

TEACHING GHURKAS ENGLISH



Since the Government gave retired Gurka soldiers the right to live in this country many have settled here, bringing their families from Nepal. They are concentrated around Aldershot, where the Gurkas are based, but quite a number have come to live in the Reading area.

Although the ex-soldiers have some English, the women who come with them have little or none. To meet this need SSAFA Forces Help, the ex-service charity, has set up English classes for them in Reading. A six-week trial period ended just before Christmas and the classes have been a great success with 50 women attending each week.

Now the aim is to continue the project into the New Year and an appeal has gone out for more volunteers.

To date the project has been run by case worker Pam Reynolds, a Caversham resident and a member of the choir at St Peter's church, and a Nepalese case worker. Pam says: "The ladies are an absolute joy to teach. They are seated with pencils poised waiting for the start of each lesson. They range in age from quite young to very elderly women, the common thread being that they really want to learn!"

Based at Brock Barracks, the Reading division of SSAFA, formerly the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families Association, has recently seen an increase in case load from ex-Gurkhas and their families. They are independent, industrious people who want to work and integrate into their new community.

During the six weeks, the women have learned to recognise and write the alphabet, write their names in English, count to ten, identify and write the names of parts of the body, name things they use at home, and also fruit and vegetables. They are starting to respond to questions in English and can reply with a simple sentence. They enjoy singing and have a strong sense of fun! There is much hilarity in teaching certain sounds, since the 'f' and 'h' sounds appear problematical and a way has yet to be found to

approach the 'sh' sound !

It is now clear that more help is going to be needed using native English speakers to work with groups of women, to encourage their speech and conversation. The aim is to:

- Establish a group or bank of teachers who will work together to steer the project. Experience in teaching English as a foreign language, teaching infants or any teacher training would be a great asset, but is not essential. Each teacher would be involved in just one session a month – more if they wished.
- Gather a group of helpers who would be prepared to assist the teacher, by working with groups on tasks which the teacher will organise. Helpers do not need any background in teaching, but need to be cheerful, patient and have a sense of humour – the women love to laugh and this makes learning more successful. There is no reason why young mums with children could not be involved as helpers or teachers
- Help with the provision of teaching equipment – age and condition is not important as long as it is useable. Simple books, learning games, wall charts, notice boards, paper, card, felt pens, and picture books are needed.



Ghurka women at lesson.

P. Reynolds

Pam says: "It is envisaged that involvement would be reasonable and flexible and could be adapted to suit volunteers, so please do not be put off by feeling you might be over-committed. It would be a great pity if the project could not continue, but we really need help to move on to the next stage. If you feel you could help in any way, please get in touch."

Contact Pam on 0118 947 6956 or email pamreynolds@talk21.com SSAFA forces Help was established 125 years ago and continues with its work using trained volunteer case workers at home and overseas. The needs change from time to time but there is a constant case load which has, due to recent hostilities, increased in recent years.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS

INSIDE

Remembrance in Caversham	page 3	Churches	pages 7 & 8
Caversham – A Century	page 4	Conservation News	page 9
Polishing with a purpose	page 5	Clubs	pages 8-10
Looking back on 2011	page 6	Happy Wanderer	page 11

D/Ex 17 58/5011

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.

Fr Bob Devaney, Tel: 07786 836146

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the February 2012 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 3rd January. The date for the March 2012 issue is Tuesday 31st January 2012. Email address is below.

Advertising copy for the February 2012 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 30th December 2011. The date for the March 2012 issue is Monday 30th January 2012.

TALKING POINT

by

Colin Ferguson

Together!

First of all, may your new year be richly blessed and may all your resolutions be fulfilled.

Apart from the Olympics in London, 2012 is a year of note in the Christian calendar as it has some very memorable anniversaries and as we celebrate the week of prayer for Christian Unity this month it is a good time to think about those.

Firstly it is 350 years since the great ejection, or the 1662 Act of Uniformity, which was one of the most divisive actions in this country's Christian heritage, possibly even more so than the split from Rome under Henry VIII. Even though we can now enjoy a wide variety of church life styles and a friendly relationship with each other without uniformity, it is still that concept which divides us. Though we are united in faith our man-made restrictions prevent us from a full recognition of the validity of each other's ministry. However well we co-operate there is still an underlying concept of I am right so you must be wrong.

In 1972 the United Reformed Church was formed as the first coming together of denominations since 1662 though in truth the early days of the reformed churches were not easily labelled. The integration of Congregational and Presbyterian churches is now 40 years old and includes the Churches of Christ and the Scottish Congregational Church. The mix has a wide range of practice and opinion but retains a unity which is based on the Holy Spirit acting through the whole membership of the church. Uniformity is not something to which we could ever aspire but unity is.

The other notable anniversary is that it is 25 years since Churches Together was formed out of a major conference at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick. Their findings were published in what is known as the Swanwick Declaration of 1987. Here there was a firm commitment 'to each other under God'. The statement gave all who were passionate about ecumenism a real sense of hope and gave a message of Christian togetherness to an increasingly cynical society.

The grand vision was 'to become more fully the one Church of Christ, united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission.' It also gave recognition to our need to remain diverse, 'in the unity we seek we recognise that there will not be uniformity but legitimate diversity.'

How was this to be achieved? It was clear that the hoped for change was not just about co-operation but about bringing us together under God in the 'unity for which Christ prayed and in common evangelism and service for the world.' I believe that the vision of the Swanwick declaration is still achievable even though I bemoan the reality that we have. Our services this month must include a great deal of repentance for our ecumenical ventures are still confused by denominational demands, we are still riven by arguments about who can do what or whether we even talk to each other. The Church is here to serve God through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit but still we cling to our ideas, our views, our opinions and in so doing we perpetuate division and deny our right to be different. Surely, we know nowadays that the God we worship is the same God and his kingdom is big enough for anyone. Maybe this is a year to actually do something about

allowing the church to be a place vitalised by diversity and no longer encumbered by the historical error of seeking uniformity. The closing prayer from Swanwick speaks even today about the hope and vision we should seek.

'Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your kingdom.'

Colin Ferguson is a lay preacher in the United Reformed Church.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM
St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.00noon
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS
St Barnabas Centre
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.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

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Meeting at Caversham Park School

11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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

GRACE CHURCH Old Peppard Road

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

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm

Gosbrook Road

10.30am and 6.30pm

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,

Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Church Street, Reading

10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

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

EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mr Alan Bradbury, Mr Philip DeVille, Mrs Myra Emerson, Mrs Rhona Flower, Mrs Janet Offord, Mrs Pat Williams.

c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX
Tel: 947 1703. Email: office@ctmparish.org.uk

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mr A Wright,

Tel: 947 6958.

Email: alanwright55@btinternet.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mrs Carol Moloney. Tel: 947 1370.

COMPANY CHAIRMAN: Mrs Marjorie Tillman. Tel 947 5711.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs Catharine Sharman.

COMPANY TREASURER: Mrs J Belcher. Tel: 947 4772

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Moore.

Tel: 947 3713

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.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX Tel: 0118 947 1703.

Typeset by Caversham Print & Design, 2a Randolph Road, Reading RG1 8EB Tel: 0118 939 1981 Fax: 0118 959 8090

E-mail: splat@cavershamprint.co.uk

Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW.



- Would you like to make life better for the people around you?
- Can you spare a few hours a week or month to help people in your community?

We offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled and visits to the sick and housebound.

Please contact us if you would like to help:



0118 948 3466



Monday to Friday 9.30am-11.30am

Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX

Remembrance in Caversham

Once again Caversham did itself proud when honouring those who fought to give us the freedom we enjoy today.

On Friday 11-11-11 several service standards were presented outside the Caversham Working Men's Club and at 11 o'clock the two minutes silence was observed. The people, shop tills and the traffic all came to a complete and silent standstill. More people than ever took part in this very moving and humbling experience. On the same day, but in the evening, over 40 ex-Servicemen attended Caversham RBL's annual armistice dinner at Reading Golf Club. Traditional steak and kidney pie and trifle were enjoyed, memories shared and lost comrades remembered. On Armistice Sunday the sun shone and over 800 (a record) attended Caversham's annual parade and service. As the Salvation Army band played alongside the War Memorial the parade just kept coming. This year there were more organisations represented, with a contingent from the Royal Marines attending for the first time. Jamie Boyd of the 9th Caversham Army Cadets led the parade, followed by a larger than usual contingent from the Royal British Legion. Army Cadets led by Dan Boyd and Scouts and Guides followed. The President of Caversham RBL, Ron Jewitt, welcomed all to the service which was led by the branch chaplain, the Rev. Derek Chandler from St. Barnabas Church. Twenty

three standards were present and twenty five wreaths were laid on the War Memorial. These joined a wreath laid earlier by the parents of local lad Cyrus Thatcher, killed in Afghanistan aged 19. His name had been added to the War Memorial last year to join the names of Caversham's dead from World Wars One and Two. At the end of the Service many personal tributes were laid.

The salute on the Library steps, was taken by the branch president of Caversham Royal British Legion, Ron Jewitt, the branch chaplain, Rev Derek Chandler, Officer Brett Cave representing the Army and Flying Officer Dunbar, who used to march in the parade as a member of the 3rd Reading Scouts, representing the RAF.

The Royal British Legion in Caversham, which now organise this community parade, thanks all who helped and supported them - the police who so ably saw that the parade moved safely through Caversham from Westfield Park to the War Memorial and back, to Messrs Drummonds for printing the order of service sheets, to Alan Priest for setting up the P.A.system and to Will Rand of the University Boat Club for allowing the use of their power, the Lower Earley Salvation Army Band for the music throughout the service and to everyone attending the parade and service.

In Caversham WE DO and WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



Fake PC Security Software

This month we start a series of short articles by Francis Brown highlighting current problems that can be faced by computer users.

Every term I am sure to shock some of my students by demonstrating fake security software. It works like this. You are viewing a web page and suddenly a warning appears that there is a security issue, your PC is being attacked and is already infected; you must click on this or that button or reply immediately. What you do next will help the criminal or keep you safe. If an email is involved, do not reply to it. With compelling instructions "you must fix now" the ensnarement begins. Do not accept any offers to scan your PC or fix it. Avoid clicking any button marked as "Scan", "Download" or "Fix" and please do not click on any links to other web pages. Instead, close down your PC. If necessary hold down the on/off button for 10 seconds. The next start up might take longer and have some extra messages. This may seem drastic and you might lose some of your recent work but that inconvenience will be small in comparison to the trouble that could otherwise be heading your way. See www.fbrown.org for more information.

Good Neighbours

Caversham Good Neighbours' AGM is scheduled for 18th January 2012 and will be held in the large room at Church House, Caversham at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

COMPANY SECRETARY

The current Company Secretary of Caversham Christian News Ltd (The Caversham Bridge) is moving away from Caversham and we need a replacement to take over from her as soon as possible.

The key duties of the role are:

1. To prepare and minute three or four board meetings per year.
2. As designated company secretary, to prepare and submit annual returns and any other statutory requirements to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

Total time commitment is in the region of 15-20 hours per year centred around each of the board meetings.

If you are interested and would like to talk about it, the present secretary would be happy to discuss the role in more detail. Apply to Marjorie Tillman c/o The Parish Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX. Email: office@ctmparish.org.uk.

Gill Madeley NAO Hort.

Garden Design & Maintenance

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

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

Sketches Sometimes



Paintings & Commissions
Handprinted Photographs
Flash Animation Workshops

Artwork & Photography
Mike Brand 9475178
mikebrand.co.uk

ALEX LOWTH

Gardening & Design

Is your Garden in a Mess? Does it need an overhaul?
Are you Bored with your Borders? Like to re-plan and re-plant?

Reliable Gardening Service:

- One-off jobs undertaken: Gardens cleared or overhauled, major cut back or pruning.
- Plants for places, advice and lists. Plants supplied and planted out.
- Design service - for more details please telephone to discuss.

Call: Alex Lowth, mobile: 07769 974 729, answer phone: 0118 947 2307

Caversham Solicitors

We're here to help

Have you been

INJURED

At work? On the Road? In an assault?
You may be entitled to Compensation

No win, no fee
schemes available

Telephone 0118 947 8638

Caversham Solicitors Ltd, Prospect House,
1 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB
email: info@cavershamsolicitors.co.uk

www.cavershamsolicitors.co.uk

Steepal

Bathrooms Tiles

Complete Design & Installation Service
Or

Supply Only

Fully Equipped Showroom
7 Reading Road Henley-on-Thames
Oxon RG9 1AB
01491 411990

info@steepalbathrooms.co.uk
www.steepalbathrooms.co.uk

D M B 

Building and Roofing Specialist

Tel: (0118) 947 3503 Mobile 07944 272804

FREE ESTIMATES & QUOTES
COMPETITIVE PRICES NO JOB TOO SMALL
ALSO UNDERTAKEN SMALL BUILDING JOBS
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

@nne Garrison

web design
Attractive Affordable Web Sites


Efficient, jargon-free web design & hosting.
Helping small businesses to get started on the web.

0118 947 4244 www.AnneGarrison.co.uk

all jazzed up

Swing Dance Classes

In the Reading/Henley area
Partnered dance classes in Lindy Hop, Jive, Jitterbug, Charleston & Balboa
Dancing to swing/jazz/blues from the 1940s to the present



Absolute Beginners very welcome
No need to bring a partner
Contact jean@alljazzedup.com
0780 8966928
www.alljazzedup.com

Chris Lewington

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DECORATING

- Paper Hanging Specialist
- Coving & Dado Rails Fitted
- Guttering Changed
- New Work & Refurbishment
- Private & Commercial
- Insurance Work Welcome
- Fully Insured

0118 946 4007
07958 293 867

13 Hilltop Road, Caversham Heights,
Reading RG4 7HR
www.lewingtondecorating.co.uk

Caversham Print & Design

2a Randolph Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 8EB
Telephone 0118 939 1981 • Fax: 0118 959 8090
Email: splat@cavershamprint.co.uk

The complete package from Design to
4 colour printing
Brochures • Booklets
• Programmes • Stationery
Digital and Volume Copying

The SignShop
COMPLETE SIGNAGE SOLUTIONS

- Banners • Signs for Shop fronts •
- Estate Agents • Vans
- A-Boards

If you need signs or banners for anything please phone:
0118 939 1981

Caversham – a century

The Mayor of Reading, Debs Edwards, paid tribute to a century of achievement on 9th November when she opened a meeting to mark the centenary of Caversham joining the Borough of Reading.

Over 130 people packed Caversham Baptist Church, which looked particularly festive, thanks to magnificent flower arrangements by the Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club. The evening was hosted jointly by the Caversham and District Residents Association, the Emmer Green Residents Association and The Warren and District Residents Association. Exhibition boards capturing Caversham's social, economic and ecological heritage created as part of the Caversham 100 Years On project were on display.

Helen Lambert of CADRA told the audience that the Caversham 100 Years On project grew out of a desire to celebrate the heritage of Caversham, which had an eventful history as an Oxfordshire village, and has seen great changes since 1911, as part of Reading.

Presenting Caversham – a Century, historian Dr Margaret Simons drew a fascinating picture of the rapid growth of Caversham both before and after it joined the borough. In 1911 there were almost 2,000 houses in the village, most of them built in the preceding 50 years, and ranging from handsome villas to small terraces. With 105 shops and 12 inns, it was a bustling place with many employment opportunities. Even so, about half of the working population had jobs in Reading, and were in need of good transport links to work and better utilities and other services at home. By 1939, the new Reading Bridge had been built, Caversham Bridge had been renewed, and an extensive programme of public works and housing construction had begun.

After the war, housing construction could not meet the demand. Caversham now has a huge variety of housing and ownership: though the prefab bungalows in Emmer Green have gone, we have self-built houses up Rotherfield Way, the first post-war local authority housing flats at Elizabeth House on Gosbrook Road and the huge estate of Caversham Park Village. The industries that had played such an important part during WW2 – building landing craft for the Normandy landings, aircraft parts and munitions – gradually declined and finally were wound up or moved away, leaving brownfield sites for more housing. Building on these was largely uncontroversial, but huge public protests accompanied the proposals to build in Bugs Bottom, as the open land at the end of Hemdean Road was known.

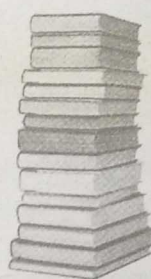
The developers may have won that battle, but residents' associations are crucial in giving local people a voice and in fostering our sense of place and history, as Margaret Ormonde, of the Emmer Green Residents' Association, and Robin Bentham, of The Warren and District Residents' Association, both emphasized.

Dr Simons was also the main speaker at a WEA Study Day on Saturday 12th November in St Andrew's Hall. She was joined by Dr Gillian Clark, author of *Down by the River*, and Peter Trout and Dennis Johnson of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group, for a day of talks and discussion about the growth of Caversham, work and leisure on the Thames, and the 20th century history of Caversham Court. Three of Reading's Brickwork Poets ended a lively and informative day with readings of poetry inspired by Caversham and its history.



Photo courtesy of Helen Lambort

Officers of Residents Association, speaker and Mayor



Heritage Exhibitions – a booklet for sale

The heritage exhibitions displayed at locations around Caversham have prompted many requests for a book. The nine exhibitions have been incorporated into a booklet which is available in Caversham Library and for sale at WordPlay, Prospect Street.

MIKE THOMAS
OND Forestry
Tree Surgery
& Landscaping



8 Randolph Road, Reading, Berks
Telephone: 0118 957 4896

JOHN WOOLDRIDGE

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Over 25 years experience

Competent tradesmen will undertake central heating, bath/shower room installations & general plumbing and repairs large or small.

112 MAYFIELD DRIVE,
CAVERSHAM
RG4 5JT (0118) 948 2584

GUTTERS, SOFFITS AND FASCIAS

- Full Replacement • Guttering and Downpipe Repairs • Clearing and Cleaning • Guaranteed for 10 years • Full Public Liability Insured • Police Checked

I welcome inspection of previous work


garry.theabelgroup@hotmail.co.uk
0118 947 5696 or 07974 089978
for a free estimate

ANDY'S WASHING MACHINE REPAIR


- Don't scrap it, let me repair it
- Most makes repaired
- Swift repair times
- Ex Indesit & S. Common Electrical Engineer
- Electric cooker, dishwasher & tumble dryer repairs too.

✓ 26 years experience / guaranteed work
✓ Caversham based
✓ Discount for OAPs

Contact Andy on:
07773 750321 daytime work hours
0118 947 1929 evening & messages
www.awmronline.com



BERKSHIRES INDEPENDENT TILE SUPPLIER



CAVERSHAM TILES 55 DONKIN HILL
CAVERSHAM
READING
RG4 5DG

Tel 0118 947 8853 www.cavtiles.co.uk

CLEARANCE SALE NOW ON!

POLISHING WITH A PURPOSE



The pack in St Peter's

On Tuesday 1st November, 24 brownies from 5th Caversham (St Peter's) pack took part in a sponsored polish in St Peter's Church. This was all in aid of raising money to buy presents for children who would otherwise not receive them at Christmas. They all came in dressed up for the occasion in aprons and gloves and overwhelmed with excitement. It's amazing how excited they get about polishing the church but I'm sure they're not like this at home with their house cleaning! After a solid hour the girls were still willing to do more. But with the time up, and the church smelling of lavender, the girls had to go home.

Then, on 22nd November we all invaded Toys R Us, rushing around finding the presents. After loading up the trolley with Barbie dolls, board games, footballs and many more items, we headed off to the checkouts.

With the help of the church and the hard work of 5th Caversham St Peter's Brownies we managed to raise a grand total of £926.41!!!



Shopping complete

Photos courtesy Caversham Guides

Concerts at Queen Anne's School

Professional concerts

Three concerts open to the public have been arranged at the school during the first three months of 2012. Each starts at 7.30pm.

On Tuesday 24th January the pianist, Julian Saphir, will be playing a programme of music from classical to modern.

On Tuesday 7th February the internationally famous orchestra, the Academy of St Martin's in the Fields, will give an evening of music. The programme includes Handel's *Concerto Grosso Op 6, No 1*, Britten's *Simple Symphony*, Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*, *Brandenburg Concerto No 3* by Bach and Mozart's *Symphony No 25 in G minor*. Tickets for this concert cost £20 (students £10) and include a champagne reception.

The woodwind ensemble, A Good Reed, gives the third concert in this series on

Tuesday 6th March. It will delight with an evening of music in all styles.

Tickets for the January and March concerts are £10 (£8 for concessions and £3 for under 18s). Tickets for all three concerts are available from: claire.richards@qas.org.uk or 0118 918 7328 or at the door. Prebooking is advisable, especially for the February concert.

Informal lunchtime concerts are being held on Fridays from January to March to be given by students from major music colleges and universities. They take place in the hall at Queen Anne's and are free. The school would like more people from the community to attend if possible. The term's programme is:

20th January Students from the Royal College of Music playing Shostakovich Piano Trio op 67, 3rd February Conservatoire concert, 17th February Conservatoire concert, 2nd March Conservatoire concert.

HEMDEAN HOUSE SCHOOL



WE COULD BE JUST WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

Unique family atmosphere
Small Classes
Excellent results
Reasonable Fees
Experienced teachers
Outstanding pastoral care



Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham, RG4 7SD Tel: 0118 9472590
e-mail: office@hemdeanhouse.co.uk web-site: www.hemdeanhouse.co.uk

Jerry's Odd Jobs

House and Garden
Maintenance & Repairs
Decorating inside and out
Flat Pack Assembly
Bicycle Repairs

Ring Jerry
0774 695 9463

SURVEYS AND VALUATIONS

Mark Hutchings
Chartered Surveyor

Residential and
Commercial Property
Wide area covered
0118 947 9727

Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet & Music Theory lessons

Jan Steele has places available
All ages and skill levels taught
Adult beginners welcome
38 years experience
St Anne's Road, Caversham
0118 947 7170
07718 347691

CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST

Mrs Samantha Vistuer

BSc (Hons), MChS, HPC Regis

6 Victoria Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7QY

Experienced footcare from childhood to the elderly

From corns to in-growing toe nails, foot pain to verrucas
Diabetic, Poor circulation, Rheumatoid patients welcome
Specialist Treatments Biomechanics, Orthotics & Nail Surgery

For a Clinic appointment please call:

TEL: 0118 946 3401

Superb organic cleaning of
carpets, curtains, upholstery and
leather

For a FREE no obligation quotation call Ryan
Dowling on:

0808 143 1329

Safeclean
The cleaning and specialist floor care experts

www.safeclean-ryandowling.co.uk



Make your garden maintenance easy -
call Dan the Gardener

- Lawn care
- Hedging
- Tree pruning
- Border management
- Waste removal
- Planting advice
- Lawn rlaying
- Leaf blowing

Contact me **TODAY** for a free, no obligation quotation
and details of my special Winter and Spring package

DMG Gardening - Dan the Gardener

Mobile: 07901 333345 Office: 0118 947 4385

Email: dancmorley@live.co.uk

The Daisy Nursery School

Open term time 9 - 12.30
 2 - 5 year olds welcome!
 Free sessions for three year olds
 Small 16 place Pre-school in Caversham Heights
 www.daisynurserieschool.co.uk
 07779 047533

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

K W Stokes Plumbing & Heating Engineer

40 YEARS EXPERIENCE - GAS SAFE REGISTERED
 Full Central Heating Systems and Boiler replacement specialists
 All Boilers fitted meet latest Energy Efficiency standards
 Boiler repairs, Maintenance and upgrades.
 Bathroom design and installation
 All general plumbing work
 Free & unbiased advice offered

Tel: 0118 986 9488 Mob: 07768 512060
www.kwstokesplumbingandheating.com

vale & west
 Chartered Accountants

Providing a personal service to many local owner-managed businesses, including monthly management accounts, payroll and VAT preparation, advice on acquisitions, etc.
 Free initial consultation on audit, accountancy, taxation, trust or any other related activities.

Contact:
Kathryn Cutts - 0118 957 3238
kcutts@valewest.com

PETER JONES
www.pjcarpentry.com

Carpentry and general building work
 Kitchen fitting (all makes)
 Property Maintenance - In/Outside
 Flatpacks assembled
 Decorating/Tiling/Plumbing/Electrical

Competitive rates & references available
 Professional, reliable and trustworthy

To discuss your requirements please ring 07912 260942

WALMSLEY
 ESTATE AGENCY

We are an independent company of Estate Agents specialising in the sale of property in the Caversham area.

We are able to give friendly impartial advice on all aspects of the sale of residential property.

Our services include:

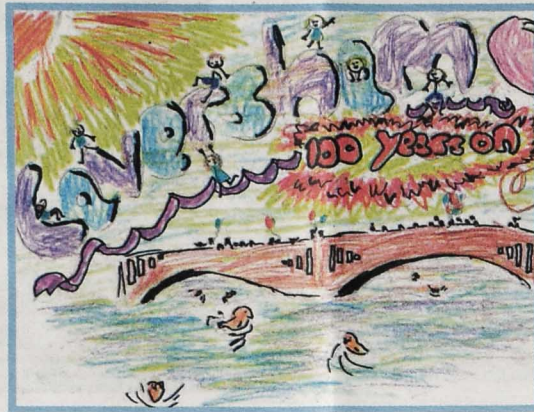
- Free valuations
- Probate valuations
- Accompanied viewings
- Advertising in both Reading and Henley newspapers
- Professional staff who live within the area
- Regular up-date reports
- Strong local reputation for obtaining results
- Discreet marketing services

If you are looking to move now or in the near future please feel free in either calling into our offices in Bridge Street, Caversham or telephoning us at the number below

0118 947 0511
 email: sales@walmsley.co.uk
9 Bridge Street, Caversham RG4 8AA

LOOKING BACK AT 2011

Celebrating 100 years



Logo drawn by a local child.



How Caversham saw it in 1911.



At the Garden Party.

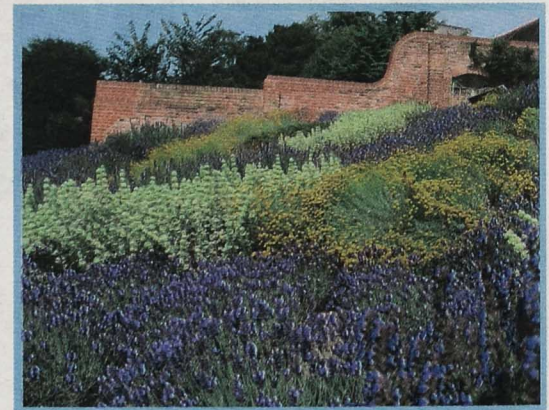


Dancing the evening away.

Caversham Court



In winter.



In Summer.

Aren't you "tyred" of this?



Rescue collection of rubbish - collected at The Warren.

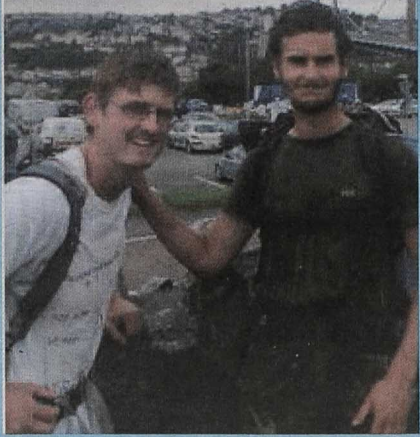
Ding Dong Merrily!



Restored peal of bells at St Margarets Mapledurham

LOOKING BACK AT 2011

The Tamar Bridge to Saltash, Cornwall. 18/08/11



YOUTH RAISING FUNDS FOR AFGHAN WOUNDED



Caversham Bridge said farewell to Mary Kift in January

The well known Caversham historian and contributor to this paper died towards the end of 2010

Award for Emmer Green Shop

Each year the BBC searches for the best, most inspiring food producers, farmers, markets, caterers, campaigners and retailers in the country. Last year the True Food Co-op in Grove Road, opposite St Barnabas church, was one of three finalists in the BBC Radio 4 Food and Farming Awards 2011 in the Best Retail Initiative category.

At the award winning ceremony held at Birmingham in November and broadcast on Radio 4, the True

food Co-op was declared winner. As Jamie Oliver has said, these are the Oscars of the food world. The Co-op was presented with a superb hand-crafted bread board which is displayed proudly in the shop in Grove Road. Congratulations!

The shop is open Mondays from 8.30am to 8pm, Tuesdays to Fridays from 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. Visit www.truefood.coop for more information or phone 946 1188.

CHURCHES

Confirmation Service



Photo: Colin Blount

A confirmation service was held at St Peter's church on Sunday 20th November. Candidates were presented from the Caversham churches of St John the Baptist, St Peter, St Barnabas and Caversham Park Church, and were joined by candidates from St George Tilehurst and St John the Evangelist, Woodley.

The Bishop of Reading, the Right Reverend Andrew Proud, led the service.

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which candidates affirm for themselves the faith into which they have been baptised and their intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give them power through the Holy Spirit to enable them to live in the way of Jesus.

The bishop speaks to each candidate by name, saying "God has called you by name and made you his own". He then lays his hand on the candidate's head, saying "Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit".

This year there were 13 candidates from the various churches, 10 adults and three children, who were confirmed by the bishop in front of a large congregation, including parents and godparents, and other relatives and friends. Two of the candidates had not previously been baptised, so the service incorporated their baptisms at the font before the confirmation ceremony.

The act of confirmation was followed by the eucharist, during which the newly confirmed took communion for the first time.

The music for the service was provided by the St Peter's church choir, who contributed the anthem, 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence' by Bairstow. Following the service, refreshments were provided. The picture shows all the newly confirmed standing with the Bishop of Reading at the rear of St Peter's church.

Abby Asbury, one of those confirmed, said after the service "I was one of three children from St Peter's. I felt rather nervous especially as we were sat right at the front. My godmother and family and best friend were there to support me and of course the choir and servers. The Bishop was very friendly and made us all feel calm and special!"

In a separate service on 23rd November, Bishop Andrew confirmed several Caversham boys at Reading School – the first confirmation service there for 30 years, according to the school chaplain, Rev Chris Evans.

Steve Daniels

Painting and Decorating

25 years experience

City and Guilds qualified

For a professional job and free quote ring:

Home: 0118 961 3218

Mobile: 0791 710 6164

PET CARE

On holiday, working,

ill or just need help?

DOG WALKING

LOOKING AFTER

DOGS, CATS,

RABBITS etc

Let me HELP you

in your home or mine

0118 9470187

HOME TUITION

Primary School Age

Range of subjects offered

including Special Needs

Call 954 5860 or 947 2804

sonya.delamere@ntlworld.com



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

Summerfield CARE HOME



Registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Victorian House specially converted to provide superb standards of comfort for 15 service users.

Single and Double rooms for Respite and Long term care.

Close to all amenities.

Manager: Tracey Clark
Proprietor: Colin Robbins

4 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading
Telephone (0118) 947 2164

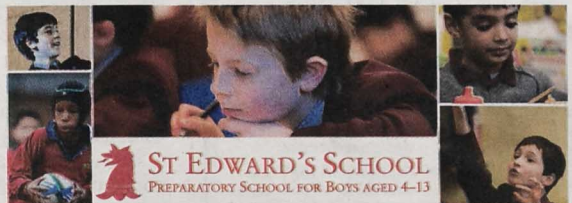
Malcolm J. Jeffries

Interior & Exterior Decorating
Building Maintenance

PHONE 0118 9472040

MOBILE 07768 376270

22 Buxton Avenue
Caversham Heights
Reading
Berks
RG4 7BU



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL
PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 4-13

Our 2010 ISI Inspection report said about the boys:
"THEIR CONCENTRATION, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES ARE ALL EXCELLENT, THEY ARE HAPPY AT SCHOOL AND ENJOY LEARNING."

St. Edward's School invites you to come and see for yourself.

Open Mornings in May, October and February or call for a private tour!

Scholarships available for Years 7 and 8
64 Tilehurst Road, Reading RG30 2JH • 01189 574 342 • www.stedwards.org.uk

CLOCKMAKER

FREE ESTIMATES
6 Gurney Close, Caversham, RG4 7LE
Specialists in Grandfather clock repairs.
Free local collection service
I.D. Collinson C.M.B.H.I.
Tel. (0118) 947 3548

**Free Estimates****COPSE ELECTRICAL & SECURITY SERVICES**

- DOOR ENTRY
- INTRUDER ALARMS
- SECURITY LIGHTING
- ELECTRIC SHOWERS
- EXTRA SOCKETS
- COMPLETE REWIRES

Tel 0798 362 7742/0795 6811443

AROMATHERAPY & REFLEXOLOGY

18 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Mrs. LESLIE MAYNERD TIDHA, MRQA, R.C.C.A.
THE OAK HOUSE CLINIC, 80 WOODCOTE RD, CAVERSHAM

Treatment especially suitable for:
Headaches / Migraines / Muscular Tension
Stress Related Problems

0118 947 6067/leslie@oceanviewvillas.co.uk
Vouchers available

M. D. Howlett

architectural consultant
(0118) 947 7117

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

N Tarrant & Son**Plumbing and Heating**

- Plumbing repairs and fitting
- Bathroom design and installation
- Kitchen replacement
- Tiling
- General property maintenance and repair

Telephone: 0118 9470003
Mobile: 07894 850 950
Email: nltarrant@supanet.com

Robin James
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)

CHURCHES**Baptist Church welcomes new pastor**

Since the beginning of 2011, Caversham Baptist Church has been searching for a new pastor following the departure of Paul Rhodes for a new role at Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church in Swindon.

In October, the search came to an end when, following two weekend visits in September, members invited Rob Beardsley to take on the role of pastor. At the time, Rob was coming to the end of his ministry at Oakham Baptist Church in Rutland. He, his wife Jan and their son Greg moved to Caversham at the beginning of December. After a few days settling in, they quickly became involved in the life of the church and its activities, especially the Christmas services.

Rob, a Yorkshire man, trained for the ministry at Spurgeon's College in London. Since then he has been pastor at a modern city centre church, then a more traditional church before moving to Oakham, a growing family church at the heart of a rural county town.

While at Oakham, Rob and Jan's church rented a building near the church. This now houses an active youth café and after-school drop-in. Until recently, Jan was employed as youth worker and project manager of the Shed Youth Café at Oakham Baptist Church.

A formal welcome to Rob will take place at his induction service at 3.00pm on Saturday 21st January at Caversham Baptist Church when the service will be led by Pastor Ray Coates who has been the Moderator of our Church during 2011.

The leadership team and church family are looking forward to working with Rob and Jan to develop the church's ministry in the coming years.

CLUBS**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL****Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club****Sir John to start Lions Run**

The 28th Annual 10k Charity Road Run organised by Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club is due to start at 10.30am on Sunday 8th January 2012. It is hoped that Sir John Madejski will again attend as official starter and present trophies to runners at the end of the run.

As in previous years the start point is between the entrance to Langtree School and Woodcote Village Hall, Reading Road, Woodcote RG8 0RA. The course then follows undulating by-roads, is kilometre marked and marshalled. It has been measured by the SEAA Course Measurement Team and takes place under UK Athletic Rules (UKA race permit number is 2012 -102752). In accordance with SEAA regulations the minimum age for entry is 15 years.

There will be free hot drinks provided for all runners and a water station en-route and at the finish. Limited changing and toilet facilities are available in the village hall. A team from St John Ambulance will be providing first aid cover.

All finishers will receive a medal. Trophies will be awarded as follows:

- First over the line 1st Senior Veteran (50+) male & female
- 1st - 2nd - 3rd male & female 1st Vintage Veteran (60+) male & female
- 1st Veteran (40+) male & female 1st Juniors under 16yrs male & female

Details and entry forms are available to download from www.lions-gwd.org.uk Entry fee is £12 when paid in advance (£10 for affiliated Club runners). The late registration fee is £15 and will only be possible if space allows and before 10.00am on Race Day. Gift Aid sponsorship forms are available on request.

Volunteers from a number of other local organisations help the Lions maintain the enjoyment and safety of this annual event. They include Scouts & Guides, Rotary and 41 Clubs, and all are much appreciated. If you would like to help with marshalling please contact the Lions well before the day. It takes as many as 50 people on the day with assigned jobs to ensure things go smoothly and safely.

Several local businesses are making generous contributions this year with the main sponsor being Warmingham - Estate Agents.

Every single penny raised from the public by Lions goes to charity and nothing is taken up in administration costs.

Funds raised and sponsorship at this event will be shared between the Air Ambulance (Berks/Oxon/Bucks) and "Robbie the Robot" (The RBH Prostate Cancer Appeal).

For more details please telephone: 0845 833 9837 or e-mail 10k@lions-gwd.org.uk

All sorts of everything**A Craft Club for Everyone**

Give yourself the time and space to enjoy your own craft and perhaps learn new skills from others. All crafts are welcome.



This new club will be meeting on the first Saturday of every month in the afternoon between 1.30 and 4.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church in Highmoor Road.

Each session costs £3 including refreshments and homemade cake.

Further information can be obtained from Elizabeth Peirce on 07588 706 119 or epeircerg8@gmail.com

St. Barnabas PARISH CENTRE
Grove Road, Emmer Green

OPEN
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8.30 - 10.30 a.m.
Wednesdays 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME TO DROP IN
for tea, coffee,
conversation and
company

**Free and Confidential money advice**

- If you are finding it difficult to pay bills on time
- If need advice on budgeting
- If you are actually in debt

Caversham debt advice centre which operates under the leadership of Grace Church Caversham, may be able to advise or point you in the right direction. Call Anne on 01189 722435 for an appointment



St. Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights
(Albert Road RG4 7PL)
Eucharist Service with

prayers for healing wholeness and peace

at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month

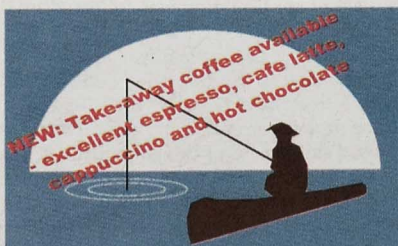
All welcome!

supported by the local branch of The Guild of St. Raphael
The Guild of St. Raphael
Christ's Ministry of Healing

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH
presents**DICK WHITTINGTON**

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th at 7 p.m. and
Saturday 21st January 2012 at 6 p.m.
Tickets: £7.50 for adults, £5.00 for children
Available from: 0118 947 3935

ALL PROCEEDS TO:
'ACTION FOR CHILDREN'
and Church Funds

**The Fisherman**
Café

Thursdays 3 - 10 pm
St. Andrew's Church Hall
Albert Road
Caversham
RG4 7PL

fisherman@standrewscaversham.org
www.standrewscaversham.org/fisherman

SPICK 'n' SPAN
DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICE
 • Reliable, friendly & trustworthy.
 • Weekly / Fortnightly cleans
 • One-Off Cleans
 • All equipment and supplies provided.
 Competitive Rates - Please call Louise for a free quotation.
 Tel: 0791 429 5167

PETER BURTON
PAINTER & DECORATOR
 PRIVATE & SUB-CONTRACT
GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
 ESTIMATES/FREE ADVICE
 TEL: READING 0118 947 0297

ENVIRONMENT

Hedge laying at Bugs Bottom



Traditional hedge laying at Bugs Bottom.

Photo J Oliver

BTCV [British Trust for Conservation Volunteers] and CRoW [Conserve Reading on Wednesday] have had 5 sessions re-laying the hedge along Gravel Hill. Good progress was made with passers-by making positive comments and a few stopping to help. The plan is to return next year to continue on the field side; long-term plans are to re-lay the original hedge along the road. This can be done when the height of the inner hedge is reduced so that more light can reach the original line. First session will be with CRoW on 1st February from 10 am onwards. Extra helpers will be very welcome.



Tom & John adding final touches

Photo J Oliver

Christmas Trees

The ECONET groups with BBOWT collected Scots pine Christmas trees for their Christmas Tree Sale at Caversham Court yard in December. Christine Brewster, the willow worker, was there making wreaths or helping people make their own, and RSPB sold bird food. This year the trees were from the Bagshot area, as part of heathland restoration work.

Work at Blackhouse Wood

Friends of Clayfield Copse started on bramble clearance in Blackhouse Wood in December so that the bluebells can be seen. Every year the bluebells start popping up earlier. This used to be a February task! Helpers are always very welcome.

Forty Years on for Caversham Round Table



A lunch was held at Sonning Golf Club recently to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Caversham Round Table. The founder chairman, John Allen, was present, along with 48 other current and former members, including two who had travelled from France for the occasion. A former chairman and past national president, Rohit Tanna, was also present. As a member of the international organisation, Caversham Round Table still carries forward the values and aims of the founder members, providing a social environment for members, but also helping with charitable events and fund raising. It is open to men up to the age of 45. Round Table's sister organisation is Ladies Circle.

For further information please contact James at message@hotmail.co.uk or 0118 986 9552.

Simm Electrical Services

- Extra sockets/lights
- Fuse board upgrades
- Inspection of existing electrics
- Security lights

- ✓ A friendly and reliable service
- ✓ All work guaranteed
- ✓ Part P registered business
- ✓ Free quotation

Call Alex on 07500 893583
 www.simmelectricalservices.co.uk

NEED A RELIABLE WINDOW CLEANER?

Call Garry @ **ABEL CLEAN**

- 10 years experience
- Interior and Exterior Cleaning
- Velux and Conservatory Roof Cleaning using Reach & Wash System
- Fully Insured and Police checked

0118 9475696
07974 089978

ABEL CLEAN
 67 Woodcote Way, Caversham Heights, Reading RG4 7HL

CAVERSHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB

TUESDAY SPECIAL
Seniors One Course Lunch
£5.00

FISHERMAN'S FRIDAY
 12-3pm
Choice of fish dishes
£6.50

New updated menu available 9am - 4pm
 Enquiries: 0118 947 8600
 Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath, Mapledurham

TAYLOR EADE BRICKWORK

Specialising in New Builds, Extensions, Conservatory Bases, Garden & Boundary walls, Repointing and all Groundwork & Drainage

For a Free Estimate or any Advice Please give us a call on
 Reading: **0118 9673912** or **07990810101**
 Email: tayloradebrickwork@hotmail.co.uk
 Quality and Reliability Assured

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

PAUL SHEPHERD
Building repairs & Maintenance
 Brickwork piers & walls/Concrete paving
 Chimney pointing/pebble dashing
 Gutter/downpipe maintenance
 Clay/concrete tile roofing & lead/flashings
 Fencing, Carpentry work & decorating
 Experienced & personal service guaranteed
 Quality work with reasonable rates.
07838 4376265/paul56shepherd@hotmail.com

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Would you like to have this paper delivered to you monthly?
 Email us at: cavershambridgegenews@gmail.com giving your name and address.

Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased either from
WordPlay, Prospect Street
 or Caversham Thameside Parish Office, Church Street

Commercial Property Agents
 Shops, Offices, Industrial, Investments
 Rent Reviews & Lease Renewals negotiated

Highmoor Cross

George Chilvers and Nigel Price FRICS
0118 947 4600
 www.highmoorcross.co.uk

The Herb Farm

"Specialist herb nursery centered on a picturesque 18th century barn in a traditional rural setting"

BARN GIFT SHOP DISPLAY GARDENS
 THE SAXON MAZE DAISY'S COFFEE SHOP

Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9NJ
 Tel: 0118 972 4220 Daisy's - 0118 972 3652
 Open 7 days a week 10am to 5pm

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, NPCT QUALIFIED

Tel/Fax: 0118 971 2224
 Mobile: 07876 232282
CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTATION

Thimbleby & Shorland

AUCTIONEERS - VALUERS - CHARTERED SURVEYORS
 The local firm with the international reputation - Est. 1901

DO YOU ENJOY THE BUZZ & FUN OF AN AUCTION SALE?
 DO YOU WATCH AUCTION PROGRAMMES ON TV?
 DO YOU WANT TO DE-CLUTTER YOUR HOUSE OR TURN YOUR ASSETS INTO CASH?
 THEN COME AND EXPERIENCE THE EXCITEMENT OF AN AUCTION FOR YOURSELF - LOCALLY!

PERIODIC & MONTHLY AUCTIONS AT READING AUCTION CENTRE

- ANTIQUE FURNITURE & CHATELAIN
- HOUSEHOLD & OFFICE FURNITURE
- COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
- GARDEN PLANTS & MACHINERY
- MOTOR VEHICLES and much more

VALUATIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES
 Probate & Family Division & Insurance & Auction

We would be pleased to advise without obligation. See website for fixture list and catalogues
www.tsauction.co.uk - log on and subscribe
 RICS compliant - clients money protected

31 Great Knollys Street +44 (0)118 950 8611
 Reading, Berkshire RG1 7HU Fax: +44 (0)118 950 5896
 Website: www.tsauction.co.uk Email: info@ts.co.uk

CLUBS

Everest
 Making more of your environment

Sales Consultants required in the Thames Valley area

Operate own franchise/Car essential
 Generous marketing support, incentives and training given.

- Casement/Sash windows & Conservatories
- Front, French and Bi-fold Doors
- Flat roofs, Roofline products, Garage doors
- Driveways, Patios, Alarms & Solar Energy

Applicants - please send a short CV
Quotation requests:
01491 641337 / 07958 420947
prisconsult@aol.com

DICK SMITH
 General Builder
 Small Building Works
 Property Maintenance
 Alterations

No Job too Small

Free Estimates

Est: 35 years

Caversham
 0118 9482504

One to One
 internet computer
 training for all ages
 &
 abilities

Using your own
 machine &
 software - at your
 own pace

Help with installing
 software or setting
 up internet
 connections

Info@annegarrison.co.uk
Anne Garrison
 0118 947 4244

M.J. GODDARD

Builder and Decorator
FREE ESTIMATES

18 GOSBROOK ROAD
 CAVERSHAM
 READING
 BERKSHIRE Telephone 947 5582

Soft Furnishings,
 Loose Covers, Curtains,
 Drapes, Re-upholstery

John Kitcher & Son

55 Gatehampton Road,
 Goring, Reading RG8 0EN
 Tel: 01491 872103

nick baldwin
GARDEN DESIGN & BUILD

- Full design & landscaping service
- Portfolio available to view with highlights online
- Project featured in Garden Design Journal
- DGD qualified (Diploma in Garden Design)

Visit: www.nickbaldwin.net
 or Call: 0118 9594171
 Mob: 07801 284377

Bondright Roofing Services
 DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOFING
 & EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

Your Local Roofing Company

All Types of Roofing

Tel: 0118 963 9456

www.bondrightroofing.co.uk

Caversham Heights Society

At the beginning of November we were taken behind the scenes of *Thrive*, the national charity based at Beech Hill that changes the lives of disabled people through gardening. There was a change of speaker at the last minute, and we were grateful to Simon Johnson, a volunteer who took over when Gill Bailey, *Thrive's* Information Officer, was unable to come.

With his film and stories, Simon brought the charity to life and we were able to see the good work achieved and the help *Thrive* needs to maintain its funds to run all its different operations. The CHS has made *Thrive* its charity this year and members were able to buy gardening aids and cards from the stall run by Simon's wife, Sally.

Simon has been a volunteer for the past nine months after taking early retirement and is bringing his skill and time to helping *Thrive*.

Later in November, Jane Greenhaf gave a lively and personal talk on her change of direction from commercial banker to running a National Trust Property. After 28 years in training, retail and banking, Jane was inspired to join the National Trust. Her first year was spent at Anthony in Cornwall, managing the infrastructure changes following the filming of Alice in Wonderland starring Johnny Depp. She came to Greys Court in 2010 as Property Operations Manager. The house was re-opening after 2½ years of renovation and it had been a whirlwind time "making things happen". Jane and her husband live in a cottage on the estate where she oversees a staff of five and 180 volunteers, who act as house guides, gardeners, receptionists, and shop assistants. The next season will run from 21 March to 4 November. Thousands of visitors had enjoyed the house and garden. Bequests helped with repair work and a new greenhouse will be ready for use next season. Events helped to raise funds and the profile of the house. These included woodland walks, outdoor theatres and filming. There was a fine line between preserving the atmosphere of Greys Court and preservation of the house and ancillary buildings.

Information about the Caversham Heights Society can be found at www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk or by telephoning 934 5004.

Reading and District Probus Club

They say that hobbies and pastimes should be different from work. This was demonstrated by John Tidmarsh who prefaced his talk by saying 'I'm a Railway Man'. This was in sharp contrast to his passion for narrow boats and the network of canals in England and Wales. Hiring a boat, with his wife as crew, he developed his navigational skills at manoeuvring a 40 foot, 8 ton boat. It was the beginning of many trips through locks, under bridges and on bridges, spanning valleys, where there is only a tow-path on one side. Viaducts are not for the faint hearted! In contrast tunnels are a different experience and fully illustrate the saying 'the light at the end of the tunnel'.

Locks with which we are all familiar are one thing, but a series of locks forming a 'ladder' is another experience - being only one way at a time. Unique constructions like the one on the Bridgewater Canal where it spans the Manchester Ship Canal at Barton Bridge are a never ending wonder of engineering of the 19th century. Locks are wide enough to take two boats abreast. 'Boatman's Art' developed as something to do and then became a way for boat owners to compete with each other. Steamboats, which formerly pulled 2 or 3 barges of coal and timber along the canals, are now rarely, if ever, seen since road transport has taken all the traffic. The Kennet and Avon Canal between Reading and Bath, originally built to transport goods from London to Bristol, is now a local tourist attraction and subject of published guide books.

Local knowledge about PROBUS can be obtained by any retired men who want to navigate fresh water by phoning the secretary, Raymond Head on 0118 941 1445 or email on raymondhead@supernet.com

St Peter's Wives Group

The AGM was held at the November meeting, when a new chairman and committee member were elected. An appeal was made for at least one other volunteer for the committee but none was forthcoming.

After the formal business, members were treated to a demonstration of seasonal flower-arranging by Pat Williams, who is well-known to a number of our members who help arrange the flowers at St Peter's.

The demonstration started with a traditional arrangement in a glass bowl, consisting of an edging of silver senecio and included holly with berries, variegated ilex, red roses and chocolate coins on cocktail sticks for a child-friendly feature. The whole was completed with a candle at the centre.

Pat then demonstrated how to make the best of a bunch of flowers in a vase. So often they are impossible to arrange attractively, and fall all over the place. Pat showed how to make a grid of narrow sellotape across the top of the vase to prevent the flowers flopping, and then to add unusual foliage, such as zebra grass, to provide more interest.

The third arrangement was a white-themed Christmas wreath, using honesty, gypsophila and white roses, with senecio in the centre. Toffees wrapped in silver paper.

The arrangements were the raffle prizes at the end of the meeting.

The next meeting at Church House will be on Tuesday, 17 January at 8.00pm when a police constable will be talking to us on the subject of personal safety. New members are always welcome.

Rosehill WI

Members and visitors were welcomed to the November meeting by President Brenda Caborn. Members had been busy shopping for toiletries to make up the emergency bags for the Royal Berkshire hospital. Those members unable to shop made a cash contribution. After the meeting a working group was set up to pack the bags.

Margaret announced that 26 members were going to the Christmas lunch at Goring Heath Golf Club. When Brenda and Margaret Seal had finished the business part of the meeting Mr Brian Clews, the speaker, was introduced.

Members had an interesting talk and slides of *A walk on The Wild Side*. Brian talked about the insects that could be seen and showed slides, then followed pictures of birds. Brian told us that as well as red kites making a recovery, buzzards were also back in large numbers.

This was a very interesting talk especially for our walking group.

The meeting ended with a cup of tea and the raffle

Visitors are welcome at meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of each month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

Chazey WI

For members eagerly looking forward to their November meeting, the history of Punch and Judy proved well worth the wait. Alix Booth reduced everyone to fits of laughter as she introduced the characters in her puppet theatre, acting out the voices of Samuel Pepys, the hangman and beadle and the much-celebrated Mr Punch. Spiced with both historical and very topical anecdotes she led us through the story of the traditional show, from Pepys' first recorded mention of Pulcinella in 1662 to the street theatre featuring Mr Punch as the common man fighting his battles in life. Although originally intended for adults, when families began taking seaside holidays, Punch and Judy on the beach proved an instant hit with children and has done so ever since. Alix Booth was warmly thanked for such an entertaining evening.

Chazey WI meets on the first Tuesday each month at 7.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Caversham WI

It was a golden evening for members and guests when we celebrated our 50th birthday. To start with it looked as if the party would be in the car park as no one could get in - eventually the local police came to the rescue and everything moved quickly. Rebecca entertained us with her guitar and led a singsong before an enjoyable supper. President Miss Cameron and the one remaining founder member, Mrs Doreen Beard, cut the decorated cake. A gold themed quiz tested brainpower before the raffle ended an enjoyable evening. We now look forward to our 51st year!

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BRIDGE

If you send your contributions for the Bridge by email, can you please delete all email addresses that you have for the office and replace with: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk. We are having both a reorganisation in the office and a reorganisation of our IT and we do not want you articles to get lost.

Peter Robins

Local Builders, Maintenance, Repairs
 30 years experience: Fully insured
 Roofing, Guttering, Soffits
 Internal/external alterations
 Painting, Decorating, Tiling
 Garden Walls, Fencing, Patios
Enquiries: 0118 948 2357/07702 184784

LIFE IN OLD CAVERSHAM

by **Mary Kift**
 A revised edition
£8.99
 Now available at
WORDPLAY
 in
 Prospect Street, Caversham

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

1ST BERKSHIRE ROOFING

Roofing Specialists,
 General Building, Painting, Decorating
 & All Property Repairs, Free Estimates
 No Job Too Small



Find us in the Yellow Pages

J. Long
 26 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks. RG4 8BS
 Tel: 0118 954 3363 or 0118 970 0529 (m) 07525 297655

Trees **A J PARTRIDGE** Since 1933

Arboricultural Contractor

Offering a comprehensive range of tree work services since 1933.

Have a Partridge in your pear tree now.

123 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel: 0118 947 2549



THE PAINTING & DECORATING COMPANY

*Quality workmanship
 City & Guilds qualified
 Excellent references*

Paul Mason
 0118 961 3406 ♦ 07887 835571

J. P. MOTORS

- ★ MoT while you wait (by appointment)
- ★ Servicing by top mechanics
- ★ Bodywork, any job undertaken
- ★ Collection and delivery service can be arranged

Call us today for first class personal service

Tel: 947 7377 – 24 hour Ansafone

J.P. MOTORS

**TILBURY CLOSE, CHILTERN ROAD
 CAVERSHAM, READING RG4 0JF**

GORSE

As the old saying goes, "When the gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of season."

In fact there are several species of gorse, which have different flowering times. Around here, the common species often grows with the dwarf gorse, which must go some way to explaining the saying. You can find both on the commons just north of Caversham – such as Peppard and Kingwood. But then there are often some flowers on gorse bushes, even in the depth of winter. In mid-November, when walking through Forbury Gardens in Reading, I noticed flowers on a bush of the common gorse, and I thought what an unusual plant it was to grow in a public park!



Where I grew up in Cheshire, we always called the plant gorse, or gorst. I'd never heard of furze or fuzz until I read the Wessex novels of Thomas Hardy. Major B. Lowsley, in his "Glossary of Berkshire Words and Phrases" published in 1888, has no words at all under the letter "F". In Berkshire, he says, it was always pronounced like a letter "V" and so he has the word "furze" under "V" and writes the old saying as "When the vuz be out o' bloom, kissin' be out o' vashun". Farther north in England, and in Scotland, it's called whin. In Ireland, it is said not to be native, but to have been introduced by the Normans as a hedging plant.

When the seeds of the gorse germinate, up comes a soft seedling with leaves composed of three leaflets, looking much more like a lupin than the tough spiny old gorse. After a year or so, the leaves have turned to spines: this is a plant determined not to be eaten.

Nevertheless, in the past it has been used for feeding farm animals, having first been crushed in water-powered mills. This was done especially in Wales.

Another widespread use has been as fuel in ovens. Gorse burns hot and fast and with very little smoke, making it ideal for the purpose. Bundles of branches were burned in the oven, then raked out, and the loaves were placed inside to bake whilst the oven was still hot. In some parishes, there were rules about the gathering of gorse, who could cut it, and how much they could take. The selling of gorse outside the parish was often forbidden.

Gorse branches have been used to make brooms, and for sweeping the soot from chimneys.

The flowers could be used to make a yellow dye for wool, and also for Easter eggs. They made one of the best of the country wines, though this is one I've not yet tried, and they could also be made into a tea.

The prospect of these culinary uses seems attractive: the scent of gorse blossom on a sunny day is a mixture of vanilla, coconut and banana – to my nose anyway. I don't know whether the flowers have been used in perfumery – if they haven't, they ought to be.

There may be sporadic flowering all the year round, but the greatest flush of flowers on the common gorse comes in late April, about the time that hawthorn comes into flower. I know of several uncultivated hillsides where the two bushes flowering together make an extraordinary spectacle. Another happy memory evoked is the sound of drying seed-pods exploding to send the seeds flying on a gorse covered heath on a hot day in high summer.

Happy Wanderer

**FRIENDS OF
 CAVERSHAM COURT**

The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 28th March at Reading Canoe Club on The Warren, 7 pm for 7.30pm.

The Friends are delighted to welcome historian Rupert Willoughby, author of *Life in Medieval England* and *Reading and its Contribution to World Culture*. A most accomplished and entertaining speaker, Rupert will talk about the history of Caversham and its links with Reading.

Members and non-members are very welcome. For further information, contact The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens at friends@fccg.org.uk or write c/o Head Gardener's Office, Caversham Court Gardens, Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AG.

**CAVERSHAM HEATH
 GOLF CLUB**

A warm and welcoming atmosphere awaits you at Caversham Heath Golf Club. With beautiful views and comfortable surroundings our facilities are perfect for any occasion

- ♦ Christenings
- ♦ Weddings
- ♦ Funerals
- ♦ Dinner Parties
- ♦ Family Events
- ♦ Birthday Parties
- ♦ Anniversaries
- ♦ Corporate Functions

Caversham Heath Golf Club
 Chazey Heath, Mapledurham
 Office: 0118 947 8600
 Email: info@cavershamgolf.co.uk
 Website: www.cavershamgolf.co.uk

A.F. JONES

**MASTER
 MASONS**

Craftsmen in Stone

**BEDFORD RD
 READING
 Telephone
 0118 957 3537**

J R McCARDLE

MASTER MASONS

Fine Memorials in
 Marble, Stone and
 Granite

Restoration and all
 other masonry
 undertaken

0118 973 0043

TOMALIN & SON

Funeral Directors

A Family Owned Funeral Service

Tel: (01491) 573370

ANDERSON HOUSE, 38 READING ROAD,
 HENLEY-ON-THAMES, OXON, RG9 1AG

Golden Charter & Help the Aged
 PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS

**ABW A.B.WALKER
 & SON LIMITED**
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS EST.1826

Independent family funeral directors and
 monumental masons.

- 24 Hour assistance
- 4 Offices with parking
- Competitively priced
- Flowers by telephone and on-line
- Stone memorials
- Pre-paid funeral plans



Reading: 0118 957 3650
 Henley-on-Thames: 01491 413 434
 Other Branches: Bracknell - Wokingham
www.abwalker.co.uk

Cyril H. Lovegrove

**Funeral Directors
 Memorial Consultants
 Personal Funeral Plans**

58 Briants Avenue
 Caversham
 Tel: 0118 946 1393
 (24 Hrs)

21 School Road
 Tilehurst
 Tel: 0118 945 2103
 (24 Hrs)

As your local Funeral Directors
 we will do ALL we can to help.



FOR PERSONAL SERVICE
 PLEASE CONTACT CAROL OR JOHN
 Part of Dignity
 Funeral Service



BOILER REPLACEMENT SPECIALIST

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

Remove years of sludge which causes your heating system to underperform 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

ANDREW LAKER
Carpenter – Cabinetmaker

Kitchens - Bedrooms - Studies
Storage Solutions and
General Household Carpentry

322 Kidmore Road 0118 9482021
Caversham
Reading RG4 7NG 07967 642260
www.andrewlaker.co.uk

Kentwood Garden Services

Have your Garden maintained
Weekly ~ Fortnightly ~ Monthly
Neglected Gardens cleared
For free advice and estimates
call Kevin on
0118 967 8840 or 07980 915944

Turfing Fencing Hedge-cutting Patios

Caversham Clinic
25 Prospect Street, Caversham, Berks, RG4 8JB
0118 948 2999

Chiropody/Podiatry, Reflexology
Reiki & Seichem Healing & Teaching
Homeopathy
Indian Head Massage.

Hopi Ear Candles, Hypnotherapy, Lymphatic Drainage,
Aromatherapy
Evelyn Burt. State Registered Chiropodist

Catering with Flair

Creative Cuisine for all Occasions
Vegetarian Dishes a Speciality!

We can provide all or part of the menu for your function whatever the size!

- Tasty Canapés and Starters
- Unusual Seasonal Salads
- Creative Main Courses
- Delicious Desserts
- Scrumptious Afternoon Teas

For further details, please telephone
0118 948 38 38

Caversham Heights Dental Practice
25A Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7LR
0118 9474848


Dentalplan

Quality private dental care for all the family
Modern Cosmetic & Preventative Dentistry
Experienced Hygienists, Teeth Whitening
Easy access and parking

AMY'S CLEARANCE SERVICE

The alternative to skip hire
I'll Clear It! Load It! And Tip It!

AMY'S CHIMNEY SWEEP
AMY'S GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE
AMY'S TREE PRUNING SERVICE
AMY'S FENCE ERECTING SERVICE

NEW!
WHEELIE BIN OVERFLOWING?
WE REMOVE EXCESS DOMESTIC WASTE – BAGS PROVIDED

Tel: 0118 947 3560
Mobile: 07778 340444
REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER


Gardiner's
NURSING AND HOMECARE

Since 1968, Gardiner's has supplied experienced and reliable nurses and carers to help support clients in their own homes. Whether you need help for just 1 hour / week or 24 hour cover, please call to speak with a nurse.

www.gardinersnursing.co.uk
10 Church St., Caversham, RG4 8DZ **0118 9476666**

nCS Noble Chauffeur Service.co.uk

13 Geoffreyson Road, Caversham Heights RG4 7HS

Be driven in comfort
Airports • Weddings • Special occasions
Local reliable service

Ray Noble Proprietor
Mobile: 07793 214 385
Email: rayjnoble@hotmail.com

Short-Term Therapy - Long Term Results

Janet E Kent M.A. (Psych) M.Sc.
British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy Senior Accredited Psychotherapist/Counselor

Call Janet on 01189 464085
email: janetkent@ntlworld.com

PIANO LESSONS
- available from an experienced teacher, ex-concert pianist. All levels taught. Your house or mine (Steinway grand).
Anna: 07592 720865

Carpet Fitter

- Your local, reliable flooring specialist with 30 years experience
- Can supply carpet, vinyl, wood, underlay etc.
- Reasonable rates
- Fitting Service only if required
- Can supply samples in the comfort of your own home

Call Peter on:
0118 943 1836 or 0796 797 6642
Email: cserfalvi.family@virgin.net

PC Problems? Give me a ring!

For
PC Upgrades, PC Repairs, New PCs
Reasonable Prices & Friendly Service

Ring Phil Blackburn (PB Computer Services)
on Reading (0118) 947 9395

GIRLS ON TAP
Ladies who Plumb



- Your problem is ours
- Small repairs a speciality

Call Janet Reading 07952 668959

Selling houses from the Caversham Bridge

Caversham's longest serving and most professional estate agency

PB PHILIP BAKER & CO
Independent estate agents since 1992
18 Bridge Street Caversham Reading RG4 8AA
Telephone 0118 946 4606
www.philipbaker.co.uk

1Electric
Caversham Electrician

All your Electrical requirements

For a free quotation Phone
07771 798485 or 0118 954 6338

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Would you like to have this paper delivered to you monthly? Email us at: cavershambridgenews@gmail.com giving your name and address.

Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased either from
WordPlay, Prospect Street
or Caversham Thameside Parish Office, Church Street

Shoe Repairs Dry Cleaning Alterations
Haberdashery Knitting Yarns

Village Yarns

Now at Occasions,
23c Wood Lane, Sonning Common
0118 9723358

Josey & Paynter **Health Products**
Independent Distributor of Former Living Products


- Antique Restorations
- Furniture Repairs
- French Polishing
- Leather Tops
- Insurance Work

- Aloe Vera Products for Health & Wellbeing
- Natural Ingredients
- Can be Used on Animals
- Business Opportunity

Call Dennis on
07779 127907 0118 982 1288

FIREPLACE MAGIC

45 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading
STOVES & FIREPLACE SALES
CCTV Chimney Inspections
Design and installation also available
Tel: 0118 946 3060
www.fireplacemagic.com


D.J. WAREHAM
General Builder
Alterations – Extensions
Loft Conversions

Free Estimates
Local References
Emmer Green 0118 972 1354

WATER SOFTENER SALT SUPPLIES

FREE DELIVERY TO LOCAL AREA
With minimum order

25KG TABLET/GRANULAR SALT
£7.99

For your water softener or dishwasher
2 x 4KG BLOCK SALT
£4.99

07785 772263/0118 959 1796
email sales@salt-deliveries-online.com

ORDER ON LINE
www.salt-deliveries-online.com

Collection also available from
Unit 2, 6 Portman Road, Reading