



Party in the park!

Churches Together in Caversham (CTC) have joined forces with local music and arts charity Readipop for the Caversham Festival. The festival is a well established community event that keeps growing year on year, and this collaboration makes 2012 the biggest and most ambitious ever. The partnership reaches further into our community, meaning that more of us can join together to celebrate the positive things that life and faith offer. For the churches, the idea of the festival has been inspired by the Olympic Games which will begin nearly three weeks later. The event will be held only days before the torch passes through Reading on July 10th.

On Sunday July 8th at Christ Church Meadows the day will begin at 10.00 am with an open air service. Then, from 12 noon till 8pm, it will be a fun afternoon involving sporting events and displays by local clubs, singing and dancing by local schools, displays by other community organisations, funfair rides, and inflatables. There will be a prayer and information tent on site and on the day you will also be able to see over 30 live bands (including a couple of great Christian bands), be part of the festival celebration procession, enjoy free workshops, watch outdoor performance art and keep your hunger at bay with a variety of food from around the world.

Russell Alsop of Readipop said, "It was all thanks to Revd Jeremy Tear for coming up with this great idea of combining our 2012 plans. As a charity Readipop uses music and the arts to help those in need, the festival is a showcase to some of the positive effects of our work. What is

so special about our partnership with Churches Together is that they also have similar goals but expressed differently. This just reflects what we love about the Caversham Festival and partnership working - a holistic and welcoming celebration whatever your background."

The churches' contribution to the festival is just one of the many that will be taking place in Britain at the time of the Olympics under the banner of More Than Gold, a Christian umbrella organization seeking to help local churches with acts of service, outreach and hospitality. The More Than Gold flag has been used for the Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, All-Africa Games, Summer and Winter Olympic Games and Paralympics. So don't be left out - reserve the date in the Meadows. As many as 10,000 people could be there! Let's make it the most exciting event of the year.

In addition to the festival, the churches are organising a summer holiday club for primary school children (dates to be confirmed), and encouraging members to participate in the More Than Gold athlete "family homestay programme". While Olympic athletes will have accommodation, their families - coming from all over the world - will need places to stay. As hotel rates are likely to soar during the Games, church members are being asked to consider offering an Olympic family a room or two in their homes.

Jeremy Tear, a Community Priest in Caversham, chairs the CTC Olympics Steering Group. e-mail:jeremy@ctmparish.org.uk; Tel: 946 2884.



A band performing at last year's festival

Photo courtesy Readipop

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01635 581502

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN
St Barnabas

Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrews

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

Revd Rob Beardsley.
Tel: 07515 260019
email robg.beardsley@btinternet.com

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)

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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TALKING POINT

by

Jenny Dowding

Pilgrimage

It has become commonplace to describe our life as a journey, and there is also evidence that the idea of pilgrimage has become increasingly popular. Pilgrimage is journeying with a purpose, and whether it be a visit to Graceland - the home of Elvis Presley - or a religious pilgrimage to a place of spiritual significance, people are more and more seeking to embark on a journey with a purpose. Destinations may be significant because of their historical associations with people or events, or they may be perceived to be sacred or special by generations of travellers. However, in many traditions, the journey is as important, if not more important, than the destination. The outward journey becomes a sign of an inner journey, the journey of the heart, of the spirit.

For Christians, the purpose of such a journey is to 'do business with God'. Recently, a group of us went from Caversham to the island of Iona for a week, and group members were touched, sometimes profoundly, by the landscape, the spiritual heritage, and the present-day community life of the island and islanders. "Iona is a place where people come looking for answers - to get in touch with their spiritual needs and find a new vision of themselves and their lives, and of our lives together" (Chris Polhill). Most of us came away from Iona different from when we arrived.

Christian pilgrimage is rooted in the conviction that life itself is a process of continual change and movement, and that when travelled with God, the journey of life moves us closer to becoming the people we're intended to be. The other day, a radio programme about pilgrimage touched on the idea of 'virtual pilgrimage' - undertaking the journey in mind and spirit without physically leaving home. This way might be chosen because of difficulties in travelling, or out of concern for the planet. It struck me that this is one of the ways in which we approach the season of Lent. We go on an imaginary pilgrimage with God, a journey with Christ to the Cross and beyond. We may have taken this inner journey many times before, but each time, it is new, with different discoveries to be made and different perspectives opened up. Such a journey nearly always results in outer changes - in our daily lives, our priorities and our desire to make a positive difference in the world.

Pilgrimage is always more fun in community with others. The Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit is the wild goose (now used as the logo for The Iona Community). Geese in flock have a 70% greater range than a single goose on its own; geese in formation fly 75% faster than single geese. There are many opportunities this Lent, to worship, serve and engage with others - in your own church, or with people from other traditions - in a journey of imagination and faith. I encourage you to take up such opportunities.

May you journey well with Christ,

Shalom,

Jenny Dowding

Revd Jenny Dowding is the leader of the Methodist team ministry in Caversham.

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
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
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the April 2012 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 28th February. The date for the May 2012 issue is Tuesday 27th March 2012. Email address is below.

Advertising copy for the April 2012 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 24th February 2012. The date for the May 2012 issue is Friday 23rd March 2012.

Please note: the dates for the May issue are earlier this year as Easter is early in April.

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From Fauré to Duruflé

In this, their 60th Anniversary Year, the imposing monastery church of Douai Abbey will be the setting for the South Chiltern Choral Society's spring concert on 24th March at 7.45pm. The choir, conducted by Gwyn Arch, will sing two major works, the Requiem by Maurice Duruflé and the rather better-known Requiem by Gabriel Fauré. Both works will feature the fine organ of the Abbey, played by Robert Jones, director of music at the Wren church of St Bride's, Fleet Street. Robert will also play two organ solos by other French composers.

The two works, separated by more than 50 years, share the same structure, the same words, the same use of soloists and the same emphasis on rest and peace rather than the Day of Judgement. However, they are very different in performance and make for a fascinating contrast.

The Fauré Requiem will be performed with a brand-new instrumentation by David Hill, conductor of the London Bach Choir. Its accompaniment will therefore be organ, harp (Jenny Broome), violin (Lynette Padfield) and cello (Lorna Taylor), a combination ideal for the acoustics of the Abbey.

Continuing the choir's policy of offering opportunities to young singers, the soloists will be Helen Winter (mezzo-soprano), a one-time finalist in the BBC Choir Girl of the Year, and James Gilbert (Baritone) who is at present singing with the Nationale Reïsopera (the Dutch national touring opera). The concert will take place on March 24th at 7.45pm.

Tickets at £14 (£7 under 18s) are available from Mary Esslemont 0118 9874346 or Newbury Corn Exchange 01635 522733

For further information visit the choir website: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

Click Here !

Computer advice by Francis Brown

Risk of using e-mail password elsewhere

It is a bad idea to use your e-mail password for other purposes. Over the years, I must have bought items from dozens of different web suppliers and provided a password. Occasionally, web sites have security failures and the account names (often your email address) and the passwords are stolen. It can get even worse: the details are sometimes also published on line for the world to see!

If your e-mail password is the same as the stolen password, the criminal can access your e-mail. He could guess you have an account at Amazon, order goods for express delivery at a temporary address and then monitor your e-mail account, delete the acknowledgements and dispatch advice. You will not know about the theft until the bills arrive.

Any accounts with a different password are also not safe. All the criminal does is ask for a password reset and a temporary password is sent almost immediately to your insecure e-mail account.

In practice, you should use different passwords for every situation. If this is not practical, at least make sure that the email password is not used for any other account. See www.fbrown.org for more information.

Henley Choral Society



A star cast for 'The Creation'

The society's Grammy-nominated young musical director, Will Dawes, is bringing together Southern Sinfonia – the leading chamber orchestra in southern England – and three soloists for a performance of *The Creation* by Haydn on Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm in the Concert Hall in Reading.

Sophie Bevan, recipient of the 2010 Critics' Circle Award for exceptional young talent, is one of the most sought-after young sopranos in the UK. Tenor Ben Hulett has been hailed by the national press as one of the most promising tenors of today, and bass Giles Underwood has earned first-rate reviews for his performances with major British orchestras and opera companies.

Tickets at £15 (under 18s £12) can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary on 01491 572 795, Gorvett and Stone, Duke Street, Henley or via the Box Office 0118 960 6060 or www.readingarts.com (tickets from the box office are subject to a booking fee).

For further information email angelalaw@everysense.co.uk

Caversham Bridge

This paper is always keen to extend its readership and up to the present has relied on word of mouth through the system of street distributors organised by members of the churches in Caversham. As we have sought to broaden the paper's appeal by carrying news and reports of events occurring in Caversham and, where local people are concerned, in the surrounding areas, we have come to realise that we need to take advantage of more up to date means of communication. While we are not contemplating having our own website we have taken steps to introduce ourselves to those who browse the internet. Accordingly we have arranged for an advertisement to be placed online with www.caversham.org.uk, whose own advertisement appears here. To read more about Caversham Bridge online go to www.caversham.org.uk/supporters.html#cavershambridge

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TRIBUTES

Father Norman Millard

Father Norman Millard died at the end of November 2011, aged 86. He was born in October, 1925, at Weston Turville, near Aylesbury and came to live in Priory Avenue, Caversham, when he was only one year old. He attended St Anne's School until he was 14 and immediately went to work at Dunn's, the gentlemen's outfitters in Reading until he joined the RAF, aged 18, in 1943.

His first posting was to Bridlington and there the seeds of the priesthood were planted by the local parish priest. At the age of 23 he went to train at St Mary's College, Oscott, and was ordained priest in 1957. His first parishes were at Longton and Yardley Wood then he came to work as Chaplain to the Oratory School, Woodcote, for six years.

After this, he returned to Priory Avenue and started serving as assistant priest at Our Lady and St Anne's church, combining his duties there with looking after his elderly mother until she died and then with the post of chaplain to the Oratory Prep School where he worked for 14 years. Ill-health forced his retirement in 1996

He was a man of many talents – he painted in water colours, was an accomplished photographer, was a competent wood-worker and loved music. He played the organ at the church of Our Lady and St Anne from the age of 16 until he went into the RAF, he played the piano (his 21st present from his parents was a baby grand). He also amassed a collection of hundreds of CDs of varied musical genres. He was a great lover of the Latin Mass.

During the seventies and eighties, he regularly attended Scout camp with St Anne's Scouts. For 20 years he said the monthly Sunday evening Mass at Mapledurham House and made a wooden lectern and missal stand for the chapel there. At the age of 57 he learned to drive.

Over recent years, he was a well-known character in Caversham village as he went out shopping but his health deteriorated during the last two years and his heart finally gave up. He died in his own bed in his own house as he had wished and is buried in the cemetery in Victoria Road, Caversham, in the same grave – as his mother and father

Anne Grimwade

Anne arrived at Caversham Rectory with her husband John in 1963. These were times of great change in society and this was reflected in the church community. Previously, St Peter's had been almost Edwardian in character with a dark interior, the chancel separated from the congregation by a rood screen, matins was the main Sunday service and the thought of throwing the rectory open to the parishioners was unheard of. John and Anne with their two adopted children, Alice and David, changed all this.

Anne was a true academic, and had a quite austere demeanour. However, under this camouflage she was a truly caring and non-judgemental woman. She was a constant support to her husband in all his plans, and there were many, some popular and some not so popular with the parishioners! Anne had a gentle, teasing sense of humour, shrewd but never unkind.

Anne was a great supporter of the church community. She reinstated the Mother's Union which remains a part of St Peter's to this day. John and Anne also initiated the parish holiday at Embley Park School near Romsey which also continues to this day. This was a terrific innovation for the parish and again Anne embraced the idea with enthusiasm.

She was always ready to entertain in the rectory and their beautiful garden. John and Anne felt that the rectory and its grounds were part of the church and many parties, Brownie, Guide and Scout events were held in the garden. They even allowed the youth club to take their punt out on the river on sunny afternoons, which was true indeed!

When she and John moved to Stonesfield and later to Cirencester, they took trouble to stay in touch and exchange news. She was a very accomplished pianist and frequently accompanied and encouraged younger musicians – singers, wind and string players – throughout her life.

Julia Stanbrook
 Jacquie Kavanagh



Photo by Jane Shaw

Father Millard reading from the lectern which he himself had made.

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Top brass at concert

The next in the Concerts in Caversham series at St Andrew's Church on 24th March will feature two of the country's finest brass players. It will be given by Robert Vanryne playing trumpets and cornets of various vintages and Sue Addison on trombones of various vintages, both accompanied on the piano by Adrienne Black.

While Robert was principal trumpet with the Berkshire Youth Orchestra based in Reading, he was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. He has performed and recorded regularly with Europe's leading period instrumental ensembles, including John Elliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists, as well as with modern orchestras. He is also an instrument maker, specialising in the reproduction of 17th and 18th century trumpets which are currently played by many of the world's leading musicians.

Susan is a leading exponent of the sackbut, tenor trombone, and other early trombones in many forms playing in groups including the Academy of Ancient Music, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, English Baroque Soloists and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She also plays on trombones which were previously owned by Edward Elgar and Gustav Holst.

The programme will be an entertaining and exhilarating mix of popular tunes from the 19th and 20th century for solo and duets from a programme entitled *Cousins* which the three musicians gave in Dresden's Winter Palace. There will be a flavour of the Last Night of the Proms with an arrangement of *Pomp and Circumstance* by Elgar and a set of variations based on Rule Britannia for cornet and piano.

Tickets at £12 and £10 (concessions), under 16s free, are available from Wordplay in Caversham. For more information ring Jane Pares 948 4112.

Emmer Green Surgery GPs retire

Drs Charlie Martin-Bates and Ian Kemp retired in February after over 30 years at Emmer Green Surgery in St Barnabas Road. Dr Martin-Bates joined the surgery in 1980 and Dr Kemp in 1981. They have seen many changes over those years in the way General Practice has operated ranging from being on duty overnight one day a week, regular Saturday morning surgeries and on-call weekends to the setting up and demise of fund-holding. When they started as GPs all patients' notes were in brown paper envelopes, later on all the records were computerised, a big change as all doctors and their staff had to be trained in order to operate the new systems. Hospital test results now come direct to the surgery via a computer link and instead of taking patients notes out on visits an electronic record is used. The surgery building has changed a lot in the time the doctors have been there as it has been extended both outwards and upwards. Both doctors have taken part in cycle rides and Reading half-marathons raising money through sponsorship for projects at the surgery and for charity. The doctors' children have all followed their fathers into the medical profession. The duo will now have more time for skiing, climbing, sailing and other favourite pastimes. There was an open morning at the surgery to enable patients to say farewell and a party for the staff, both past and present was also held.

Caversham Heights Society

In his talk on 4 January, Tony King struck many chords with his audience. *The Way it Was* took us on a breathtaking and nostalgic journey through the 40s and the 50s.

Tony had spent his career as a chartered surveyor dealing with old and modern buildings. He was born just before World War II started and he realized what a traumatic period he had lived through. We followed the days from when the wealthy had indoor and outdoor servants looking after grand houses (which eventually had to be sold to the National Trust) to the days of unemployment and the Jarrow March to the House of Commons, the abdication crisis and the devastation of World War II. We also remembered the Battle of Britain and dogfights over St Paul's and facing post-war recovery and changes.

Tony listed many personalities to bring back fond memories, Tommy Handley, Arthur Askey, Wilfred Pickles and Two-Way Family Favourites. The journey ended appropriately with the end of rationing and the making of the first dialled long distance phone call.

On the second meeting in January, Eddie Lyford, a member of the society, gave us a fascinating talk on testing atomic weapons. He was a member of the trials team that tested weapons in Nevada, and explained how important it was that weapons were regularly taken from the stockpile and tested to see they still worked. He showed slides of the explosion of bombs in the desert, underground, in mountains and at sea and spoke about research that had reduced the size of bombs and increased their power.

Further information about the society can be found on its website at www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk, or by telephoning 0118 934 5004.

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Dick Whittington in Caversham

In January pantomime came to Caversham Heights Methodist Church when a cast and behind-the-scenes crew of some 65 friends and members of the congregation staged a performance of Dick Whittington. The well-presented show was written and produced by Derek Richings and directed by Martin Leckie. For three nights both actors and the large audiences enjoyed the fun and games and there was enthusiastic participation in dialogue and singing by those watching.

At the start we see Dick breaking free from home, determined to go to London to seek fame and fortune. When he gets there he strikes up acquaintance with Alice whose parental home is plagued by mice and rats. With the help of Fairy Plump he acquires a cat which clears the home, much to the relief of Alice and her father Fitzwarren, a London trading merchant. Father goes to Africa on business and needs to take gifts to his trading contact, the king of Timbuckthree. He persuades every one to provide a present - the only thing Dick can give is his cat. This cat gets rid of the king's mice and rats and also produces a litter to stay to help keep the vermin away. This earns Dick a substantial reward, making him rich and able to wed Alice. The pantomime concludes with wedding bells for the happy couple and also for the dame who finally caught her man - Idle Jack - with a very large net.

The lead character of Dick was played by Lis Martin and that of Alice, his betrothed to be, by Kathy Munns. Both actresses gave confident performances and were in fine voice. The dame, Dick's mother, was played by Robin Gowers, with flamboyant exuberance in true pantomime tradition, whilst Idle Jack - Dick's mate who was ensnared by the dame - was played with great enthusiasm and humour by Symon Turner.

David Cliffe made a convincing Fitzwarren and David Munns was very menacing as King Rat. Jenny Dowding, as Fairy Plump, played an engaging guardian angel overseeing the events. She had to endure some tart comments from her assistant - Fairy Pain - played by young Lucy Dawson.

Lent groups - "The Way to Freedom"

Every year, people from Caversham churches meet together during the season of Lent to deepen their understanding of what following Jesus means. These ecumenical groups enable us to explore together the way we live in today's world.

The 2012 course is called "The Way to Freedom". We are invited to go on a journey and consider what freedom means for ourselves, our churches, our local communities and our world today. We shall look at questions such as - how does 'Christian freedom' relate to all the other 'freedoms' we say we value in our lives and in society?

In this course we are taking our cues from a poem 'Stations on the Way to Freedom' written in prison in 1944 by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor and theologian executed by the Nazis for his role in the resistance to Hitler. Twelve years earlier in 1932 he had said: 'To be free is to be in love, is to be in the truth of God. The one who loves because made free by the truth of God, is the most revolutionary person on earth'.

The courses will be held weekly in house groups in different parts of Caversham. They will normally start in the week commencing 26th February - but if you miss the first week, or cannot manage every week, do not be put off. There will be groups in both daytime and evening. All are welcome - whether you are a regular church attender or not.

Radio 4's worship programme, just after the 8.00 news on Sunday mornings will link in with the course. It has been produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. For more details click on: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/572/>

The local groups are coordinated by people from different churches in Churches Together in Caversham. Details can be obtained from: Margaret Dimmick, e-mail: margaret@dimmick.me.uk; tel: 9470258 Jenny Dowding, e-mail: minister@cavhmc.org.uk; tel: 9472223 Nigel Jones, email: vicar@standrewscaversham.org; tel: 9472788 John Madeley, john.madeley@gmail.com; tel: 9476063

John Madeley

Katie Upton, with her lovely singing voice, very confidently played the Cat, who quickly despatched the rats and mice - played by youngsters scampering around the stage. We were also delighted by the Girls Brigade dancers at the beginning and end of the show.

The show was accompanied throughout with great skill (and patience!) by Peter Bernard on the piano.

Lighting was efficiently supplied by Paul Martin. The stage sets and slick scene changes were greatly admired and enhanced the overall presentation.

These very enjoyable performances gave much pleasure to all and raised substantial amounts for both 'Action For Children' and the church.

Thanks go to Waitrose in Caversham for their contribution and support.

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PANTOMIME AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS



Dame, Idle Jack and Dick on the way to London.



Fitzwarren and Alice.



Rats and mice in Fitzwarren's home.



Cat – mission accomplished.



He's behind you – No he's not – Yes he is!



Wedding scene.

Photos Peter Bean

Rotary Club of Caversham

The Rotary Club of Caversham has been having a busy and interesting year, being involved in a variety of fund raising activities and service projects. The biggest fund raising requirement was to help Rotary International match the wonderful \$200 million donation by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the Rotary End Polio Now campaign. Caversham has played its part in several ways, including putting on a concert by the well-known Caversham choir, Riverate, which raised £1,500. There will be another concert, this time by the Beech Hill Concert Band, in St Andrews Church, Caversham, on 21st April when they are hoping for a large audience.

The club has organised a first round heat and played host to the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition, a nation-wide competition which is proving to be very popular. They have had visits from two overseas students, Rakhi Voria from Colorado Springs USA, and Johanna Souto from Switzerland, who are studying here on a Rotary

Ambassadorial Scholarship which is funded by the Rotary Foundation, Rotary's own charity.

Nearer to home, the club is organising a trip to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley on 25th April for about twenty young people who are benefitting from horticultural therapy provided by the Ways and Means Trust in Caversham and Peppard. Rotary provides a coach and the guests enjoy a day among the bulbs and blossom in the lovely gardens and a final highlight is the chance to buy something in the shop before everyone heads for home.

The Rotary Club is always looking for new members and there will be a warm welcome for anyone who would like to come along to one of the regular meetings to see what goes on. They meet every week on Wednesdays at 5.45pm at Caversham Heath Golf Club and a quick e-mail to one of the secretaries, Robert Watsham or Frances Hill, at ClubSecretary@CavershamRotary.org.uk will set the wheels in motion.

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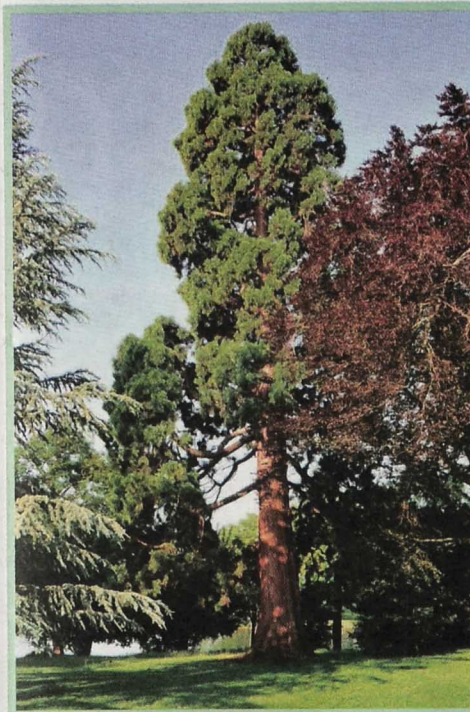
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ENVIRONMENT

READING'S FAVOURITE TREES

The great Wellingtonia in Caversham Court gardens was voted one of the 35 favourite trees in Reading in the autumn of 2011. (The spreading veteran yew in the gardens was another). Sequoiadendron giganteum is the biggest - but not the tallest - tree in the world, with the height of some specimens reaching over 80m and the circumference of the trunk at ground level as much as 30m. The thick, spongy bark protects the tree from the forest fires common in its native California. Mature trees can have as many as 11,000 cones, which are surprisingly small for such a great tree. Some seed is shed when the cone scales shrink during hot weather in late summer, but most seeds are liberated when the cone dries from fire heat or is damaged by insects. In a complex ecological system, forest fires are actually needed



to clear away competing vegetation so that the seeds can germinate and thrive.

The website of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew informs us that the tree was introduced to England by the plant hunter William Lobb in about 1853, and was named Wellingtonia gigantea after the Duke of Wellington, who had died in 1852. The Americans wanted to call it Washingtonia after the first US president, George Washington. It was finally given the scientific name Sequoiadendron giganteum, though Britain retained the popular name Wellingtonia.

Ours is already the tallest tree in the gardens but is probably only about 120 years old. Several more feature on a list of 200 trees to be planted round Reading in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens

AGM Wednesday 28 March 2012

All are welcome at Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham, 7 for 7.30pm. The briefest possible AGM will be followed by a talk about Caversham's most famous resident, "Knight Errant: The Life and Adventures of William the Marshal" by historian Rupert Willoughby. Contact friends@fccg.org.uk for further information.

Reading & District Beekeepers Association

The Association is holding a Beekeeping Day at Trench Green Hall, Mapledurham, on Saturday 17th March. It will be open to the public from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

Reading Beekeepers inaugurated a 'Bee Day' in 2009 to respond to the growing interest in the life and future of the honey-bee and to promote beekeeping in the area. Such was the success that it is now an annual event. There will be honey tasting, displays and talks.

At 11.30 Caroline Cavill from Bee Good Handmade Products will talk about honey & beeswax cosmetic products under the title *From Hive to Boudoir*. Then at 2.30pm Ron Hoskins, a nationally known rearer of 'hygienic' queen bees, will be discussing how to set up and select an apiary, and also cover swarm control and good husbandry.

All beekeepers, new and not-so new, and all interested people who would like to find out about the craft of bee-keeping are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

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ENVIRONMENT

SCURVY-GRASS

If you ask a botanist how he or she became interested in the subject, you may well be told, half in jest, that unlike animals and birds, plants don't move about, and so are easier to see. This is true, up to a point. Through the historical record you can see that certain unusual plants have been growing in the same spot for the last few hundred years. But there are certain plants which move to areas where they haven't been known to grow before – usually with the help of humankind. The subject of this month's article should be in flower now, occurs round Reading, and is one which has spread from its usual habitat to a new, man-made habitat, all in the last twenty-odd years.

Back in July 2006, I wrote about the plant called Alexanders, which usually grows near the sea, but there used to be a colony of it growing in Priest Hill, Caversham. A reader kindly wrote to Caversham Bridge to say that the place it grew was where Reading Corporation Transport used to keep a box of sand and grit, to help buses negotiate the slope in snowy or icy weather. It was the salt which had caused the plant to feel at home so many miles inland.

The Danish Scurvy-grass in our picture is another plant that usually lives by the sea. It is at home within the reach of salt spray, and has



found new areas to colonise along motorways and major roads which are salted and gritted in cold weather.

A glance at the distribution maps in the two editions of the "Atlas of the British Flora" is instructive. In the 1963 edition, the plant is mostly round the coast, but a series of crosses in a few locations between London and Birmingham mark "introductions on railway lines". It was thought to have spread inland in the first place in railway ballast which had come from the sea shore. After that it was obviously spreading along roads, with the seeds carried by air currents or in tyre-treads. The new edition of the atlas, published in 2002, shows that the plant has reached many inland parts of the United Kingdom – but it has not moved inland in the Irish Republic, because they don't use salt on their roads.

The plant doesn't figure at all in the Floras of Berkshire by Druce (1897) or Bowen (1967), and Michael Crawley, in his 2005 Flora, says that the first record of its occurrence in Berkshire came in 1987, on the road between Bracknell and Bagshot, followed in 1994 by a record from the A4 near Sonning.

And now, at this time of year, in places this low-growing plant forms a continuous ribbon, pinkish, whitish or lilac, along the edge of the tarmac, where other plants cannot survive the salt spray.

In the past, where people had a poor diet, scurvy was a common complaint among the population as a whole, as well as among seafarers whose diet was understandably restricted. Obliging for them, three species of Scurvy-grass grow round our coasts, their leaves rich in Vitamin C, and plants were dried or made into distillations which were taken on voyages. Apparently they tasted horrible. The species used by herbalists for their potions was the Common Scurvy-grass. Why it is only its Danish relative that has spread inland so extensively is still a bit of a mystery.

Happy Wanderer



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CLUBS

St Peter's Wives Group

In January Jeffrey Layhe, a waste support officer from Reading Borough Council, gave a talk about recycling. He said that the major problem for the recycling team in Reading is contamination of the contents of recycling bins by items such as textiles, glass bottles and disposable nappies.

The problems caused by placing non-recyclable items in recycling bins will be pointed out to the owners of the bins and they will be encouraged to sort rubbish properly and place anything they are not sure about in the landfill bin. The problem will be monitored for a period of time and, if not resolved, a fixed penalty will be imposed.

Jeffrey is an engaging speaker and obviously enjoys his job. Members plied him with questions about recycling and learned that the reason we are asked to remove tops from bottles is that they become projectiles and can cause injury when the bottle is crushed in the waste lorry. When recycling glass, if any of the containers are full, it is permissible to put clear glass in the dark glass section and green and brown glass can go in either if the correct one is full. Green bin waste is made into compost, otherwise known as 'soil enhancement'.

Cardboard boxes will be collected if they are flattened and left beside the bin.

The department also works with two textile companies and the proceeds are regularly donated to two charities, Cystic Fibrosis and the Oxon, Bucks and Berks Air Ambulance. At present yogurt pots, plastic fruit trays and margarine tubs are not recyclable, but various schemes are being looked into in order that more household waste can be recycled.

If problems are encountered, the department can be contacted and an officer will visit. Also, there is an assisted list for elderly or disabled people who are unable to bring their own bins to the kerb.

The next meeting at Church House will be on Tuesday, 20th March at 8.00pm when a member of the police force will be talking about personal safety.

Rosehill WI

President Brenda Caborn welcomed members to the well attended January meeting.

The business part of the meeting was opened by Secretary Margaret Seal followed by Treasurer Margaret Pyle. Brenda reported that the Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by members. The working party packed 60 bags of emergency toiletries for the Royal Berkshire Hospital and these had been delivered to the W I House at Mortimer. So far the Berkshire Federation had received nearly 180 packs. The bags are intended for patients who are unfortunate enough to be admitted to hospital in an emergency.

The speaker Mr H Granger spoke about 'Wild Wild Women'. This turned out to be a tale about women pirates of the Elizabethan age. These ladies had dressed as men, joined the Army and then absconded to join the Navy. Eventually their navy ships were overtaken by pirates and they were forced into service with pirates. They all fought courageously in many battles during their life time.

This was a very interesting talk.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the

month at St Barnabas Church Hall Emmer Green.

Visitors are very welcome.

Caversham WI

January is usually a members' evening so we were delighted to welcome fellow member Maggie Hill. She spoke about and demonstrated 'reiki' reading as well as crystal healing and aromatherapy. We were all most impressed and felt we had only really started learning about the subject.

Tea was followed by the business part of the meeting with reminders of future events. The raffle ended a most stimulating and thoughtful evening.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the members evening in January, there was a surprise guest, the Padre from RAF Benson. He spoke about how the most difficult of problems can be overcome by someone showing you the way. This he illustrated by juggling, standing on broken glass and poking a very long nail up his nose. We did not try this at home as we hadn't been shown how!

On 6th March Townswomen's Guilds will be celebrating International Women's Day with a lunch in honour of all things Welsh. A group from Caversham Heights will be making the journey to Llandudno to join in the festivities.

The luncheon club, social studies and scrabble groups continue to thrive. The quiz team enjoyed taking part in the first round of the National Quiz contest, unfortunately they will not be going into the 2nd round.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Thursday 15th March at 7.30pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Rd, Caversham. New members & visitors are always welcome.

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

The first demonstration of the year for Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club will be held on Wednesday 14th March. Graham King will be giving a demonstration entitled "Cheerful Things" starting at 7.30pm. The venue is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd., entrance £4.50. A table selling floral accessories and mechanics will be available, together with a book stall. Refreshments available. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400

Reading Gardeners

Our meetings take place in Caversham Primary School at 7.30pm. On Wednesday 7th March Kevin Hughes will give a talk on *The dry shade garden*. He is an experienced nurseryman and as well as giving advice on the best plants to grow he will also bring plants for sale.

On Wednesday 21st March it will be a privilege to have John Dranesfield to talk on *The Madagascar giant suicide palm: a tale of tiger prawns, internet chat rooms and Madagascar*.

The AGM and plant sale will take place on 4th April.

For further information go to www.readinggardenersclub.org.uk.

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Members recalled their own visits to Mapledurham House; walking down to the mill; the water wheel that played such an important part in the film *The Eagle has Landed*. But this wheel is not the one seen in the film: the clearance was not enough for the soldier to go under the wheel so a mock up extension with a wheel was built for the film. All this and more provided an intriguing talk by the speaker Cory Starling. Since 1492 the house has been occupied by the same family. In the following days there was a staff of 13 and a nanny attended on two Society Ladies, Martha and Theresa Blount, a total contrast to the records of the original alms houses of one room and a kitchen!

The mill was one of several in the area with tied houses for the workers, the miller having the largest house on the estate. It is recorded that the estate does not own the water that provides the power to turn the wheel or nowadays to generate electricity but did and does own the river bed!

Today's estate is run as a farming business, with modern machinery hired for the seasonal work of ploughing, reaping and milling. The mill, producing 700 tons is run by two men. The estate is self-sufficient with income from farm land, hiring or letting grounds for events like the overflow at the times of the Reading Rock Festival. Being used as a venue for film units (and the repeats that follow) is a valuable income for the Mapledurham Trust.

Probus relies on income in the form of new members: all retired men who meet once a month. The secretary will gladly give you the information. Email raymond.head@supanet.com or look us up at www.probusclub-reading.org.uk

Lions annual charity run results

A perfect day for running enabled more than 400 people to take part in the 28th Annual 10k Charity Road Run organised by Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club on Sunday 8th January. During the run there was no wind and it was very mild for the time of year.

The race was started by Goring estate agent Bob Warmingham, main sponsor of the event, who also presented trophies to the winners. Full race results are now on the Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club website www.lions-gwd.org.uk

More than 50 volunteers from a number of other local organisations helped the Lions maintain the enjoyment and safety of this annual event. They include Scouts & Guides, Rotary and 41 Clubs, and all are much appreciated. Next year the Lions 10k Run is planned to take place on Sunday 13th January. If you would like to take part or help with marshalling please contact the Lions well before the day.

Over £3,500 was raised which will be shared between the Air Ambulance (Berks/Oxon/Bucks) and Robbie the Robot (The RBH Prostate Cancer Appeal).

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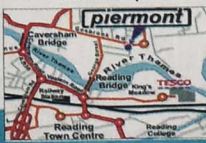
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