

## Reading's New Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

Reading Borough Council have announced that they are working towards starting construction of the new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Thames in the Autumn.

A public exhibition outlining progress was held in Caversham Library on May 9th and May 13th. The public exhibition was an opportunity for residents to discuss any concerns and ask any questions about the construction phase of the project.

The impressive landmark structure - located to the east of Fry's Island, between the existing Caversham and Reading Bridges - will provide a key new route for pedestrians and cyclists from Caversham into the town centre and to and from Reading Station. On the northern side it will link to the existing paths running through Christchurch Meadows. To the south it will link to an improved riverside foot and cycle path and connect via Norman Place onto Vastern Road.

When complete, the bridge structure will be approximately 120m long, with a 68m span over the River Thames. The single supporting mast - on the north bank of the River Thames - will be 39m high.

Construction of the bridge will require heavy machinery and building materials being transported onto a temporary construction compound on the far eastern boundary of Christchurch Meadows whilst building works take place. An application for a temporary construction access will be considered by a meeting of the Council's Planning Applications Committee in June.

Tony Page, Reading Borough Council's Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, said:

*"When complete the bridge will be a stunning landmark structure for Reading and provide a vital new link across the Thames for pedestrians and cyclists coming to and from the town centre.*

*"Construction is due to start in the Autumn, but before that the Council is planning for the obvious challenges of building such a large structure. That will involve some temporary disruption in terms of moving machinery and materials onto the site, but routes have been carefully planned around minimising disruption for local residents and Central Caversham, and for people who regularly use Christchurch Meadows.*

*"Over recent weeks officers have consulted local councillors on the logistics of the bridge construction and the public exhibitions are an opportunity for local residents to find out more, talk to officers about the construction phase and discuss any concerns they may have. I'd urge as many local residents as possible to take the opportunity to drop into either of the two events."*

The preferred construction access route for machinery and materials being moved onto the site is from the IDR and via a temporary vehicle entrance on George Street. A number of options were considered when planning the route, but the route identified is located away from residential properties, is the shortest route to the construction site and also minimises the need for construction traffic having to travel through Central Caversham to access the site.



An impression of how the bridge will look in daytime and (below) at night.

Access for machinery to the construction site will also mean the removal and replacement of seven Lombardy poplar trees which run along the eastern boundary of Christchurch Meadows, fronting George Street. The row of Poplars are around 30 years old and recent arboricultural surveys have found they are nearing the end of their safe life and are susceptible to disease.

Three of the poplars fell on to George Street last winter during the strong winds and all three were found to be diseased. Whilst nobody was injured, there are on-going concerns about the condition of the remaining trees. Aside from the seven poplars that will need to be removed to provide temporary access to the site, the council proposes to consult Reading's tree wardens and Caversham Globe over the wider removal and replacement of the remaining Lombardy poplar trees. Removal of the trees has brought protests from conservation groups.

Reading's new shared use pedestrian and cycle bridge is being funded through using part of Reading Borough Council's successful £20.7m Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF), which aims to create a significant step change in trips made by sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. Other highlights of the Council's project include expanded Park and Ride facilities, working with neighbouring boroughs, and a bike hire scheme for Reading, along with a range of other initiatives.

LSTF funding is also ring fenced, which means council's like Reading who successfully bid for the money can only spend it on helping to deliver sustainable transport projects, rather than on any other council projects or services.



### Caversham Bridge Newspaper 50th Anniversary

In September we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Caversham Bridge*. The organisation to produce an inter-denominational church and community newspaper was set up by Canon John Grimwade in July 1964 and the first issue appeared in September of that year.

Fifty years later the newspaper is still published every month and for all that time has been produced and run entirely by volunteers.

The editorial team is planning to produce a special anniversary issue this September and is looking for contributions from readers. Do you have any memories, thoughts or photographs you would like to share? Is there anyone still with us who was involved with the Caversham Bridge in those early days and has some recollections?

If you have anything to offer please contact us via the parish office. Details are on page 2.

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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

#### St Barnabas

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

#### St Andrews

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

#### St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Revd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,  
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505  
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

#### Revd Jeremy Tear

St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,  
Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884

#### Revd Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ  
Tel: 947 5834

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Revd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road,  
Caversham Park. Tel: 947 0258

### METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.  
Tel: 947 2223

Deacon Becky Lovatt, 1 Forge Close, Caversham  
RG4 8BG. Tel: 948 2530

email: beckybowden@hotmail.co.uk or  
beckybowden@btinternet.com

### BAPTIST

Revd Rob Beardsley.

Tel: 07515 260019

email rob.beardsley@sky.com

### GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,  
2 South View Avenue.

Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon: Mike Walker, Hugh Anscombe

Fr Paul Rowan

### 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

John Ogden

Many years ago I went on a business trip to China, representing the University at an Education Fair. I travelled with a colleague whose academic subject and outlook on life were very different from my own. Once we had arrived at our destination we were too busy with our own tasks to have much time for conversation.

One evening, over dinner, we did start talking about faith – very important to me, very ‘unreal’ for her. Nothing I said made any kind of sense for her until we started talking about prayer. Even then it was hard going, but eventually, in my struggle to explain the inexplicable, I told her that faith, and prayer, is like ‘being addressed’ – being spoken to as you might speak to another person.

Some of you who read this will be tempted to dismiss all this as ‘voices in his head’ and not read on. But I was not talking about anything like that. There was no suggestion of being convinced I should do something weird or harmful, merely that I experienced prayer as being spoken to, understood and respected as a person. It was, and is, like being in the presence of one who creates for me a space in which I can be myself, understood and cared for even when I do not feel myself to be lovable or worth caring about.

But this understanding of faith and prayer is not, in the end, centred on ‘me’. By treating me as a person, this presence reminds me that other people are persons, just as I am, understood and cared for, with needs and concerns just like me. Because of this I cannot dismiss any other people as less important than I am. Shelf stackers in the supermarket, shop assistants, lonely people in the shopping centre, are not just ‘animated furniture’ in the world I inhabit. As we have been reminded by no less a man than Nelson Mandela, I cannot be ‘me’ without ‘you’.

Now turn that profound statement round the other way. If I withhold myself from you, if I simply keep myself to my-self, your opportunities for flourishing are diminished.

By reminding me that I am a person loved, understood and cared for, that quiet presence has taught me that we belong together. Our community works best when each of us makes our own contribution and when we each find a place for other people's contributions.

*Rev Dr John Ogden is a retired Methodist Presbyterian.  
He has been active in Caversham since 2001*

## 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

8.30am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)  
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 first and third Sundays  
only, first Sunday BCP  
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 South Street

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday  
7.00pm Powerhouse Service - 2nd Saturday  
each month  
3.45pm Messy Church - for all the family  
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  
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)

#### 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 July 2014 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 26th May**. The date for the August 2014 issue is **Monday 30th June**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the July 2014 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 23rd May**. The date for the August 2014 issue is **Friday 27th June**.

### PARISH OFFICES

#### PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

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

#### ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am  
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The mix of tools which has gone to help has included more than 2000 sewing machines of which 104 were treadles, 882 manuals and 1021 electric, some 90 being industrial machines. Each sewing machine is sent with a sewing pack produced by our haberdashery team who have also produced more than 300 boxes of material, almost 200 embroidery bags and 157 bags of wool.

We sent more than 1000 carpentry kits split between student (680), trade (320) and workshop (81) kits with the appropriate saws which have been restored and sharpened. The other main items were 406 computers, 308 motor

mechanics' kits, 241 typewriters, 220 builders' kits with associated groundwork tools, 179 electricians' kits, 156 bicycles, 78 wheelchairs and 20 lathes. We have also sent assorted saw benches, pillar drills, grinders, power tools, vices, clamps, mixed assorted tools, etc, etc and a few surprises such as an oven, four cement mixers, a drum kit and a weaving machine. We continue to provide schools with books and educational supplies and have sent 1,400 scholar packs. All in all a remarkable achievement from our dedicated band of volunteers, who give, collect, sort, refurbish, link with the projects overseas, share the administration, pack and load. Without such a band of contributors throughout the country TWAM would achieve only a fraction of this.

So it's time to spring clean your sheds, garages and bottom drawers. Can you help? TWAM enables people to earn a living and support themselves. In many countries of the world people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self sufficiency is impossible without our help. TWAM does this by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment and sending them overseas.

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## Bible Friends

### Jesus is with us

Jesus' friends are happy.

But they are also a little bit sad.

They are happy because they are Jesus' friends and they have seen the wonderful things he has done. Jesus has made people better, he has told stories about loving each other, he has told people how much God loves them. Jesus' friends saw him die on the cross because he loved everyone so much and they met him when he came back to life again.

But Jesus' friends are a little bit sad because Jesus has gone back to heaven and they cannot see him any more.

Jesus' friends know they must go and tell everyone about Jesus. They know Jesus promised to help them to do this. All Jesus' friends are happy because Jesus still promises to be with all his friends today.

Matthew 28:20



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## A Celebration of 35 years service with the Scout Association and the community

Pauline Semple is a very special lady who together with her husband Alex were short term foster parents for 55+ children, mostly babies, whilst raising their own three children; she went on to become a child minder. Sadly Pauline was widowed at age 55 but continued with her scouting and also, through Action Aid, helped to educate three children in India.

Now at the age of 72 she has finally decided to hang up her woggle after 35 years loyal service to the Scout Association, and the 3rd Reading (St Peter's) scout group in particular.

Pauline has had a long association with St Peter's, firstly with the Revd's Richard Kingsbury, Derek Spears and Peter Mullins and more recently with Dan Tyndall, Graeme Fancourt and Marion Pyke. She has enjoyed and run countless camps, garden parties at the rectory, Christmas dinners at the scout hut, parades at St Peter's, and can even boast two charity sleepovers in church with the Rector (Richard Kingsbury). Of course her cubs were there too!

She has been a faithful and dedicated leader full of energy, enthusiasm and plenty of laughter – I know because I used to be one of her leaders!

Hundreds of boys and girls in Caversham have benefitted from being one of Pauline's cubs, and the wolves pack has been very lucky to have had such a long-serving Akela.

To show the community's appreciation to



Pauline she has enjoyed three celebrations with one very special day still to come in June.

At Pauline's last Parade Service, I was able to say a few words on behalf of St Peter's Scout Group and the congregation as, although Pauline was not a regular worshipper at St Peter's, her involvement with the church was an important part of her scouting. The cubs showed their appreciation in true cub style with a 'BRAVO' and the congregation gave a really warm round of applause.

After her final cub meeting, parents and leaders gathered at the hut to say thank you and farewell. Steve McCarthy, Scouter in Charge gave a short speech and then presented Pauline with an engraved glass bowl and a bouquet of flowers. We also enjoyed a finger buffet including a wonderful cake from Margaret Ellison.

On Sunday 5th April, 17 of us travelled in a minibus to Poole where we took the ferry to Brownsea Island. We had an amazing day with plenty of laughter, reminiscing about old camps and events that we had shared together. After our bring-and-share lunch we walked over to a clearing and performed a special ceremony. Peter Hanks dug a hole while Colin Blount and Sean East popped the corks on the champagne ready for the toast. Pauline then placed her woggle in the ground and filled in the hole while Teresa Bowles read the following words written by Pauline:

*"Farewell to you my trusty friend  
 You served me loyal and true  
 And so I wrote this little verse especially for you  
 You held a faded neckerchief so smart around my neck  
 And always kept your shape, when I became a wreck  
 And so dear friend you did your best  
 Now I lay you to eternal rest  
 So raise your glasses and give a cheer  
 For my faithful woggle buried here"*

After this we had a very enjoyable walk around the island where we were lucky enough to see several red squirrels and lots of peacocks. We ended our day on Brownsea with a scrumptious cream tea in The Castle. Back to Poole on the ferry and then Colin drove us all safely back to Caversham.

Pauline's final celebration is due to take place on 3rd June. Betty Day, a very good friend of Pauline, nominated her, in recognition of all her various roles dedicated to children, to attend Her Majesty the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace. The application was successful and Pauline and Betty have their outfits together with hats all ready for the occasion.

The Scout Group have unfortunately lost a great leader but for many of us we are lucky to have such a loyal friend.

Joy Blount

## New HQ for 89th Reading Scout Group

On Saturday 26th April over 300 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers of the 89th Reading (Milestone Wood) Scout Group in Emmer Green, together with their families and friends of the group, gathered for the grand opening of the new HQ building and activity facilities.

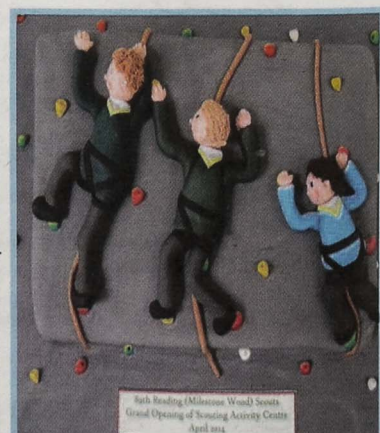
The opening ceremony started with a traditional Scout Flag Break (picture) and then the building was officially opened by Paul Bandy the District Commissioner for the Reading Central Scout Council (picture). Catherine Scott of Celebration Cakes based in Caversham ([www.catherines-cakes.co.uk](http://www.catherines-cakes.co.uk)) baked and donated a special cake for the opening (picture).

The old scout hut has now been transformed into the wonderful new HQ building with disabled access, a second scout hall, new toilets and showers, a new kitchen, and store rooms for every unit. Outside there is a new car park, bike storage, camping facilities including a new camp fire circle, and a range of adventure activities. The new 89th Activity Centre is ready to deliver adventure to hundreds of children and young people a year.

The total project cost of almost £250,000 was met by a mixture of internal fundraising by the scouts and their families, support from the Reading District Scout Council, and grants from a number of charities including Bernard Sunley Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Marillier Trust, Lafarge-Tarmac Limited Landfill Communities Fund, Rank Foundation, The National Lottery, Leslie Sell Trust, Co-Op Community Fund and St Barnabas Church.

Scouting is all about fun, challenges and adventure and it is the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. It changes lives by offering 6 to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that they make a positive impact in communities. These new facilities enable the 89th Reading Scout Group to do all of that and more.

It was a busy weekend for the 89th. Following the party on the Saturday there was a St George's Day parade service at St Barnabas on the Sunday morning. For more information about the 89th Reading Scouts please visit: [www.89threadingscouts.org.uk](http://www.89threadingscouts.org.uk)





## CHURCHES

## Caversham Church Fete

The 2014 church fete will take place in Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday July 12th between 1.45pm and 5.00pm.

Attractions will include the Wright School of Dancing, the Arnold band from the Berkshire Maestros, Fred in the Shed and other attractions, including children's races. There will be the usual stalls and side shows, and refreshments will be available. The first prize in the Grand Draw will be a Kindle Fire, and there will be many other valuable prizes. Put the date in your diary and come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon's entertainment in a splendid setting by the river.

## A Short History of the Organs of St Peter, Caversham

This fascinating little booklet has been produced by the Organ Appeal Committee to help raise funds for a new organ at St Peter's. The content, which covers a period from 1852 to 1987, has been provided by David Butler, a local organist, who researched the history of organs at St Peter's while studying for his MA in Organ Historiography at Reading University. He has updated his research and added other items of musical interest about the bells and the choir. This booklet is now available in the church at £2. St Peter's Church is usually open Mon and Tues 11.00am - 1.00pm, Wed 10.30am - 11.30am and Sunday 11.00 - 11.30am.

## Millstones Dance Band

The Millstones Dance Band will again be playing at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham, RG4 8EB on Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm. Dance or just listen to the music of the Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington Big Band era. Tickets are £10 from 0118 9475120 or on the door. You are invited to bring your own drinks. If you would like to learn or brush up your dance steps, there will be a practice session at 3.00pm on 5th July.

## St George Quiz night

For the second time, Deacon Hugh Anscombe and his wife Margaret arranged a Quiz Night to celebrate St George's feast day at the church of Our Lady and St Anne. Competitors, in teams of six or thereabouts, were invited to bring their own refreshments and drinks, and a variety of bottles and food was enjoyed. Tea and coffee were available during the half-time interval for anyone who wanted some.

Questions were of a general knowledge standard and were divided into themes such as 'The World' and 'Nature and Science'. Two rounds were left with the teams to work on, while other rounds consisted of 'Photographs of Famous People' and 'Pictures of Icons' to identify. These caused much discussion.

The final result was a close-run thing but the Murray/Freeman team was declared the winner and received a goody bag of prizes.

Raffle tickets were sold before the quiz started and again during the

interval and the winning tickets were drawn at the end of the evening before all departed after a very enjoyable event.

## "Once Upon a Tree"

St John's Church was the setting for a performance of 'Once upon a Tree', an Easter music drama by the American composer Pepper Choplin. The choir was directed by Len David. Jane Robson was the set designer and stage manager.

The dramatic events of Holy Week were enacted at various places around the church, with the completed journey forming a cross. The audience were invited to become members of the crowd and join the performers as they moved from the West Door for the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, to the altar for the Last Supper, then around the nave to Gethsemane and Pilate's condemnation of Jesus at the strident demands of the mob. The crucifixion focused attention on the rood cross and we gathered in the Lady Chapel where Mary mourned her dead son. The performance ended in the nave, in the centre of the Church, where Luke offered the Gospel to us all and the choir sang of the joy of Easter Day.

Special thanks go to all who took part, including our soloists Barry, Richard and Jane, our cellist Georgina, and Revd Colin Bass who was the narrator, Luke.

## Presentation to Rev Marion Pyke

During the 9.45am service on Easter Sunday morning at St Peter's church, Rev Marion Pyke, associate priest of St Peter's Church Caversham, was presented with a number of gifts by Tony Walker, St Peter's churchwarden, on behalf of the whole congregation. The presentation was in recognition of Marion's ministry during the one year interregnum while the parish was without a rector.

Following the service, Marion travelled to

London, where she was due to act as chaplain at Westminster Abbey for the next week. This is a ministry which she has fulfilled several times during recent years.

## St Barnabas Church

You are invited to join us on Saturday 28th June from 2pm to 4pm for the Annual Garden Party at St Barnabas Church, Grove Rd, Emmer Green. There will be fun for all with various side stalls, including Hoopla, Pirates Chest and much more. There will also be Handicrafts, a Tombola, and Strawberry Cream Teas in the Quiet Garden. Entry is by donation at the gate.

## Flora Musica

St Peter's church will be full of the colour and scent of hundreds of flowers and the sound of music for a flower festival to be held in June. Part of the fundraising to raise money for a new organ for the church, the designs will all have a music theme. Popular music such as *Land of Hope and Glory*, *The Blue Danube*, *Chariots of Fire* and favourite hymns *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *There is a Greenhill Far Away* and many other pieces will all be interpreted in flowers. Many of the designs will be in the traditional style but others in the modern style of floral art, so something for everyone to enjoy.

The regular flower arrangers of St Peter's church, some of whom are members of the Caversham and Chiltern flower club, will be joined by other members of the club.

The flower club, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary, meets each month at the Caversham Heights Methodist church on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm and visitors are very welcome.

St Peter's church has a long and outstanding tradition of choral music and it is hoped that the amount needed for the new organ will soon be achieved. So far over £36K has been raised through various events at the church.

The festival will be open on Friday June 27th and Saturday 28th between 10am and 5pm and Sunday 29th between 12noon and 5.30pm. Admission by programme on the door at £2. Donations will also be very welcome. Refreshments will be available during the festival.

A ticket-only preview evening for sponsors is planned for the evening of Thursday 26th.

A concert by church singers and musicians will be held on Sunday afternoon at 3pm.

Please take the opportunity to enjoy the various skills which will be showcased at this event.



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The Warren, Caversham  
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Saturday 28 June: 10-5.30  
Sunday 29 June: 12-5.30

Entry by programme on the door: £2  
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For more details see [stpeterscaversham.org.uk](http://stpeterscaversham.org.uk)



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## Caversham Rock'n'Ale Festival

The Caversham Rock'n'Ale festival will be held on Saturday 21st June  
from 6.30pm until 11.30pm at St Anne's School playing fields on  
Washington Road in Caversham.

The festival was first run in 2013, inspired by the death from Motor  
Neurone Disease in December 2012 of Angela Fung, a very good family  
friend of the festival's organisers. The festival was started first and foremost  
as a community event. The organisers, musicians and bands give their time  
free of charge and all money raised goes to charitable causes. For 2014 those  
charities will be the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the local  
Reading charity, Culture Mix.

A number of top local bands will be playing: the steel band RASPO, who  
have performed at the Royal Albert Hall and the Notting Hill Carnival;  
Rigsby, the highly talented 6 piece covers band; and Down at Dino's who  
will play a set of classic rock covers from the 70's through to today. The  
line-up is completed by a set from The Bears of Brasov.

There will be a full bar serving local ales, lagers, soft drinks and red and  
white wine. Catering will be provided by the local firm Graham's Hog Roast,  
who will serve freshly prepared and locally bred hogs.

Tickets, £10 for adults and £5 for under 14s, are now on sale. Visit  
www.rocknale.co.uk or phone 0118 958 4498 (office hours only).

For more Information contact Mike Ryan, tel: 0118 958 4498, email:  
caversham@rocknale.co.uk, or Jane Gilbert (Motor Neurone Disease  
Association), tel: 07879 240877, email: jane@gilbert.com

## Summer Party in Caversham Court Gardens

Come to Caversham Court Gardens for a friendly Summer Party on  
Sunday 22 June between 2pm and 5pm. The Friends of Caversham Court  
Gardens, the Friends of Reading Museum and the Friends of Reading Abbey  
are getting together again to host a joint party for all. Everybody is welcome,  
you don't have to be a member of any of the groups, and entry is free.

Free entertainments will include live music, theatre and creative  
activities for children. Cream teas will be on sale at the tea kiosk, run by  
local charities. Disabled parking only on site at Caversham Court, Church  
Road, Caversham RG4 7AG.

For more details email friends@fcc.org.uk

## Henley Choral Society

Henley Choral Society present a summer concert of 'Shakespeare &  
Summer Songs', with Benjamin Goodson, conductor and David Smith,  
pianist on Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm at the Christchurch Centre,  
Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG, to celebrate the 450th anniversary of  
Shakespeare's baptism and probable birth.

Tickets at £15.00 (under 18s £10.00) may be obtained from Jan French on  
01491 572795 or Corvett & Stone, 21 Duke Street, Henley.

The programme includes Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music*, Finzi  
*Shakespeare songs*, George Shearing *Shakespeare songs*, part songs and  
madrigals; this beautiful selection speaks of love and joy, longing and loss  
- all are quintessentially English in flavour. The concert provides an  
opportunity to experience the exceptional talent of Henley Choral Society's  
regular accompanist, David Smith.

For more information see www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk

## Caversham Allotment Association

The next meeting of the Caversham Allotment Association is on Tuesday  
10th June at Church House, Caversham. The speaker will be Luke Botting,  
an aquatic specialist who will be talking about ponds, fish, plants and all  
aspects of water gardening. The talk starts at 7.30 and there will be  
refreshments and a raffle. Entrance is free, so please come along for an  
entertaining evening. Contact Carol Wheeler on 0118 9475802 for details.

## Mapledurham Playing Fields Summer Fete

The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) will be holding  
a third Summer Fete on Saturday 5th July from 12 noon to 5:30pm at the  
Mapledurham Pavilion and Playing Fields off the Woodcote Road in  
Caversham. The fete will be followed by a Music Festival at 6:30pm. All  
proceeds will go to the regeneration of the Mapledurham Pavilion &  
Community Hall.

Designed to be an afternoon of fun and entertainment for the entire  
community, the fete provides something for everyone. There will be a large  
marquee, in case of wet weather! The main marquee will be filled with  
games, stalls, sweets, numerous vendors, and face painting. There will be  
vendors outside, food stalls and a Real Ale Bar & Pimm's Tent. There will  
also be a bouncy castle, a dog show, a vintage and classic car rally, and a car  
boot sale. Many local clubs and sports teams will provide coaching, games,



Vintage cars at last year's fete.

competitions and taster sessions,  
including football, rugby, golf,  
croquet, and tennis. The  
programme will include music  
and dance acts on our stage, as  
well as a raffle, including two  
VIP weekend tickets to the  
Reading Festival. There will be  
extended on-site parking via the  
Chazey Road entrance to the  
Playing Fields.

Thanks to the efforts of the local community,  
we are now nearing our target of £250k for the  
first phase of refurbishment of the Pavilion, and  
hope that in addition to organising a great  
community event we also get that bit closer to our  
target. It promises to be a terrific day with lots to  
do for all the family, it won't break the bank and  
it is all for a good cause! Please join us for a great  
day out and help to raise funds for the  
regeneration of the Pavilion and Community  
Hall.

More information on the fete and its events,  
sponsorship, vendors stalls or pitches,  
volunteering to help out on the day, advertising  
in the fete programme or participating as a club,  
charity or sports team, please contact us at  
info@wadra.org.uk, www.facebook.com/Maple  
durhamSummerFete, www.twitter.com/maple  
durhamfete or on 07540 822898

## The 2014 Caversham Festival,

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July 2014

The 2014 Caversham Festival has been  
confirmed for Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July  
with the possibility of an earlier start on Friday  
evening. The growing range of entertainment  
includes a family friendly theatre event at 7.15  
pm on the Sunday. Stallholders resident in  
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## Changes to Caversham bus routes

Reading Buses has proposed the following changes to Caversham bus routes, to take effect from Monday July 7th.

### Route 22 for Caversham Heights, Caversham Centre and Priest Hill

The proposed changes for route 22 are very minor. The proposal is to use single deck gas buses on this route, because usage, for the most part, does not warrant double deck buses. However, because there are some journeys that would overload if they were single deck, the proposal includes running double deck buses only for the times of day that warrant them - generally the morning and early evening commuter times. Passengers using the gas buses will benefit from more buggy space and free WiFi. The route and frequency will not change.

### Route 23 for Caversham Park, Henley Road and Briants Avenue

Not as many people are using route 23 as Reading Buses would like. The proposal is to reduce the frequency of this service from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes. There would be no route change

### Route 24 for Emmer Green, Grove Road and Rotherfield Way

Route 24 is performing well at the moment and to reflect that, the proposal is to increase the frequency from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes. Grove Road and Evesham Road residents will also be affected by the proposed changes to the route 2/2A (below).

### Route 2/2A, Route 25

Reading Buses are proposing to split route 2/2A

(formerly Vitality 2/2A) in the town centre.

The southern part of the route would continue to run as now, as route 2/2A (lime). There will be no change to the frequency or route, but buses will terminate in the town centre (probably at Reading Station stop EL) and will start from Blagrave Street stop EM on their way to Burghfield/Mortimer. Anyone wishing to travel north of the River Thames would have to change buses in the town centre.

The northern part of the route (to Caversham Centre, Peppard Road, Sonning Common and Peppard Common) would change to become route 25. The buses will still be the CNG powered buses that you are used to (albeit it painted pink), and the frequency would not change. Buses would start and finish in Reading town centre (probably Friar Street) and would run by Reading Station and Reading Bridge.

There would, however, be a slight change to the route. The Evesham Road/Grove Road 'kink' in the route would be removed so that the buses would run straight along Peppard Road. It is hoped that this minor change will improve reliability.

For Grove Road and Evesham Road residents, as stated above, route 24 would increase from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes, which should compensate for the loss of route 2/2A. By splitting the route, Reading Buses expect that the reliability on both ends would improve considerably. The number of people using the through service on the current 2/2A route is low, so they believe that the split will be a viable solution to reliability problems.

Following these changes, all Reading Buses routes through Caversham will be pink.

## The Ways and Means Trust

The Ways & Means trust is asking for your help. The charity urgently needs to raise £10,000 to achieve its move to new premises at Manor Farm, Rotherfield Peppard, near its plant centre 'Greenshoots'. It also needs volunteers to help with the physical move, as well as to clean, paint and refurbish the site.

The Ways & Means Trust provides a friendly and safe environment for 60 adults with mental illness or learning

disabilities, where each week they can learn skills and gain experience in order to lead independent, fulfilled life, gain self-esteem, and in some cases find full-time employment. The charity has been lucky enough to secure ideal new premises at Manor Farm after it was told it had to move from its current premises in Caversham after 44 years. The new building needs significant refurbishment after the move at the end of May.

If you have time available and like cleaning, painting, building stud walls or have electrical, plumbing or carpentry skills, why not volunteer to help this long serving community-based charity with their move? Refreshments, home-made cakes and biscuits will be your reward for a few hours work.

Local businesses can help too! A team from Barclay Direct's Risk and Compliance Teams spent a week on-site sanding and painting. If your company holds away days or team-building events, please consider this charity as a location.

A parent of one of the charity's beneficiaries wrote "Our son has been working at The Ways & Means trust for over five years, and without the care and guidance he receives on a daily basis, he would not have been able to develop his technical and social skills; he would be lost without their support."

Be part of this community-driven 'DIY SOS' style appeal! The charity has already raised £12,000; it desperately needs the remaining £10,000. Donating is easy! Either visit <http://www.justgiving.com/The-Ways-Means-Trust2> or send a cheque to Frances Hill, Chief Executive, The Ways & Means Trust, Unit 2, Paddock Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5BY and say it is for the Relocation Appeal.

If you can volunteer or have a specialist skill, call 0118 948 1944, email [frances.hill@waysandmeans.org.uk](mailto:frances.hill@waysandmeans.org.uk), or visit [www.waysandmeans.org.uk](http://www.waysandmeans.org.uk) for more news.

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# EGRA celebrate 30 years

On 10th April, at the Emmer Green Residents' Association AGM, about eighty members and several local councillors marked the association's 30th birthday with celebratory refreshments that included a beautiful cake made by the cousin of the secretary, Jane Handley, and cakes and biscuits, using recipes from the Mapledurham Mill cookbook. Margaret Ormonde, the Chairman, led the formal business of the evening. She reported another busy year for EGRA, monitoring planning proposals and guarding against threats to our adjacent countryside. Photo panels were on display to show highlights from both this year and the past thirty years. Membership currently stands at about 500 households. Margaret reminded the audience that the more members we have, the stronger our voice, and asked them to encourage friends and neighbours to join the association. She reported that most members of the committee were continuing for the coming year but that anyone interested in joining the committee would be welcome. The association continues to support community projects and has built up good relationships with the council, councillors and other local organisations.

Next, Linda Glithro spoke about the recently formed Dunsden Owen Association, established to publicise Wilfred Owen's connections with the local area and to promote his poetry through a series of events from 2014-18. The association has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to achieve this. Wilfred Owen was lay assistant at All

Saints, Dunsden, from 1911-13. A Wilfred Owen trail, which includes the house in Emmer Green where Owen's parents lived, will go live on November 9th and be available as a smart phone app and as a leaflet. A vigil concert, featuring A440 choir, will take place at All Saints, late evening on August 4th, on the anniversary of the declaration of war. There will be a World War 1 exhibition at Dunsden Village Hall and a series of events during Remembrance Sunday weekend, 9 - 11 November. A further aim of the association is to make social links with Ors, the village in northern France where Owen died. Visits to and from Ors have taken place and more are planned for the future. Full details can be found on the association's website, [www.owenindunsden.org](http://www.owenindunsden.org).

Margaret then introduced Corry Starling, the miller from Mapledurham Mill and guest speaker for the evening. He delivered an extremely entertaining presentation about the mill, which is the only working wooden mill on the Thames, dating from the 16th century. Corry has been the miller for seven years now, after previously working on estate maintenance and has learned milling on the job, through reading and research. He explained that the fortunes of the mill over the centuries have been closely linked to the manor house which has for many years been owned by the same Catholic family, the Blounts. The present incumbents have been lovingly restoring the manor house, the mill and the village for the past thirty years.

The recent floods affected the mill badly, with no milling from November till April. The force of the water could have ripped the paddles off the wheel! The mill was alert to flooding this year; the shop stock was lifted to safety and everything in the mill that the river might have swept away removed. The mill has a new water wheel made from six oak trees grown on the Mapledurham estate. In April 2011, a turbine was fitted at the other side of the mill and now generates electricity that is sold to the grid, providing an additional income source. Corry was delighted to tell us that the Mapledurham turbine was commissioned two years before the Queen's at Windsor! He is hoping that they may soon be able to use more locally grown grain from Highclere Castle.



Corry Starling.



The special cake.

Corry reminded us of the films that have been shot at Mapledurham, most famously 'The Eagle Has Landed'. We can see Mapledurham on TV at present as the location for the BBC2 show, 'The Big Allotment Challenge', which was filmed there in beautiful sunshine during last summer. Margaret thanked Corry for such an informative and fascinating talk. We predict that there will be a lot of EGRA members visiting the mill this year.

Linda H Glithro

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## Easter egg trail in Caversham Court Gardens

The fun was free for visitors to the gardens off Church Road, with donations invited to raise funds towards the garden's popular Christmas carol event.

The scenic gardens played host to a playful Easter trail on a sunny afternoon on the bank of the River Thames, when families flocked to Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday to find clues in a nature-themed Easter Egg Trail. Every nook and cranny of the public park was explored by young competitors vying for a chocolate prize.

Vickie Abel, chairman of Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, said: "We have the most magnificent gardens with lots of heritage to enjoy. It's so lovely to see lots of kids running about and enjoying the nature."

Scattered clues helped entrants build up pictures of different animals on a worksheet.

Many families are expected to return on Sunday, June 22, for a summer party with theatrical entertainment and children's activities on a history theme overlooking the River Thames.

Ms Abel added: "Caversham Court was the only open space by the river that wasn't flooded this winter. You could still walk along the terraces, enjoy the greenery and watch as everything else was flooded. We were very lucky."

The site dates back to the 12th Century and was refurbished in 2009 thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The restoration has scooped a number of accolades including Britain in Bloom Best Regional Park and a national prize from the British Association of Landscape Industries.

## Caversham's latest coffee venue 'The 3Cs'



The Mayor cuts the ribbon to open the cafe.

Mayor of Reading Councillor Marian Livingston was among the first to sample the delights of Lower Caversham's new café 'The 3Cs'. Caversham Community Café opened for business on Tuesday, May 6, in St John the Baptist Church, Gosbrook Road.

Richard Purkis, of Lower Caversham Community

Partnership, said: "This is a venture run for the community by the community. I hope that the cafe will be well used, well regarded and grow."

The not-for-profit café serves a range of freshly-ground coffees from espressos to cappuccinos, teas, infusions, cakes, biscuits and crisps every Tuesday, from 9.30am to 2.30pm. As custom builds, more days will be added.

The 3Cs grew out of conversations between Caversham Hall, New Bridge Nursery and St John the Baptist Church. Together they formed the Lower Caversham Community Partnership, and surveys among the people and businesses of Lower Caversham showed the demand for a café in the community.

Thanks to grants from Reading Springboard, the Big Lottery Fund and Church House, St John's church has been suitably adapted, a café counter built and a volunteer manager and staff trained. Equipment and fairtrade coffee and tea were sourced from Reading's own Kingdom Coffee.

Rev Jeremy Tear, community priest at St John's, said: "St John's is delighted to be hosting the cafe and working in partnership with the nursery and the hall. Do come and visit us - you would very welcome!"

## Bean Pole Day

Many people attended Bean Pole Day, an annual event which was held in Caversham Court on Saturday, 26th April, between 10am and 3pm, to promote local woodland products and wildlife friendly gardening.

On sale were bean poles and pea sticks, willow plant supports and reconditioned gardening tools. Many stalls had plants for sale.

There were stalls run by many local organisations, including RSPB, BBOWT, Ways & Means, Food 4 Families, Friends of the Earth, Reading Beekeepers, Friends of Caversham Court, Friends of the Harris Gardens, Tilehurst Horticultural Association and Motor Neurone Disease Association. Many of these had products for sale.

In addition, many children's activities were organised, the kiosk was open to serve drinks and other refreshments, and a tool sharpening service was offered.

Of particular interest was scarecrow making, and the results of this activity are pictured.



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# THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE COFFEE CAR

Looking around the streets of Reading, and of Caversham, today, there appear to be more opportunities than ever to enjoy a cup of coffee – though at a fairly high price. A hundred years ago, the supporters of the temperance movement must have found things rather different. There was a plethora of public houses, and they felt it necessary to set up stalls



in the streets where people could buy tea or coffee and a bite to eat at a reasonable price.

We still have such a stall in the middle of St Mary's Butts, which I believe started up in this way. There was another, until recently, on Station Hill. Then there are photographs from the early twentieth century showing a stall at Cemetery Junction, run by members of St. John's Church in Watlington Street, and there was this one, by

## CLUBS

### Caversham WI

'England in Miniature' was the title of Graham Horn's talk, which proved to be a trip to the Isle of Wight. Views of well-known and less familiar sights proved what a lovely place it is, and members were prompted to visit as soon as possible.

The speaker also judged the competition: Easter biscuits. The winner was new member Claire Elliot, with Ishbel Nicholson and Sylvia Myszor as runners-up.

Details of the forthcoming river trip were given; let's hope the sun shines! More Easter goodies were on offer for lucky winners of the raffle.

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The Guild are now comfortably settled in at the Methodist Church. In May we had an interesting talk by a Magistrate, Roger Doust JP.

By way of contrast, the Social Studies group enjoyed 'Puppy Walking' by Carole Arrowsmith. Continuing the animal theme, a visit to Adam's Farm, [he of 'Countryfile' fame], to see his rare breeds of farm animals.

A coffee morning was held, and a visit was made to Caversham Heath golf club for afternoon tea.

The ambling group wandered through Clayfield Copse to see the bluebells, and on to Dunsden church. They were joined by two temporary members – a small child and a large dog.

Our next meeting will take place at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Rd, Caversham, and will be our 53rd Birthday party, with a Carol of Bells.

### St Peter's Wives Group

The speaker for our April meeting was unable to attend, but one of our members, Pat Williams, very kindly stepped into the breach, and delivered a talk on the Amish people of Pennsylvania. She came attired in their traditional garb of black dress, black apron, black tights, black shoes and white bonnet. They wear no adornment of any kind, not even watches.

The movement was founded in Europe in the late 17th century by Jakob Ammann and, to escape persecution, members left Europe for Pennsylvania. The most common Amish are the Old Order Amish, who are mainly farmers and live in exactly the same way as their forefathers. They use no cars or tractors, and just have horses and carts or horse-drawn buggies to take the family about. They are very devout people who pay a tithe to their church and meet in each other's houses for church services. They often have six or seven children and also look after their old people in their own homes. Education is very basic and finishes at 14 years old.

They manage without electricity and use bottled gas for cookers and fridges, and kerosene lamps and candles for lighting. There is no radio or television and, if there is a phone, it is situated in a shed or barn. The women make beautiful quilts on their manual sewing machines and sell these to boost their income, as well as selling fruit, vegetables and flowers from the farms. Some Amish men work in the construction industry or make furniture, and girls sometimes work in supermarkets.

Between 16 and 25 years of age, young people are given a year off and are allowed to live normally and wear jeans, drive cars etc. They usually return to the fold but, if they decide to embrace the outside world, they must forfeit any further contact with their families.

Caversham Bridge, run by the 'Adult School'. There may well have been others.

The picture – or a scan of it – arrived following my article about the Caversham Adult Schools in the February edition of the 'Bridge'. I was asking for information about the activities of the Schools, and now it seems that they may have been involved in running a refreshment stall, among other things. It may be that the Caversham School ran it, or equally, the other three Adult Schools in Reading may have had a hand in running it.

The stall itself was on wheels. The canopies could be folded down, and it had shafts, so that it could be moved by a horse. It is seen here standing in front of the prefabricated cast iron public lavatories which stood on the Reading side of Caversham Bridge. They must have been there until the 1970s, and were then dismantled, moved, and re-erected at the Chiltern Open Air Museum near the Chalfonts in Buckinghamshire.

The Adult Schools were supported by the Society of Friends, or Quakers, and it would seem that the purpose of the Schools in running the stall was to give people the chance to buy a drink away from the temptations of alcohol. One can imagine that on a fine summer's day the area around the bridge would be thronged with people of all ages, going boating, or swimming, or strolling by the river.

The influence of the Quakers, and of the temperance movement, on Reading must have been considerable. From the late 1960s, I can just remember the shop run by the Reading Temperance Society in St Mary's Butts which sold 'Amethyst' non-alcoholic drinks, and The Lodge Temperance Hotel, in King's Road.

Going back further, I can remember my mother telling me that she had joined the Rechabites as a girl – it was a temperance friendly society which had started in Salford in 1835. I can also remember, at my Church of England primary school, being made to learn the Church Catechism, and the Christian's Duty, in preparation for confirmation. The Catechism seemed very long, and was in the language of the 1662 Prayer Book. In part of it you had to promise 'to keep my body in temperance, soberness and chastity'. We were far too young to understand what we were saying, of course, and when one of us plucked up the courage to ask what 'temperance, soberness and chastity' were, I'm afraid that no satisfactory answer was forthcoming from the teacher!

*Happy Wanderer*

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**CLUBS****Rosehill WI**

President Margaret Pyle welcomed members to the April meeting and thanked Margaret Seal for her five years as Secretary; she will remain on the committee as Vice President. Margaret welcomed Mary Robinson as the new Secretary and wished her success in her endeavours. Finally, she gave special thanks to Marjorie Weaver for her many years of service on the committee and presented her with an azalea.

A list was circulated for those wishing to buy a 2015 diary, which will be coloured gold to celebrate the WI centenary.

Margaret announced that on a trial basis, there will be a Bring and Buy stall every month. This will depend on how popular this proves to be. The knitters continue to make garments and blankets for Buscot Ward, RBH, and Doris Goddard (treasurer) continues to collect for the emergency packs for A&E, RBH. The collection of milk bottle tops also continues.

Unfortunately the speaker failed to arrive, and as there was no time to organise any other entertainment, members had a pleasant afternoon chatting while Sue provided the usual cup of tea and biscuits. The raffle was then called.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.00 pm at St Barnabas Church Hall in Emmer Green - why not come along and join us - we will make you very welcome

**Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club**

There will be a floral demonstration by Alison Mount entitled 'Tales of the Canal Bank' on 11th June at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7BG.

What exactly does a floral demonstration entail? It is similar to a one woman show at the theatre, except she shows you how to do several fabulous flower arrangements whilst simultaneously providing a narrative based on the title of the demonstration. So you don't have to do anything, just sit back and enjoy the spectacle. We offer a warm welcome to visitors, and provide a sales table of floral accessories, books and cards. Visitors £5.00 on the door - for more information please contact Shirley Sexton 0118 9412329

**Caversham Horticultural Society**

For the June public talk, Caversham Horticultural Society will be pleased to welcome the plant hunter Tom Hart Dyke. His name may be familiar as he was the subject of international news in 2000 when he was kidnapped in Columbia whilst on a plant hunting expedition.

Hear about this experience and also learn about his current project to create a world garden of plants at his ancestral home, Lullingstone Castle in Kent. The talk 'From Captivity to Castle' will be held on Wednesday June 18th at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road, starting at 7.45pm. All are welcome. There is an entrance fee of £6.00 for non members. Refreshments will be available after the talk.

**Chazey WI**

Helen Lambert, Chairman of CADRA (Caversham & District Residents Association) was the speaker at our April meeting and she certainly proved a popular choice. Supported by Beldon Bensley from the Caversham Heights Society, on hand with some technical expertise, she gave us a very informative talk on 'Caversham - 100 years on' with the aid of slides depicting Caversham at the turn of the 20th Century, before and beyond. How many of us knew, for example, that in days gone by Caversham Bridge was in part a drawbridge which would periodically be raised when the local population felt threatened? Or that Caversham Park was once a hunting park? There were so many stories to tell, and much of it fascinating for those of us living locally.

Helen also brought some publications about Caversham's history, including maps and photographs for us to buy.

Our April meeting was also an occasion to celebrate the founding of Chazey WI, first established in 1982. In keeping with the occasion, a delicious birthday cake was served for members and visitors - and much enjoyed by all!

Chazey WI meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 7.30 for 7.45pm, at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, corner of Woodcote Road and Highmoor Road. Our programme each month is varied and interesting, so come along and make new friends!

**Caversham Heights Society**

The Society held two meetings during April, and made a day visit to Chiddingstone Castle in Kent. The first meeting was on the making of the film 'War Horse' by Andy Robertshaw, a military historian, who advised Steven Spielberg, the film's producer, on certain aspects of the film. It was clear from Andy's comments that Spielberg did not always take his historical advice because it did not necessarily suit the best shots for filming! Spielberg was not the easiest of people to work with and we were given some hilarious descriptions of filming that went wrong and were very amateurish. Filming took place over an intense four month period in Stratfield Saye, Wisley, Boreham Wood and Luton Hoo. Because the film category is a '12' there was no swearing and no actual dead horses, and both boys and horses could only work for four hours a day, whereas the equine make-up artists often had to work for 14 hours a day. There were over 1000 people on location on any day of filming and 120 live horses were involved. On reflection Andy felt that the film was less about war and more about friendship but it was certainly worth seeing.

The final meeting of the season was on the work of 'Magistrates in the Community'. The talk was given by Roger Doust JP, who provided an insight into the role and power of magistrates, and how these have evolved since Justices of the Peace were established by King Richard I in 1311. They are often called 'the Great Unpaid' since their only remuneration is expenses. They have considerable power, since any charge, be it murder, drunkenness, anti-social behaviour, theft or a traffic offence, begins in a Magistrates' Court. The majority are women, who were first enrolled on 31 December 1919. There are always three JPs sitting at any one time though only the Chairman of the Bench is allowed to speak. The maximum imprisonment they can impose is 12 months, though the fines that are handed down depend upon a sliding scale issued by the Ministry of Justice.

New members are always welcome. Further details can be found at www.cav-hts-socfsnet.co.uk or by telephoning 959 5307.

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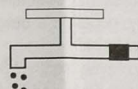
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