



# BLACK BRYONY

Like some extravagant glistening bead necklace, this great swag of berries hung on the hedge near Stoke Row in a sunny October day in 2008, a gift for me and my camera.

As you may notice, there is nothing particularly black about this plant. But then, there is nothing particularly white about the similarly named but unrelated plant we call White Bryony. It's all a matter of how herbalists in early modern times interpreted the writings of the Greek herbalist Dioscorides who had lived in a rather different part of Europe over fifteen hundred years before.

As you may imagine, such a conspicuous plant as Black Bryony has a number of "country" names. There are some which denote its poisonous qualities - Adder's Meat, Snake-berry, Poisoning Berry and Devil's Berry. Others refer to its climbing propensities - such as Beadbine, Black Bindweed, and Wild Vine. And then, in contrast, there is Our Lady's Seal. The plant has a similar name in France - as if somehow trying to compensate for its evil reputation.

On the Isle of Wight, it was once known as the Chilblain Berry. The berries were steeped in brandy or gin to preserve them through the winter, and were presumably applied as necessary. Thank goodness for central heating - I suffered from chilblains every winter as a child!

It was Dioscorides who wrote that the roots of the plant, when laid on the skin, would remove blemishes and bruises. This seems to have been believed across Europe - it was supposed to remove



freckles, and in France was known as the "herbe aux femmes battues" - the herb of beaten wives!

Even more bizarre is the use of the roots of both bryony plants as a substitute for mandrake. The true mandrake will grow around the Mediterranean, but not here. The root was supposed to be shaped like a human figure, and if you pulled it from the ground, it would emit a shriek that would send you mad, if not kill you. So people resorted to attaching a cord to the top of the root, and tying the other end to an unsuspecting dog. Then you went out of earshot, and in time the dog would follow you, pulling up the root, but then dying from the effects of the shriek. Having wrested it from the ground, the root could be used in medicine, or just carried round. It was supposed to act as an aphrodisiac, and to promote the likelihood of conception - a belief no doubt reinforced by the story of Rachel and Leah and the mandrakes in the Book of Genesis Chapter 30.

In this country, there was a trade in digging up bryony roots (more easily said than done, I would think) for sale. Sometimes they were carved slightly to make them appear more "human", and there are reports of people setting grass seed in the top, which when it sprouted would look like hair!

In the case of these English substitutes, the distinction between the black and the white bryony was sometimes maintained. The black bryony was always the mandrake, but the white bryony in Lincolnshire was called Womandrake!

Happy Wanderer

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### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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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

Dan Tyndall

### Leaving legacies

*Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.*

So says the Countryside Code. As we enjoy the natural surroundings we are challenged to think ahead, to consider what's left when we leave the area, to ponder our legacy ... what shall we leave behind when we've gone?

Legacy is at the forefront of our thoughts this month: nationally and locally.

You may have read in the last edition about the legacy of one of my predecessors and the founder of the Caversham Bridge, John Grimwade. When my appointment was announced in the Church Times, John was one of the very first people who wrote to wish me well. His legacy within this community continues to mature. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

As I write we are in the middle of the Paralympic Games, eagerly waiting to see if we will meet our medal target and what will unfold at the closing ceremony. I was entranced by the opening ceremony of both games, but the way science and human aspiration was brought to the fore in the Paralympic opening was spectacular.

*"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see. Wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious."* The words of Stephen Hawking which eventually led into Beverley Knight's extraordinary rendition of *"I am what I am"* a celebration of humanity in all its forms. A declaration of legacy without apology:

*I am what I am*

*I don't want praise, I don't want pity.*

*I bang my own drum*

*Some think it's noise, I think it's pretty.*

*And so what, if I love each feather and each spangle*

*Why not try to see things from a different angle*

*Your life is a sham till you can shout out loud,*

*I am what I am*

This is an anthem for the acceptance of those who are different from us. I first heard it in the 1980s sung by an American gay drag performer when HIV was really beginning to have an effect and just a few years before Princess Diana shocked the world by being photographed shaking hands with an AIDS patient.

There is a yearning at the heart of us all, at the heart of every human being: to be included, to be valued, to be loved. We can but hope and pray that one of the legacies of this most exceptional summer of sport will be a universal proclamation of "I am what I am". And perhaps beyond that we might dare to dream that this will develop into another line from another song:

*I am, not because I am,*

*I am, truly only because we are\*.*

*Dan Tyndall is Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.45am	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Evensong

#### St John's, Gosbrook Road

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

#### St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

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

#### St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

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

#### St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am	Parish Communion
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### 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
6.45 pm.	Worship at South Street (1st & 3rd Sundays)
3.45 pm.	Messy Church for the whole family at South Street (Last Sunday of the month)
11.00 am	Sanctom Service (1st & 3rd Fridays)

### 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 **November 2012** issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Tuesday 2nd October**. The date for the **December 2012** issue is **Tuesday 30th October 2012**. Email address is [secretary@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ctmparish.org.uk)

Advertising copy for the **November 2012** issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 28th September 2012**. The date for the **December 2012** issue is **Friday 26th October 2012**.

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# Mission Aviation Fellowship

The Reading and District Probus Club recently enjoyed a talk by John Ledger on the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) which is an international charity. Most of the members had not heard of MAF before the talk, and we suspect that this is true of the general population, so we thought it may be interesting for people to read about the important work which this charity performs.

MAF was formed after World War II by a number of pilots who were looking for an outlet for the skills they had acquired during the war. MAF was established to assist in bringing relief to under-developed areas of the world, by providing transport to places which are otherwise inaccessible or can only be reached with great difficulty by surface transport.

One of the first flights was by Stuart King and Jack Hemmings, who undertook a survey of some inhospitable areas of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and other parts of Africa in a Gemini aircraft, but unfortunately they crashed into a hillside in Burundi, and wrecked the plane. They both survived, but had seen enough to learn that there was a very real need which could be met by a transport organisation flying small light air-

craft which were able to service places not accessible by larger aircraft. Stuart King is now, at the age of 90+, a life-president of MAF.

From this small beginning, MAF has grown to such an extent that it now operates in over 30 countries around the globe, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Central and South America, Bangladesh, Mongolia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Sumatra. Its headquarters are in England, at Folkestone in Kent. MAF operates a fleet of over 135 aircraft, and flies into more than 2000 locations, more than any commercial airline. Most of these locations are grass runways, which are maintained (or sometimes not) by the local population. It is said that a MAF aircraft takes off or lands every three minutes somewhere around the globe.

The planes it operates include Cessnas (206 and 208) and Quest KODIAK, which can carry up to ten people. In Bangladesh it operates an amphibious aircraft, capable of taking off and landing on water, particularly useful in a country whose surface area is more than 50% water. It is able to land next to a hospital ship which moves around the coast and along some of the country's rivers. MAF supports the work of this hospital ship by flying in medical specialists, surgeons, emergency medicine and other supplies.

MAF is a Christian organisation, and all employees must subscribe to Christian principles of service. It operates in close partnership with many missionary, charity, relief and medical agencies, such as the Red Cross, Oxfam, Medicines sans Frontieres, and also with Government Departments, national churches and local aid workers.

MAF flights support Christian workers, teachers, medical personnel, and relief workers. MAF planes transport food, seed, and livestock; deliver Bibles and Christian materials; transport the sick and injured; deliver doctors, medicine, and relief supplies; and carry the materials for a better life to people who need it most—people others cannot reach.

MAF planes are often the only safe and reliable means of transportation for those involved in ministry. In regions without serviceable roads, MAF typically can

reduce a relief worker's all-day trek by foot to a mere 20-minute flight. Some of MAF's aircraft are specially modified to allow them to operate safely in difficult terrain and harsh environmental conditions.

In Madagascar, a team operate a regular medical safari, taking medical care, health education and evangelism to the indigenous population scattered over a wide area.

MAF is involved in Southern Sudan, bringing in aid and staff to meet the humanitarian disaster of the sprawling refugee camps. MAF flights take Medair staff to the refugee camps along with water equipment, construction materials and other vital supplies.

In parts of Tanzania, clinics would not be possible at all during the rainy season without MAF, as the areas cannot be reached by road, and there are no other medical supplies nearby. Many agencies are only able to work in the north of Uganda because MAF flights avoid the risk of overland journeys. Every fortnight a Mildmay medical team is flown to Gulu in northern Uganda to provide healthcare to children in IDP camps.

MAF was heavily involved in the relief operation after the Haiti tropical storms and hurricanes, distributing quantities of aid which had been flown in from the USA, where its small planes were able to reach remote areas. It is involved in Southern Sudan, flying for Christian Mission Aid, which provides care to malnourished children, equips communities with farming skills and runs healthcare centres.

MAF was also heavily involved in the relief effort after the tsunami in 2004.

For tens of thousands of people, seeing a doctor or having adequate food and clean water happen only when the MAF plane arrives.

Passengers contribute a small cost of the fraction of the true cost of flying with MAF. The main cost of MAF operations comes from donations from people and companies. MAF does not accept support from governments, as these usually come with strings attached, and would compromise MAF's operational independence.

If you wish to support MAF's operations, or simply find out more about it, visit the web site [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)

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## Royal British Legion VJ day service

On Wednesday 15th August - VJ Day - the Royal British Legion in Caversham marked the anniversary of VJ Day, the 30th anniversary of the end of the Falklands conflict and the 85th anniversary of the erection of Caversham war memorial.

VJ Day was chosen because although most people had returned from World War Two earlier in 1945, there were still a lot of people out in the Far East, and their war did not come to an end until Victory in Japan Day, August 15th. These people are sometimes referred to as the Forgotten Army and Caversham RBL thought VJ Day would be a good time to mark all the anniversaries.

The occasion was marked with service standards being assembled at the memorial and the Legion was delighted that three Burma Star members, well into their 80s, were able to attend, lay a wreath and recite the Kohima Epitaph, (When you go home, tell them of us and say "For your tomorrow we gave our today").

The branch standard bearer, a Falklands veteran, said the Falklands prayer.

The president of Caversham Royal British Legion, Ron Jewitt, laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion to mark all the fallen from all the wars. He then recited *The Ode to the Fallen* and two minutes silence was observed.

The war memorial, as most of you will know, is in Christchurch Meadows in a lovely setting close to the river. It was erected, by public subscription, in 1927, by the then Caversham Traders and Ratepayers Association to honour all Caversham's fallen from World War One. The land and permission to build the memorial were given by Reading Borough Council on

condition that it incurred no cost for its erection or maintenance. Over the years many approaches were made to Legion members to get the names of the fallen from World War Two added. Councils have discretionary powers to help but Reading would not and the Legion cannot spend money either on the erection, up-dating or the up-keep of War Memorials. Members decided to take a leaf out of their predecessors' book and raise the money by public subscription by the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two in 2005. The money was raised and the names added in time for the Remembrance Service in 2005. The names were added on panels affixed to the memorial with one panel being left blank in the hope that it would forever stay that way.

This was not to be. In 2009 a local soldier, Cyrus Thatcher, was killed while serving in Afghanistan and his name was added in time for the Remembrance Service in November 2009. All the inscriptions were crafted by AB Walker and Son without whose help and advice the whole project would have been impossible. They are also thanked for their generosity because when the bill was duly paid for the addition of Cyrus Thatcher's name they immediately donated the whole sum to the Poppy Appeal.

Regarding the Poppy Appeal; the Legion will again be asking for help with this year's appeal. All the money collected from this appeal goes centrally to help ex-Service personnel and their families. Last year alone the total collected by Caversham was a record-breaking £42,000. If you would like to help please get in touch with The Poppy Appeal organiser for Caversham on 0118 9475345.

## The Sue Ryder Woodland, Henley - Help our care grow

This year the United Kingdom has celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics - why not celebrate in a different way by sponsoring a tree at the Sue Ryder Woodland, Henley?

The aim of the woodland is to provide a special place for people to visit to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, whilst helping to raise funds to grow services in the community for local people and their families. Trees do not have to be sponsored by individuals; you can raise funds together as a community, street, club or group and there are three types of tree available to sponsor:

Woodland - Lime, Hazel (minimum donation £250)  
 Fruit - Wild Plum, Wild Cherry (minimum donation £300)  
 Majestic Hardwood - Oak, Walnut (minimum donation £350)  
 Sue Ryder provides care in the local communities of

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire through Nettlebed Hospice near Henley, Duchess of Kent House in Reading and community services in Wokingham and Newbury.

To find out how to sponsor a tree, visit [www.sueryder.org/henleywoodland](http://www.sueryder.org/henleywoodland) or call 01491 641 070. Your support will help to create a wonderful place for everyone to visit.



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## CHURCHES

# REFORMATION, REVOLUTION AND REBIRTH

Many of you will remember John and Lindsay Mullaney from Caversham Bookshop. After eight years of retirement they found they could not stay away from the book world and have jointly written a book about the return of Catholicism to Reading in the early years of the 19th century.

The book is being published to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St James' Church near the Abbey Ruins.

It tells the intriguing tale of how Reading's main local paper, *The Mercury*, came to be owned by a Catholic. Even more unusually for

the times, the editor and proprietor was a woman, Anna Maria Smart.

It is a story that describes how a young and inspirational French priest, who had fled Revolutionary France, led the early Catholic community and how he worked closely with colleagues from other Christian denominations. You can also read about the mystery of his murder and how the townspeople mourned his death.

The book also tells how Pugin, one of England's greatest Victorian architects, came to build his very first church in Reading. You will discover how the Abbey Ruins were saved

for posterity and why today we have the Forbury Gardens.

The book is published by Scallop Shell Press at £10.00 and is illustrated throughout with many pictures in colour. All profits from sales of the book will be going to St James' Church which is undergoing a major refurbishment to prepare for the anniversary celebrations.

It is available locally from Wordplay Book and Toyshop, Prospect St. It is also available from St James' Church, The Forbury or by email from scalloshellpress@yahoo.co.uk. For more details about the book visit the website [www.scalloshellpress.co.uk](http://www.scalloshellpress.co.uk)

## NEW HYMN BOOK

The congregation at St Andrew's United Reformed Church was treated to a service of new hymns on August 27th as Caversham writer and lay preacher, Colin Ferguson, launched his new book of hymns to familiar music. This is a sequel to his first book of new hymns which was produced in 2009. "Sharing Jesus" is still available as is his book of prayer and poetry "Seeking Jesus".

Colin began to put together work that he has written over the forty years he has been a lay preacher in the United Reformed Church. He moved to Reading in 1979 as a senior probation manager and after early retirement, he retrained as a family mediator. When he retired from this he began to write and his work reflects the 'human' side of religion. This work appears in a number of anthologies and two of his hymns are already in general use in the new hymn book of the Methodist and in CH4, Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise.

The new book is called "Promise" and he is willing to come and talk about his writing to local groups.

Copies of the book can be ordered through him on [colindf@btinternet.com](mailto:colindf@btinternet.com).

## SUN AND SMILES AT SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Churches Together in Caversham (CTC) organised a highly successful summer holiday club for around 140 primary school children in the first week of the summer holidays (July 23-27). As the temperature was rising outside, so the fun was rising inside Thameside School, the base for the Olympic themed club.

Each day children learnt bible stories based on the 'global games' happening in first century Palestine. There were related crafts, games and competitions in the mornings, and in the afternoons a whole range of different sports were provided for them to take part in.

As one appreciative parent wrote: "My daughter has really had a wonderful start to the summer holidays. She has come home each day with Olympic facts, retelling bible stories and has just been full of enthusiasm for the following day. She has talked of new friends - both children and adults - and has enjoyed every minute of the 'On Your Marks Club'."

Speaking of the holiday club, Megan Temple, the CTC holiday club co-ordinator, said: "We have had a wonderful week and it has been great to work with a fantastic hard-working team of volunteers to enable the children to learn about the Christian faith in a fun environment."

## CHRISTIAN AID

The 2012 Christian Aid collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised the sum of £8435.72. Church collections of £206.56 are included in this figure. A sum of £3606.12 was declared for Gift Aid which will add a further £901.00 to the total.

The street collection was 11.2% up on the 2011 figure, which is an excellent result in these somewhat challenging times for charitable giving.

Unfortunately for the first time nobody from Caversham took part in the Christian Aid Walk. About 120 walkers from the Reading area took part raising about £10,000, and perhaps Caversham can play its part in next year's walk.

Nevertheless the excellent result of the street collection calls for a very big vote of grateful thanks to our volunteers and the church CA representatives who brought this about.

## STAY-A-WHILE LUNCH CLUB

This lunch club for the over 60's is held every Monday at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. We urgently need volunteers, on a rota basis, to help serve meals and wash up between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm.

If you can offer help or would like more information, please contact Henry Stroud on 0118 972 4170

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## Caversham Traders Association's 2012 Sports Competition prize giving

The prize giving for the 'Choose Caversham' summer Sports Competition took place on Saturday 18th August 2012 at Waltons Jewellers and Goldsmiths in Caversham, Reading. The lucky draw prize winner was Chris Stillman of Earley, Reading.

The prizes were a £50 voucher donated by Decathlon, and one month's free membership together with a half hour massage donated by Caversham Health and Fitness Club.

Chris Stillman used to live in Caversham but is still a regular visitor attending early morning network meetings, visiting the gym and playing squash. Chris was thrilled to have won and he has a long list of things he is considering buying with his prize money including Kung Fu equipment, squash balls and running shoes, and he is looking forward to his month's free membership at Caversham Health and Fitness Club and the massage which he says he will need after running a half marathon in September.

The event was attended by Chris Walton of Waltons Jewellers and Goldsmiths who is also the Chairman of the Caversham Traders Association, Sophie Childsworth of Caversham Health and Fitness Club and Ken Good of Edge Impact Websites who is the www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk website manager and who set up the online Choose Caversham 2012 Sports Competition and draw.

The Caversham Traders Association have regular competitions in the local shops and on their official website, www.ChooseCaversham.co.uk, where a history of the local area, local events, businesses, clubs, schools, charities, artists and restaurants are listed.

## £4000 raised for the Sue Ryder Hospice

The end of the school year marked the end of a year of fund raising by the parishioners of Our Lady and St. Anne's Catholic Church. The chosen charity this year was the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed.

Representatives of the hospice attended the morning mass on 15th July and Father Giles presented them with a cheque for over £4,000.

During the year many events took place which raised a little or a lot but every penny counted. The earliest event, in December, was the annual Sue Ryder carol concert at which St. Anne's choir was asked to sing. The concert took place at the church and raised £500 in ticket sales and contributions. The next big event was the race night, held towards the end of March. This raised £1000 thanks to all the people who attended and to our very generous local sponsors, Prospect St Dental Practice, Warranty Direct, Caversham Heights Dental Practice, Gardiner Nursing and Homecare, Philip Baker Estate Agents, Vision Construction, J.D.Plastering and Amy's Clearance Services.

The mainstay of the year, has been the fortnightly tea parties organised by a quartet of Mary van den Berghe, Agnes McDonagh, Veronica Rogers and Bridie Kerr, assisted by many others. These were afternoon social events – full of chatting and catching up with friends. No fixed charge was made for tea and cakes – everyone paid what they could afford.

There was also a raffle with the prizes being donated. Incredibly these tea parties raised almost £2,500 for the chosen charity. When the hospice received their cheque, special thanks were given to this group.

Deacon Mike Walker



Photo – Paul Freeman



Chris Stillman in the centre.

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Computer advice by Francis Brown  
**Find your PC's security weaknesses**

When checking the security of a customer's PC, I verify that Windows Update is turned on and that the Microsoft Updates option is turned on too. Next, I make sure that these have run in the last week and all the updates have been installed. Usually this is OK. Then I confirm that the security software (McAfee, AVG, Microsoft Security Essentials etc.) is turned on and is up to date and that there has been a scan in the last week. Usually this is OK too. Finally, I check that the latest software has been installed for every Adobe product on the PC and that Java is up to date too.

To do this, I run the oddly named File Hippo Update Checker. You can find it at [www.filehippo.co.uk/updatechecker](http://www.filehippo.co.uk/updatechecker). (See [www.fbrown.org](http://www.fbrown.org) for detailed instructions). The same checker works for Windows 7, Vista and XP. Initially, focus on updating Flash (an Adobe-Macromedia product), Adobe Reader, and Java. If more than one version is detected, all the versions should be updated. Many current attacks exploit weaknesses in older versions of these 3 products, especially Flash. I check my PCs once a month.

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# From The Lookout Post

## A warm welcome to our new Police Inspector

Inspector Phaedra J. Binns now heads the Neighbourhood Police teams for Tilehurst, Caversham, Southcote and Norcot. In Caversham, she is supported by a sergeant, three constables and five PCSOs. In response to our invitation to introduce herself to the Caversham community, Inspector Binns writes:

I have spent 18 years service in the police. This includes time as a uniformed constable at Newbury, roads policing at Reading, uniform sergeant at Reading and work on a police community action team. I then worked on our tactical support department on static (diplomatic) protection duties, and as acting Inspector for specialist support services which covered the dog section, the specialist search and recovery team (police divers) and at that time the counter-terrorist wing. I was then promoted to the role of neighbourhood Inspector for Wokingham West where I worked for three and a half years including six months as a response / patrol Inspector before a move to Reading on 9th July 2012.

I applied to return to Reading for the challenges which a busy area brings and am very pleased to have the North and West as this was where much of my time was spent on the community action team. My aims for the team are to work with other agencies to prevent and detect crime, and to tackle issues that matter to the community through visible policing and engagement.

I am married with two children under five, a dog and a cat. My hobbies include cross-country running, motor-cycling and socialising!

I look forward to meeting members of the community in due course and my message for the Caversham residents is:

"Please don't hesitate to call regarding any activity or people that you believe to be suspicious as so many of our criminals are caught thanks to the vigilance of the community."

We wish Inspector Binns and her team every success. Sergeant Aziz who has worked hard for Caversham, recently passed his exams for promotion to the rank of inspector. We send him thanks and congratulations and look forward to hearing news of his successor in Caversham. With the wider responsibilities of the local inspector, the post of local sergeant is ever more important.

You can contact the local police team by calling 101 or emailing [CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

## Planning more school places

2012 has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of applications for children starting school. To meet the immediate needs, nine extra classes have been created at schools across the borough. This includes an extra class at both Caversham Primary and Emmer Green Primary. It is suggested that the increased demand results partly from a high level of inward migration into the town for work, combined with the poor economic climate leading to more families remaining in smaller starter homes and fewer moving out to the suburbs and villages.

Reading Borough Council is predicting that the

increased demand seen this year, will continue for at least the next four years. Planning for additional school places in the borough is already underway, starting with consultation with head teachers.

Understandably, this pressure is causing considerable anxiety for parents and the increasing demand for secondary places at Highdown School is also an issue. The CADRA committee decided to invite the head of education services to speak in Caversham. As in 2009, the topic will be, *More School Places*, covering both primary and secondary Schools in Reading. The meeting will take place at 7.45pm on Monday 22 October in Thameside School, Harley Road. There is some parking at the school or it is five minutes walk from the Waitrose car park.

Kevin McDaniel and Myles Milner will set out the current position and explain the process for deciding where and how further places should be provided. They will answer questions and hear concerns. The meeting is open to all so please let your family and friends know. There will be a membership table in the hall to sign up new members and process renewals.

## New CADRA website

[www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk) has now been completely revised with a range of local photographs. On the site you will find summary information on a range of issues including links to the specific pages of official websites. There is a news and an events page and other information specific to Caversham. If you would like to join the Caversham and District Residents' Association, you will be most welcome. Joining details are available on the website or you can pick up a leaflet from the library, WordPlay or Delicious.

## Caversham 100 Years On

In view of the continuing demand for the heritage exhibition book, a second reprint is in hand. You can order a copy from WordPlay on 948 2800 or email [info@wordplayshop.co.uk](mailto:info@wordplayshop.co.uk)

## Reading Festival

As in previous years, local associations including WADRA and CADRA met the organisers during the run up to the 2012 festival. A leaflet for residents was distributed to those living closest and this was also available on the CADRA website. Distribution of the leaflet seems to have been patchier this year and there were problems with smoke on the first two nights. However, the event seems generally to have proceeded well and we congratulate the organisers on their careful planning of an event including just short of 90,000 people.

## Caversham Court Gardens

We would like to add our thanks to Graham Spiller who has very ably tended the gardens over the past months and is now working elsewhere in the parks department. We extend a warm welcome back to Emily Darby who returned as head gardener in September following her period of maternity leave.

## CLUBS

## Caversham Heights Society

The 2011-2012 season of the society ended on an exhilarating note on 3rd September with a visit by members to the Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall to celebrate 70 years of Desert Island Discs.

The evening opened with the Desert Island signature tune, *The Sleepy Lagoon*, by Carl Davis, played by the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Keith Lockhart. This set the scene for the appearance of several former castaways, notably Darcy Bussell, David Attenborough, John Sessions, Patricia Routledge and Simon Weston, the Falklands War veteran. Presenter Kirsty Young told the audience that since it was devised in 1942, 3,000 castaways had been on the programme giving their favourite books and music. Sue Lawley and Michael Parkinson, former presenters, added to the programme's history.

Superb solo performances were given by Wayne Marshall, who played Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor* on the mighty Albert Hall organ, Peter Donohoe who played the first movement of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5*, and Ailish Tynan (soprano) who sang two arias. A bonus was the appearance of Bryn Terfel (bass-baritone) who sang in several items. He had come straight from the Royal Opera House to replace Sir Willard White, who was unwell.

There was a light-hearted medley of Beatles songs and the first performance of Desert Island Hits, the eight most popular songs requested on the programme. Bryn Terfel and Ailish Tynan were joined by Anna-Jane Casey and Simon Butteriss for this medley of popular music. Throughout the performance the renowned Huddersfield Choral Society provided support bringing the first half to a rousing close with Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. The finale was the Concert Orchestra's signature tune, Eric Coates' *Dambusters March*.

The society's new season runs from 19th September to 17th April, the first two talks being given by Dr Rod Smith on *The Reality of the NHS Reforms* and Sally Botwright on *The History of the Olympics*. Forthcoming highlights in October include a coach trip to Stanway House, Cheltenham, which has the highest single jet gravity-fed fountain in the world, and a talk by Professor Chris Rhodes on *What Happens when the Oil Runs Out*.

Special mention must be made of the Martyn Allies Memorial Lecture on 21 November. Martyn, the founder of CHS, died in 2010, and the subject chosen, *Plan-UK*, a global children's charity, was very close to his heart. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. There will be no charge but an opportunity to donate to Plan UK.

The full programme of the society is on our website [www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk). Applications for membership are welcome: tel: 0118 934 5004 or by email: [mail@cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk)

## Caversham Horticultural Society

The society invites gardeners to two events in October. Firstly we have a talk with the provocative title 'Best Interest for growing plants is the fungi they support'. Come to the talk given by Malcolm Storey to see if you agree with his proposition. This talk will be held on Wednesday 10th October at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road starting at 7.45pm.

We also host our usual autumn plant sale this month at the Oakley Road allotments on Saturday 13th October between 10.00 and 11.30am. Remember autumn planting allows hardy plants to be established in your garden before the new growing season starts in spring.

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild has returned after the summer break. A talk by Simon Williams about The Great Train Robbery was greatly enjoyed, and the Scrabble group, luncheon club and social studies group have all met again.

A cruise on the Thames in London, with lunch, provided an opportunity to meet guild members from all over the country, a great social occasion.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 18th when Jones and Jacob, auctioneers and valuers, will be on hand to value items for us.

We meet at 7.30pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham. New members and visitors are very welcome.


## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

A demonstration entitled *Autumn Delight* by Gill McGregor is to be held by Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club on Wednesday 10th October, starting at 7.30pm. The venue is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, doors opening at 6.45pm. Entrance fee for visitors, who are always welcome is £4.50. A book and plant stall, floral accessories, and refreshments will be available.

The club is holding a bumper jumble sale of excellent quality items at really low prices on Saturday 6th October at Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, starting at 10am. Entrance 20p.

For details of either event, please contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400.

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## CLUBS

### Reading and District Probus Club

It isn't very often you meet or see a magistrate in shirt sleeves. However, it was a warm, sunny afternoon when Peter Chapman, a magistrate, and Louise Melish, a probation officer, imposed a 'hands on' talk on 'local crime and the community service' directly on members. Having delivered an appropriate 'job description', the 'assembled jury' (club members) were given a copy of a daily news report of an assault case and on first reading asked to give and record their verdict. This was when the fun started. One magistrate was 'in the dock'! Questions, answers and additional evidence (contradictory to the news report) gave way to a revised verdict to the repeated question 'should this person go to prison?' Has the first verdict been repeated?

Altogether a stimulating afternoon – the public gallery stayed awake! The answers are not recorded here, not to prejudice a retrial in another court. It is said 'the law is an ass'. It is up to the magistrate and judges to interpret and assess according to circumstances and get the ass in the right stall.

If any man has retired, then by getting evidence from the website or phone the 'clerk of the court' Raymond Head, he can arrive at this own verdict – Probus: for or against. Tel No 0118 941 1445 or website www.probusclub-reading.org.uk

### British Legion

This year has been a really busy one for the legion in Caversham. The branch continues to meet, at the Caversham Working Men's Club on the first Monday of every month by kind permission of its committee.

Members enjoy a supper for £1, bingo, raffle and sometimes a tombola. Usually about 50 people attend.

The members also enjoy monthly trips to seaside locations and other places of interest - a 53 seater coach is usually completely full with a waiting list. Members also enjoyed a trip down the river to Henley and back at the beginning of July.

The branch membership has increased from 19 to over 200. Want to know more about the Royal British Legion in Caversham? Contact Ron on 0118 9481147.

Over the next couple of months the branch will be preparing for the Poppy Appeal. Last year's annual collection came to well over £42,000 - a record for Caversham. If you would like to help to make this total even greater by helping with the appeal collections, give Pauline a ring on 01189475345.

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# Farm visit with Lions

Each year a different group of special children is selected to come from Belarus to stay in England for a month, away from the radioactivity poisoning ever present in their homeland since the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1984. Just one month of respite away from this environment much enhances their health and extends their life expectancy. Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club organised a day trip to Rushall Farm at Bradfield for the visiting children.

This has become a popular event for the Lions who have been sponsoring different groups of children from Belarus since 2001.

On Friday 3rd August this year there were just 10 children in the group hosted, ranging in age from 11 to 15. They spent the day taking part in the various farm activities including wading in the nearby river Pang, pond dipping, feeding the animals, tractor trailer riding and insect identification. A picnic lunch was provided on site by members of the Lions.

The management and staff at Rushall Farm generously gave their time and facilities free, to enable the children to experience life on an English farm. They met, at close quarters, donkeys, cows, a bull, and lambs - something those from the larger communities in Belarus do

not often get a chance to see. A happy hour was spent fishing with nets in the local river, which they cannot do back home as the water is contaminated.

Lion Paul Chandler, the club's fund raising chairman presented each child and their interpreter with a miniature cuddly lion finger puppet to take home with them as a memento of their visit.

Funds are raised by the Lions using the Great Weather Lottery and Cottage Cakes for Charity which are sold throughout the year, and at Sue Ryder sales days in Nettlebed.

For more details please contact Lions secretary Alan Wright on: 0845 833 9837, email: info@lions-gwd.org.uk

## Notes from the Caversham Traders Association

After two years of constant pressure from the CTA, we are delighted that the Council has now painted the railings in the centre of Caversham. The railings had been in a very poor state for many years, making the village centre look drab and uncared for. This is yet another successful outcome in our campaign to maintain Caversham as a pleasant environment in which to work and shop.

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Owen died last year on October 24th, United Nations Day. To mark his outstanding contribution, an annual memorial lecture is planned for the anniversary of his death.

The inaugural memorial lecture will be held on Wednesday, October 24th at St Barnabas Church, Grove Road, Emmer Green, at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

Ecumenism will be the focus this year. Succeeding years will focus on other aspects of Owen's ministry. Revd. Rosemary Fletcher, former Caversham Methodist minister, who knew Owen well, will speak on "Mission - Churches Together or Apart?"

The event will be part of the Reading International Festival which takes place in the last two weeks of October.

For more information, please contact John Madeley, tel: 01189 476063

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