



CELEBRATING EASTER IN CAVERSHAM

A bright dry morning saw a group of local people in Kelvedon Way gathering round a small trailer from which emerged a very good-natured donkey called Queenie. She was to lead a procession of people waving palms, principally from St Andrew's and Caversham Heights Methodist Churches, as a reminder of the events of the first Palm Sunday. Several local families also came and the children were delighted to stroke Queenie who seemed to be happy for them to do so. At the appointed time a short service led by Rev'd Nigel Jones, Vicar of St Andrew's, Rev'd Jenny Dowding from The Methodist Church and Rev'd Linda Smith from St Leonard's Woodcote (who was the visiting preacher at Caversham Heights that morning) signalled the start of the procession.

There were a good number of folk from both churches and the procession got a bit straggly so it wasn't easy for those at the back to keep in time with those at the front either in walking or vocally, as it proceeded along Conisboro Avenue and Albert Road. All caught up with each other at St Andrew's for another short service. At that point the St Andrew's congregation went to continue their worship indoors while the rest, reduced in number, resumed the procession along Albert Road and up Highmoor Road to the Methodist Church. Another short service brought the procession to a close before everyone went inside to continue worship.

Queenie was rewarded with carrots from her handler's pocket before going back into the trailer for the journey back to the Donkey Sanctuary in Wallingford.

HYMNS AT ST MARTINS



Christians from several Caversham churches took to the streets on the Saturday of Easter weekend to sing hymns to shoppers. Watched by an appreciative audience, they sang in St Martin's shopping precinct. A drama group, led by David Munns of Caversham Heights Methodist church, entertained people with two sketches. The event was organised by Heather Wilson, Baptist Minister in Training at Caversham Park. Pictured are some of the singers.



Clergy lead protesting in Kelvendon Way.



Queenie at the start

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL AT ST PETER'S

The Bishop of Reading the Right Rev Andrew Proud who was installed on April 16th led his first service since then at St Peter's Caversham. Bishop Andrew has recently returned from nine years in Ethiopia and does not know the Reading area at all. The Good Friday three hour service was attended not only by members of St Peter's congregation but by many from other churches in the area. Between readings from St John's gospel, hymns, prayers and quiet times for silent prayer the Bishop spoke about Christ's crucifixion and the events which led up to it. He also talked about how the Christian people in Ethiopia celebrate Easter and gave an insight into some aspects of the way of life in that country. Lent there lasts not for forty days but for fifty and during that time Christians fast from dawn to dusk and eat no meat or dairy products. Those who attended the service look forward to hearing Bishop preach again sometime soon.

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

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

www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

Revd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788

www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Revd Dan Tyndall

The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4 7AD

Tel: 947 9505

Revd Keith Knee-Robinson

8 Hewett Close, Caversham RG4 7ER Tel: 947 7868

Revd Jeremy Tear

St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,

Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884

Revd Graeme Fancourt

18 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham RG4 7DD

Tel: 947 8450

Revd Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ Tel: 947 5834

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Revd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road,

Caversham Park. Tel: 947 0258

Heather Wilson, 15 Northbrook Road, Caversham

Park. Tel: 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.

Tel: 947 2223

Deacon Becky Lovatt, 1 Forge Close, Caversham RG4

8BG. Tel: 948 2530

BAPTIST

Church Secretary Tel: 947 9772

GRACE CHURCH (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Giles Goward, The Presbytery,

2 South View Avenue.

Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon Mike Walker, Tel: 07786 836146

Fr Christopher Bester, 18 Peppard Road,

Sonning Common. Tel: 972 3418

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Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the July 2011 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 31st May. The date for the August 2011 issue is Tuesday 5th July 2011.

Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the July 2011 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 27th May 2011. The date for the August 2011 issue is Friday 1st July 2011.

TALKING POINT

by

John Madeley

Changing church for a changing world

What is Church? A building perhaps? Up to a point, yes. A church is a group of people who meet together to worship God, sense the spiritual in their life, or maybe just want to be in a place where they are made welcome.

The church is responding to these different needs. Fresh Expressions of Church is a movement that was initiated in 2005 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York with the Methodist Church. It also now involves the United Reformed Church. Hundreds of new congregations have been formed alongside more traditional churches.

Some fresh expressions are very different from church as we know it. A fresh expression is a church for our changing culture. It often takes Christianity to where people are. There is, for example, a surfer church on Polzeath beach; a service for Goths in central Cambridge; a youth congregation based in a skate park; "Messy Play" groups where parents and children play and get messy; and a cell church among the Merseyside Police.

Other fresh expressions are more familiar but in unfamiliar settings – in a café, the function room of a pub, a school, a gym or a sports club. They can be found in all areas and are reaching all ages.

The offering of hospitality is seen in many Fresh Expressions initiatives. Xpressions Café in Norfolk, for example, aims to offer church for those who don't do traditional church. The café is attached to All Saints, Chedgrave. Everything is led by lay people. It offers a warm welcome with free tea and coffee, cakes and newspapers. It is a place where anyone can feel comfortable and at home. People come and go as they please. A menu gives details of the events and activities in different 'zones'. Xpressions offers activities and worship for children and families. With story, song, craft, and activity prayers, it appeals to many families who would not normally go to church, and offers different acts of worship, reflection, discussion around a theme for that day's café.

"The church is the only organisation that exists solely for the benefit of its non-members", said a former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple.

It is not surprising that fresh expressions have often developed from awareness of the needs of local communities, work space, for example, started in a bank in Poole for people in the workplace, offering half an hour of stillness and silence in a busy working week. "I wanted to connect with people in the workplace to meet people where they spend so much of their time", says Paul Bradbury, who initiated it.

"These are challenging and exciting times. We need the new and the old", says Bishop Graham Cray, the leader of Fresh Expressions. The Church has a great truth to tell - that God loves each and every one of us personally. Fresh ways to express that truth are likely to increasingly be seen.

*John Madeley is a Fresh Expressions supporter
It can be accessed at: www.freshexpressions.org.uk*

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.45am	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

10.00am	Parish Communion (except 2nd Sunday)
10.00am	All Age Worship (2nd Sunday)

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

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

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

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

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am	Parish Communion
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	Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
	All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am	South Street
3.45pm	Hymn Café (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm	Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

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10.30am	Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm	Prayer Meeting

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

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9.45am (second Sunday)

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Church Street, Caversham

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11.00am Divine Worship

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

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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From the Lookout Post

Policing matters

There are changes to the Thames Valley police team in Caversham as well as a reduction to dedicated deployment in Caversham, due to the budget restrictions. We thank Inspector Penny McKenzie for her leadership of the Caversham team and wish her well as she takes up a new appointment. Inspector Graham Markham now leads the Caversham police team, in addition to continuing to lead the policing effort around the Oxford Road. Also going to Oxford Road, for at least six months will be Sergeant Rob Pitman. We acknowledge his long contribution to policing in Caversham. In this six month period Sergeant Zahid Aziz will take over the role in Caversham.

Regrettably, these changes occur in the wake of at least three burglaries in the central Caversham business area. Even more disappointing is that two of these were at charity shops. There have been criminal damage and out of hours intruders in Caversham Court. Fortunately the PCSOs are out and about. Recently, they have been focusing on dangerous parking near schools and parking on pavements. They have issued fixed penalty fines in a number of these instances.

The police team have issued a reminder that the warmer weather often provides more opportunities for burglars. Do be vigilant on home security, remembering that nimble thieves can use items like wheelie bins to gain access to first floor windows. The gardening season also means that thieves can have access to valuable equipment, either to sell on, or to force entry. The firm market for scrap metals has shown an increase in theft of these materials.

Caversham business news

Local resident, Neil Asbury has taken over the operation of Home Craft, the DIY shop on the corner of Prospect Street, across from Church House. Neil is committed to offering the same wide range of goods as his predecessor, Ray Barrett. A visit to the shop

demonstrates the wide inventory of not just DIY items, but also gardening, cleaning materials, and paint. Need a shoe horn with a two foot handle? Yes, Neil has it!

Fresh food at the Oracle

The Fresh Food Festival returns to The Oracle for its third year on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June. A selection of day and evening activities will include interactive cooking demonstrations with celebrity chefs James Martin and Lesley Waters, as well as chefs from The Oracle Riverside restaurants. Visitors will also be able to take advantage of a traditional farmers' market set on The Riverside and enjoy evening entertainment.

Bus Services

As we get to grips with the new bus routes and bus stops through Reading, do not forget to ask for the special offers on bus tickets, particularly if you are affected by the removal of concessionary fares before 9.30am.

The £1 fare to and from the town centre is available until further notice on:

- Caversham Library and Central Reading on Premier Routes 22 and 24 (dark pink buses)
- Briant's Avenue (Star Inn) and Central Reading on Premier Route 23 (dark pink)
- The whole of routes 27 and 29 Lower Caversham shuttles - Amersham Road and Central Reading (now permanent)

There is also a new special offer for all day travel between Caversham and the Royal Berkshire Hospital until further notice. A £3 all day ticket is available to buy from the driver on routes 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and Vitality 2 and 2a. Change buses in central Reading onto routes 9 (the red buses, which have a 10 minute frequency) and 19 (grey midi bus) where your ticket will be valid to take you to the hospital and to return to Caversham. This ticket is not available for use on the rest of the network. Sadly this is in place of a through service from Caversham to RBH.

WEA

Collective writing – strength in numbers

On Saturday 11 June there will be a summer literature event in support of the Reading branch of Workers' Educational Association with Jeeve Publishing. This will be at RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS, 10.30am - 2.30pm. The fee of £16 includes a presentation by Jeeve, tea and coffee and a buffet lunch. We hope also to introduce the new Reading branch course programme for 2011-2012.

To inspire and help other writers, the members of Jeeve Publishing, Julie, Eileen, Elaine, Vera and Eve, will talk about how they met, became friends and collectively wrote, published and sold their books of adult short stories: *Fish Pie and Laughter*, *The Guilty Suitcase* and *The Virgin Sardine*

You can find out more at: www.jeevestories.co.uk

To enrol for this event, send your name and contact details, with a cheque for £16 payable to WEA Reading Branch, plus an sae, to Penny Hunter, 36 Hardwick Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4LN. If you have enquiries about the day contact Penny on 0118 942 4973.

Summer serenade (and strums)

For their summer concert at Highdown School, Emmer Green, on Saturday 9th July the South Chiltern Choral Society will be taking a trip down memory lane, when they will be singing some of the best-known and much-loved standards from the Thirties and Forties, which have stood the test of time.

The society will be sharing the concert with the *Tetra Guitar Quartet*, a distinguished and exciting ensemble, described by Time Out as "a far cry from the usual". The two performances are at 5pm and 8pm. Tickets costing £12 (under 18s £6, under 5s free) are obtainable from 01491 575727.

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0118 939 1981**NEWS FROM CAVERSHAM COURT****Easter holiday time at Caversham Court**

Glorious Easter holiday weather brought in huge crowds of excited children and their families for the Easter Egg Trail in Caversham Court on 23rd April. The main problem was how to keep the chocolate eggs from melting!

The trail led the children round the gardens in search of pictures and poems about animals and birds they might see in and around Caversham Court. There were questions to answer, some not so easy: do you know how many toes a squirrel has? And what does a water vole eat?

Visitors were very generous with donations to the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens; the money donated will be put towards special projects in the gardens.

The Friends were delighted to see that Head Gardener Emily Waters had managed to rescue a number of the ceramic fish which were damaged last year, and had put them back over the vinery pond. Regrettably, mindless vandals have since damaged the remaining fish. There were other cases of vandalism over the Easter weekend, which raise general concerns about security in the gardens. Caversham Court is closed at dusk; if you spot any intruders, or see anything amiss, notify Thames Valley Police on 0845 8 505 505.

There will be many events over this summer and autumn organized under the umbrella of the

Caversham 100 Years On project (www.caversham100yearson.org.uk). There will also be events in Caversham Court to look forward to over the summer:

Mikron Theatre Saturday 2 July 7.30pm "Beer Street" – bring a chair or rug to sit on

Grand Parish Fete Saturday 9 July

Progress Theatre in The Tempest Saturday 23 July – 30 July: tickets on sale now through Reading Arts.

Events are planned for Caversham Court over the weekend of the Heritage Open Days (Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September), so do look out for details.

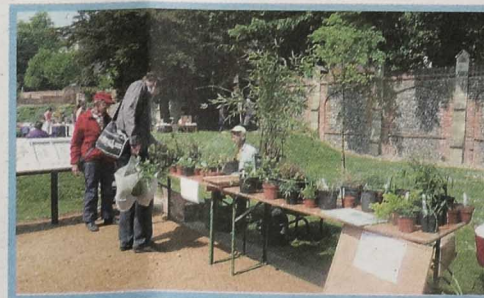
The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be in the gardens on the first Sunday of every month until

October to offer guided tours and answer any questions visitors may have. If you or your organization would like a guided tour at another time, do contact the Friends at Friends@fccg.org.uk or write to The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, c/o The Head Gardener, Caversham Court, Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AG.

The Tea Kiosk will be open from 11am Wednesdays to Sundays throughout the summer.

**Bean Pole Day at Caversham Court**

local woodlands and nature reserves, making bundles of 11, 7ft-long straight hazel or ash poles. These were available at Caversham Court on Saturday April 30th for sale to environmentally friendly gardeners [they sold out!]. Also several local gardening groups came with their plants to sell. A local willow worker was making plant supports, reconditioned gardening tools were set out on the bank, RSPB were selling bird food and helping people make bird boxes, Reading Bee Keepers were selling honey and advising people about bees, and the Duchess of Kent volunteers in the tea kiosk were running out of cake!




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Photo - Jane Shaw

Michael Naxton holding the book *The Wreck of the Titan*.

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Titanic myths and mysteries

This April, was the 99th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic, the "unsinkable" White Star liner that hit an iceberg on her maiden voyage to New York and sank with the loss of 1,522 lives. Only 705 survivors were picked up.

When Michael Naxton, maritime historian, gave a talk at the church of Our Lady and St Anne about the tragedy, he did not reiterate what most people already knew but instead talked about many little-known facts about that fateful night. He also showed slides of many rare photographs including the only one of Titanic with her sister ship Olympic.

Titanic was built in 1911 at the Harland & Wolff yard at Belfast, designed to be the largest and most luxurious of the Four Stackers (liners with four funnels of which only three were functional) of which Mauritania and Lusitania were the fastest at the time. She was fitted out in the greatest luxury for the richest passengers in the world and her advanced design was such that she was declared unsinkable which was one reason that she had so few lifeboats. Her designer, Thomas Andrews, wanted 32 but was overruled and only 16 were provided along with four collapsible ones. It took 100 men eight hours to stoke the boilers to get up enough steam to get Titanic moving when she set off from Southampton.

At the end of his talk, Michael held up a copy of a book, which was a re-published and re-titled version of a novel first published in 1898 about a luxury liner that was wrecked one April night on an iceberg. The author, Morgan Robertson, called his liner Titan and described it as being far larger than any that had been built before that time. Its statistics were eerily similar to those of one built fourteen years later and called Titanic. Both liners had far too few lifeboats for the 3000 people they could carry but this seemed irrelevant since both were declared to be unsinkable. Originally called *Futility*, the book was re-titled *The wreck of the Titan* when it was re-printed in 1998.

Residents celebrate the Royal Wedding

In what turned out to be a show of community spirit, 59 residents of The Mount in Caversham gathered in Patty and Michael Naxton's garden for a very British street party complete with bunting, home-cooked food and children's party games. With ages ranging from a few months to 80 plus, 46 adults, 11 children and a few babies used the excuse of the Royal Wedding to have a party and get to know each other better.

For the big day everyone contributed in some way. The food was communally cooked; two residents did a huge supermarket shop then everyone got stuck in roasting meats, making salads and desserts as well as putting up gazebos, hanging bunting and ferrying tables from the church to the Mount. Best of all, neighbours for several years who had never actually met shared the warmth of the day.

Another party for the Queen's diamond jubilee is already pencilled in for 2012!



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CHURCHES

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW BISHOP OF READING

The Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin was packed on the Saturday afternoon before Palm Sunday for the Installation of the Rt Revd Andrew Proud as the ninth Bishop of Reading, the first to be translated from another bishopric. Bishop Andrew was previously Area Bishop of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. Conducted by the Bishop of Oxford the service was full of the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, with the involvement of the Abbot of Douai and the Revd David Ellis, Methodist Superintendent for the Reading and Silchester Circuit.

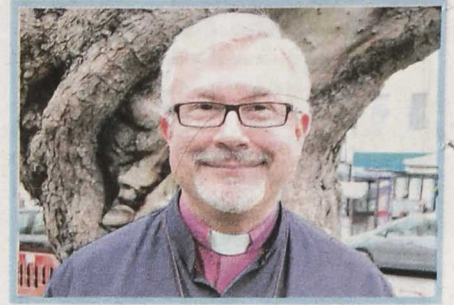
In the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and the Mayor of Reading, processions of the Area Deans and Lay Chairmen from the ten Berkshire Deaneries, Archdeacons, Visiting, Assistant, Orthodox and Area Bishops opened the service. Informal words of presentation of the new bishop came from the church in Addis Ababa and more formally from the Most Revd Mounseer Anis, President Bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The bewigged Provincial and Diocesan Registrar read the Letters Patent, the Oaths of Allegiance to the Sovereign and Obedience to the Bishop of Oxford and the Declaration of Assent to which the new Bishop of Reading responded where appropriate. Subsequently all the Bishops, about 12 of them, gathered round the new Bishop while four of

them anointed Bishop Andrew with oil. The Area Dean of Reading installed the new Bishop in his seat in the Minster and the Bishop of Oxford gave him his Pastoral Staff which had been in safe keeping in the Minster since Bishop Stephen Cottrell was translated to Chelmsford. Bishop Andrew Proud was presented to and greeted by the congregation and specifically by a number of VIPs.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Ready for the next 100 years

To mark the Caversham Centenary local organisations are all marking it in their own way. Caversham Heights Methodist Church is holding an exhibition of the church and its activities over the years and it also has a trail highlighting the changes made and aspects of our faith. It also is a wonderful opportunity to see the refurbishment that has been carried out during the last nine months.

Not only has it been redecorated but the pews have been replaced by suitably upholstered chairs and a new refreshment area has been provided. The church will be open to visitors between 10.30 and 12 noon on June 27th, from 11.30 – 15.30 on the following days 28th- 1st July and also between 18.30 and 20.30 on June 30th. On Sunday July 2nd it will be open between 10.00 and 12.00 when there will be a service of rededication at 10.30am.



Bishop Andrew

O. Jewiss

St Andrew's Summer Fete

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Bishop Kenney at Our Lady and St Anne's

Bishop William Kenney visited the parish of Our Lady and St Anne twice during April.

At the beginning of the month he came to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty-six young people, mostly pupils at St Anne's school.

During Mass, the candidates and the whole congregation renewed their Baptismal promises then the Bishop used Holy Oil of Chrism to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one to be confirmed.

His Grace presented Confirmation certificates and posed with the children for photographs before retiring to the Cenacle to cut the confirmation cake and talk to the newly confirmed, their families and friends.

During Holy Week, Bishop Kenney returned to celebrate the Holy Thursday Mass, the celebration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

In his homily he spoke of St John's account of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the last supper and then, following Christ's example, washed the feet of twelve members of the congregation. At the end of Mass, he carried the Blessed Sacrament, in procession, to the altar of repose.



Photo Jane Shaw

Bishop Kenney during the ceremony of washing the feet.

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PARENTHESIS CHOIR'S SPRING CONCERT

The audience at this concert at St Andrew's Church in April was treated to a very English music evening.

The evening was hosted by Parenthesis, who opened the concert with three folk songs displaying the balance and control that their Director of Music, Valerie Hoppé, engenders in the singers.

A young bass-baritone, Christopher Joy, performed two sets of songs accompanied on the piano by his mother, Judith, and for one song on the violin. The theme was that of English folk music as arranged by Vaughan Williams, Percy Grainger, John Ireland and others.

It is always a delight to hear Martin Jones' piano playing. On this occasion he continued the theme of the concert with three John Ireland pieces.

The audience was treated to what was announced as a 'world premiere.' The choir had commissioned a piece from Martin based on Siegfried Sassoon's poem, Everyone Sang, and accompanied by Martin on the piano the choir gave us a memorable performance of this work.

Vox Pop is a barber shop group formed mainly from Parenthesis choir members. The barber shop style of singing is particularly English, the consequence of England's rich multicultural heritage, originating as it does from the *a cappella* style of the Afro-American black churches. Employing the part-singing techniques of this genre *Vox Pop* entertained the audience with a range of songs from Tallis to Scarborough Fair.

The final item was of Vaughan Williams' own adaptation of his opera *Sir John in Love*. The cantata, entitled *In Windsor Forest*, is a celebration of English music. The versatility of the choir was fittingly demonstrated by one of its members, Gill Scott, taking on the solo role.

Extracting themes from *The Merry Wives of Windsor* provided a fitting conclusion to a great celebration of English music on a perfect spring evening.

For further information about Parenthesis visit their website <http://www.parenthesis.org.uk>



Parenthesis choir with Valerie Hoppé and Martin Jones. J Mullaney

Royal Wedding in St Peter's Church

More than a hundred 'wedding guests' took advantage of the big screen at St Peter's, Caversham, to make a day of the Royal



Wedding. Orders of Service were available so all could join in the hymns and prayers with Prince William and Catherine Middleton, and glasses of bucks fizz were raised to toast the Duke and Duchess as they left Westminster Abbey.

Tokers Green Toddle -

Six Tokers Green gardens will be open in aid of Berks Oxon Bucks Air Ambulance funds on Sunday 26th June, 2 - 5pm. Admission to all six gardens is £3.50 for adults, children go free. Garden features range from wild flower meadows to Gertrude Jekyll-inspired colour borders, with a variety of pools, potagers and fruits including figs and kiwi fruits. Home made teas and a plant stall complete the offering, Tokers Green is signposted from the Woodcote Road (A4074) between the Pack Saddle and Pack Horse pubs.

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St Peter's Wives Group

The speaker at the April meeting was Tony King who gave a talk entitled "How the things we cannot do without - came about".

It was a fascinating illustrated journey from Victorian times, detailing the development of various items and services that we now take for granted, such as gas and electricity in the home and a ready water supply, together with the invention and development of machines for washing, vacuuming, dishwashing, not to mention refrigeration. One of the most important developments in 1859 was the introduction of sewers by Joseph Bazalgette, a triumph of Victorian engineering, and still in use today.

Many changes occurred after the Second World War when returning soldiers demanded 'homes fit for heroes' and many prefabs were constructed to replace bombed-out houses. New towns such as Bracknell sprang up, and numerous private developments, where the average price of a semi-detached house in 1950 was £1,500.

This was a trip down memory lane for many of us, who could remember our mothers washing by hand and, in the days before spin-dryers, using a

wringer or mangle.

Our next meeting at Church House will be on Tuesday, 21 June at 7.30 pm, when we will be having a strawberry supper, followed by a magic show.

New members are always welcome.

Rosehill WI

The April meeting was well attended. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon which encouraged members to come out.

The meeting was opened by President Brenda Caborn who welcomed members and visitors. The date of the group meeting was announced as May 18th and as Rosehill were to be the hosts, an appeal was made for volunteers to make cakes.

Notice was given about a federation outing to The Old Barn near Pangbourne where a 'Glyndebourne in the Barn' is to be held on June 17th starting at 7.30pm.

The walkers had been on two walks during March. One to Harpsden Woods and Shiplake and the other Nettlebed and Bix. Both were enjoyed and were followed with a pub lunch.

Brenda went on to introduce the speaker John Price whose subject was researching family history.

John started by saying that the place to start was your own life and all that you could remember. This led into other members of the family. With photographs he said it was important to put on the back who it was, where and when it was taken. If we had photographs that we did not recognise get them out when there was a family gathering and just listen to all the memories.

Before starting on a search of a census make sure to gather together all the birth, marriage and death certificates. It can become quite expensive and very time consuming. Another source of help is the Berkshire Family History Society. They can be found at Yeomanry House and as well as holding numerous records they hold very interesting meetings.

Finally do not expect your search to be easy as seen on T.V.

A vote of thanks was given by Pat Butler.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas church hall, Emmer Green, starting at 2pm.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

We were promised trips to the seaside on May 18th and were not disappointed by Mrs Nicky Bevan's presentation of travel poems.

On June 16th St Andrews Hall is the scene of a celebration for our 50th anniversary. We will have a party, with entertainment by Tanya Pratt.

Our patron The Princess Royal is to attend the AGM of the Townswomen's Guilds in Birmingham on 24th June, and so will a group from Caversham TG. We will be having a short break in the South Midlands beforehand.

The next meeting is at 7.30 on Thursday July 21st at St Andrews church hall with a talk on honey by Steve Moll.

New members are always welcome.

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

A demonstration entitled Safari by Alison Mount is to be held by Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club on Wednesday 8th June, starting at 7.30p.m. - doors opening at 6.45p.m. The venue as usual is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, entrance fee £4.50. A plant and book stall will be available, together with a sales table and refreshments. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month and is a great source of inspiration to those who love all things floral. Visitors are always very welcome. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400

Reading & District Probus Club

Everybody likes to meet a winner. John Jenkins is a wheelchair Paralympics medal winner. As a polio victim he was a founder of WAMDSAD (Wokingham, Ascot, Maidenhead and District Sports Association for Disabled) in 1975. In 1977 as numbers increased, a club house was built and opened in 1978 by Princess Anne. Now a top club covering an area from Guildford, Newbury, Maidenhead, Ascot and Wantage, it is recognised by the Sports Association with a membership of

650. Sports include rifle shooting, archery, sailing, swimming and table tennis.

As with all clubs and associations, funding is continuous requiring the efforts of volunteers and sponsorship to provide the £200,000 spent on equipment and transport (there is no official / local / government financial grant).

He explained that he had polio when he was 11 years old, when swimming and water polo was the usual therapy. This extended into sports when he joined a paramedic club to play table tennis gaining platinum level.

As with all endeavours the association restores self esteem and confidence. WAMDSAD was represented in the 1986 Paralympics. Sad to say some clubs have had to close through lack of members and fewer volunteers.

Probus members recalled the years of polio immunisation of all children in their school days and the era of the iron lung.

For details of Probus, a club for retired men, contact secretary Raymond Head on 0118 941 1445 or email Raymond-head@supanet.com

Caversham Bowling Club

Looking for some gentle exercise? Or perhaps the opportunity to play a sport enjoyed by both men and women of all ages and make new friends?

Throughout the summer, starting on 20th May, each Friday evening from 6.00pm, Caversham Bowling Club will be open to anyone who would like to come along and try their hand. The only requirements are flat-soled shoes and enthusiasm. Our members look forward to welcoming you and will be on hand to offer advice and instruction.

The club has a friendly atmosphere with a licensed bar and organises social events throughout the year. Why not come along and try your hand - you may be pleasantly surprised!

Ample free parking is available next to the green in the Recreation Ground in Albert Park, and for a nominal sum light refreshments will be available.



Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club

The Annual 10k Charity Road Run organised by the Lions Club of Goring, Woodcote & District in January this year raised £4,386.22. This money has been divided equally between both Macmillan Cancer Support in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance.

A presentation was held recently at the home of Lions Club President John Bridgens who handed over a cheque for £2,193.11 to Julian Knowles, the Fund Raising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support - Oxfordshire. On receiving the cheque Julian Knowles said "Thank you for such a generous donation to Macmillan - it's fantastic that the Local Lions and their supporters have been able to help us in this way and will enable us to continue to fund our vital services across Oxfordshire. It is significant that 2011 is Macmillan's centenary. Over the past 100 years they have achieved many great things for people with cancer. This year they need to raise £143million to ensure people living with cancer get the support they need."

A separate presentation to the Air Ambulance took place in April at Benson airfield with another cheque for £2,193.11 from the Lions.

The crew had already attended three incidents by the time the presentation took place at 12 noon. Their shift was 7am to 7pm. This reduces to 10 hrs a day once the clocks change in October. Laura Nicholas, Fund Raising Manager for Oxfordshire, was there to receive the cheque from the Lions. She said that financially Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance is well supported, allowing them to invest in the most advanced equipment to support patients in transit. Still no funds are provided by the NHS or by central Government, but this is not necessarily seen as a disadvantage, not to be affected directly by any of the recent government cut-backs!

Correction: Street Pastors

Correction: In the article on Street Pastors in May, it should be made clear that the uniforms are provided by Reading Borough Council and the lollies by the Police.

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ENVIRONMENT

National Dawn Chorus Day

We gathered at 4:30am as the stars were just beginning to disappear due to the approaching dawn, the air was filled with the songs of **Blackbirds** and **Robins**. We walked off slowly on the path to Clayfield Copse along the edge of the playing fields. While we paused a **Song Thrush** joined the chorus. As we approached the woods two **Tawny Owls** started calling from the trees. They continued calling for some time, but we did not see them. At the start of the ride a **Blackcap** began singing, but nothing else seemed to join in for quite a while so we watched some bats flying round the tree tops. Further along the ride, **Wrens** started singing then a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** appeared and later drummed, while **Great Tits**, **Wood Pigeons** and **Blue Tits** eventually joined the chorus. A **Pheasant** was calling in the distance. As we went down the diagonal path back to the far corner of the playing fields (from the car park) the high pitched song of a **Treecreeper** could be heard but only by some of us. By now the sun had come up but it had not penetrated the woods, so **Jackdaws** and **Carrion Crows** were also calling now, but some **Jays** were silent. As we got to the edge of the wood **Mistle Thrushes** called but they were not on the field where they are often seen. A **Maggpie** was there but also did not make a sound. We then proceeded round the ash coppice fields and stopped for coffee, where we heard a **Chiffchaff** singing his name and a **Dunnock** calling nearby. Next we walked through the bluebell area of Blackhouse woods, the bluebells were past their best but some patches still looked good, and there was a **Green Woodpecker** calling in the woods.

Then we walked back across the fields towards the car park, on this section a couple of **Whitethroats** were singing but not seen, two **Red Kites** flew over - one seemed to be chasing off the other, a **Kestrel** hovered over the rough grass area, while a **Greenfinch** then a **Linnet** sang from the top of a tree in the hedge to the show field. As we crossed the show field some **Starlings** flew past over the trees by the road while a single **Swallow** flew by heading north. We got back to the car park and went home at 7:00am.



Photo RSPB

I made it 29 species, which is good for the woods, but we did miss **Chaffinch**, **Stock Dove** and **Nuthatch** which should have been calling.

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