

# 89th Reading Scout Group is growing SAINTS, SCOUTING AND A SPECIAL PROJECT

The four saints who are synonymous with Britain each have their individual dates of remembrance.

In the year's calendar the first is St David (1st March) and there is sometimes evidence that when two or three Welsh people are gathered together a potential choir is born. At rugby matches fervour abounds in the crowd when 'Land of My Fathers' is played and flags can be seen in great numbers.

On St Patrick's Day (17th March) there is a grand parade in New York of people of Irish descent. In Reading a pub advertises Guinness, Irish stew and the invitation to go inside and enjoy the craic (lively and amusing conversation).

The Scots who celebrate St Andrew's Day on the 30th November are proud of their heritage and in countries to which many of them emigrated, Caledonian Societies have been formed.

In contrast to all this, the English have a rather laissez faire attitude to their national saint George on 23rd April but within the Scout Movement parades take place as a commemoration.

At local level a good relationship has been forged between St Barnabas Church and the 89th Reading (Milestone Wood) Scout Group, which meets in Kilm Road, Emmer Green.

As Chris Butlin, Group Scout Leader at the 89th in Emmer Green said: "Scouting is growing. Over the last six months we have seen a significant growth of the 89th Reading Scouts, a new

Beaver Colony has been launched and is full to capacity, we have launched a new Scout Troop and incorporated our Explorers Unit formally into the Group. This has enabled more children from our community to have access to Scouting and the facilities we have at the Scout HQ in Emmer Green. It has been great fun seeing the faces of the new Beavers joining for the first time. Investing

25 new Beavers was a real challenge and there has been a programme of exciting activities for them, including a visit to the police station. We are also in the process of setting up a new Cub Pack which will run on Thursday evenings, we now have four new volunteer leaders and plenty of willing new Cubs. We are always looking for new leaders to come and join in the fun, please let Chris Butlin (cbutlin@runbox.com) know if you are interested



The new Beaver colony at the 89th.

in coming along to help at this exciting time."

In 2010 ambitious ideas were announced for the 89th, both in terms of growing the Group and developing the facilities on the site. In 2011 very ambitious plans were unveiled to turn that vision into a reality over the next 3-5 years and less than one year on the work has started! The site has been levelled to make it more suitable for camping and a new camp fire circle has been built. A climbing wall and assault course will be installed in the coming weeks and other activity equipment is planned. All of the external works will be completed this year and attention is now turning to the internal works that make up Phases 2 and 3 of our project. Phase 2 includes a new entrance to the 'Hut' with disabled access, a second scout hall, new toilets and showers, and a new kitchen. Phase 3 will complete the project with a refurbishment of the existing scout hall (two are needed to run all the new groups!), a new car park, bike racks, and external storage facilities. For more details about the development project at the 89th please contact Robin Kent (robin.kent@lineone.net)



The Scouts at St Barnabas church for the St George's Day parade.

Pictures: Chris Butlin

INSIDE

Talking Point .....	P2	Jubilee Celebrations .....	P7 & 8
Caversham Traders .....	P3	Plantains .....	P9
From the Lookout Post .....	P4	Clubs.....	P10 & 11
Churches .....	P5 & 6		

## Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN  
St Barnabas

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

### St Andrews

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,  
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788  
www.standrewscaversham.org

### St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Rev'd Dan Tyndall  
The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4  
7AD Tel: 947 9505  
Rev'd Keith Knee-Robinson  
8 Hewett Close, Caversham RG4 7ER  
Tel: 947 7868  
Rev'd Jeremy Tear  
St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,  
Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884  
Rev'd Graeme Fancourt  
18 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham RG4 7DD  
Tel: 947 8450  
Rev'd Marion Pyke  
26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ  
Tel: 947 5834

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Rev'd 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

Rev'd Rob Beardsley.  
Tel: 07515 260019  
email robg.beardsley@btinternet.com

**GRACE CHURCH**  
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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

Giles Goward

## Have a good holiday?

Arriving, as it has, at the beginning of August I guess many copies of this month's Caversham Bridge will lie on a doormat for a couple of weeks waiting for people to return from their holidays. If that is the case I hope you had a good holiday! If you are still to go away I hope you have a good break and a safe return. Yet, during these economically difficult and uncertain times, some will be feeling guilty that they are having a holiday which others cannot afford. Others will be disappointed that their situation will not allow a holiday away this year as there are more urgent calls on the purse strings. Even for those who will be having a "staycation" this year it is important for all of us to try and find some space in our lives to rest our minds and bodies, or simply just to do something different.

Writing in 1978, during the hey-day of the package holiday, Pope Paul VI said, "The desire of modern men and women for recreation and rest should not be lost sight of or undervalued, for they need to recoup their forces and psychic equilibrium, so sorely tested by the not infrequently exhausting conditions which life and work today impose upon them. It is a legitimate desire and it has spiritual implications, for with recreation religious and moral questions can arise. Christians are aware that the resolution of these questions, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, brings mankind to the fullness of his own high destiny."

Those testing and exhausting conditions have certainly not lessened in the intervening 34 years and neither have some of the questions we ought to consider about the tourist industry.

The whole issue of international tourism is not morally neutral. It can be a major factor in economic development and cultural growth, but can also become an occasion for exploitation and moral degradation. It offers opportunities for the economic aspects of development — that is to say the flow of money and the emergence of a significant amount of local enterprise — to be combined with the cultural aspects, chief among which is education and mutual understanding. In many cases this is what happens, but in other cases international tourism has a negative educational impact both for the tourist and the local populace. International tourism often follows a consumerist and hedonistic pattern, and is therefore not conducive to an authentic encounter between persons and cultures. We need to strive to develop a type of tourism that has the ability to promote genuine mutual understanding, without taking away from the element of rest and healthy recreation.

*Father Giles Goward is priest at Our Lady and St Anne's 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

10.30 am Worship at South Street  
7.00 pm. Worship at South Street (fortnightly)  
3.45 pm. Messy Church for the whole family at South Street (Last Sunday of the month)

### 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

#### 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 **September 2012** issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Tuesday 31st July**. The date for the **October 2012** issue is **Tuesday 4th September 2012**. Email address is below.

Advertising copy for the **September 2012** issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 27th July 2012**. The date for the **October 2012** issue is **Friday 31st August 2012**.

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## Comedy and Magic

Churches Together in Caversham presents 'Comedy and Magic', to be performed by John Archer at Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, Caversham on Saturday 15th September at 8.00pm.

Tickets (to include drinks and nibbles) are available at £8.

For more information and tickets ring 0118 954 5353 or 07515 260019.

## The MillsTones Dance Band

The MillsTones Dance Band is making a welcome return on Saturday 22nd September at 7.30 p.m. to St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham, RG4 8EB. Dance or just listen to the music of the Glen Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington Big Band era. Tickets are £10 from 0118 9475120 or at the door. You are invited to bring your own drinks.

## NOTES FROM THE CAVERSHAM TRADERS ASSOCIATION

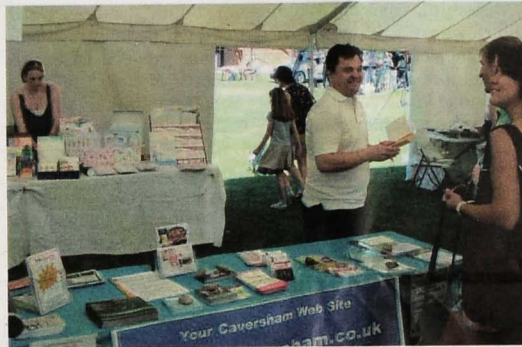
On one of the few sunny days so far this year, many readers will have seen representatives of the CTA at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Fete at the Mapledurham playing fields. Our stand promoted the array of independent businesses here in Caversham, directing them to our ChooseCaversham website for further information. Local traders were very generous, with raffle prizes including a studio portrait session from Barrett & Co, a buffet meal for two at the Spice Oven and treatments at both Le Masseur Personnel and Perry's Beauty.



## Charity success for House of Cards manager

Our congratulations to one of our longest-standing members, Angela Staggatt (Manager, House of Cards) for raising £700 for The Cystinosis Foundation. Cystinosis is a rare inherited disease for which, as yet, there is no cure. Wearing a 'Choose Caversham' shirt, Angela walked 20 miles from Putney Bridge to Tower Bridge - and back!

We will be back again next month with news from the Caversham Traders Association. In the meantime, you can keep in touch via [www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk](http://www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk).



The CTA stand at the Mapledurham Fete.

## Click Here !

Computer advice by Francis Brown

### The call claiming "Your PC is infected!"

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The caller will be working his way through a telephone directory or similar and has no way of knowing whether you have a PC and thus no clue about what is or is not on it. He may offer a free check up as the excuse for connecting to your PC.

If you let them connect, they will introduce a problem or apparent problem and then charge you \$100 to fix it! Once they have connected, they may well be able to connect again later without your knowledge and introduce another problem. If you have ever let such a caller connect to your PC, see [www.fbrown.org](http://www.fbrown.org) for advice.

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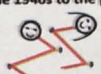
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# From The Lookout Post

## Summer events

July was an exceptionally busy month. The Caversham Festival in conjunction with *Churches Together in Caversham* took place on Sunday 8 July. The Olympic torch left from Caversham Court on Wednesday 11 July. Caversham Court gardens also hosted both the Progress Theatre production of Henry IV Part I and St Peter's and St Margaret's church fete. As we write this column, all these events are still to come and we wish them all good weather and every success.

The major event in August is the SMART 2012, a Festival of Sport, Music and Art on the River Thames which will take place on 4th August 2012. This day has been titled 'Super Saturday' as it falls on the middle weekend of the Olympic Games.

The festival will take place on Thameside Promenade, running from Reading Rowing Club, along to Rivermead Leisure Complex, and also in Caversham Court Gardens. It will be a free event and has been developed in partnership between the 2012 Partnership Board, Jelly, Culturemix, Reading Rock Academy, Reading Rowing Club, Friends of Caversham Court Gardens and Rivermead Leisure Complex.

From 11am to 6pm, there will be a Sporting Village and demonstrations, Community Group stalls, Creative Village, Acoustic Stage and Workshop Area, Open Air Arena, Main Stage, Traylens Funfair, Food Stalls and a big screen.

The evening event at 7pm is ticketed and will include school age bands from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire.

## The CADRA AGM

The AGM at Thameside School was well attended and after a brief round up of the year, Dr Rod Smith set out to explain the complex changes taking place in local health services. There will be four Clinical Commissioning Groups in West Berkshire, covering Wokingham, South Reading, North West Reading, and Newbury. Each will have a Board with a Chairman who is both elected and subject to a national assessment process. Dr Smith, Senior Partner at Balmore Park Surgery, is Chairman of both the North West Reading CCG and also the West Berkshire Federation linking the four local CCGs. The groups are being set up on a transitional basis, ready for full implementation in 2013.

Local Authorities have a new responsibility for improving public health which was previously with the Primary Care Trusts. In Reading, Councillor Bet Tickner is the Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing. Their duties include responsibility for setting up the local 'HealthWatch' to act as local consumer champion.

Against a background of financial constraints, the CCGs will have to look hard at how money is spent. They will need to review areas where care could be provided more effectively, and identify treatments which do not always benefit patients. Dr Smith cited as an example that 20% of patients undergoing a knee replacement report that there was no benefit from the operation. There are therefore plans to improve patient counselling before the operation to help each patient decide whether the operation is appropriate for them.

We were fortunate to hear from someone so closely involved with the changes at both a high level and the day to day issues for individual patients. A record amount in the retiring collection is testament to the audience response.

## Reading wins £20.7 million 'green transport' bid

At the end of June, Reading was awarded £20.7 million for a series of 'green transport' initiatives. These initiatives are designed to increase bus, pedestrian and cycle journeys and to reduce congestion, all of which are very welcome for Reading and Caversham. The major elements are a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Thames, a cycle hire scheme and a

London style Oyster card for bus travel. There is also reference to new and improved pedestrian and cycle routes. The grant is less than the original bid and so final details are yet to be finalised. The Council have indicated they will be consulting widely with residents, bus companies, cycling groups, local businesses and all interested parties. CADRA will be following the plans closely, and will respond to consultations. It is important that the Council take full advantage of the considerable local knowledge which local groups and cycle groups can offer. The new bridge should resolve the real problems now faced by cyclists on the road bridges but will need to be carefully considered to provide an aesthetically pleasing view and also to make certain that it is an integral part of pedestrian and cycle routes to and from Caversham.

## Clayfield Copse

Late June and early July saw considerable controversy over the proposed introduction of a micro Park and Ride scheme at Clayfield Copse and also at Palmer Park. Following a number of representations, a consultation was introduced. A commitment was given that council officers would engage directly with user groups and would report back to the Reading Borough Council cabinet on Monday, July 16. Subsequent to that, we heard that in view of the many concerns raised, particularly by sporting groups, it is expected that the proposal will be formally withdrawn. We hope this has reinforced the need for local collaboration.

## Policing matters

It was recently announced that the new Thames Valley Police Inspector with responsibility for Caversham will be Inspector PJ Binns. More specific information about her role and objectives, and other staff and structural changes to Caversham policing, will be included in a future edition of the *Caversham Bridge*. We welcome Inspector Binns and look forward to working with her. She took up her post on July 9th.

A combination of policing success in apprehending a number of burglar suspects and the inclement weather has helped to keep the burglary crime incidents low. Also a number of younger youths acting in an anti-social manner in Emmer Green and CPV have been identified and the police are working with the parents to correct the situation before the schools break up for the summer.



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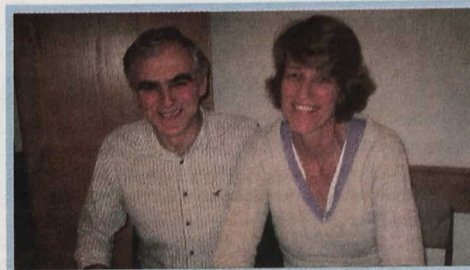
The winning team

June saw the third annual Quiz Night of Our Lady and St Anne's parish. Organized as a Jubilee and Olympics Celebration, it took place in the Cenacle this year and proved to be a very noisy and jovial affair. Arranged, as usual, by John Webb and his wife, Helen, the event attracted about fifty contestants.

A marathon round asking for the capital cities of 44 countries was handed out to be given in before the interval. The first half of five rounds included questions about the Olympics and about the Jubilee.

## Quiz Night at Our Lady and St Anne's

At the interval, fish and chips provided a welcome relief to the mental exertion then it was on to the second half. Another round consisted of a list of collective nouns and the names of twenty-five animals to match them to. There were some murmurings about the possibility that the quiz-master or his wife had made up some of these: have you ever heard of a sounder of boars or a mischief of mice? Reluctantly, we accepted their authenticity. Some were so improbable that they couldn't have been made up!



John and Helen Webb

The second half rounds were more general and ended with questions about the Year that was 2011 – amazing what you can forget about events that happened less than twelve months ago – and General Knowledge.

The winners, by a small margin, were once again Father Giles's team. Thoughts of Divine Inspiration or even Divine Intervention spring to mind but I suppose we just have to put it down to sheer natural genius. But just wait until next year.

## Muslim Headteacher at St Peter's Church

Munawar Karim rounded off the Sunday Supplement talks series at St Peter's Caversham, on 24th June, with an Islamic perspective on the recently-adopted parish values in Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham: inclusive, generous, life-giving. The headteacher of Deenway School, Reading, the only Muslim Montessori School in the country was giving the third in a series of talks on the values by members of the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism (Rabbi Lionel Blue), Christianity (Rev Dan Tyndall) and Islam (Munawar Karim).

Munawar was very warm towards the adoption of these values, focussing mainly on generosity. It was, he said, a reflection of a cardinal value in Islamic belief – courage, for to be generous in every aspect of our lives requires courage. Normal Islamic practice is to distribute to those in need what is superfluous to one's own but there's more than that. To give to others anything precious to oneself, anything one is attached to, requires courage and that is not the normal tendency in today's society. He illustrated his talk with verses from the Koran. He included a little known story about how Muslims, at considerable risk to themselves, sheltered Jews from the Nazis in a Paris mosque during the second world war: a story of courage in generosity.

He saw the value of inclusiveness as being implicit in generosity. There was the story in which Abraham, who liked to eat in company, learned that God wanted him to offer hospitality not just to the faithful but also to a dishevelled unbeliever. Abraham could not be selective. A life turned outwards in generosity would naturally be life-giving, he argued.

There were several interesting questions from the audience, one of which was about the attitude of followers of Islam to women. In reply, Munawar attributed a great deal of the misunderstandings to fundamentalists and inaccuracies in the news media. For instance, historically, contrary to the general belief that they are considered lesser beings than men, it is recognised by people who know that Muslim women scholars have made many essential contributions to the intellectual life of Islam.

After the talk, the audience enjoyed a chat over tea and cakes with Munawar, and also his mother, father and brother.

## Bishop of Reading at St Barnabas Day

The Rt Revd Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading, presided at the St Barnabas Day Patronal Festival on Monday 11th June. On an unseasonably cold and wet Monday evening a congregation of nearly 80, from churches across Caversham and Emmer Green, heard Bishop Andrew preach about how love and friendship are both forms of encouragement. Many people commented after the service about how good the sermon was, with one member of the congregation describing it as "profound, inspiring and illuminating". The worship was enhanced by the selection of music, including the first movement of Vivaldi's Gloria, sung by the choir and played by Director of Music, Alison Wood, which was well received. The Bishop joined the regular St Barnabas ministry team of Revd Derek Chandler and Elizabeth Gash and the congregation in the Parish Centre after the service for tea, coffee and some wonderful cakes provided by the catering team.

Robin Kent

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# Corpus Christi procession



Father Evans, Bishop Kenney and Deacon Hugh.

Jane Shaw

compared the food that children like for their bodies with that with which they could now feed their souls when they receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

After Mass, everyone joined the procession around the large circular lawn in front of Mapledurham House. Benediction followed and then the Bishop presented mementoes to the First Communicants. Finally Bishop Kenney and the Knights and Dames posed with the two school groups for photographs.

Many people stayed for lunch prepared by Lady Anne and her helpers and the children and their parents enjoyed a picnic and games before leaving for home.

Bishop William Kenney came to Mapledurham House to officiate at the Corpus Christi procession this year. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Kenney and Father Joseph Evans. Fr Evans had come, by coincidence, with a group of students from University College, London, to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham and Father Giles had brought them to Mapledurham. Eight Papal Knights and two Papal Dames also joined the procession, including some newly appointed Knights, one of whom was the entertainer Don Maclean, knighted for the second time only a week before.

Those children from St Anne's and St Paul's schools who had recently made their First Holy Communion attended and took part in the procession. Some of them acted as flower girls and boys, and scattered rose petals along the path that the bishop would tread as he carried the Blessed Sacrament in the procession.

In his homily, Bishop Kenney compared the food that children like for their bodies with that with which they could now feed their souls when they receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

After Mass, everyone joined the procession around the large circular lawn in front of Mapledurham House. Benediction followed and then the Bishop presented mementoes to the First Communicants. Finally Bishop Kenney and the Knights and Dames posed with the two school groups for photographs.

Many people stayed for lunch prepared by Lady Anne and her helpers and the children and their parents enjoyed a picnic and games before leaving for home.



St Anne's First Communion children.

Robert Stephens

## The Feast of the Assumption – August 15th

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, informally known as 'The Assumption', was, according to the belief of the Roman Catholic church and Eastern Orthodox churches, the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into heaven at the end of her life.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that, at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul (i.e. both physically and spiritually) into heaven to live with her son (Jesus Christ) for ever. Human beings have to wait until the end of time for their bodily resurrection, but Mary's body was able to go straight to heaven because her soul hadn't been tainted by original sin.

This doctrine was infallibly defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

While Catholic dogma leaves open the question of Mary's death before rising to heaven, the Eastern Orthodox tradition teaches that Mary died and then rose to heaven. In the churches which observe it, the Assumption is a major Feast Day. In many countries it is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation.

The Feast of the Assumption on August 15th is a public holiday in many countries, including Austria, Belgium, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany (Bavaria only), Greece, Lebanon, Italy, Malta, Mauritius, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, and Spain. However, it not a public holiday in countries such as Australia, Canada, the UK, and the USA..

Eastern Orthodox Christians, following the Julian calendar, mark the event as the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, or the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, on 28th August.

Processions through the streets and firework displays mark the Feast of the Assumption in Italy, as they do in Italian-American communities throughout the United States. In Sicily and rural areas outside Rome, a bowing procession is the day's main event. A statue of the Virgin Mary is carried through the town to a ceremonial arch of flowers, where a group of people holding a statue of Christ awaits her arrival. Both statues are inclined toward each other three times, and then the Christ figure precedes the figure of Mary back to the parish church for a special benediction.

In Sao Paulo and other parts of southern Brazil, the feast is called Nosa Senhora dos Navegantes, or 'Our Lady of the Navigators'. Pageants are held on decorated canoes, each carrying a captain, a purser, three musicians, and two rowers. They travel to small villages to entertain and feast. Towns may have small church processions with musicians depicting the 'Three Wise Men'.

In previous years some Italian plazas were flooded. Citizens would ride through the temporary 'lakes' in carriages and it was common for people to carry bowls of rose-scented water, which they sprinkled on themselves – possibly a carry over from a pagan ritual in which the gods were petitioned to provide adequate rainfall for the crops, or as a tribute to the pagan goddess Isis of the Sea. Assumption Day is also an important holiday in France where the Virgin Mary has been the patron saint since 1638.

Remnants of ancient celebrations include night time bonfires and public illuminations in Italy. The idea of prosperity is also evident in some cultures in the throwing of coins from windows down to the street. Symbolic images of the Virgin Mary and her assumption into heaven have been associated with the day. Blue is the colour most often associated with the Virgin Mary, symbolizing truth and clarity, and it is the colour of the sky, which symbolizes heaven. The lily, which is a symbol of purity, chastity, and simplicity, is also associated with the Virgin Mary.

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# The Picnic in the Park



The Picnic In The Park organised by the Emmer Green Residents Association (EGRA) for the Jubilee on Monday 4th of June was a resounding success. Over 1,000 people attended the event during the course of the day and the numbers were no doubt helped by the good weather – in fact the only good weather all weekend!

Margaret Ormonde Chairman of EGRA said "...we set out to organise a traditional family event, not commercial, not primarily fundraising, and run by volunteers"... She thanked the many community groups that came together and were generous with their time and resources to help make the event so enjoyable and such a success. Those community groups included Berkshire and Mid-Thames Woodcarvers; St Barnabas Church; Emmer Green Youth Services; Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen And Families Association – Reading Branch (Ghurkha Ladies); Emmer Green Guides & Brownies; 3rd Reading Scouts; Duke of Edinburgh's Award; Red Cross; The Art Workshop and the numerous groups that performed in the arena throughout the day including the EMC Jazz Band and the Emmer Green Dancercise, Judo, and Gymnastics clubs. She

reserved special thanks for Chris Butlin and his team at the 89th Reading Scouts who provided the refreshments and a number of the side-shows saying "We owe an enormous debt to the 89th Scouts...it wouldn't have been possible without their input".

Chris Butlin from the 89th Reading Scouts said "everyone had a great day with a number of people asking if we could do it again next year. The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers provided sterling support helping setup for the event and run the stalls and activities. At one point we were so busy that we ran out of hot water for the tea and coffee and had to make an emergency dash to the Scout HQ for more equipment. It was a really amazing day and great to see the people from Emmer Green socialising and having a good time".

It took EGRA about a year to plan the event and of course there was enormous stress about the weather right up until the last moment but thankfully it was blessed with almost ideal conditions. EGRA hope that all those who took part will have special memories of a unique moment in history and the part Emmer Green played in it. It is believed that this was the first time Emmer Green Park had been used in this way since the Coronation in 1953 and some people who were there on that day were also there in 2012.



Photos: Clive Ormonde

## Summer Party in Caversham Court

After a lengthy spell of wet weather, it was a relief to see the sun come out on Sunday 17th June, just in time for the Summer Party in Caversham Court Gardens. For the first time, the Friends of Caversham Court joined the Friends of Reading Museum and the Friends of Reading Abbey for a joint event, a tea party in the gardens.

The guest of honour, Deputy Mayor of Reading

Debs Edwards, welcomed visitors to the gardens and to a very successful community event linking Friends groups from all over Reading. It was particularly good to see so many local councillors joining in the occasion.

Entertainment was provided by members of Parenthesis choir, who treated visitors to a medley of numbers, including some well-known foot-tappers. Three fine clarinet players, the Liquorice Sticks, played two sets of pieces, and were promoting Enrych Berkshire, a charity which helps people with physical disabilities to pursue hobbies and interests.

Up on the house footprint, actors from Progress Theatre were holding an open rehearsal of Shakespeare's Henry IV Part I, which they performed in Caversham Court from 12th to 21st July. The swordplay in particular had their audience

spellbound, and it was rewarding to see so many youngsters taking an interest in the theatricals.

Cream teas, cakes and other refreshments were served by the Tea Kiosk charities, led by the Caversham-based Ways & Means.

Apart from being a good opportunity to celebrate the sun coming out, the event aimed to raise awareness of the work that the Friends' groups do. The Friends of Reading Museum launched a new initiative, Adopt an Object, which enables members to "adopt" a favourite exhibit in the museum for a year. The Friends of Reading Abbey were keen to explain the Abbey Quarter project, which will refurbish the whole area around the abbey ruins, the Forbury, Town Hall and museum. And the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens were delighted to welcome many new visitors to the gardens.

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## Highmoor Road Diamond Jubilee street party, Tuesday 5th June 2012

Clouds were looming large on the morning of the Highmoor Road Jubilee street party and the forecast for the afternoon was grim. Henry and Judith got cracking putting up bunting, then helped George hoist the Jubilee banner before a decision was made to decamp to the Methodist Church premises. We needed lots of space as a predicted 150 people were expected at the tea and supper. Volunteers appeared, helium balloons were dotted around and patriotic ribbons and flags decked the halls (we needed two rooms for the tea - good job the church had lots of space!)

Games started at 3pm directed by Tania and Mike and a treasure hunt got underway.

Delicious fare arrived for the 'bring and share' tea at 4pm, and we were busy in the kitchen sorting it all out and re-directing it onto tables. A noisy and happy atmosphere ensued but there was a moment of calm when all the games stopped for a group photograph for Radio 107 FM who were trying to record all the parties that day. After tea, Lys (cello and oboe) and Pamela (piano) played a selection of classic pieces in the church to an appreciative audience. The tables were then restocked ready for the evening barbecue and men were to be seen through the smoke, and under cover from the elements, cooking various offerings. Eddie played the piano and guitar after supper and

Rebecca and Ruth joined him singing popular songs in harmony. Meanwhile, a 'drive bar' opposite the church was busy dispensing wine and beer and people enjoyed being able to walk down the middle of the road until the road closure was lifted at 10 pm.

Many thanks to wonderful neighbours and friends for all their help in ensuring that the event was a huge success - and there have been rumblings about another drinks get together next year.....



## MEETING THE QUEEN

Last month we printed memories from a number of readers recalling events when they saw the Queen. We are including some more below:

### Opening of Civic Offices and Hexagon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Reading as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in March 1978.

They arrived by car in Oxford Road at the end of the West Mall, where my husband Bill, the mayor, and I met them. After greetings and the usual bow, curtsy and a bouquet given by the young daughter of a councillor, we started a walk towards the Hexagon between crowds of people who had come to cheer the royal couple. The Queen was accompanied by the mayor, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and Chief Executive of the Council Harry Tee, and the Duke by Don Clarke, manager of the Civic Offices, and me.

We entered the Hexagon at the lower level and were met by Bob Corder, Director of the Hexagon, and his staff. We assembled on the centre of the stage, which had been lowered, and came up to stage level to reveal a choir of school children and the Reading Youth Orchestra, and a Hexagon full of invited guests. A brief concert conducted by Robert Roscoe welcomed all the guests and we then left the Hexagon to walk to the Civic Offices where the Queen unveiled a plaque in the entrance commemorating the opening of both buildings, and this can still be seen today by the public.

After introductions to the architect, builders, councillors and council officers, the royal party were taken into the mayor's parlour to meet more guests and to have pre-lunch drinks. The Queen was presented with two prints of the John Piper tapestries in the Kennet Room. Lunch was held in this room, and after a short rest in the mayor's parlour, a tour of the Civic Offices began. The Queen was accompanied by the mayor and chief executive and the Duke by the manager of the Civic Offices and me. This gave many people who work in the offices a chance to meet the royal couple and it was an informal time to chat together. It was obvious the royal couple enjoyed this informality too.

The Queen left to open the Magistrates Courts and went with the Lord Lieutenant Gordon Palmer, Harry and Mrs Tee and the Chief Constable across the courtyard. At 4pm we accompanied them to their car after a very happy day for everyone in Reading.

The mayor and I returned to the parlour for a cup of tea and to get changed ready for the Maidenhead and Windsor Civic Ball. The mayor of Reading leads a busy life!

Margaret Mander

### An Engineering Exhibition

In 1961, as a bridge engineer employed by the Royal County of Berkshire, I was delegated, with a colleague, to prepare an exhibition of the Department's work for the Royal Show in Windsor Great Park. After researching old documents, committee minutes, drawings, photographs etc., an extensive exhibition was duly prepared and, since we had just completed the construction of the M4 Maidenhead By-Pass, we prepared a large table-top model of a highway construction project in progress. We also found a working model of a gravel grading plant and this was a great attraction as everyone, children and dads included, had great fun repeatedly loading buckets of mixed sand and gravel in one end and seeing it all come out at the other end separated into its various sizes.

We were also responsible for manning the exhibition overnight as the site was unfenced. The weather was hot and very stuffy under the canvas. Suits and ties were the order of the day (several days) and sleeping in make-shift beds was not very comfortable at night.

On the day of the Queen's official visit we were introduced to Her Majesty in the usual very formal manner - answer questions if asked and NEVER ask one. The Queen was impressive, looking extremely cool despite the conditions and that radiant smile was something very special. Vincent Kelly

### An English Lesson

In the late 1950s the Queen and the Duke visited the town where I grew up. All I can remember of the visit is that the Queen inadvertently gave us a lesson in good English by starting her speech with the words "Thank you for the welcome you have given to my husband and me".

This prompted several people to contact the local paper suggesting that she should have said "...my husband and I", as they had always been taught to say. The paper then printed an explanation of why the Queen's English was quite correct, pointing out that the phrase is the object of the sentence, and "me" is the object form of the pronoun "I", so "me" should be used in this context.



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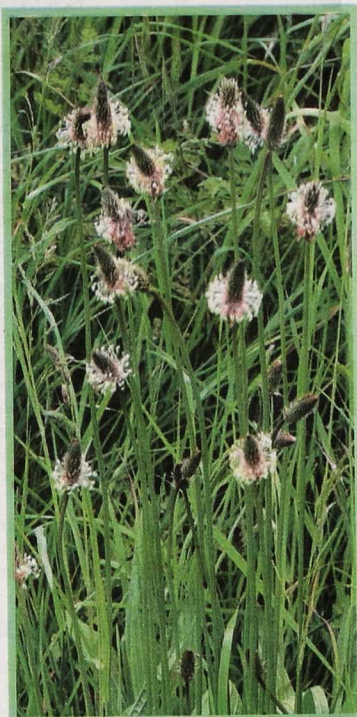
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## ENVIRONMENT

# PLANTAINS

Our attitude to certain plants sometimes strikes me as odd. Some we rave over, and others we dismiss as weeds. This does



not mean that one is intrinsically any more pleasing to look at than the other. As I took this photograph of Ribwort Plantain, I thought that if it were a rare plant, or one that had been imported from abroad as a garden subject, we would think more highly of it – a plant which is robust and graceful.

My mind went back to that painting by Albrecht Durer, done in 1503, which I saw in the Albertina Gallery in Vienna in 1971. It shows nothing more than a bit of turf which is full of common grasses and weeds. It is composed from the point-of-view of someone about four inches tall, and the artist has captured the character of those plants with amazing precision. It is much more precise than the work of many modern botanical illustrators, and gave me a great deal of pleasure.

The archaeological record shows that the two common plantains, the Greater Plantain and the Ribwort Plantain, became much more common from Neolithic times, when people began tilling the ground to grow crops. This can be told by comparing the frequency of pollen grains trapped in the earth – they can endure for many centuries and remain identifiable.

Also around Caversham you can find the Hoary Plantain, with a pinkish fuzz of stamens, on chalk grasslands, and occasionally you can find the Buckshorn Plantain. This latter is one which should really be found near the sea, but sometimes it occurs on roadsides, where the roads have been salted in winter.

These English names for the Plantains were pretty obviously invented by herbalists and botanists to help distinguish one from the other. I can't imagine children calling the plant in this month's picture 'Ribwort Plantain'. We used to call it 'Soldiers', and Geoffrey Grigson, in his book *The Englishman's Flora*, has 43 local names for it. Many of the names refer to the blackness of the flower-heads – 'Black Boys', 'Chimney-Sweeps', etc. – and others refer to the game children used to play with the flower-stalks – such as 'Men of War' and 'Soldiers'. We called the game 'fencing' – you just chose a stalk each, and knocked your stalk against that of your opponent. The winner was the one who managed to knock the black flower-head off the other's stalk.

The Anglo-Saxons called both of the common plantains 'Waybread', the 'bread' part of the name signifying something broad, because it grew on the old grass roads, and had broad leaves which resisted trampling. In the Middle Ages, we came to use the name 'Plantain', and 'Waybread' was forgotten. The new name came from the Latin word 'planta' which signified the sole of the foot, and was applied because the common plantains persisted despite trampling.

The robustness of the plant caused people to think that it must have beneficial properties for humans. The old 'doctrine of signatures' was that God had left us clues to the usefulness of plants, so the leaves of plantains have been used to treat burns, wounds, ulcers and sores.

This ability to recover from being trodden on and cut down is not so much appreciated by gardeners who have plantains in their lawns!

Happy Wanderer

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## CLUBS

## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

A demonstration by Glenis Smith entitled "Summertime Special" will be held by Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club on Wednesday 8th August, at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm. Entrance £4.50 for visitors who are always very welcome. There will be a Sales Table selling floral mechanics and accessories, and also a plant and book stall. Refreshments will be available. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400.

## Rosehill WI

President Mrs Margaret Pyle welcomed members and visitors to the June meeting which was Rosehill's Birthday Tea.

Secretary Mrs Margaret Seal confirmed that the summer outing would be the river trip to Mapledurham House on Friday 10th August.

Margaret Pyle then introduced the speaker Anna Cannon, speaking about herbal medicine. Anna told members how she had started her interest in herbs from going out gathering herbs as a young child with her mother, who was also a herbalist. Anna became so interested that she studied for four years to become a qualified doctor and can now treat patients.

Nearly all the plants in our gardens can be used in some way. She had looked around the St Barnabas Church garden and found rosemary, bay and others.

We were told how to make a soothing tea with a sprig of rosemary or a sleep inducing bath before bed. Lavender can also be used in the bath. Bay leaves, thyme, marjoram, coriander and many more can be used in cooking. Herbs can be used to treat serious conditions like emphysema, blood pressure and many others. Some herbs are antioxidants. She also mentioned mint tea and camomile tea.

After the talk, members enjoyed delicious cakes made by members and a cup of tea. The raffle was held and the meeting closed.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month and we welcome visitors.

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

In August there is no official meeting. We have, however, a short sponsored walk in aid of the Princess Royal's charity for carers.

Mrs Pat Cleare entertained us in July with her slides of 'A Scotland Holiday'.

Four of our members represented us on 29th June at the Townswomen's Guild AGM in Birmingham. Among the speakers was Esther Rantzen talking about her new venture, "Silverline", providing a service, similar to 'ChildLine', for older people who feel they have nowhere else to turn.

The meeting was a riot of colour, as everyone had dressed in red white and blue to celebrate the Jubilee.

We meet again on September 20th when Mr Simon Williams will tell us about the Great Train Robbery. The meeting will be at 7.30pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Rd Caversham.

New members and visitors are always very welcome.

## St Peter's Wives

We held our annual Strawberry Supper in June and enjoyed a short talk by Sylvia Chumbley on her voluntary work as a street pastor in Reading town centre.

The volunteers patrol in groups of four on Friday and Saturday nights between 10.30pm and 3.00am. They walk around the areas containing the most late-night bars, numbering 37 at present, and help young people who find themselves separated from their friends and disorientated through drink, or who are otherwise vulnerable late at night. They can then arrange, via a mobile phone, for a parent or friend to collect them and take them home.

Often young women find their fashionable high heels too painful to walk in at the end of an evening out and, rather than seeing them walking along barefoot where broken glass might be present, the pastors hand out flip-flops, for which the girls are very grateful. They also sweep up any broken glass they find and collect up empty bottles before they can become weapons. They also carry space blankets for people who have been ill or who are shivering. Other items they give out are lollies, as sugar counteracts the effects of alcohol, and also bottled water, which counteracts dehydration as a result of drinking too much alcohol and aids recovery.

The street pastor idea was launched eleven years ago by Mr Les Isaacs, who was recently awarded an OBE for his work. It was introduced in Reading over two years ago and is a combined Christian action involving at least three churches in the area. The volunteers are issued with radios, should they need assistance, but generally they are welcomed and often receive hugs from grateful youngsters.

We enjoyed Sylvia's talk very much and were impressed by her bravery in taking part in this worthwhile endeavour.

Our next meeting will be at Church House on Tuesday 18 September at 8.00pm when Pat Williams will be talking about the history of wedding gowns.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

## Caversham Horticultural Society

This year's autumn show will be held for the first time at Emmer Green Primary School, on Saturday 8th September between 1.30 and 4.30pm. The school has ample parking in the playground and is on bus routes 2, 2a and 24. When arriving, please use the school entrance via St. Barnabas Road to the exhibition hall. The show includes plant and bulb stalls and refreshments are available throughout the afternoon.

Prizes for the show will be presented by Louise Hampden the producer of BBC Gardeners World programme. Louise Hampden has kindly agreed to host a question and answer session at 3.15pm.

Why not enter one or more of the open categories for residents within the RG4 postal district. Children are invited to make a vegetable monster, a garden in a seed tray, create a pirate map or bake flapjacks. There are adult classes in handicrafts, floral art and domestic cookery so brush up your skills in making chutney, chocolate eclairs, and carrot cakes. For details of all these open categories consult the show schedule which can be obtained from the show secretary at 113 Southview Ave, Caversham or by emailing her at gmr113@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively consult the society's website [www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk](http://www.caversham-horticultural.org.uk) for these details and also be inspired by images from our previous shows.

## Rotary Club of Caversham

Recent speakers at the Rotary Club of Caversham have included Vince Golder, the international marketing guru, and managing director of Goldnet Referral Marketing Ltd in Sonning Common. He fascinated members with descriptions of his special technique called Referral Marketing and explained some of the benefits associated with this simple system. Another speaker was Tash Godfrey describing the work of the charity, Toybox, which rescues and educates street children in Latin America. She so inspired the new President, Derek Spears, that he immediately undertook to devote some of the year's fundraising activities to Tash's charity.

Later, the club will be hearing from its newest member Liz Siggery, a business development consultant, and from another member, John Manners, who will be talking about the growing of poppies for medical purposes. There will also be the annual visit from the District Governor for 2012-2013, Judith Diment.

The Rotary Year runs from July 2012 till July 2013 and President Derek Spears has completed the composition of his leadership team who are busy preparing their programme of service for the year. The Community Service Chairman is Ken Good, well known to many members of the Caversham Traders Association and the chairman of the New Generations Committee will be Barrie Mann, managing director of Thake Signs in Oxford Road.

The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club on Wednesdays at 5.45pm for 6.00pm and is always keen to welcome new members. Anyone interested in becoming a member or visiting for one meeting to see what goes on should contact the Secretary, Frances Hill at [Frances.Hill@cavershamrotary.org](mailto:Frances.Hill@cavershamrotary.org)

## Reading Gardeners

We are planning two more outings this year.

On Thursday 16th August there will be a coach outing to Parham House and garden in West Sussex.

On Tuesday 11th September we will go by coach to Sussex Prairies and Nymans NT Gardens.

If you are interested in joining us on either outing please contact: Hazel Blackburn Tel. 0118 9475 451 or email [hazelblk@kiscali.co.uk](mailto:hazelblk@kiscali.co.uk). You may also like to browse our website [readinggardenersclub.org.uk](http://readinggardenersclub.org.uk)

## Inner Wheel

President Janet Offord marked the completion of her year in office by hosting a tea party at her Caversham home.

Sixteen of the 23 members were able to join her as she presented a cheque for £600 to Jackie Oversby of Homestart Reading, which was her nominated charity for the year.

Mrs Offord said that she had a particular attachment to Homestart Reading because she volunteered for them for two years, during which time she worked with two families, which went very well, and she is still in touch with one of the families.

She said that it was a pleasure to present the cheque, particularly to Jackie who does a wonderful job.

Her successor as president is Mary Parkinson.

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## CLUBS

### Caversham WI

Members were able to indulge in one of their favourite occupations – shopping! When Mr King showed his marvellous collection of slides of Victorian Shops. He showed the origins of many famous brands of retail places and food stuffs. This included our local Huntley and Palmers biscuits. After refreshments and the competition, for which the prize of a piece of Victoriana was won by Jill Wright, Sue Smith was second and Ishbel Nicholson third.

### Caversham Heights Society

In the third week of May about 50 members of the Caversham Heights Society set off for a memorable holiday in Northumbria. Many were prepared for cold weather, but it turned out to be very warm, not only for the time of year but also for the north-east generally.

After a stop off at Chesterfield, noted for its crooked spire on the parish church, the party were settled in to a Holiday Inn slightly north of Newcastle, the base for the next few days. Visits were made to the second largest inhabited castle in the UK after Windsor, Alnwick Castle and gardens – a glorious gem steeped in history; Bamburgh Castle for a brief stop to admire its location overlooking the North Sea; Hadrian's Wall at Chesters, one of the best preserved parts of the Roman Wall; Cragside, the fascinating home of the former engineer and inventor, Lord Armstrong, that reminded several visitors of a Bavarian hunting lodge hidden in the Alps; and to Barnard Castle. The views across the Pennines and through the Durham Dales, as well as the countryside of Northumberland, were both impressive and lovely. What was so striking were the large stretches of unspoilt and uninhabited land and the seemingly endless acres of yellow rape seed.

The weather, the company and the variety of visits made this one of the most memorable of the society's mini-holidays. No decision has yet been made about next year's holiday but should anyone be interested in joining the society they should contact the secretary, Beldon Bensley, on 0118 934 5004 or at [mail@cavhts-soc.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@cavhts-soc.fsnet.co.uk).

### Amersham Road Cooking Club

A happy Jubilee Party followed three more sessions of the ARCC. The children had made their own paper bunting to decorate the walls, as well as Union Jacks. They had cooked little buns one week which were turned into butterfly cakes the next. With sausages, pineapple & cheese on sticks, and other savouries, the tables looked very festive. The Co-op in Southview Avenue very kindly donated most of the food. The families were also invited, and we enjoyed getting to know each other, and especially watching the forfeits of singing, dancing etc which ensued from a game of pass the parcel.

A packet containing letters from each child, thanking the Queen, has now been sent to the Anglican Church headquarters for inclusion in a book of congratulations, along with the photo below, taken by one of the young boys.



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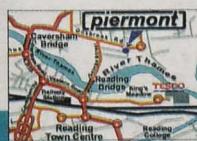
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