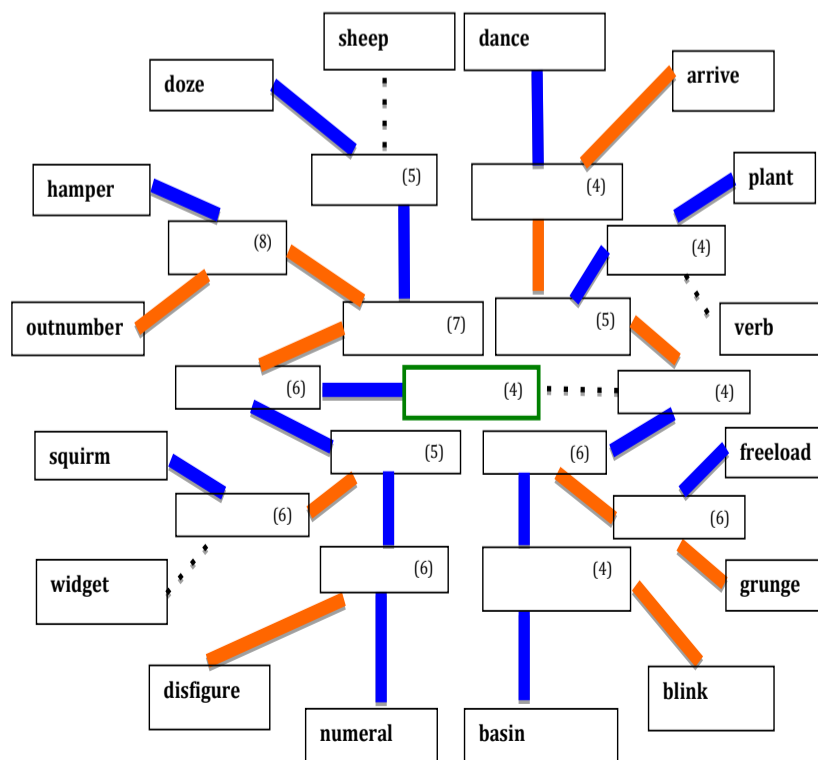
Puzzle Corner

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

BOARD GAMES

Can you find 20 board games named in the grid?

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

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Articulate | Go |
| Backgammon | Hey That's My Fish |
| Balderdash | Lord of the Rings |
| Carcassonne | Ludo |
| Chess | Monopoly |
| Civilisation | Outrage |
| Cluedo | Risk |
| Diplomacy | Sagaland |
| Draughts | Scrabble |
| Flamme Rouge | Ticket to Ride |

CARTER ELECTRICAL

Why should you install Solar PV?
You can achieve payback of 12% from your investment

0118 967 7033
info@carter-electrical.co.uk
www.carter-electrical.co.uk



New look – Artists’ & Makers’ Fair

by Jean Harper

THE FAIR HAS been running successfully since it started in 2021, giving the many talented local artists and craftspeople the opportunity to show and sell their work. But now the organisers want to help our local creative community even more. This year, all proceeds from the Fair will go towards local arts and crafts projects. Organiser, Michelle Edmunds, explains, “We hope to encourage as much involvement in arts and crafts as possible, and this seems a good way to do it. The more people who attend the Fairs, the more cash we will be able to raise for local projects”.

Regular visitors can still expect to find a wide range of unique, high-quality arts and crafts which provide interesting and unique alternatives to the mass-produced

items found online and in stores. And you get to meet the artists and craftspeople too!

The Lobby café will be open, providing much needed refreshment in the form of delicious cakes, tea and coffee, for stallholders and visitors alike.

So, whether you like traditional or quirky art, amazing textiles, beautiful ceramics and woodwork, or stunning jewellery and gifts, visit the

Artists’ & Makers’ Fair between 10:00 and 16:00

you’ll be assured of a warm welcome. There is always a colouring competition to entertain younger visitors and, as it is a dog-friendly event, there are treats at the entrance for any four-legged friends who accompany you!



Evangeline’s Emporium

photo F Smith

The Artists’ and Makers’ Fair is held at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, RG4 6EB on the second Saturday of the month.

This year’s dates are

**9 May • 12 September • 10 October
14 November • and 12 December**

For more information: www.rg4arts.org.uk or email anmfairs@gmail.com



Beautiful jewellery and crochet work

photo F Smith



Pamcrafts textiles

photo F Smith



Ready to welcome customers!

photo F Smith

GRAHAM T NEAL
Painter & Decorator
Caversham Based Tradesman
NO JOB TO SMALL

T 0118 954 6870
M 07394 350790
E grahamtneale1966@gmail.com

The best community stories, the most exciting local events Don't miss out, subscribe today!

E.L.P. Electrical Services Ltd
Electrical Installation Contractors

- Established Electrical Installation Company with an Excellent Reputation
- Commercial and Domestic Installations
- Specialists in Electrical Testing, Fault Diagnosis and Rectification
- Fire and Intruder Alarm Systems
- Planned, Preventative and Reactive Electrical Maintenance
- Fully NIC EIC Accredited

E.L.P. Electrical Services undertake all aspects of electrical installation work from new consumer units to full rewires, including commercial electrical projects. We even install an extra socket or 2.

01189 790171
07909 434515
nickwright@elpelectrical.com
www.elpelectrical.com

The best place to live, really

text and photo Roslyn Weaver

READING MAY not have made the longlist for the UK City of Culture 2019, but Caversham did feature recently in the UK’s best places to live 2026 list – or at least as judged by one national newspaper. Such lists usually don’t please everyone, whether because of what is or is not included, or doubts about the entire idea of a ‘best place to live’, but they can also make entertaining reading for those same reasons.

The usual suspects appear in lists such as these – the river, transport links, independent shops, schools, pubs and restaurants. And then each of us will have our own take on it, depending on where our interests lie.

...literary links...

Some might mention local bands in bars and pubs, choral and classical concerts in churches, rowing and amateur regattas on the river, or refill/sustainable shops in Caversham and Emmer Green. Some enjoy craft beers, wine tastings, and vineyards down the road. Literary fans might mention the library, the independent bookshop, Caversham’s book festival, writers’ groups, book clubs, or even the many literary links to surrounding areas from Paddington and Wind in the Willows to Austen and Dickens and Wilde. You can explore the stately homes and gardens to visit in

every direction. There are also art and artists, makers and markets. You will find gyms to work out in, sports and picnics in the summer on the green spaces of Christchurch Meadows and Caversham Court Gardens. Iconic landmarks like The Library, St Peter’s, rows of red-bricked terraces, riverside mansions of centuries gone by, and Mapledurham Watermill up the river.

Of course, those lists focus on external things and not the whole

story of a ‘best’ place to live. After all, happiness – or at least the more lasting and satisfying type of happiness – isn’t really found in external environments and circumstances which can change, but in a mindset. And so, unsurprisingly, it’s when we choose to dwell on gratitude and good things, and play a role in building strong and caring communities, that we somehow find ourselves in the best place to live, wherever that might be, year in and year out.



Caversham Court Gardens and St Peter’s church, seen from Thameside Promenade

Creative CAVERSHAM

Touching Beauty



A National Trust newsletter offering a day's course learning how to work in stone lit a passion for **John Nicholls**. His sculptures will be on show during May's Caversham Arts Trail, as he explained to **Elestr Lee**

Waiting for his wife on the steps of York Minster, John Nicholls noticed some new carving around the West Door and thought how wonderful it must be to work in stone. The opportunity to find out for himself came soon after when he took up a place on the National Trust course at Hardwick Hall. "Basically, they show you how to hold a chisel and make a groove – then they leave you to play around. For me, this one-day course has become a lifetime obsession!" John said.

Apart from going on a couple of letter-cutting courses, John has been entirely self-taught, since returning from Hardwick Hall with a few pieces of stone which gave him the possibility to carry on carving. "I started off with these, then after that I

started visiting yards, where you get used to scrounging offcuts from them.

"I like working with limestone, which is actually very variable as a material. Sometimes it is quite crumbly, but it also can be as hard as granite."

John has always had an interest in geology, and his career in town planning and urban regeneration gave him some insight into the materials used in buildings – "Now my knowledge has a practical application!" he joked. If he is working on a commissioned piece, he orders in the stone the client has chosen. "However, usually it's the case that you obtain the stone... then work out what to do with it," he explained. As well as limestone – he is currently working with Ancaster Weatherbed, a hard limestone which is speckled brown and blue/grey –



John loves making abstract works – this one is entitled *Marble disc*

all photos J Nicholls



He sometimes adds metal leaf to his work, as in *Leaf form*



A sculpture entitled *Curves and square*

he is also creating a representative piece of his own hands carving, in York stone – "a self portrait!" He enjoys lettering, as well as occasionally using metal leaf in his work.

He likes to work on quite large pieces, however since stone is so heavy he is realistic about the size of his sculptures: "It's limited by what you can lift," he said.

...so welcoming...

Having moved to Caversham from the East Midlands around 12 years ago, John has been making sculptures for around 20 years now. "One of the great things in moving to this area was that it was so welcoming, both the Henley Arts & Crafts Guild, and also the Oxford Sculptors Group. I work in our garage – in fact, as it can be very noisy and dusty when I start off a piece using electric tools I sometimes go into the woods so as not to annoy our neighbours!"

"My wife Jeanne says it's like living in a quarry – but she has been incredibly supportive and brings me lots of cups of tea!"

Once the basic shape has been achieved with electric tools, John then works on his sculptures by hand. "If the piece is abstract, I find I keep coming back, so it is difficult to say when the work is finished. There is a plan – my work tends to start off with a doodle I have drawn, often during a meeting! However, the idea will then evolve as I go. On the other hand, some of my work is representational, for example I have sculpted a hare."

Before becoming interested in sculpture

"My wife Jeanne says it's like living in a quarry – but she has been incredibly supportive and brings me lots of cups of tea!"...

John enjoyed painting – however he rarely sold any of his work. "After I'd only made three sculptures, I put them into a local art show and they sold straightaway, and I have been selling my sculptures ever since!"

Since living in this area John has taken part in the Caversham Arts Trail on several occasions, as well as the Henley Arts Trail. And as a member of the Oxford Sculptors Group they exhibit in various Oxfordshire locations, including at Grey's Court. "This year will be our ninth summer at Grey's Court," John commented. "We have around 80 members who make sculptures using a wide range of materials. There will be around 130 works exhibited, all for sale."

"I love talking to people at events and also doing demonstrations where you can encourage them to give it a go themselves. And it's great when someone sees one of my abstract pieces and they get the idea of it and want to buy it."

"Touch really matters in appreciating sculpture, as well as sight. I encourage people to run their hands over pieces, and it's especially moving when a partially sighted person does so and connects with the work."

"In fact, I find the best way for me to check on the detail of a work in progress is for me to close my eyes and to use touch to judge how it is working out."

Find out more:

John Nicholls is at Venue 1 on the Caversham Arts Trail, with Lisa O'Brien, Janina Maher and Sue Bridge, May 9-10 and May 16-17

Oxford Sculptors Group will be at Greys Court (National Trust), Rotherfield Greys, from June 13-July 12, as part of this summer's Art and Sculpture at Greys Court

Caversham arts trail

MAY 2026

Sat 9th & Sun 10th
Sat 16th & Sun 17th May
11am-5pm

over 50 artists
22 venues
across Caversham
Emmer Green & Sonning Common
www.cavershamartstrail.co.uk

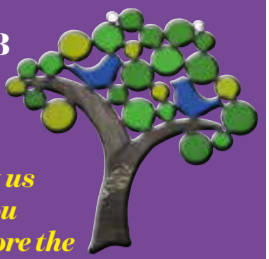
Artists & Makers Fair

Saturday 9 May • 10am-4pm
Gosbrook Rd Methodist Church RG4 8EB

- Unique handmade gifts from local makers
- Tea, coffee and delicious cakes



Visit us
as you
explore the
Caversham Arts Trail



John Nicholls Janina Maher Molten Silver Jewellery Sue Bridge
1 16 Sandcroft Road, RG4 7NP John Nicholls - demonstrations Sundays 3pm



Strawberry Art Patch Rachel McCrindle NEW Lou Sharpe
2 8 Conisboro Avenue, RG4 7JB 3 42 Hunters Chase, RG4 7XH 4 5 Woodford Close, RG4 7HN



Jiwon Kwon NEW Helen's Studio NEW SeasprayCove Jewellery
4 59 Woodcote Way, RG4 7HL 5 29 Morecambe Avenue, RG4 7NL



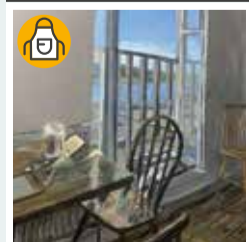
Noms Home Silver Linings Art GB Ally Evans Ceramics
6 3 Oakley Road, RG4 7RL Noms Home - demonstrations on request 7 16 Albert Road, RG4 7PE Ally Evans - demonstrations both Saturdays 2pm

8 178 Kidmore Road, RG4 7ND 9 14 Kidmore Road, RG4 7LU



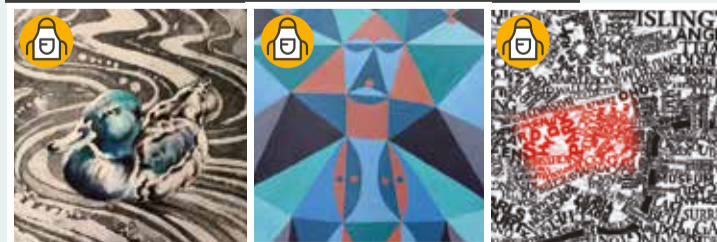
Carolyn Carter Barbara Goodbun Rev Marion Pyke NEW Therese Wicks
Marion Pyke - demonstrations 2pm Saturday and Sunday both weekends "how to use a sketchbook"

10 5 Priory Avenue RG4 7SE



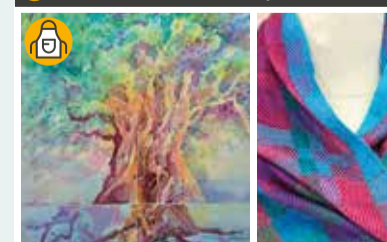
Nicola Duncan - working throughout each day

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



Andrew Field Robert Fitzmaurice NEW Mark Webber NEW
Andy Field and Robert Fitzmaurice - working throughout each day Mark Webber - printmaking 10th & 17th all day

12 134 Hemdean Road, RG4 7ST



Nina O'Connell Gloria Pitt The Wels



PLANT SALE

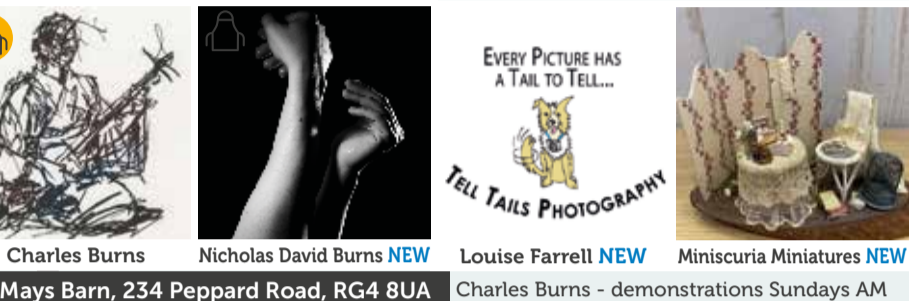
for
WaterAid
& Red Cross

97 Southview Avenue RG4 5BB

Thu 14 – Sat 16 May 10am-5pm

Summer Veg ❖ Flowers ❖ Perennials
Fairtrade Goods ❖ Crafts ❖ Refreshments

Contact Phil & Pam Chatfield 0118 947 2444
phil.chatfield1@gmail.com



Charles Burns Nicholas David Burns **NEW** Louise Farrell **NEW** Miniscuria Miniatures **NEW**
Mays Barn, 234 Peppard Road, RG4 8UA Charles Burns - demonstrations Sundays AM



Clare Grashoff Designs **NEW**
19 27 Burnham Rise
RG4 8XJ

Clare Grashoff - demonstrations throughout each day



Pam Chatfield
16 97 South View
Ave, RG4 5BB



Yuliya Martynova
17 29 Grosvenor
Road, RG4 5EN



Evangeline's Emporium
14 325 Gosbrook
Road, RG4 8DY

Evangeline's Emporium - working throughout each day



Freya Lines
15 26 Queens Road, RG4 8DL



Sonia Scott-Job **NEW**
13 Queen Anne's School, Henley Road



Art by Alina Luchianov



Fired Lines



Janet Fisher **NEW**



Karen Tomalin



Louise Grace **NEW**



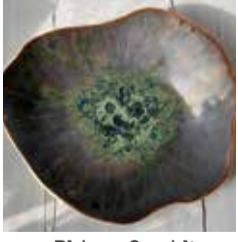
Saleel Zamaan



Nic Reid



Sue Pix Art



Rhiane Szmidt

Teachers: George Tarrant, Tanika Malhotra, Paul Tomalin, Karen Vass
Exhibiting pupils: Alvina Chan, Reet Dosanjh, Princess Okpofaa, Flora Wang

Fired Lines - demonstrations 1pm both Saturdays

Nina - demonstrations throughout each day

Welsh Woodman - demonstrations both Saturdays 2pm

Caversham Arts Trail Artists and venues

- 16 Sandcroft Road, RG4 7NP**
John Nicholls
Stone sculpture
www.nichollssculptor.co.uk
jeanneandjohn@btinternet.com | 07816 926464
Janina Maher
Paintings, handmade books
www.janinamaher.artweb.com
@bindweed_art_studio fJaninaMaherArtist
janina.maher123@btinternet.com
Molten Silver Jewellery
Organic Handcrafted Silver Jewellery
www.moltenilverjewellery.etsy.com
f moltenilverjewellery @moltenilverjewellery
lisaobrien2@sky.com
Sue Bridge
Mixed media paintings and collage
www.suebridgeartist.weebly.com
fSueBridgeArt @suebridgeartist
@artbirdsreading | 07778 385413
suebridgeartist@gmail.com
- 8 Conisboro Avenue, RG4 7JB**
Strawberry Art Patch
Original silk screen prints
@strawberryartpatch fstrawberryartpatch
strawberryartpatch@hotmail.com
- 42 Hunters Chase, RG4 7XH**
Rachel McCrindle **NEW**
Kiln formed glass
www.rachelmccrindleglass.co.uk
f Rachel McCrindle @rachelmccrindleglass
rachelmccrindle@btinternet.com | 07801 418425
- 5 Woodford Close, RG4 7HN**
Lou Sharpe
Painter using mixed media
@lousharpelined lousharpe5@gmail.com | 07870 611339
- 59 Woodcote Way, RG4 7HL**
Jiwon Kwon **NEW**
Contemporary drawings and mixed media
www.jiwonart.com @drawgwon drawgwon@gmail.com
- 29 Morecambe Avenue, RG4 7NL**
Helen's Studio **NEW**
Ceramic ornaments and lino prints
leni78@yahoo.co.uk
SeasprayCove Handmade Jewellery
Silver & sea glass jewellery
www.seaspraycove.com | seaspraycove@gmail.com
f Sam Bareham @seaspraycove
- 3 Oakley Road, RG4 7RL**
Nomshome
Ceramics inspired by nature
@Nomshome naomi_barker83@yahoo.co.uk | 07980 588076
Silver Linings Art
Ceramics, prints and paintings
@Silverlinings_artuk silverlinings_art@yahoo.com
- 16 Albert Road, RG4 7PE**
Ally Evans Ceramics
Handmade ceramics
@allyevansceramics alison.evans_100@hotmail.com | 07803 174604
- 178 Kidmore Road, RG4 7ND**
Carolyn Carter
Original artwork, prints and cards
www.carolyncarterart.com
f carolyn carter ART @carolyn carter ART
carolynjcarter@yahoo.com
- 14 Kidmore Road, RG4 7LU**
Barbara Goodbun
Individually designed new & recycled jewellery
f madebyme2ndtimearound
barb.goodbun@talktalk.net | 01189 483877
Rev Marion Pyke/Vaughan **NEW**
Mixed Media Artist
f Marion Vaughan
revmarionpyke@gmail.com | 07541 211926
Therese Wicks
Kiln formed and stained glass art
theresewicks@yahoo.co.uk | 01189 473823
- 5 Priory Avenue, RG4 7SE**
Nicola Duncan
Paintings, prints and cards
www.nicoladuncan.com | nic@nicoladuncan.com
@nicola_duncan_artist fnicoladuncanpainter
- The Caversham Print Club
5a Church Road, RG4 7AA**
Andrew Field
Art from the water level
@art_by_andrew_field a-field@hotmail.co.uk | 01189 481610
Robert Fitzmaurice **NEW**
Emblematic figures and encoded allusions
www.fitzmaurice.works @robert_fitzmaurice_art
robert.fitzmaurice@gmail.com | 01189 481610
Mark Webber **NEW**
Linocuts: people, typography, abstract images
mark-andrew-webber.myshopify.com
@markawebber markawebber@gmail.com | 01189 481610
- 134 Hemdean Road, RG4 7ST**
Nina O'Connell
Acrylic landscapes and abstract Batik
www.ninaoconnellart.com
@nina.oconnell.3726 f ninaoconnellart
ninaoconnell99@gmail.com | 07500 543256
Gloria Pitt
Unique handwoven scarves and wraps
gloriapitt@hotmail.com | 07813 124072
Tom James - The Welsh Woodman
Handcrafted wooden products
@thewelshwoodman fThe Welsh Woodman
The Welsh Woodman
thewelshwoodman@gmail.com

- Queen Anne's School, Henley Road**
Art by Alina Luchianov
Abstract landscape acrylic and oil paintings
www.artbyalina.co.uk @alina_luchianov f alinaluchianov
mail@artbyalina.co.uk | 07709 810189
Fired Lines Studio
Functional ceramics for the home
www.firedlinesstudio.co.uk
@firedlinesstudio | luwallier@outlook.com
Janet Fisher **NEW** (Represented by Cathy Rogers)
Life drawings, sculptures, portraits
cathyrogers.eflmaterials@outlook.com
Karen Tomalin
Freeform quilts and textile artist
www.karenscontemporarytextiles.co.uk
f Karen Tomalin @ Karen Tomalin
karenctomalin@gmail.com | 07921 781137
Louise Grace **NEW**
Acrylic painting on canvas/board
www.louisegrace.art
@louise_grace_art f Louise Grace Art
hello@louisegrace.art | 07769 179487
Nic Reid
Playful watercolour inspired by nature
@the.naive.artist watereid@hotmail.com
Rhiane Szmidt
Handmade ceramics to facilitate connection
connectbyrhiane.com @ Connected.vessels
rhianeszmidt@gmail.com
Sue Pix Art
Watercolour painting
@biscottier fSuePix art
sue@suepix.co.uk | 07969 247432
Saleel Zaman
Fineliner pen drawings
@Art.S.Zaman fArt.S.Zaman
s.zaman.artist@gmail.com | 07713 907522
- 325 Gosbrook Road, RG4 8DY**
Evangeline's Emporium
Gothic, steampunk, and alternative art
evangelines-emporium.sumupstore.com
@evangelinesemporium michelledmunds@gmail.com | 07518 325559
- 26 Queens Road, RG4 8DL**
Freya Lines
Paper Artist - artworks & cards
www.freyalines.com
f FreyaLinesDesigns @freyalinesdesigns
hello@freyalines.com | 07507 829895
Sonia Scott-Job **NEW**
Seascapes and landscapes in charcoal
www.soniascottjob-art.co.uk
f soniascottjob.art @soniascottjob.art
soniascottjob@gmail.com | 07717 718544
- 97 Southview Avenue, RG4 5BB**
Pam Chatfield
Bags, bunting, other textile items
www.folksy.com/shops/PCcrafts
f pamccrafts @pamccrafts
pamccrafts@gmail.com | 07986 905784
- 29 Grosvenor Road, RG4 5EN**
Yuliya Martynova
Semi-abstract painter: sea, clouds, florals
www.martynova.co.uk
f martynova1980 @y_martynova
www.saatchiart.com/en-gb/martynova
contact@martynova.co.uk | 07432 218325
- 2 Longhurst Close, RG4 5ER**
Rob Bishop **NEW**
Contemporary art
www.duvallabstract.com
f Duvall Abstract Art @duvallabstract
rob.j.bishop@btinternet.com | 07789 525806
- Mays Barn, 234 Peppard Rd, RG4 8UA**
Charles Burns
Drawings, paper cuttings and silhouettes
www.charlesburns.co.uk f silhouettist
silhouettist @silhouettist @silhouettist
silhouettes@me.com | 01189 476637
Nicholas David Burns **NEW**
Experimental analogue photographic art
www.ndburnsphotography.com
@ndburnsphotography
nicholas.david.burns@gmail.com | 07955 698200
Miniscuria Miniatures **NEW**
1/12th scale miniature models
f miniscuria @miniscuriaminiatures
miniscuria@gmail.com
Tell Tails Photography **NEW**
telltailsphotography.com
louise@telltailsphotography.com | 07969 109974
- 27 Burnham Rise, RG4 8XJ**
Clare Grashoff Designs **NEW**
Functional and decorative ceramics
f Clare Grashoff Designs @clare_grashoff
claregrashoff@yahoo.co.uk | 07740 474783
- The Herb Farm, Peppard Road, RG4 9NJ**
Herb Nursery, Gift Shop, Cafe **NEW**
www.herbfarm.co.uk f herbfarm1 @the_herbfarm
theherbfarm1@gmail.com | 0118 972 4220
Tasha Arkell
Eco-friendly botanical art & homeware
www.tishpaints.co.uk f tish.paints @ tish.paints
tishpaints@gmail.com
Frontier Forge
Hand Forged Cookware and Gifts
www.frontierforge.co.uk @Frontier.Forge
billy@billsworkshop.co.uk | 07464114100
Jo Bayliss **NEW**
Mixed media painting & printmaking
www.jobaylissart.com @jobaylissart
jobaylissart@gmail.com | 07734 776597
Ros Davies **NEW**
Traditional silversmith
f R Kay Jewellery | ros@rkayjewellery.co.uk
Victoria Jane Designs **NEW**
Freemotion machine embroidery and applique
www.victoriajanedesigns.co.uk
f victoriajanedesigns @victoriajanedesigns
info@victoriajanedesigns.co.uk



Les Cooper



The time to get to bed?

WHAT ARE YOUR thoughts about formal summer bedding? Those borders with neat rows of marigolds, petunias or antirrhinums standing in colourful military style.

I rather like them, and there was a time when I attempted to achieve something similar with the borders in my garden. Yet fashions change, even in the gardening world, and now keen gardeners try for a more naturalistic look to their plots. I mention this because now is the time to plant out the summer bedding, and regardless of whether you are hoping for something considered formal or trying for

a more natural look, there are a great many choices to light up your garden.

I must admit to favouring antirrhinum, mainly because for some reason they do well in my garden and there is a wide selection of colour and size to choose from. They are easy to raise from seed and to grow on. I don't rate the short stubby ones, but prefer the tall ones such as *Appleblossom* that give a nice long lively display.

Another flower that I enjoyed last year was osteospermum. I had liked the look of them, but for some odd reason had never fancied growing them. Perhaps their common name of Cape or African daisy put me off. Then last May, with there being a

likelihood of drought, I bought six plants to try them out in an open piece of ground.

They proved to be a brilliant choice. Throughout the summer they had a show of long-lasting white blooms, with a flush of pink. Apparently, they make good container plants, and with many colours and different sorts available I will certainly grow more this year. Osteospermums are not hardy and need to be planted outside when there are no frosts. To experiment, I took cuttings and, as I write now, I think I have been successful.

If you want a wide range of colours

to vitalise your garden all summer, then cosmos have to be considered. Not only are they pretty, but they will attract bees and other pollinators into your garden. I always grow the single-flowered ones, *Antiquity* for example, which can give an early display of attractive dark salmon colour in the garden. Although double cosmos are handsome, I don't use them; they have so many petals the bees can't get to the central part of the flower where the nectar and pollen are found.

Bees before beauty!



Cosmos *Picotee*

photo E Cooper



Hugh Hamilton

photo I Nobel

Spring Show Success by Ian Nobel

THERE WERE some beautiful exhibits at the Caversham Horticultural Spring Show held on Saturday 28 March at Caversham Baptist Church. At the Prize Giving, the President of the Society, Mr Les Cooper, said he was surprised by the quality of the exhibits. Show Secretary, Gwyneth Rowlands, was delighted to see plenty of daffodils and tulips, despite the weather, as well as some members entering for the first time this year.

Hugh Hamilton, from Caversham Heights, had not entered before and was very surprised to walk away with two firsts, a specimen tulip

and six stems of flowering shrubs, a second place for three stems of tulip, and a third place for his specimen daffodil. He said he only entered because his neighbour, Hazel Blackburn, encouraged him to have a go and he had not expected to win anything.

Hazel, who has entered horticultural shows for many years, was awarded the 'Best in Show' certificate for her beautiful red amaryllis with four flower heads, which also won the flowering pot plant class. In addition, Hazel won two other first places, for her vase of daffodils and a specimen of any other flower, a camelia, and she won a second place for her specimen daffodil, and a third for her grape hyacinths.

Everyone was pleased to see a few entries in children's classes this year which included a garden in half a seed tray and two drawing and

colouring classes. We would love to see more entries from children in future shows.

Like many others, Membership Secretary Elaine Rae said her garden is a bit behind this year, due to the weather. Her comment was, "If you can only garden at the weekend and the weather isn't good, then it's impossible to get out there". However, she remains optimistic that she can catch up when the weather improves.

Caversham Horticultural Society aims to encourage everyone to enjoy gardening, and members can benefit from monthly talks on a variety of topics, a trading shed with gardening supplies, as well as two shows every year, Spring and Autumn.

For more information, visit: www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk

EAR WAX

Mobile ear wax removal

Qualified audiologist • HCPC registered

Lucinda Ellis Tel. 07795 268866



Steve Daniels

Painting & Decorating

30 years experience • City and Guilds Qualified

For a professional job and free quote

Tel 0118 961 3218 • Mobile 07917 106164
s.daniels4@ntlworld.com

The best community stories, the most exciting local events
All of your trusted local traders, and all for just £7 a year
Don't miss out, subscribe today!

Gill Madeley NAHort.

Garden Design & Maintenance

- Garden Design
- Maintenance
- Seasonal Clearance
- Planting
- Advice

Caversham, Reading, Berkshire
t. 0118 947 1178 m. 07971 742 053
gillmadeleygardendesign@sky.com



BEN MACKIE ARBORIST

Professional Tree and Hedge care

Local to Caversham: Over 15 years experience

Royal Forestry certified • NPTC Qualified

£5m public liability

Call Ben on

07717 495047

ben.mackie@tiscali.co.uk • benmackiearborist.com

Emmer Green Gardening

For Quality General Maintenance

Regular Maintenance

Grass Cutting

Hedge Trimming

Lawn Scarifying

Debris Chipping (for compost or mulch)

Leaf Sweeping

General Tidying

Border Upkeep

07836 347385

info@emmergreengardening.co.uk

Please mention this paper when replying to advertisements

Caversham Wildlife Rescue and Support

by Frank Neale

LOCAL WILDLIFE, in particular the wildfowl along the Thames have featured regularly in the Caversham Bridge, including our March lead article from Roslyn Weaver. A new, locally based, group, Caversham Wildlife Rescue and Support (CWRS) has been set up by a small group of concerned local people to care for and protect the local wildlife. The group has a particular focus on the swans, geese and other wildlife who have all made the Thames here in Caversham their home.

The group's initial motivation came about with concerns over the decimation of our swans by Avian Flu in other locations on the River Thames earlier this year. We feared the swan population in Caversham might suffer a similar fate. Thankfully this was largely avoided by the timely intervention of CWRS. With donations from a growing support group, CWRS were able to provide nutritious food to enable the swans and geese to build up their immune systems to fight and overcome this deadly disease. We believe this action has kept Avian Flu victims locally down to a minimum.

As winter turned to spring, new problems have emerged, with the local birdlife mating and spending more time with hatchlings on the riverbank. Sadly, some of these family groups have been attacked by dogs not on leads. Birds have been injured as a result and CWRS members have been taking the injured animals to various wildlife hospitals in Windsor and Aylesbury.

The Group appreciate the support given by members of the public and Bridges Estate Agents which has enabled them to continue this important work.

To find out more about the group, visit their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/24734150442951938/media



Swans and geese on River Thames photo F Smith

The Local Scene by Martin Andrews

Spill



Painting by Janina Maher

www.janinamaher.artweb.com

SPILL OPENED its doors for the first time on 14 December 2024 and, now in its second year, it already feels like a well-established part of Caversham's café and bar scene. With its bright yellow chairs with red cushions adding a colourful note to the precinct, it has become a very popular venue.

The team on duty when I visited for coffee comprised of Tommy and Holly, and they were happy to chat. During the day Spill focuses on ethically sourced coffee with freshly baked, locally sourced cakes and tasty treats, as well as wine and beer. In the evening it becomes more of a cocktail and wine bar, with a wide range of expertly designed cocktails (some of which have been invented by the staff and team), locally sourced craft ales, and an extensive selection of wines. There is a vibrant atmosphere, and I would describe the décor as 'utility chic with an industrial vibe' – all the pot plants come from Nood across the road. Claire, Amanda, and Jodie are the entrepreneurs who own Spill and have done so much to enliven the Caversham retail scene and who passionately believe in supporting and working with other local businesses.

Spill also has a programme of fun social events: on Sundays it is a venue for live music and it hosts a lively Board Games

Night on Wednesday evenings and a monthly Wine Club for enthusiasts seeking expert guidance.

St Martin's Centre, which was opened in 1969, has undergone a number of changes and refurbishments. Spill took over their premises from the House of Cards which is thriving in its new position. Today, St Martin's Centre is a lively and colourful venue for Caversham – a great place to meet up and enjoy a drink, eat and chat and hopefully to enjoy some summer sun.

A Stroll through Caversham



Janina's popular book, featuring her paintings and a description of the buildings, has been reprinted and is available from

Fourbears Books

janinamaher.artweb.com/drawings-prints-paintings

THE WINDOW REPAIR & RENOVATION SPECIALISTS

- Sash and casement windows restored
- Rotten and failing wood replaced
- Professional paint finish inside and out
- Failed putty and glazing replaced
- All types of glazing supplied and installed
- Specialists in wood treatments, varnishes and finishes
- Fineo vacuum glazing specialists
- Secondary glazing supplied and fitted

Call 07880560403 for a free estimate, or for more information visit our website www.oxfordwindowrepair.com

Please mention this paper when replying to advertisements

A. B. WALKER
FUNERAL SERVICES SINCE 1826

Independent, family-run funeral directors, since 1826 in Caversham.

0118 947 7007

abwalker.co.uk | ★ Trustpilot Excellent Oct '25

THE CAVERSHAM PICTURE FRAMER

Wine Tasting

Join our newsletter at cavershampictureframer.co.uk to find out about all our events

0118 9481610
5a Church Rd, Caversham, RG4 7AA
framing@cavershampictureframer.co.uk



Mrs Ren Kapur (centre), High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire, at the after-show party in Reading. "In my view, it deserves a West End stage," she said of *Glitch*
 photo Cole Beaulieu Photography/RABBLE

National tour of *Glitch* ends – but fight for justice goes on

RABBLE THEATRE'S 17-venue tour of Britain with *Glitch*, which began in February ended mid-April with performances at Reading University's Minghella Studio. Having taken the production from Plymouth to Newcastle, with a brief stop in Wales, there has been an overwhelming response to the play about the Post Office scandal commissioned by the University of Reading School of Law – a massive undertaking by a small theatre company.

...central theme...

Opening in Reading on April 7 to a full house of theatregoers, RABBLE supporters and special guests including Pam Stubbs, a subpostmistress from Barkham near Wokingham whose story is the central theme of the play, and also Davinder Misra and his wife, Seema Misra OBE, who was jailed when she was eight weeks pregnant in 2010, on her older son's 10th birthday. In the Q&A following the

by Elestr Lee

performance all were glad RABBLE was highlighting the scandal, but furious about the many Post Office victims who have still not been compensated and that there seems little acknowledgment of the wrongs caused. "I am really, really angry," Pam Stubbs told the audience. And Davinder Misra said: "Please can everyone write to Parliament, write to the Prime Minister, write to their own MP, and ask 'When will someone go to jail for this?'"

Speaking with the actors after the performance, it was clear that they were all moved to be taking part in a work which portrays contemporary – and still very raw – events. "It's very unusual to be playing a role where you get to meet the person it is based on," Joanne Howarth, who plays Pam Stubbs, told me. And stage manager Sophie Gitsham said, "I am so proud of having worked on this production."

...telling local stories...

RABBLE hopes *Glitch* can continue to be performed, and is always looking for funding opportunities to fulfil its aim of telling local stories of national significance. The next major project will be *William the Conqueror*, about the father of Reading Abbey founder Henry I – which will also tour nationally during commemorations of his birth one thousand years ago, in 2027.

Post Office Blow

by The Editors

FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE of the Henley Road Post Office last year, the counter in Caversham Heights, on Conisboro Avenue, closed in January this year.

Consultations run by local MP Matt Rodda showed a high level of support for keeping both these sub Post Offices open. Their closure leaves just two post office counters north of the Thames, in Hemdean Road and in Emmer Green.

Matt said "I have been working with the Post Office to try to restore services to Caversham following the closure of the Caversham Heights and Henley Road branches.

The response to my local survey following the closure of the Post Office on Conisboro Avenue demonstrates that this is an issue that many residents feel very strongly about. I am concerned for those who regularly used the Caversham Heights Post Office before the closure, as I am aware that the services provided were vital for many residents."

The Post Office are still seeking applicants to run a Post Office in the area and anyone who is interested can find out more information here:

runapostoffice.co.uk/branch/caversham-heights-post-office-reading-rg4-7jb?search_term=RG4%200AA

Although the opportunity to open a Post Office in the Henley Road area is no longer being advertised, the Post Office has advised that it would still welcome expressions of interest from those who may be interested in doing so.

Based on information from the office of Matt Rodda MP



Matt Rodda

photo Office of M Rodda, MP

POP CLASSICS RECORDS
 www.pop-classics.com

We buy and sell vinyl records and music memorabilia.
 Pop into our shop
NOW OPEN DAILY

POP CLASSICS RECORDS
 35 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8BA
 TEL. 07821 463 743
 popclassics@hotmail.co.uk

JH Roofline Services

Specialising in the installation and maintenance of all types of
GUTTERING

T 07565 303035
E jakehartroofing@gmail.com

the live in care company

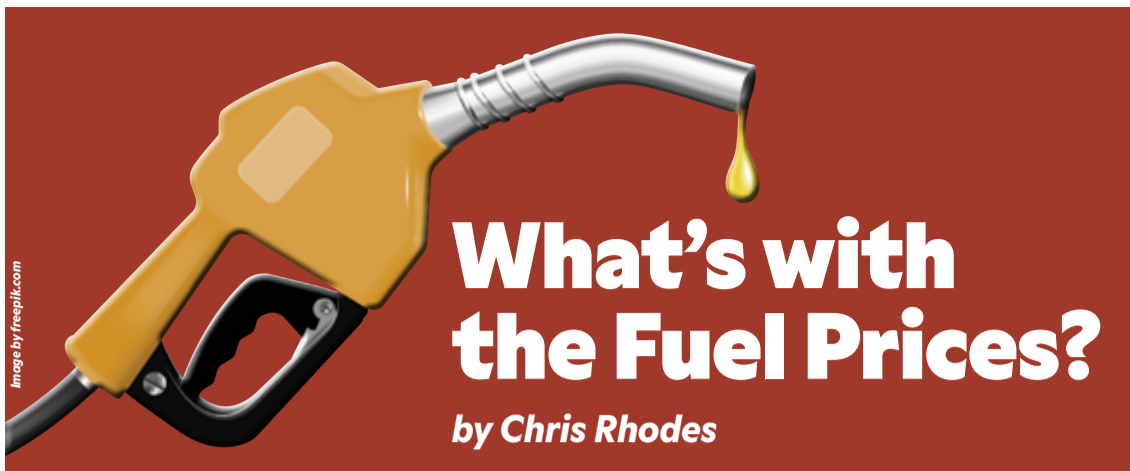
Are you looking for a better option than a residential care home?

Expert live in care at home
 From a carer you choose
 Respite care available
 Choice & flexibility at competitive rates
 Comprehensive care, 7 days a week

★★★★★
 ★ Trustpilot

Rated "excellent" on Trustpilot

Call us today
 0118 911 3070
theliveincarecompany.co.uk



What's with the Fuel Prices?

by Chris Rhodes

THE PRICE of fuel has rocketed, with national petrol and diesel prices averaging 150.11p and 177.86p a litre, their highest for over two years. This is a knock-on effect of the war in the Middle East, and specifically the chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil normally transits onto global markets. Due to consequent supply restrictions, the price of oil has soared to well above \$100 a barrel. Since petrol and diesel are made from oil, their costs are impacted directly, with a \$10 increase in oil pushing fuel prices up by around 7p per litre at the pump.

Tips for Saving Money and Fuel

Shop Around: Typically, supermarket prices are among the lowest and motorway service areas the highest. Websites, such as petrolprices.com, can help find the cheapest fuel in your area, as prices often vary between different stations. Nonetheless, fuel panic-buying makes the overall situation worse.

Drive Efficiently: Avoid abrupt braking and rapid acceleration, maintain a steady speed and shift gears earlier (in manual cars) – this can improve fuel economy by between 10–30%.

Reduce Speed: Speeds of around 45–55 mph (where safe) often provide the optimum fuel efficiency.

Good Vehicle Practice: Keep tyres correctly inflated, curb unnecessary weight (for example empty the boot), and remove roof racks when not needed.

Combine Trips: Since a cold engine is less efficient than a warm one, combine several short trips into one.

Do Without a Car: Use public transport, carpool with neighbours and workmates, or walk/cycle wherever possible.

Work from Home: As far as is feasible, reduce commuting to minimise fuel use.

The Future

While hoping fervently that the present situation will soon be resolved, oil will not last forever. Eventually, it will become increasingly more expensive and less available, so the present situation may provide a foretaste of what to expect and how best to deal with it. The idea of Transition Towns arose in anticipation of 'peak oil', which is where oil production reaches a maximum and then declines. A society with less oil will necessarily become more locally based, building more supportive, and self-sufficient communities, far less vulnerable to external shocks.

Undoubtedly, we face many interconnected and systemic challenges, but making efforts toward re-localisation and community resilience may provide the strongest available single buffer against the many storms which we are likely to face in the future.

‘ A society with less oil will necessarily become more locally based, building more supportive, and self-sufficient communities, far less vulnerable to external shocks...



Reduce energy use to cut fuel bills

AT THE END of next month we expect a major hike in the energy price cap, and we can expect higher prices to last at least throughout next winter.

Heating costs are minimal in the summer months, but now is the time to look at other ways to reduce your energy consumption, although not all of these ideas will suit every household.

If your hot water comes via a hot water tank, but the family tends to use electric showers rather than baths, then consider turning off your hot water heating for the summer and autumn. Mains water supply is warmer during the summer months and perfectly OK for hand washing. Boiling a kettle to do the washing-up (if you are not a dishwasher household) is cheaper than having the hot water system heating up a tankful every day. You can still run the hot water system for an hour if baths are needed (but at 65 degrees minimum to kill any unpleasant bacteria that may have sat around and multiplied). Reducing the length of the shower or the depth of the bath, and the frequency of either, is a major saving.

Do you need to run the tumble dryer? Washing dries quite quickly outside, especially through the summer months.

...kettle training...

Train everyone in the household to boil the amount of water they need in the kettle, not a kettleful. If your kettle doesn't have 'cups' marked on the side, then add some with a marker pen.

Did you suffer from draughts in the house last winter? Go to Draughtbusters.net for DIY advice.

Most energy suppliers have tariffs where they reward you for using electricity at particular times of day, or days of the week, and some change the rate hour by hour. This rewards people for changing their habits to maximise the use of renewable energy generated in the UK.

Finally, the current energy crisis and the potential for future problems, means it is worth thinking about investing in heat pumps or solar panels to reduce consumption of fuel from national distribution systems. There isn't a single 'best' solution for every household, but you can get advice on systems and grants from the council's energy support unit or from independent energy advisors such as the Reading Hydro Energy Champions (energy.champions@readinghydro.org) who will discuss options for change in running your existing systems or making major changes.

Repsol
JOIN THE **SOLAR REVOLUTION**
Lifetime solutions designed, engineered and maintained by Repsole since 2016

Scan the QR code to find out how solar works for you.

www.repsol-ts.com

- ✓ A lifetime of energy savings
- ✓ Clean sustainable energy
- ✓ Insurance-backed workmanship
- ✓ Local, established, qualified installer
- ✓ Up to 25-year warranties

Call: 020 7952 5359
9 Greyfriars Road, Reading, RG1 1NU

HANDY HOME SERVICES
Handyman • Gardener • Decorator

Based in Caversham
10% OFF for customers in Caversham

jonhbbrd@yahoo.co.uk | 0780 857 6658 | @handyhomeservicesuk

Bina Tandoori

Sunday Buffet
Adults: £15.95
Child (under 10): £11.95

Lunch Special
at £18.95 per person
(Minimum 2 people) 12pm-2pm
Includes: 2 Main Dishes • 1 Side • 1 Rice • 1 Naan

Main Courses	• Chicken Tikka Masala • Vegetable Karahi or Paneer Karahi
Side Dishes	• Saag Aloo • Dal Tadka
Sundries	• Pilau Rice or Boiled Rice • Plain Naan or Chapati

Please call us on **0118 946 2115**
21 Prospect Street
Caversham
Reading RG4 8JB

www.binatandoori.co.uk

Una Waters remembered 4 July 1939 - 9 February 2026



Una Ann Walters

UNA ANN WATERS was known by many in Caversham as a teacher, neighbour and friend, and for her involvement in the world of folk music.

Born in Newport, South Wales, she was proud of her Welsh roots and retained her Welsh accent even after nearly 70 years in England. Una had a happy childhood, growing up with her parents, sister and maternal grandmother in Newport. She was always encouraged to excel in education and followed her sister Pamela to the local grammar school, Newport High. From a young age, Una was an avid reader, something she enjoyed throughout her life, keeping a log of the books she read. She studied Classics at Bristol University, and her academic abilities and passion for her subject paved the way for her career as a Latin and Classics teacher.

...love at first sight...

In her early 20s, Una started teaching at Westwood School in Reading. In 1964, she attended a party in Derby Road, Caversham, where she met Colin. It was love at first sight and they were married a year later, in July 1965. They spent their honeymoon in Rome, driving there and back with stops to visit historic sites en route. In 1968 they moved to Hemdean Road, where they raised their two daughters, Julia and Ruth.

She always taught her two girls the importance of education, and both subsequently chose careers in education themselves.

Una's passion for Classics, and her lively, engaging teaching style, inspired the many students she taught during her career. After leaving Westwood, Una introduced a Latin course at Hemdean House School, where she taught for over 15 years. She later taught at Kendrick School for a similar amount of time. She also taught briefly at both Reading School and Presentation College, as well as tutoring pupils through GCSE and A-level Latin.

Una was reluctant to retire at the age of 65 but threw herself into the role of Grandma to her four grandchildren...

One of Una's and Colin's main pastimes was a shared love of folk music. It was Una who first got into folk music through the Intervarsity Club when she moved to Reading and, later, she introduced Colin to the local folk scene. Together they ran the Reading Folk Club for over 30 years, with Una acting as Treasurer for 34 years and booking artists to perform at the weekly sessions.

Una was reluctant to retire at the age of 65 but threw herself into the role of Grandma to her four grandchildren.

Una was very sociable, with many friendships and connections in Caversham and beyond. She was instantly recognisable as she cycled around town. A quick trip to the local shops would inevitably take far longer than planned, as she stopped to talk to everyone.

...60 full and happy years...

The last three years were more difficult for Una and her family: they were heartbroken by the sudden death of Ruth, a loss which coincided with her dementia diagnosis. Colin's care and devotion over the past three years ensured she was able to live at home and enjoy an active, meaningful life almost to the end. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 24 July last year, marking 60 full and happy years of marriage.

An unabridged version of this tribute will be found on the Caversham Bridge website at

<https://cavershambridge.org/archives/category/local-people/obituaries>

Neil Fullard Handyman

Painting • Repairs
Maintenance
Tiling • Tip runs
And much more

Call Neil on **07751 697980**
neilfullard@hotmail.co.uk

Please mention this paper when replying to advertisements

Thimbleby & Shorland
Auctioneers & Valuers Est. 1901

We offer free appraisals and valuations of your items, including antiques, silver, jewellery, militaria, watches or anything 'old and interesting'

Thimbleby & Shorland
31 Great Knollys St.
Reading
RG1 7HU

Telephone: 0118 950 8611
www.tsauktion.co.uk

T&S Est. 1901

navi | propertymark
PROTECTED

What's On Weekly

A roundup of events, clubs and other meetings which happen every week

Contact whatson@cavershambridge.org to add your meeting or correct an entry

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

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

www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/rhymetimes

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 937 5103 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 – *Ted Burnell Community Art Centre for budding artists* – 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 Church House, Prospect Street. New members are very welcome. Contact Jean Jackson 0118 947 6221 or email gj@grahamjackson.f2s.com

Mondays – *Caversham Park Bridge Club* – at the Milestone Centre, 19:15 for 19:30 start. Phone Lin 0118 334 8195 for further information. bridgewebs.com/cavershampark

Tuesdays – *Rivarate Choir* – Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. 19:30 in term time. Enjoy singing together. For details see rivarate.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

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 947 5544 or email duncan.knight@googlemail.com

Thursdays – *Weller Voices Community Choir* – 19:30-20:30. Weller Centre, 110 Amersham Road, RG4 5NA. Term time only. Singing is fun, free and for all. Join any of our sessions. For details, contact wellervoices@gmail.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



Hands UP

– your local community needs you!

by **Graham Lyke**

DO YOU have any spare time or have you recently retired? Do you want to contribute to your local community? Do you enjoy meeting new people?

Then Caversham Good Neighbours (CGN) is where you can help.

CGN has been helping local residents for 60 years, even through the pandemic, by organising lifts to hospitals, doctors' appointments and other medical needs. We also do a lot of local trips to help with lunch clubs, hairdressers and dental appointments.

We urgently need more drivers

CGN organises approximately 80 lifts per month and we need more drivers to ensure that we can fulfil the requests from our clients.

Volunteers worry they will be almost full-time drivers but, with CGN, you can do as many as you wish. If you do one drive per week, that will help greatly.

You choose how often you wish to drive, you are paid travelling expenses if you wish, and you will strike up many new friendships with our clients.

Please consider joining this very worthwhile local charity to help the people of Caversham and Emmer Green. You will be glad you did!

To apply please contact **Caversham Good Neighbours** on 0118 9483466 between 9:30-10:30 Monday-Friday, or email info@cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk to arrange an interview and a DBS check. If successful, you will have many hours of rewarding personal happiness by helping others.



Barbara, a regular Caversham Good Neighbours client

photo R Paton

Do you use Gmail?

by **Fred Smith**



GMAIL IS widely used and has lots of useful features. But the address autofill has a bad habit of remembering addresses you no longer use. Old addresses will often autofill without you realising, and then you wonder why there was no reply!

The obvious thing to do is to check your address book and make the appropriate deletions. But having explored all the options in Gmail I could not find an address book. Is it me?

Finally, an online search came up with the answer. There is an address book, but you need to log in to a different system to access it! Enter <https://contacts.google.com> and you will find a menu offering a choice of Contacts, Frequent Contacts and Other Contacts.

The Contacts option allows you to add information, such as phone number or birthday, which could be a useful address book option. However, the cause of my problem

was the 'Other Contacts', which seemed to contain email addresses of everyone I had ever had contact with! It is rather cumbersome to use, but you can search for names and then delete them from the list.

The deletion option is one of the 'other options' which only appear if you select the three dots icon at the right of the screen. See image below.



The changes are not applied for 30 days, so you need to be wary until they are. And do make sure you delete the old address rather than the current one, or else you will still be wondering why you have not had a reply!

IQ TEST

We recently received the following from one of our regular readers by way of a warning!

I WAS SAT at my computer looking at all the many offers when I saw this particular offer to test my IQ. I have always thought my IQ was good but I did wonder how it might be now I wasn't so young. I decided to try the required test and found it to be easy. However, to see the result I needed to pay a pound. That's not bad I thought as I entered my pound and put in my details. When the result came through I was impressed with myself. I always knew I was smart.

Later I happened to look at my bank account online and what was this? I had paid £29.99 to the IQ site? The penny dropped and I realised I had been conned. I wasn't so smart after all.

I rang my bank and after long minutes of music and robot instructions, I managed to speak to someone. Sadly, we didn't really understand each other too well, but hopefully I will not have to pay more for my stupidity!

**Soft Furnishings, Loose Covers,
Curtains, Roman Blinds,
Re-upholstery**

John Kitcher & Son

31 Burrell Road, Compton,
Newbury RG20 6NP

Tel: **07596 498482**

Email: j.pickett1@yahoo.com

**The best
community
stories,
the most
exciting
local
events**

All of your trusted local
traders, and all for
just £7 a year

**Don't miss out,
subscribe today!**

T&S Tomalin & Son
Funeral Directors

Est before 1879

A Family Run Independent Funeral Service

24 hours service | Private client parking
Private chapel of rest | Free home visits
Pre-paid funeral plans | Full written estimate
Woodland funerals | Religious and non-religious services

Tel: 01491 573370

www.tomalins.co.uk office@tomalins.co.uk

Anderson House, 38 Reading Road,
Henley-On-Thames, RG9 1AG



CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Open Tuesdays, 9.30 am to 2.00 pm,
see www.3cscafe.co.uk to check dates.

Serving espresso coffees, teas,
light snacks, cakes and biscuits.

Eat in or take away.

St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham
Community led and volunteer run



Alison Pink with Sofia Fuster

photo Henley Arts Trail

20th Anniversary Makes A Splash!

THIS MAY BANK Holiday weekend means the start of a summer of celebration of local art and craft with Henley Arts Trail (HAT) marking its second decade. Last year HAT drew 25,000 visitors to its range of studios, stately homes, vineyards and other prestigious venues, including the Leander Club. This year, as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations, art lovers can cruise down the Thames from central Henley to the River House venue at Greenlands and enjoy afternoon tea!

Sadly, one of HAT's founders, Judith Fletcher, died last year, and in her memory ArtSpark has been launched, to inspire and support the next generation of artists. One of the young prize winners this year is Sofia Fuster, who is currently in Year 12 at Queen Anne's School in Caversham. Sofia will take part in a Master Class with Marlow-based artist Alison Pink, and the young artist's work will be on display at Greenlands. "What I love about being creative is the ability to express myself, to develop and to evolve. To come up with new ideas without being scared of failure," Sofia said on receiving her award. Other Caversham artists taking part in this year's HAT include Andrew Field, Nina O'Connell, Janina Maher, Machi de Waard and Debbie Page.

Find out more:

Henley Arts Trail: May 2-4; open 10:00-17:00

henleyartstrail.com



Image: seahydro on 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

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. 08:45-10:00. 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. 09:30-11:00. All are welcome, refreshments available. www.facebook.com/groups/209815529592564

Fridays – *Baby and Toddler Group* – Church House, Church Road, Caversham, RG4 8AX. 09:30-11:00. Step-free access at the back. See www.ctmparish.org.uk/stpeter for details

E. H. HAMLEY & SON
Builders and Decorators
Repairs and Roof Work a Speciality
 Established over 100 years | Caversham based
 Please contact:
07743 929649
 Email: ehhamleyandson@gmail.com

Free Estimates
COARSE ELECTRICAL SERVICES
 All Domestic Electrical Work undertaken
 Part P registered & certified
Tel: 0798 3627742 / 0795 6811443

THE CHALLENGE SOLUTIONS:
 (From left to right from the top)
 sleep, jive, encumber, herb, slumber, chive, number, **five**, dive, digit, plunge, fidget, sponge, figure, sink

TEMPLAR ESTATE PLANNING
 Your local Will writers and Estate Planners, providing a friendly and professional service for Caversham and Reading.

- ✘ Wills - drafting & review
- ✘ Lasting Powers of Attorney
- ✘ Trust formation
- ✘ Business Succession Planning
- ✘ Inheritance Tax Planning
- ✘ Probate & Executor Services
- ✘ Live in Care Services
- ✘ Funeral Plans

Concerned about getting your affairs in order? We can help you achieve that. Contact us for a friendly and free no obligation consultation for all your needs.

Please call 0118 948 4381
www.templarestateplanning.co.uk
 Or visit us at our office located in Church House, 59 Church Street by the Waitrose roundabout.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH HALL
 TRENCH GREEN (RG4 7UA)
Good size hall for hire with stage, kitchen & storage facilities
 Rural setting with parking close to Mapledurham village
 Can accommodate for example:
 • Children's parties
 • Family celebrations
 • Classes • Meetings • Sales & Exhibitions
 • Drama & Music Groups
 • Wi-Fi
 One off occasions or multi bookings
 For further enquiries contact Jane Bowen on:
07803 507234
 or email bowenje52@gmail.com

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



Wellbeing with Ami Roy

Dark Showering

THE LATEST WELLNESS trend and 'sleep hack' involves switching off the bathroom light before stepping into the shower. In the dimness, the water feels louder, the day's visual clutter fades, and the hope is that sleep will come more easily. This practice, often called 'dark showering', is growing, with people claiming that washing before bed in near darkness leads to deeper and faster sleep.

Light is not only for seeing; bright light in the evening signals to the brain's internal body clock that it is still daytime, delaying the release of melatonin, a hormone that helps regulate sleep and is often described as the body's 'darkness signal'.

Bathrooms are often the brightest rooms in a home. Overhead lighting and illuminated mirrors are designed for precision tasks that are useful in the morning, but less

helpful late at night. Turning these lights off, or dimming them, removes a strong signal that it is still daytime.

If dark showering replaces time spent under bright bathroom lights, or scrolling on a phone, it may help simply by reducing evening light exposure. But the benefit will be smaller if the shower is followed by time under full lighting to dry hair, choose clothes for the next day or tidy up.

Darkness also works gradually. Melatonin does not switch on instantly when the lights go out, and a brief shower will not reset a body clock that has been running late for weeks.

Shower water may provide a second benefit. Research on passive body heating, which means warming the body without exercise, has shown that a warm shower or bath taken at the right time can help people fall asleep more quickly.



Dark showering may also help prepare the nervous system for sleep. Low light reduces the brain's alerting signals and makes it easier to shift from a state of vigilance, often called the 'fight or flight' response, into a calmer 'rest and digest' state.

Another factor is the sound of running water. Studies have found that natural sounds such as rainfall or flowing rivers can lower cortisol and stabilise the heart rate more effectively than silence. Heat, darkness and soft background noise may therefore combine to signal that it is safe to relax.

There are important caveats. People with mobility difficulties may need some light to reduce the risk of slips, and those who experience night-time anxiety may feel uneasy in complete darkness. As with most sleep advice, no single habit is a cure for chronic insomnia. Daytime light exposure, caffeine timing and stress management all play an important role.

Image by freepik.com

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

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

Thursday: 10:00 Holy Communion

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

9:00-9:20 Daily except Sunday:

Silent Prayer/Meditation/Mindfulness

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 David Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

Deacon Sarah Wickett

www.cavershammethodist.org.uk

Current services

Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road

Sunday: 10:30 – Also on YouTube

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

1st and 3rd Sundays: 10:30

Worship on Wednesday: 10:00-10:30

Third Thursday - Thursday Night Live: 19:30

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:

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

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

St Michael, Sonning Common

(including Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village)

Deacon Brian Theobald, The Presbytery, 18 Peppard Road,

Sonning Common RG4 9SU – 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



Berkshire's Tile Experts
 Free Samples, Ample Parking
 55 Donkin Hill
 Caversham RG4 5DG
0118 9543315
www.cavtiles.co.uk

READING PLUMBING & HEATING

ALL ASPECTS OF PLUMBING, HEATING AND GAS WORKS UNDERTAKEN.
 OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.
 ALL WORK GUARANTEED.
 DISCOUNT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.



MOBILE: 07702556790
 EMAIL: darrenscottprh@btinternet.com

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Would you like to have this paper delivered to you monthly for just £7 per year?

Email: subscriptions@cavershambridge.org giving your name and address or write to

Caversham Bridge, Church House, Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX

You can buy single copies from:
 NODstore in Church Street,
 Fourbears Books in Prospect Street,
 Sheabutter Cottage on the Henley Road,
 The True Food Community Co-op in Grove Road, Emmer Green,
 and at the Milestone Cafe in Caversham Park Village

Caversham Aerial Services

TV Aerials Supplied and Fitted.
 Poor Reception? Old aerials?
 Can't get the new digital channels?

Give us a call - We can help!
Phone 0118 9673596
www.caversham-aerials.co.uk



Thinking of Equity Release?

Experienced, qualified local Equity Release adviser providing advice across a comprehensive range of lenders.

Please contact Kristian Kolb on 0118 991 8704 to arrange a no obligation face to face/Skype appointment as required.

E: info@mayfieldmortgages.com

T: 0118 991 8704

www.mayfieldmortgages.com



Mayfield Mortgages

Mortgages made simple

Mayfield Mortgages is a trading style of Kristian Kolb who is an appointed representative of Mortgage Intelligence Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under number 305330 in respect of mortgage, insurance and consumer credit mediation activities only.

NETLEY LANDSCAPES

Established 1986



Garden design and construction
 Hugh Netley, NDLC

PATIOS, FENCING, NATURAL STONEMWORK, WALLING, PLANTING, SHRUB AND TREE CLEARANCE, WATER FEATURES, ETC, ETC.

FREE ESTIMATES

Phone 9461701

www.netleylandscapes.co.uk

ALL RUBBISH COLLECTED 4U

Domestic, Commercial & Garden Waste
 House / Loft Clearance
 Garage / Shed Clearance

Licensed Waste Carrier with commitment to recycling

Serving Caversham and surrounding areas
 Fast, friendly & reliable service

For a free no obligation quote, please call:
 0118 343 6396 / 0781 8033625
www.allrubbishcollected4U.co.uk

Gardiner's HOMECARE

0118 334 7474

We are a local, family business that has provided quality care since 1968.

Our experienced team are ready to help you in whatever way you need.

Such as:

- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Support with medication
- ✓ Washing & dressing
- ✓ Variety of household tasks
- ✓ Overnight stays
- ✓ Social outings & appointments

We can support you to maintain your independence in the comfort of your own home.

Our visits vary from one hour to overnight stays. Please call to chat about how we can help you.

www.gardinershomecare.co.uk

10 Church Street, Caversham, Reading. RG4 8DZ

JOHN WOOLDRIDGE PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Over 40 years experience

Competent tradesman will undertake general plumbing and repairs



(0118) 948 2584

112 Mayfield Drive, Caversham RG4 5JT

Richfield Flooring

- Premium Amtico Retailer
- Independent family run business
- Top brand name flooring at the lowest price
- Samples to view in your home/office
- Free advice / free quotes
- Old flooring uplifted & furniture moved
- Fast turn around on fitting if required

Tel: 01189 580 445

10a Richfield Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8 EQ
info@richfieldflooring.co.uk/www.richfieldflooring.co.uk

jws JWS CHAUFFEUR & EXECUTIVE SERVICE

Formerly known as Noble Chauffeur Service

Be driven in comfort, luxury Mercedes

Airports : Weddings : Special occasions

Sea Ports for Cruises

Reading based - reliable service

Jimmy Wharton Phone: 07971 434558

Proprietor Email: jimmy@jwexeccars.co.uk

www.jwsexecutivetravel.co.uk

ARUM TREE SERVICES

TREE SURGEONS
 WITH OVER 20 YEARS
 EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD
 OF TREE CARE

- Tree removal, tree pruning •
- Trees supplied and planted •
- Hedge work •
- Stump Grinding •

FULLY INSURED, NPTC QUALIFIED

Tel/Fax: 0118 971 2224

Mobile: 07876 232282

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTATION



Chimney Sweeping
 Wood & Multi-Fuel Stoves
 Fireplaces, Gas & Electric Fires
 Installation Service

Visit our showroom at
 45 Prospect St, Caversham RG4 8JB

Tel: 0118 9463060

www.fireplacemagic.co.uk

A community newspaper published by Caversham Bridge News Ltd, Church House, Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX

EDITORS: Dr Alison Johnston, Mrs Heather Gale, Phil Chatfield, Judith El-Nager, Sue Silk, Maria Lloyd

Email: editors@cavershambridge.org

ADVERTISING: Kathy Fahey

Email: advertising@cavershambridge.org

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr R Harper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DELIVERIES: C Clifford: Email: subscriptions@cavershambridge.org

COMPANY CHAIR: Mr Phil Chatfield: Email: chair@cavershambridge.org

COMPANY TREASURER: Mrs J Belcher

Email: treasurer@cavershambridge.org

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Mrs J Belcher

Email: treasurer@cavershambridge.org

The views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editors or the board. The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions and will endeavour to consult with the writer where possible. Readers should note, the inclusion of advertisements in this paper is not an endorsement of the products or services offered.

Printed by: Mortons Print, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6JR



Friendly and personal

Providing accounting and taxation services to many local owner managed businesses and individuals, including annual accounts, payroll, VAT returns and personal tax returns. For a free initial consultation, contact Jason Pyke FCA.

T 0118 957 3238

jpyke@valewest.com