

Who's been to see the Queen?



We are planning something special for the July issue of Caversham Bridge and we would like our readers to help us with our issue to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her

Majesty the Queen. Have you ever seen the Queen or a member of the royal family from among a crowd? Or maybe you have had a personal encounter! Did you go up to London for the Coronation or an earlier Jubilee? Perhaps you attended an investiture, or a Garden Party. Were you there during a Walkabout? Whatever your experience, whether grand or not, it's bound to remain in your memory. And we want to share it through the pages of Caversham Bridge with your neighbours in Caversham. So please describe what it was like in 100-200 words and send it in by May

28th. Or, if you are one of our younger readers, we would love a drawing.

Send your contributions to:
 The Editor, Caversham Bridge,
 Church House,
 59 Church Street
 Caversham RG4 8AX.
 or email to secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

If you have a photograph of yourself at the event – it doesn't need to be with the Queen – then better still. If sending real photographs, be sure to put your name and address on the back!

Queen Anne's old school hall

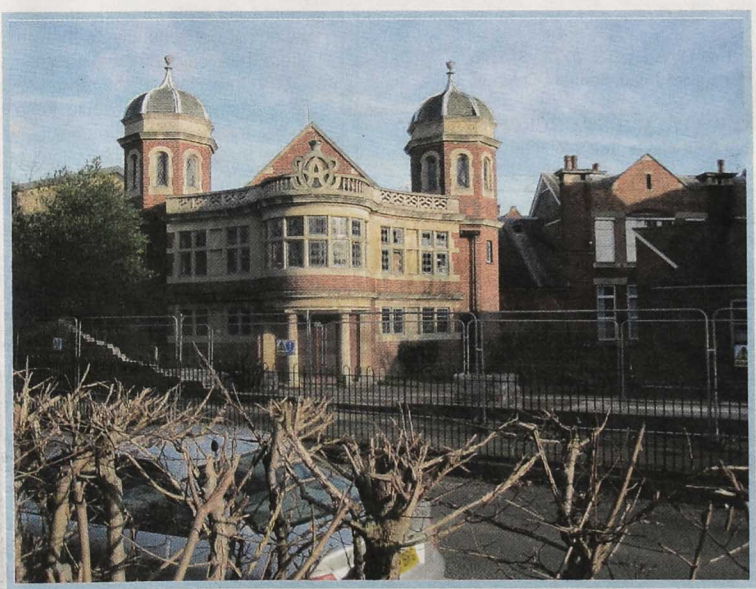
If you're one of the few people who has not yet seen Queen Anne's old school hall in its full glory, now is your chance to get a good view of it from the Peppard Road. The strong winds in the early part of January this year brought down part of the wall on Peppard Road revealing the hall, of which, for decades, passers-by could only glimpse the top half with its domes and striking windows. It will not be long before it is once again hidden by a brick wall.

Princess Mary ceremoniously opened the old school hall in 1930 and seventy years later Princess Anne opened the school's sports/conference centre. But the origins of Queen Anne's School go as far back as 1698, being associated with The Grey Coat Hospital Foundation, a charitable school founded in London's Westminster. Eight parishioners of St Margaret's in London visualised a school to educate the poor of their parish and decided to invest 12/6d (62.5p in today's money!) towards this cause. The aim was to help nurture useful, hard-working and Christian citizens, and so in 1698 the Grey Coat Foundation Hospital opened its doors.

In 1706 Queen Anne granted the Grey Coat Foundation Hospital a Royal Charter, and soon after that Parliament recognised that girls also needed an education, and the Grey Coat Hospital became a girls' school. By using part of its endowment, the Foundation bought a mansion in Henley Road in 1874 and 20 years later it became Queen Anne's

School. To this day, Queen Anne's school remains part of the Grey Coat Hospital Foundation.

You can read more about this independent girls' school in a book written by their Head of History, Daniel Talbot, entitled: The Scarlet Runners: A Social History of Queen Anne's, Caversham.



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www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

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7AD Tel: 947 9505

Revd Keith Knee-Robinson
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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

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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

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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.

EDITORS: 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

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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

Rob Beardsley

The ship is still sinking!

We recently passed the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. She was the largest ship afloat and considered unsinkable, yet took only 160 minutes to sink. It taught us valuable lessons about marine safety, but what can it teach us now, a hundred years on?

I suggest that it can teach us about navigating the conditions of modern living and the welfare of the local community at this difficult economic time.

Firstly, expect the unexpected, stay alert, don't get complacent. A 'Nothing can go wrong' attitude contributed to the ship's demise. Ignoring warning signs, failing to make the necessary preparations and promoting profit over personal safety endanger not only ourselves but everyone around us.

The rich were above sea level while the poor were on the lower decks. Thus many of the wealthy boarded the lifeboats while many of the poor died in their beds.

Surely the privileges of wealth and status come with a responsibility to ensure everybody is given equal protection. Should only the strong survive? Or are we our brother's keeper and obligated to care for those less fortunate?

The ship lacked enough lifeboats for all those aboard; some lifeboats deployed were only half full. Why? Maybe people mattered less than profit; panic and self-interest resulted in so many deaths? Why was there no real communication to the passengers that the ship was sinking? They seemed ill-informed and unprepared. When they finally realised what was happening, it was too late. Many jumped into the icy waters wearing their lifebelts, only to die from hyperthermia.

Rising prices of food and utilities, lack of secure employment and regular income, high prices of fuel and public transport mean that many today are caught in a poverty trap with no escape and little or no disposable income. How can those on the breadline keep their heads above water?

Poor people are unhealthier than the more affluent. Stress, depression and suicide are at an all-time high. Growing numbers of the young are unemployed. We cannot simply abandon them to a life of hopeless despair or cast them adrift.

Finally, the sinking was caused by a failure of leadership. Those in authority made some catastrophic mistakes and failed in their duty of care to passengers and employees.

I sense that this is happening too often today. Local and national government have a lot to answer for. The vulnerable need the most help, yet benefit the least whilst politicians are well off but claim to be part of the struggle.

The issue is integrity. Breaching the holds of the ship and the inability of a single compartment of the hull to contain the damage sunk the ship. We cannot separate our private lives from our public lives; what affects one aspect of our lives affects the other. Decisions made by those in authority affect the lives of ordinary people.

The integrity of the ship was jeopardised because they thought compartmentalisation would keep the ship safe. The opposite was true. Today, the decisions and choices we make in one area of our lives radically affect the integrity and welfare of the rest of it, and maybe the whole community. I sense that our society may be sinking today and the most vulnerable will perish unless we learn from the mistakes of the past.

Revd Rob Beardsley is minister of Caversham Baptist Church

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
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

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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

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Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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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 June 2012 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 1st May. The date for the July 2012 issue is Tuesday 29th May 2012. Email address is below.

Advertising copy for the June 2012 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 27th April 2012. The date for the July 2012 issue is Friday 25th May 2012. Please note, the dates for the July issue are early owing to the effect of the two-day public holiday in early June.

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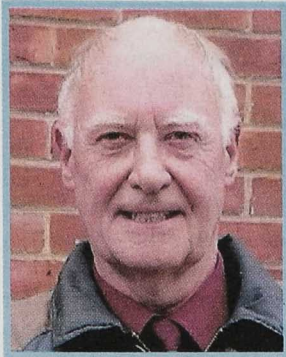
Monday to Friday 9.30am-11.30am

Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX



MISCELLANY

Retirement of Caversham Bridge editor



Eric Chappell, the chief editor of the *Caversham Bridge*, retired from this position at the end of March 2012. Eric (left) has been an editor for over 30 years, and has led the editorial team for the last 12 years, during which time he has overseen a number of changes, the most notable being the move from black and white to colour printing, resulting in the attractive looking publication you see today. Eric has led the team with energy and enthusiasm, and it is largely due to his hard work and commitment that the newspaper has been published on time, every month.

In addition he has undertaken the task, each month, of determining the exact layout of the articles and advertisements on each page of the paper, ensuring that every entry was placed in a

suitable position, and making sure that everything fitted as required, with all pages filled with the correct information. This has been a demanding task, which occupied many hours of work each month, and the success of this has been apparent in the appearance of the newspaper.

In addition to his editorial duties, Eric has also been the Deputy Chairman of the Caversham Christian News Ltd, the company, a registered charity, which produces the *Caversham Bridge*. He will for the time being retain this position, ensuring that his knowledge and experience will still be available to the editorial team.

Apart from his involvement with the *Caversham Bridge*, Eric has many other interests. He is an enthusiastic caravanner, he attends, with his wife Chris, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, where he has been a church organist for many years, and he is a keen gardener, being a member of Caversham Horticultural Society, for which he has written many articles in their regular newsletter. He is a father and grandfather.

Thank you, Eric, for all the effort you have put in to the *Caversham Bridge* over the years, and we wish you a long and happy retirement.

Click Here !

Computer advice by Francis Brown

Do Java updates matter?

Many students ask me whether it is safe to ignore the message in the bottom right hand corner of the screen "Java Update Available". They are puzzled why only some users seem to have this message.

Well, Java updates are important to the security of your computer. Java updates are issued because the previous version might be compromised and allow other people to misuse your computer. See my website for a link to an illustrated guide on how to run the update process, which typically takes about 5 minutes.

Only some websites require Java to be installed on your computer. If you do not need to visit these sites, you do not need Java. The chances are that you will have Java installed if you do any of the following: play video clips, play games over the Internet, or use Internet Banking services.

At the bottom of some Windows, you may see "Java Script" or "Java Script Error". The wording is misleading. It has nothing to do with the "Java Update" message. See my website www.fbrown.org if you would like to know more.

Editorial Note

Following the retirement of Eric Chappell as chief editor of Caversham Bridge, a number of changes are occurring in the production process.

Hitherto, following the initial editors' meeting each month, at which it was decided which articles were to be placed on each page, Eric spent a large amount of time determining the detailed layout of each page of the paper, and specifying this design on layout sheets, including not only the articles, but also the advertisements, the requirements for which came from the advertisement manager. These layout sheets were then taken to Caversham Print & Design, who did all the typesetting, returning proofs in page form to the editors to perform a detailed proof read of the results.

Despite advertising last year for somebody to take on Eric's task of detailed layout design, after Eric made known his wish to retire, we failed to recruit a replacement, so we have now changed the way of operating. The detailed layout will in future be merged with the typesetting, and performed by Caversham Print and Design, to the editors' outline specification. Hopefully, the change will not be apparent to you, our readers, but we apologise in advance if any hiccoughs occur in the production of

the paper. As the remaining editors, we are still in the process of determining how this *modus operandi* will operate in detail, and how the relationship between the editors, the advertisement manager and Caversham Print & Design will develop in the course of time. This issue is the first to be produced using the new procedure, so in a sense this is a trial run. We are determined to make this process work, and to continue publishing the Caversham Bridge for the foreseeable future.

As ever, we are dependent on our contributors to continue submitting articles, and we continue to solicit contributions from anybody who wishes to comment on, report on or publicise any aspect of Caversham life. We also accept correspondence in the form of letters which may be published under the name of the author. We are pleased to include in this issue, on page 4, the first of what we hope will be a regular column from the Caversham Traders Association, which will keep us updated on what is happening in the commercial centre of Caversham. There are some other ideas in the pipeline which we are actively pursuing, but if you have any ideas for articles which may feature in the Bridge, please let us know.

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Notes from the Caversham Traders Association

We had a useful meeting with two senior people from Reading Borough Council's transport team recently – talking to them about our hopes to see the railings along Church Street given a facelift with a lick of paint. It would make such a difference to the centre of Caversham and would give a great first impression to people visiting to sample our award winning shops, cafes and restaurants along with those of us who work and live here.

Newly painted railings would demonstrate that Caversham is a special place that's clean, tidy and cared for.

The upshot of the meeting is that the Council may start work on the railings in the new financial year when the weather will be warmer and there's less likelihood of rain stopping play! Fingers crossed!

The work would probably take a couple of days and cost around £1k per day, with the Caversham Traders Association (CTA) providing the material kindly donated by Drews. However, the Council did stress it

was facing severe pressures on its budgets which may have an impact on the project.

During the meeting, Chris Walton, Chairman of the CTA, also raised other Caversham-linked issues and, within a week of the meeting, potholes in Chester Street were filled and road markings in Chester Street car park had been repainted – so a pat on the back to Reading Borough Council!

We will keep you updated during our regular column here in Caversham Bridge. In the meantime, why not check out our website which gives you in depth information about everything happening here. It's www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk.

We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas about what could be done to improve Caversham, its facilities, shops, restaurants, cafes and bars, along with its transport links and infrastructure. Please email us on cavershamtraders@googlemail.com.

Changes to Reading Buses Route 22

Reading Buses have announced that Route 22 will revert to the route it took prior to 26th September 2011, i.e. via Priest Hill in both directions.

This will make the journey between Caversham Heights and Caversham centre or Reading quicker and should improve general timekeeping. However the bad news for people who use the buses to and from the stops along the length of Hemdean Road is that the loss of the Route 22 buses will mean that the service will be every half hour.

At the time of writing, no date has been given for this change, as it is dependent on some changes being made to car parking in Priest Hill. However, it is likely to be early summer.

As a consequence of the changes to route 22, the Community Link buses 18 & 28 are likely to be withdrawn from Caversham Heights and redeployed elsewhere in Caversham to meet other needs. Details will be announced in due course.

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CHURCHES

St Barnabas Fish and Chip Supper

On Saturday 18th February over 100 members and friends of St Barnabas church of all ages gathered for the annual Fish and Chip Supper. Thanks to the organisation of the catering team, the 100 portions of fish and chips were delivered piping hot and then it was time to put the tables away and commence the entertainment. A number of acts had volunteered to perform and had all 'passed' the Saturday morning auditions.

The show was opened by the choir with a lovely rendition of 'Wherever You Are' first performed by Gareth Malone and the Military Wives. 'The Two Ronnies' brought us the evening's news before some Gilbert and Sullivan, a Barbershop Quintet, and The Singing Wardens with 'We All Park on Double Yellow Lines' (a topical adaptation of Yellow Submarine!). 'The Two Ronnies' returned with some late news items and then it was on with the main event: the Youth Fellowship Pantomime.

This year's performance was Treasure Island (although Long John Silver seemed to have got lost along the way and had been replaced by a 6' 6" Short Jack Gold!) which was written and directed by Richard Gash assisted by Lynn Drew. The young people of the St Barnabas Youth Fellowship gave up three days of their half term for rehearsals

and put on a fantastic performance with a great combination of music, action and humour, many in the audience saying it was the best ever. It has been said that "If clothes make the man, then costumes make the character" and that was certainly the case this year with the wonderful costumes made by Margaret Notton and the props from Steve Mardell.

There was a fantastic sense of fun and community throughout the evening, yet again dispelling the myth that Christians are boring!

More pictures can be seen on the St Barnabas web site: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk *Robin Kent*



Pirates Plot the Mutiny



The Finale

Photos John Notton

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CHURCHES**Let Justice Prevail – Women's World Day of Prayer**

Gosbrook Road Methodist church was the venue for this year's service. The church was decorated with butterflies by the art group, floral displays and colourful paper-chains. As the congregation assembled they were given mini-placards saying 'Let Justice Prevail'

A bell rang to herald the start of the procession which included placards which were used later in the service, examples of Malaysian food, and lighted candles which burned throughout the service.

We were welcomed by Rev Jenny Dowding who was also our speaker. In her talk she drew our attention to the fact that if a non-believing judge listened to the persistence of a woman suppliant

[Luke 18], how much more will our gracious heavenly father listen to our pleas for justice. We cannot hope to understand some of the unjust situations that exist but God longs for our persistent prayers not our understanding.

The service was described by someone as buoyant. The singing was excellent as were the homemade biscuits served by the ladies of Gosbrook Road at the close of the service.

Next year's service will be held at St Barnabas church on 1 March. The theme will be 'I was a stranger and you took me in' and will be prepared by the ladies of France. Book the date in your diary now!

Dorothy Abrey, Caversham Co-ordinator

Mothers' Union in Caversham

This year's Lady Day Service was held at St John the Baptist church on March 26th This was the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Mothers' Union branch there. The service was led by the Rev Dan Tyndall, Rector of St Peter's Caversham and the sermon was given by Canon Brian Shenton, Rural Dean of Reading. The service started with the branch banners being paraded through the church and later Canon Shenton commissioned the new Deanery leader Ann Deane, a member of the St John's branch.

Mothers' Union is a global organisation concerned with the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. It was started by Mary Sumner a mother of three, in 1896 for the support of women in their role as mothers; the first patron was Queen Victoria. There are now four million members in 81 countries. M.U. has a literacy programme in Africa, is part of the End Childhood Poverty coalition and has recently been at the forefront of the "Bye Buy Childhood" campaign against the commercialisation of childhood. The "Away From It All" scheme enables families who would otherwise never have the opportunity, to have a holiday together. These and many other activities are supported by members all over the world.

There are three branches in Caversham, St Andrew's and St John's which both meet in the afternoons and St Peter's & St Margaret's which meets in the evenings.

Holy Days in May

This year the Christian church celebrates two special days during May, these being Ascension Day and Whitsun. Although probably not as well known as the major Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter, most churches will have special services to commemorate these occasions.

They are both held on floating dates, each being a fixed number of days or weeks after Easter. Older readers will recall that Whitsun used to be a holiday weekend, with Whit Monday being a public holiday, until in 1967 in the interests of business, school terms etc, the public holiday was fixed to the last Monday in May, and renamed the Spring Bank Holiday, following which Whitsun largely disappeared from the general public awareness. This year the two would have coincided, had the Spring Bank Holiday not been delayed a week to run consecutively with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday.

Ascension Day falls on the 40th day of Easter, counting Easter Sunday as day one, and always occurs on a Thursday. This year its date is May 17th. It commemorates the ascension of Christ into Heaven. Christian teaching found in the New Testament tells us that the resurrected Jesus was taken up to Heaven in the presence of eleven of his apostles.

Whitsun is celebrated seven weeks after Easter, this year on May 27th, and is also known as the feast of Pentecost. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on to the apostles.

Men can join, you don't have to be married or a mother, the only requirement is that you have been baptised.

Information regarding St Andrew's may be obtained from Lorna Levett, 9475683, St John's from Ann Deane 9543814 and St Peter's and St Margaret's from Pat Williams, 9481489. Visitors are always welcome. Why not come along and see what it is all about.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Olympic festival

Caversham's Christchurch Meadows on the northern banks of the Thames will have never seen anything like it! The Olympic torch will begin a day's journey from Caversham Court at around 8am on July 11th, carried to just before Caversham Bridge and turn left through Christchurch Meadows.

Just days before, on Sunday July 8th, the Caversham Festival will take place on the Meadows. With little more than two months to go, excitement is building about the event.

Churches Together in Caversham is partnering Readipop, a local music charity, to promote the festival, which will reflect the spirit of the Olympics.

Several thousand people are expected to join in a fun day that will begin with worship and include light hearted sporting activities, free inflatables, funfair

attractions, along with performance space in which local schools and sports clubs will give short displays of their singing, acting and sporting abilities. Thirty bands, including two Christian bands, will play on the festival stages.

Local people have been speaking about their hopes for the festival. "We hope to provide a joyous celebration that will give our local community a chance to celebrate the positive things that life and faith offer. The festival will be suited to all ages and backgrounds", said Barbara Macrae of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, a member of the organising steering group.

Mike Eggleton of St Peter's church, another member of the steering group, says that his involvement "is aimed at ensuring the spectators from afar find Caversham an hospitable and caring society where competition is a

healthy, inspiring and, within the rules of the Games, part of our culture".

Christine Bates of Our Lady & St Anne's church is working as a volunteer at the Olympic Games and also wants to be involved locally. "I think it is great that the churches can work together on a joint project and show the people of Caversham what we have to offer. My personal hopes for the Festival on July 8th are that it will be a fun and exciting day that will encourage more young people to get involved with their churches, and for the churches to continue to provide activities which will involve the young people of our area".

In addition to the Caversham Festival, Churches Together will be running a children's holiday club for primary school age children at a local venue between Monday 23-Friday 27 July. This will be lots of fun, culminating in an event to which all the children's families will be invited on the 27th July, the day of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. Churches Together is also encouraging members of the churches to consider hosting the family of a visiting athlete.

Volunteers are needed! If you would like to be part of these unique events, please contact Jan Beardsley, CTC Olympics Events Co-ordinator at janet.beardsley@tiscali.co.uk or Megan Temple, CTC Olympics Holiday Club Co-ordinator at megan.temple@caversham-baptistchurch.org.uk. If you are interested in the athlete family homestay programme, visit www.morethangold.org.uk

The Caversham Festival will start on July 8th with a large open air service on the main stage at around 11 am. Don't miss the fun - reserve the date!

John Madeley

St Andrew's Church swing jazz night

On May 12th at 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Caversham Heights, renowned for its classical concert series, is putting on something rather different - an evening of swing jazz music by The Roy Bailey Big Band! The band was formed some twenty years ago when several local musicians got together to play their favourite dance music. The number of instrumentalists has gradually increased since that time and today there is a pool of some twenty-five players and also some vocalists from Berkshire and surrounding counties. The band now has a wide repertoire of many big band classics as well as contemporary pieces. It plays at concerts and private functions in and around Oxfordshire and Berkshire, including at charity concerts such as this one for St Andrew's where proceeds will go to CIRDIC (Churches in Reading drop in centre). Over the years the band has had a mixture of players of all ages and is particularly proud of the younger players who have gone on to play professionally. Not an evening to be missed! Tickets will go fast so phone Leslie Maynerd (0118) 947 6067 to book yours for £10 (concessions £8) to include light refreshments after the performance.

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Caversham Arts Trail 2012

It's again time to find out what the artists and craftsmen of Caversham have been doing for the past year. In this year's show we are showing the work of 32 artists and craftsmen, hosted in their own studios and homes across the town.

There is a broad range of work on offer, including stained glass, ceramics, knitwear, painting, poetry, jewellery, découpage, silhouette work, weaving, pottery, sculpture, collage, and woodwork.

Many venues also offer refreshments and you may also be interested in the demonstrations taking place at various locations, or listening to local authors giving readings of their work. There is a lot to see, but you have two weekends to see it all at a leisurely pace.

Caversham Arts Trail takes place on Sat - Sun 12th - 13th May and Fri - Sun 18th - 20th May. Opening hours are 11am - 5pm each day.

For more info visit our website www.cavershamartstrail.co.uk or email info@cavershamartstrail.co.uk

You can follow us on Twitter: @CavArtsTrail

St John's Church, Caversham

A May Fair will be held on Saturday 26 May at 1pm in St John's Church and grounds, Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

There will be a raffle, books, cakes and preserves stalls, and a barbecue - come and have lunch!

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS*Sue Ryder***SHETLAND PONY RACE**

Shetland ponies are to gallop around the grounds of Sue Ryder-Nettlebed Hospice once again - some 30 years since their last race on site.

A Grand National-style race and show classes are just two of the attractions at the Shetland Show and Highland Fair being re-launched by local riders Charlotte Snowden and Sarah Buckner who rode at the original 1980 event.

Taking place at the Sue Ryder hospice on Sunday May 27, from 9 am until 5.30 pm, the event will raise funds for the hospice and will be in memory of Mrs Snowden's sister, Sophie Fenton, who died at the hospice aged 25 from cancer in 1995.

Charlotte is a great supporter of Sue Ryder. She said: "We're very pleased to be putting the Shetland Show on again after 30 years to raise money for this great cause and in memory of my sister. Sophie won the race three times in 1980, 1981 and 1982 and it will be fantastic to have the event back at Nettlebed Hospice. And it's great that my children and Sarah's can attend the show, just as we did when we were youngsters."

The show was first organised by Mrs Buckner's mother,

Marlene Simpson, in 1979. After taking a Shetland pony to the hospice for patients to see, Mrs Simpson decided to set up the show as a fund-raiser the following year. The event ran for three years before touring in other parts of the UK.

Aintree legend Bob Champion, who fought back from testicular cancer to win the Grand National in 1981, will start the race at Nettlebed Hospice on May 27.

Sue Ryder's area fundraising manager Katie Cuthbert said: "We are so excited that the Shetland ponies are coming back to Sue Ryder - Nettlebed Hospice. The event promises to be a fantastic day out and a great fundraiser that will help Sue Ryder to continue to provide specialist palliative care within Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Our thanks go to Charlotte, who is a passionate supporter of Sue Ryder. We are very grateful to her and her family and friends for organising this amazing event."

Tickets can be pre-booked online at £6.50 for adults and £3.50 for children by going to www.shetlandshow.co.uk

More information is available from

Charlotte Snowden on 07933 327 437 or by email: charlotte@charlottesnowdenphotography.com



Audrey Snowden with Pixie - who is nearly 40 and was ridden in the original Shetland Shows.

Erleigh Cantors at St Peter's Church

The Erleigh Cantors Chamber Choir is giving a concert of secular choral music at St Peter's Church Caversham on Saturday May 19th at 7.30pm.

The concert will be raising funds for the 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' charity and the music to be sung will include madrigals, Holst 'Hymns from the Rig Veda', Britten's 'Hymn to St Cecilia', Vaughan Williams 'Towards the unknown region' and Delius 'To be sung of a summer night on the water', as well as music by Brahms and Lassus.

The choir will be directed by Ian Westley and accompanied at the piano by Sally Anne Goodworth. Merry Evans will be giving some readings.

Tickets will be available on the door or in advance from Ian Westley (9478382) or choir members.

St Peter's and St Margaret's Church Fete

The annual church fete organised by St Peter's and St Margaret's churches will be held this year in Caversham Court on Saturday July 14th.

Last year one of the highlights was a flypast by a World War II Spitfire. We are hoping to repeat that this year, and there will be plenty of stalls, sideshows and other activities to keep you interested and amused. More details to follow.

Please put this date in your diary, and come along and enjoy a splendid afternoon in beautiful surroundings.

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The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) is very proud to announce it will be holding a Summer Fete to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course the Summer Olympics. The Fete, to be held on 26 May from 12-4pm at the Mapledurham Pavilion and Playing Fields, is designed to be an afternoon of fun and entertainment for the whole family. The Fete will include games, entertainment, sporting competitions, music, dance, food and drink, vendors' stalls, vintage cars, car boot sales and bouncy castles. We are in the planning stages and new participants are booking every week. We currently have:

- Sporting events and competitions for all ages including Tennis, Rugby, Football, Bowls and Golf
- Arts & Crafts, and a variety of vendors' stalls
- Car boot sale area
- Vintage car display
- Live music and dance acts
- Bouncy Castle
- Food and Drink - BBQ, cake stalls, beer tents
- Competitions & games for school children
- Craft stall, face painting, henna
- Fancy dress parade and competition
- Raffle prizes

We are still accepting activities or events run by sporting teams or clubs, music and dance acts, vendors or stall holders, as well as welcoming anyone who would like to come and help with the organisation or help to run a WADRA stall on the day. Additionally we always welcome any individual or company who would like to sponsor an activity. If you would like more information, please contact WADRA at info@WADRA.org.uk or on 07540 822898



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ENVIRONMENT

BROOM

Aware of the approaching dead-line, I was leafing through last year's photograph album to see what pictures I had taken in May, and came across this picture of a splendid broom bush in full flower.

Gradually, my mind started to get into gear. Did the bush called 'broom' get its name because it was used for sweeping? What is the difference between a broom, a brush and a besom? How many of these implements did I have in the house – and what were they made of?

I remembered the difficulty I had last year, trying to obtain a stiff hand-brush, to replace one that had worn out. The big shops in town only seemed to have brushes with nylon bristles which were far too soft to raise the dust from carpets and sweep it into the dust-pan. In the end, I found that a little shop in Caversham had just what I wanted.

I also remembered two previous articles in this series, one on 'butcher's broom' and the other on 'gorse', both of which have been used for sweeping. And I remembered the rather bizarre sight of a bird's wing being used to sweep the crumbs from the table in a Turkish tea-house before we, the honoured guests, sat down.

With memories and questions such as these in mind, I reached for the Oxford English Dictionary, and found that the earliest word in English for the implement used for sweeping was "besom", dating from about 1100. The word "brush" did not appear until the fourteenth century.

"Broom" and similar words were used across Germanic-speaking Europe in the Dark Ages to signify any thorny shrub, such as brambles or gorse. In England, by about 1100, the word had become attached to the non-spiny shrub that looks a bit like gorse, the subject of our photograph. The use of the word "broom" to signify an implement used for sweeping does not occur into the fourteenth century.

Now, the word "besom" has gone out of use to a large extent, and we tend to use "broom" for the long-handled implement for sweeping floors and paths, and "brush" for everything else, whether we use it for painting a watercolour picture, cleaning our teeth, or scouring the lavatory pan.

To return to our picture, it was taken in one of those areas which are fairly common above Caversham, with solid chalk underneath, but with a sandy, gravelly, rather acid layer on top – the kind of soil broom likes.

One thing I didn't know before researching this article was that the broom flower has a curious pollination mechanism. When the flower is shedding its pollen, but before it has been visited by a bee, the ten stamens are held under tension within the two lower petals. Five stamens are short, and five are long. When a bee forces its way in there, the five short stamens hit it on the stomach, and the five long ones clap it on the back, to make sure it gets a good dusting of pollen.

So I can see that when next I come across a broom bush in flower, I shall be testing this out with a pencil, or maybe a cotton wool bud if I'm prepared, hoping to see those springing stamens!

Happy Wanderer



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**CLUBS****Rosehill WI**

Members and visitors were welcomed to the March AGM by the President, Mrs Brenda Caborn.

Treasurer Mrs Margaret Pyle reviewed the annual audit figures which had been circulated to members. This showed a very healthy bank balance.

Secretary Mrs Margaret Seal reminded members of the wide variety of activities and subjects covered by the talks - something to interest everyone. Subjects as varied as models of the royal carriages, Happy Feet which was a light hearted talk by a chiropodist, and women who became pirates in the 17th century. We enjoyed a harvest lunch and a birthday tea together. The walkers had enjoyed some lovely walks and pub lunches and the Scrabble group continued to enjoy meeting. The members who knitted had made a large quantity of blankets, bonnets and jackets for the Buscot ward at the Royal Berks Hospital. Margaret also said that a further 31 emergency packs of toiletries had been sent to Royal Berks Hospital, making a total of 91 packs.

Brenda then thanked all members of the committee and members not on the committee but helped in the background to keep meetings running smoothly.

After these reports it was time to elect a new president, as Brenda Caborn was standing down after three years.

The voting was supervised by two WIAs. Mrs Margaret Pyle was voted President and Mrs Doris Goddard agreed to become Treasurer.

All the other members of committee remain

Mrs Doreen Mann presented birthday buttonholes and told members the sad news that one of the long serving members, Connie Watson, had died in February.

Connie had been unable to attend meetings for the last two years because a serious stroke left her housebound. But until then she had been an enthusiastic member.

The meeting continued with a quiz, a cup of tea and the raffle.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

Visitors are very welcome.

Rotary Club of Caversham

Rowing Across the Atlantic was the theme of a talk given to the Rotary Club in March by Chris Hall, a partner in the legal firm, Field Seymour Parkes. The sense of achievement afterwards must far outweigh any pleasure enjoyed during the journey. It sounded most unpleasant and two stone is quite a lot of weight to lose! Another interesting speaker was Sam Bantu, one of our own young members, who told us about Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks, ensuring that we are all fully briefed on the latest trends in information technology.

A concert was given by the Beech Hill Concert Band, in St Andrews Church, Caversham, on 21st April, dedicated to the memory of our Secretary, Robert Watsham, who died very suddenly in March.

A trip to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley was planned for 26th April for about twenty young people 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.

The club meets every week on Wednesdays at 5.45pm

at Caversham Heath Golf Club and a quick e-mail to one of the secretaries, Stan Eldon or Frances Hill, at ClubSecretary@CavershamRotary.org.uk will set the wheels in motion.

Caversham Horticultural Society

Gardeners are invited to two events this month. On Saturday 12th May we hold the popular spring plant sale at the Oakley Road allotments between 10.00 and 11.30am. If you are finding embarrassing gaps in the garden due to fatalities from last winter's frosts, why not visit the sale and restock at bargain prices.

Our second event is a public talk by the head gardener Tim Miles about the gardens at the Cotswold Wildlife Gardens. Tim Miles will be arriving hot foot from London to give this talk after being a judge at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. His talk is on Wednesday 23rd May starting at 7.45pm at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road.

Caversham Heights Society

Members were treated to a most entertaining speaker when Angela Spencer-Harper came to talk about two Chiltern villages, Stoke Row and Highmoor, as seen through the memories of their inhabitants. She concentrated on the sinking of the Maharajah's Well in 1864. Before this event, there was little water in Stoke Row, and the buildings were a collection of poor hovels.

Thereafter, a number of brick-built detached houses were erected and people began to settle in greater numbers. Before the Well, there was no natural water source. The well was financed and built as a result of the friendship between the Maharajah of Enares and Mr Edward Anderdon Reade of Ipsden, who became Governor of the Northwest Provinces. The Indian style cupola was designed by Mr Reade and stands over the 364 foot deep well. The equivalent height of two Nelson's columns, it was dug by two men in one year, a tremendous feat of Victorian skill. The generous benefactor also provided a small cottage for the well-keeper and a cherry orchard from which he derived a small living. Nowadays a steam engine rally is held to raise money for the upkeep of the well.

The second meeting of the month gave us a speaker who also entertained and informed. Simon Jones, Director of Jones and Jacob, the Watlington fine art auctioneers and valuers, examined and valued objects brought to the meeting by members of the society. He carefully went through many objects ranging from china, jewellery, pictures and other antiques. For some members in the audience the valuation was disappointing news, but others were highly delighted with the information about their treasures. Simon explained the three ways to value an object, the insurance value, open market value and probate value. Bernard Tripp, Chairman of the Society thanked Simon for his time and expertise, and asked non-members of the Society who attended if they would kindly donate to the CHS charity.

CORRECTION

In the April issue, in the report from the Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, we included a statement that meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall Emmer Green. In fact they meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Caversham Baptist Church Hall, at the corner of Prospect Street and South Street.

We apologise for this error.

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CLUBS**Caversham Bowling Club
Open Evenings**

Caversham Bowling Club celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, having been founded in 1922. It is a mixed club, which offers the opportunity to take part in a sport which can be enjoyed by both men and women of all ages. The club has members of all standards, from beginners to county players. There are vacancies for both men and women, and this summer, as in previous years, the club is offering the opportunity to anyone who is interested to come along and try the game.

The sport provides gentle exercise and the opportunity to make new friends. You do not need to have played competitive sport in the past; the game does not require great physical fitness or athleticism, but relies rather on attributes of control, accuracy and consistency, which in some ways can be more demanding.

Throughout the summer, starting on May 18th, each Friday evening from 6.00pm, Caversham Bowling Club will be open to anyone who would like to come along and try out the game. The only requirements are flat-soled shoes and enthusiasm. Bowls and other equipment will be provided. Our members look forward to welcoming you and will be on hand to offer advice and instruction. It does not take long to learn the basics of the game, and you could soon be taking part in club matches.

The club has a friendly atmosphere with a licensed bar, and organises social events throughout the year. Why not come along on a Friday evening and try it, you may be pleasantly surprised? Light refreshments will be available for a nominal sum. You do not need to book, just turn up on the night.

Experienced bowlers are also welcome to join the club, and should contact the secretary, details below.

The club is located in the Recreation Ground in Albert Road, Caversham, and ample free parking is available next to the green. The number 22 bus stops outside the park at the St Andrews Church bus stop.

Further information can be obtained from the club secretary on 0118 947 5672 or the ladies secretary on 0118 947 5637.

Caversham WI

March means annual meeting time – a chance to hear about the past year's activities and successes. The treasurer presented the accounts and was thanked for her good work over many years. The President, Margaret Cameron, gave her account of the past year's activities particularly highlighting the 'Golden Jubilee' party in November. The competition cup was won by Margaret Cameron with Sylvia Myzsor and Isabel Nicholson joint second. Committee members were willing to serve for another year and the President was re-elected yet again.

After refreshments, a bring and buy sale produced some funds to carry us into our 51st year. A flourishing membership and good support have helped to get us to 50 years and we look forward to many more.

Caversham GLOBE

A big "thank you" is due to 22 Caversham GLOBE supporters who invested 71 hours over four days in March clearing litter and fly-tipping during the 2012 annual RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event).

You may have seen some of them out and about in Central Caversham, Balmore Walk, Bugs Bottom, Christchurch Meadow, Hill's Meadow and View Island. Their collection included 79 sacks of litter, four shopping trolleys, various scrap metal plastic & timber, electric cable, pallets and textiles. Sadly this demonstrates that some members of our community see nothing wrong with fly-tipping of hazardous or general waste or discarding drinks cans, bottles, snack and food wrappers in our green spaces.



Caversham GLOBE supporters care passionately about our local environment.

Do make contact if you would like to help or if you know of an area that would be improved by litter picking, tree or hedge planting. Contact Richard on 07768958407 or email: info@cavershamglobe.org.uk www.cavershamglobe.org.uk

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