

North Reading Children's Centres 'rapidly improving'

More and more families are visiting and accessing services from Children's Centres in north Reading, which are rapidly improving, according to a recently published Ofsted report.

Caversham Children's Centre, in Amersham Road, and North Reading Children's Centre, in Emmer Green, make up what is known as the 'North Cluster' of Children's Centres in Reading. They were visited by inspectors in late July.

The Ofsted report describes a 'rapidly improving group of centres'. It highlights that more parents and children living in the most deprived areas close to Caversham Children's Centre are using the centre to access support and the varied programme of activities on offer. The report states: 'Information shows that improvement has been impressive over the past six months'.

Partnerships with health services, including midwives and health visitors, are described as 'strong', meaning that mums-to-be and families receive timely support and guidance when they need it.

Opportunities for parents to learn and develop parenting skills are also described as 'a strength'. Highlighted are the number of adults, particularly families of ethnic minority background, who are choosing to take up courses offered by the centres. Many local parents are also going on to higher-level courses as a result.

Summarising the improving performance of children's centres in the north of the borough, the report states: 'access to services has strengthened very quickly as a result of strong leadership, significantly improved information sharing, and strategic governance'.

Overall, access to services by young children and families was rated as 'good' by Ofsted, as was the effectiveness of leadership, governance and management. Quality of practice and services was rated as 'requiring improvement', as was the overall effectiveness of the North Cluster. The full Ofsted report can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/80645>

Areas highlighted for improvement by Ofsted were the need to ensure a consistent quality of service at the two Children's Centres and the need to increase the percentage of two-year-olds in the area taking up their free entitlement to an early education. The report highlights the need to ensure that new systems which track the achievement of children and adults are fit for purpose once they have been given time to be embedded, so that they can clearly demonstrate the impact of family support locally.

Jan Gavin, Lead Member for Children's Services at Reading Borough Council, said:

"This is an encouraging Ofsted for Children's Centres in the north of Reading which clearly shows things are moving in the right direction."

New verandah at Mapledurham Tennis Club

- see page 4 for full story



Bids requested for older people's housing and day activities in Caversham

Reading Borough Council plans for extra care housing on the site of the former Arthur Clark Care Home and Albert Road Day Care Centre have taken a major step forward with the start of the official tender process.

The council has published what is known as an OJEU notice. This formally gives potential partners 40 days to express their interest in building the proposed accommodation for 40 older people in Caversham. All bids received will be carefully considered by the council before shortlisted bidders are invited to work up detailed designs for the scheme.

The final award of the contract is expected to be in late 2014. Subject

to planning permission, it is expected that builders will be on site next year.

Extra care housing offers older people who want to live independent and active lives in purpose-built individual homes but with increased support and care available as their needs change. Access to care and support will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, either on site or by call. Bidders will also be required to ensure that day activities are available on the site, benefiting older people living in the local area.

When complete, the facility is also expected to include a level of affordable housing.

INSIDE

Talking Point	page 2	Churches	page 7
50th Anniversary	page 3	British Legion	page 8
From the Lookout Post	page 4	Environment	page 10
Forthcoming events	page 6	Clubs	page 11

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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

Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Revd. Rob Beardsley Tel: 07736 353233

Email: robg.beardsley@sky.com

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston

Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.

Tel: 947 2223

BAPTIST

Secretary: Sue Cantwell

Church office tel 954 5353

Email: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist

church.org.uk

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 Colin Bass

October is Francis-tide. On 4 October 1226 Francis died on the pavement just outside Assisi. He gave his tunic to his brothers and then, for decency's sake, they lent it back to him. Thus *il povorello*, the little poor man, died owning absolutely nothing.

With remarkable speed, within two years the Church had recognised him as a saint. But then, everything about him was remarkable.

Everybody knows about his remarkable affinity with birds and, indeed, with all creatures. There was nothing sentimental and nothing ornithological about that. It was theological. It was all part of his reverence for God, and for everything He has created. Francis really believed that every creature should praise its Creator with all its powers. To express his sense of the unity of Creation and his integral part within it, Francis called other creatures Brother or Sister – Brother Fire, and Sister Water. He called his own body Brother Ass.

Francis was totally devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ. He set himself, and his brothers, to carry out to the letter the teachings of Christ as recorded in the gospels. Apart from Jesus himself, nobody has come closer to doing so than St Francis.

Towards the end of his life Francis prayed that, so far as he could bear it, he might be allowed to experience the physical, mental and spiritual sufferings which Jesus endured on the cross. It was then, while he had withdrawn to be completely alone for a long period, that he received the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ, physically on his hands, his feet and his side. When he returned to the company of his brothers Francis kept his wounds hidden as well as he could, but his brothers saw them when they removed his tunic as he lay dying.

You might think that he was a very difficult person to live with. But another remarkable thing about him is the devotion he has inspired in his followers for eight centuries. Most Christians think that this, that or the other aspect of the Christian Faith is the key element. What I find most remarkable about Francis is **his** balance. No aspect of the Christian Faith is allowed to dominate over the others.

As he would wish, his followers do not actually follow *him* at all, but are committed to trying to follow Jesus as Francis did, with humility, love and joy.

The Revd Colin Bass is a third order Franciscan who has ministered frequently in Caversham, most recently at St Andrew's

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
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

RIVERSIDE CHURCH(READING)

Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham

10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

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

8.0pm Powerhouse (praise and prayer) –

2nd Sunday each month

3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family

First 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 November 2014 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 29th September**. The date for the December 2014 issue is **Monday 3rd November**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk Advertising copy for the November issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 26th September**. The date for the December 2014 issue is **Friday 31st October**.

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
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk



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Reflections on 30 years with the Caversham Bridge



For 30 years until he retired in 2012, Eric Chappell was involved in editing the Caversham Bridge and he is still a member of the managing board. Here he looks back at some of the highlights.

In 1982 Canon John Grimwade was preparing for his retirement from St Peter's Caversham and, concerned that the paper he had founded in 1964 should continue, invited each denomination in Caversham to nominate a representative to help set up an editorial board to oversee the monthly issue of this paper. It was with some trepidation that I, as the Methodist nominee, attended my first meeting with Canon Grimwade, together with Anglican, Catholic and Baptist nominees, to find out what we were expected to do. Under John's able tuition we got to know the 'ropes' and very soon we were on our own, but able to call on support from one of the Caversham curates.

Looking back it is interesting to see how the production of the paper has changed dramatically with a revolution in printing technology. In the early 1980s material was sent in manuscript to the parish office to be typed for editing. Our corrections were checked or amended by our co-editors and we then made a page by page note of the items to be printed on each. Everything was then passed to a retired professional to complete the layout of the paper including the advertisements provided by the advertising manager. From this layout the printers prepared the proofs, copies of which came to us and to the professional. Strictly any amendments had to be minor since this was still the era of metal linotype and major changes were carried out with difficulty. I still remember John Grimwade wanting to move whole paragraphs or pieces from one page to another and measuring them with the aid of a pencil whether it would be possible to switch blocks of type.

With the advent of computers things became much simpler so that eventually material was and still is submitted electronically so the parish secretary mainly has to print off copies for the editors and any corrections noted on the printed copy are made to the electronic versions. Similarly the final proposed page by page layout is provided to those preparing the proofs and after these are approved or amended they are sent electronically to the printers in Newbury, who run the copies off on their sophisticated machines. These are so fast that the whole print run is done before it is possible to check that there are no problems in the printing. As the whole concept changed so quickly our professional setter-out was unable to comprehend that it was possible to change whole pieces or pages with the press of a key. In despair he decided he had had enough and retired. His job was taken over by one of the editors.

Over the years various firms have printed the paper. Both Reading papers in turn have done as did a firm in Aylesbury for a while. For many years now Newbury Press has done the printing. In the past the default format was black

on white paper. Then we wanted to start using colour and the first occasion colour was used it cost £200 a page on top of the usual monthly charge. The occasion of the 500th issue was an opportunity to make more use of colour – to great effect. When we realised that with brand new computerised printing presses colour was the default printing colour, at no extra cost, the decision was taken to use colour as much as possible. Soon the advertisers also were asking for colour. The paper certainly gained much from the change.

The years have seen many changes in people involved in the paper: Katy the roving reporter in Caversham, Watch Dog the voice of the Residents Association, Owen Jewiss, the voice of Emmer Green and reporter/photographer in general, Scops Owl the twitcher. Among the editors many have come and gone, but I would mention Margaret Baily, who led the editorial board for many years and oversaw the transition from the early days to the present.

Sometimes there has not been enough copy to fill the paper but the editors always manage even if they have had to provide last minute copy. The number of contributors is not as large as it has been so the paper still needs people to submit articles and particularly reports of news events. As the paper is run by volunteers, there is not a body of reporters it can deploy to report happenings in Caversham. We are so grateful for all the time and effort contributors put in to keep the paper running and I am sure Canon John Grimwade would be proud of their efforts and of the fact that his 'baby' is still being published 50 years on.

From the Rt Rev Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading:

Congratulations to the Caversham Bridge! Fifty years of maintaining a parish and community publication is no mean feat. I know, from experience, how much imagination, thought, planning and sheer hard work goes into producing a monthly publication like this, and how much people appreciate them. I have often found that more people read them, refer to them and keep them handy than we ever imagine. I pray that the **Bridge** will continue to find new ways to bring church and community together and encourage others to do the same.

Warm good wishes
+Andrew

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From the Lookout Post

Sharing our Streets – achieving the vision

This project has been moving forward since the joint meeting last November held by CADRA and the Caversham Traders Association. The Vision for Caversham:

'To enhance Caversham centre as a high quality place for shopping, working, living and leisure and to promote an economically, socially and environmentally

sustainable village centre for the 21st Century' has received wide support and we should now look to achieving that vision. A follow up meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 November at 7.45pm in the Caversham Baptist Church. The traditional traffic management techniques, developed in the 1960s have moved on and other centres have successfully made their through roads more 'friendly' to non-motorised users. What is now needed is an agreed plan which is supported by local people, local traders and by the council so that, together, we are ready to seize opportunities to secure funding. This will not be achieved overnight but we can change our village for the better. All are welcome at the meeting as we move forward to a more detailed proposal. With the planned development of St Martin's Centre, this work is timely and ever more important.



The planning application submitted in June 2014 has raised a number of concerns – many of them as to whether the design of the Church Street frontage is appropriate to the character of a historic local centre. There are also many practical aspects to be examined, including planting and traffic issues. We understand informally that, following discussion with planning officers, revised plans are to be submitted by Hermes. The application will not therefore reach the planning applications committee until later in the year. Comments can still be submitted until formal consideration at the planning committee.

St Martin's Centre

Updates will be posted on the CADRA website, www.cadra.org.uk with links to view the plans and send comments on line.

Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club Relaunch

A £60,000 capital investment programme at The Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC) was officially opened at a fun day and barbecue on 7th September 2014 with existing and prospective members and a number of local officials. The improvements included resurfacing of two courts including new posts and nets, fencing of all four courts and installation of a veranda overlooking the courts. The funding for the refurbishment came from a £39,000 award from the Olympic Legacy Funding Programme, administered by Sport England and just over £20,000 from club reserves. Club chairman Chris Wright paid tribute to the efforts of club member David Maynerd, who not only successfully navigated the grant application procedure but also project managed all of the works. Coupled to the new facilities there will be more opportunities for coaching, particularly for juniors and those with special needs. David will be delighted to hear from interested parties on 07831 884474. 2014 subscriptions are from £80 per year and £13 per year for juniors (6-16). The refreshed tennis facility, including parking for the disabled, landscaping and an improved club ambiance is encouraging ever more interest in improving the Mapledurham pavilion.

Floral displays in Reading and Caversham

Once again the borough council and everyone involved should be congratulated on the high standard of hanging baskets which featured in many parts of the town including Broad Street and St Mary Butts. These colourful showpieces could also be observed on both Reading and Caversham bridges. It would be wonderful if, in 2015, the hanging baskets could be extended into the centre of Caversham.

Cutbacks in council spending led to a decision three years ago to stop maintaining the wooden planters in Caversham. Since then, volunteers from Caversham GLOBE have been looking after the planting, watering and weeding of all 20 planters. Donations from local traders

helped buy some shrubs and, two years ago, a grant was received from the Waitrose Community Matters (green tokens) scheme. It is hoped to repeat this, so don't forget to drop in your green tokens to help buy more plants to brighten up central Caversham. The council has recently provided three new planter boxes outside the BT exchange to replace ones which were displaced by the new cycle hire scheme; these are due to be stocked with shrubs provided by RBC later in the year. As well as the planting and watering, GLOBE supporters sanded and re-stained all the planters. A lot of effort is involved with regular watering, weeding and planting sessions, and GLOBE would welcome any help with this. Contact details at www.cavershamglobe.org.uk or telephone Dave Kenny on 0790 663 0367

Caversham in WWI

Trooper Potts, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for rescuing a wounded colleague, is well known in Reading through the excellent work of the Trooper Potts VC Memorial Trust www.pottsvctrust.org. Perhaps less well known is his fellow townsman in the Berkshire Yeomanry, Trooper Arthur Andrews who worked for the Great Western Railway. Fred Potts was wounded in the leg by a machine gun bullet when attacking a Turkish position on Scimitar Hill. As he crawled back to the British lines he



Trooper Andrews is in the back row, fifth from the left

came across Arthur Andrews, severely wounded and unable to walk.

Fred remained with Arthur for some 48 hours under the Turkish trenches. Eventually, finding a shovel, he strapped Arthur to it, and using it as a sledge, dragged him back over 600 yards to the British trenches.

Arthur Andrews spent two years in hospital and was discharged from the Army as medically unfit. This photograph shows him recuperating at Cliff House, The Warren, Caversham.

The auxiliary hospital at Cliff House in The Warren, Caversham was opened on 10th May 1915 with 22 beds and later expanded to 50. It was lent to the Red Cross by Mrs Cotton and closed on 11th November 1916 when the hospital transferred to Devonshire Lodge. It was operated by the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and 904 patients were treated on the two sites.

Cliff House Hospital re-opened on 30th May 1917 as a country annexe to the Freemason's Hospital in London with 25 beds. It provided massage and electrical treatment and another 450 patients were treated.

Trooper Andrews' grandson Chris reports that Arthur Andrews' hip bones were shattered by enemy bullets and he remembers his grandfather wore a big boot and walked with the aid of a stick. After Arthur's wife died in 1977, he moved out of Caversham and down to Devon to live with his son. He died in Teignmouth in September 1980 aged 89.

Our thanks go to Captain Andrew French of the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum for sending this photograph and prompting further research. The exhibition, Caversham in WWI, which was shown in Caversham Library throughout August, can be seen at www.cadra.org.uk and is available to borrow on request. Email Helen.Lambert@btinternet.com.

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NARCH



Caversham Traders Land Prestigious Reading Retail Award

A group of local business people has won a prestigious Reading Retail Award. The Caversham Traders Association (CTA) won in the category of Best Promotional Initiative for their Caversham Rewards loyalty card scheme.

The Reading Retail Awards have been running for five years, and this is the first time that a group entry has ever been put forward. A panel of independent judges assessed the shortlisted entries, and the winner was announced at a glittering awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday, 13th September.

Jude Chapman, Vice Chair of the CTA and a member of the sub-committee that launched the scheme, said "The CTA is all about doing everything possible to keep trade local. Having secured sponsorship from Bina Tandoori, St Martin's Centre and Nationwide, we launched the Caversham Rewards card last November, with 20 businesses immediately joining up to offer discounts to cardholders. That number is now nearing 40. We have almost 1,000 card holders too. That means 1,000 people with even more of an incentive to shop, dine and use professional services here in Caversham! I am the owner of a Caversham-based business myself, and am seeing more and more customers using their Caversham Rewards cards in my store to get their loyalty discount"

Caversham did well across the board at the Reading Retail Awards this year,

with book and toy specialists, Wordplay, winning Independent Retailer of the Year and Lewis Floyd of MyaLacarte winning Trainee of the Year. Jennings Butchers, Caversham Homecrafts, Delicious, Whittingtons Tea Barge, Alto Lounge, Ruby Vintage and Dancia International all received commendations from the judges.



Photo: Left to right: Debbie Pack and Marilyn Barnes, Ruby Vintage; Mandy Champion, Caversham Tiles / CTA; Rob Wilson MP; Jude Chapman, Dancia International / Vice Chair of CTA; Richard Chapman, Ellie Chapman and Sonia Brown (all from Dancia International)

Road Watch

This year has seen several events which have affected the traffic situation in Caversham.

First the good news: Whitchurch Bridge was due to reopen on September 19th. Whitchurch Bridge is the next crossing upstream from Caversham, and has been closed for the past year for necessary maintenance and strengthening work. It was originally due to reopen in spring, but the work was delayed for several months due to flooding that occurred last winter. The bridge carries a considerable amount of traffic, and one of the signposted diversions has been via Caversham Bridge.

Sonning Bridge was closed for several weeks earlier in the year due to the road from Sonning to Playhatch being damaged by the floods, causing major traffic problems in Caversham, and also in Henley. Since reopening, the affected area has been controlled by traffic lights, one direction at a time, causing problems on occasions when the lights were not working in concert with the lights at the bridge. Work was due to start in early September to rebuild the road, with a projected completion date in November. Earlier plans to raise the level of the road appear to have been abandoned.

You may have noticed signs in Caversham directing diverted traffic to Henley or Oxford. These were placed there because of long term roadworks near Nettlebed on the road between Wallingford and Henley, with a signposted diversion through Caversham.

During the summer, Reading Council has undertaken a major resurfacing of many roads in Caversham, including Peppard Road, Gosbrook Road and other principal routes. Although work was done in the school holidays when the traffic was at its lightest, traffic problems still occurred on occasions.

Have you tried the exciting new double roundabout at the junction of Prospect Street and Gosbrook Road? This is an attempt to reduce the accident rate at this junction. Or the new cycle lane in Lower Henley Road? This has caused some controversy because it passes alongside a designated parking bay, and does not leave enough room for two lanes of traffic in the carriageway. But it is apparently only an 'advisory' cycle lane. Do you know the difference between an advisory and a mandatory cycle lane?

The traffic problems mentioned here are a manifestation of the fact that there is insufficient road capacity for the existing traffic density, and with the opening of the Caversham Heights Free School in its temporary location off Gosbrook Road, and other developments which are taking place in Reading, the situation is unlikely to improve. This is one of the penalties of having relatively full employment in the area. Coupled with the fact that there appears to be little progress on the third bridge, or any other increase in road capacity. Reading Council's promotion of walking, cycling and bus usage appears the only way to reduce traffic volumes. The pedestrian and cycle bridge to be constructed over the Thames should contribute significantly to this.

We have been awaiting the completion of the Cow Lane bridge construction in 2015 to provide an uninterrupted route from Caversham to Oxford Road. It now appears that this may be delayed due to a problem with land acquisition. However, when complete, heavy lorries will for the first time have a direct route from Portman Road to Caversham Bridge. Time will tell what difference this will make to the traffic situation in Caversham.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Apple day

There will be an open day at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham, RG4 7UW, on Sunday 12th October, from 10 am to 5pm.

Come to our open day and find that apples can entertain you for hours. From foodies to fruit haters, young and excited or remembering the flavours and special varieties of your childhood there is something for everyone.

At Cross Lanes we grow over fifty varieties of traditional English apples, all different – sweet, sharp, juicy, crisp, nutty, rich, aromatic, complex and delicious, large and small. Most will be out for tasting, and sweet juicy pears too. Try a slice, and another and...

What else? Apple games for the children and an array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel. See how the fresh apple juice is made and compare the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, muffins and jellies with local cider too. There will also be a conker challenge organised by the Lions Club (see below).

Join one of the guided walks at 11.00am or 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. This is a chance to see what is involved in producing such a range of fruit. In the barns are exhibits on apple varieties, funny facts, apple snippets and pest and disease. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

The Farm Shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open as usual. Tea and refreshments will be available all day. Entrance and car parking are free.

For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk.

NOTE. If you miss the day, the Farm Shop is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm until the apples run out in January. Or see us at Farmers' Markets in Reading, Purley, Wallingford, Henley, Abingdon, Oxford, Ascot and others.

Conker Challenge

The Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club's annual Conker Challenge for Charity will take place again this year during apple day at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham, on Sunday 12th October 2014, from 10am to 5pm.

Local horse chestnut trees look set for a good harvest of conkers, which will enable you to help Lions charities and at the same time continue to keep alive a uniquely British tradition and fun pastime of playing conkers. Instruction and safety equipment will be available free of charge to anyone who may deem it necessary.

You can enter the Conker Challenge on the day with a donation of £1 to Lions Charity Funds in return for a fresh conker complete with string. The Lions will be happy to make a hole in your chosen conker, thread the string and even tie a knot for you.

The Lions Club meet in an informal way at 8.00pm on the second Monday each month in Goring Social Club. To join or help (without commitment) we would be happy to talk, meet with you and perhaps your partner or other friends. For more information phone 0845 833 9837, email info@lions-gwd.org.uk, or visit the website www.lions-gwd.org.uk

Concerts in Caversham

The autumn concert will take place at St Andrew's Church, Caversham on Saturday 11th October at 7.30 pm.

The concert will feature The Greene Trio, comprising Naomi Watts

(cello), James Maltby (clarinet) and Craig Greene (piano). This prize-winning trio, who are all Masters in Performance graduates from the Royal College of Music, will enthral with a superb programme of trios and solos, including works by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms.

Refreshments after the concert are included in the ticket price, with wine at £1.50 per glass.

Tickets may be obtained in advance at £13 /£15 from Waltons the Jewellers, in Prospect Street, Caversham (cash only and closed Mondays), or ring 948 4112 or 946 3202. Entry is free for children under 16. Tickets will be available on the door at £15/£17.

For more detail See www.concertsincaversham.co.uk

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Following last year's successful event, St Peter's Church Caversham is delighted to give you another chance to ask Thomas Plant from Flog-It and valuers from Special Auction Services what your treasures are worth! Any items that you want to sell can then be put into a forthcoming auction. A nominal charge of £3 per valuation or £4 for £10 will go towards the Church Organ Appeal. Spectators are welcome!

Don't hang around - ring 0118 9479366 or 07557 049092 to make an appointment, or just turn up on the day. Refreshments available.

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St Barnabas Church Emmer Green

St Barnabas Church is pleased to announced the return of the Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir from South Wales, who have performed in the church twice before. They will be performing a rich and varied programme on Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm, in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund.

Tickets costing £10 each, to include interval refreshments, are available from the Parish Centre, or from Sue Harper on 947 0895.

Sale at St Barnabas

There will be a 'furniture, bric-a-brac and nearly new sale' on Saturday 1st November from 10am to 12noon at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Rd, Emmer Green. Delivery of large items can be arranged subject to a small charge. Free entry. All proceeds will go to the organ restoration fund.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Caversham Heights Methodist Church are holding an autumn fair on Saturday 1st November from 11.30am to 3pm in aid of Wyfold Riding for the Disabled and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service

St Peter's Organ Appeal

The appeal has now reached a total of £40,000. The highlight of the last six months was the wonderful flower festival in June, which alone raised over £2,000!

We have agreed with Barry Williams, diocesan adviser on church organs, the list of suppliers to be asked to provide quotations. Barry has indicated that we should be able to buy a state-of-the-art three-manual organ for less than we thought, so the target of the appeal has been reduced to a maximum of £47,000. We cannot be sure of the final price until we have placed the order for the instrument.

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St Peter's organist Ian Westley and Barry Williams are finalising the specification, which we plan to issue to the suppliers in the next few weeks and invite quotations by late September / early October. We hope to have the new organ in place in summer 2015.

The final fund raising events will be a Valuation Day on Saturday October 11th and a concert by the Reading Male Voice Choir on Saturday January 17th 2015. In addition, the choir is selling CDs for £5 each, and a small booklet on the church organs is available for just £2 from church.

Requiem Indigo

In remembrance of those who have died, a special requiem service will be held at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham on Saturday 8th November at 7.30pm. The music for the service has been composed by Len David, St John's organist and choirmaster. Requiem Indigo was first performed at St John's in 2011. Members of the Hurst Singers will join people from St John's choir, other local choirs and musicians for the communion service.

Names of the departed can be added to a list available on the day and will be remembered during the service.

In this centenary of the First World War, we will be remembering those who died in that war and in subsequent conflicts. Profits from the retiring collection will go to the Royal British Legion and St John's Church.

Parish Harvest Barn Dance

The Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham 'Harvest Barn Dance' will be held on Friday 10th October between 6.30 and 10pm at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

We have a 5 piece local band playing for us and it promises to be a great evening for young and old alike. The band will break for us to enjoy a bring and share supper (plus bring your own drink). Tickets will be £5 for adults, £3 for children, and £15 for families.

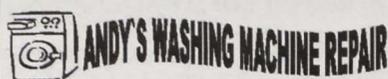
There will also be a special harvest raffle - we are encouraging people to bring an item of home grown produce or home baked food to contribute.

For further details, contact Jeremy Tear on 946 2884 or e-mail jeremy@ctmparish.org.uk

MillsTones Dance Band at St John's

The MillsTones Dance Band took us on a journey through time from the 1920s to the 1980s when they played at St John's church, Caversham in July. Around 70 people enjoyed the big band sound of the era of Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Numbers such as Perfidia, Pennsylvania 6-5000 and Easy to Love got people up on their feet dancing. There were songs from George and Ira Gershwin, S'wonderful and Fascinatin' Rhythm, sung by Tricia. From more recent times, the band played Billy Idol's Mony, Mony, Michael Jackson's Bad and a Bee Gees' medley. A raffle, dance competition and quiz completed the entertainment, which raised over £300 for church funds. There was no 'Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps' about it, it was a really great evening.





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BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

2014 - a very poignant year

This year marks many anniversaries, including many related to past conflicts. As November and Remembrance Day fast approach, it is worth remembering all the notable anniversaries that the Legion has marked this year.

May 8th - The anniversary of VE Day - the end of the Second World War in Europe was marked by the president, accompanied by members of the branch, laying a wreath at our War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows and then one in the military section of Henley Road, Cemetery

May 18th - Kohima Day - a service was held in Forbury Gardens, by the Burma Star Memorial, to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Burma Campaign.

June 6th - 70th Anniversary of D-Day

August 4th - The day World War One broke out 100 year ago.

A well attended service at our War Memorial was held to mark this occasion and to remember the untold horrors that were about to face the world.

On this day the branch launched its own 'Field of Remembrance' in the Military Section of the Henley Road Cemetery. This is to encourage people to make a donation for a wooden cross in memory of a person who served in WW 1 (or any other conflict) and to place it amongst all the others. (The branch would like to thank 'Choose Caversham' for informing its members and to all the outlets who are making these crosses available throughout Caversham).

These two events were filmed live by BBC South.

This year's Poppy Appeal will hold a very special significance. Caversham is always generous - let's hope that this year will again exceed all expectations. If you want to help in any way please contact the Poppy Appeal Organiser (Pauline) on 0118 9475345.

Caversham Royal British Legion

Parade and Service of Remembrance, Sunday 9th November

All participants should assemble at Westfield Park by 10.15am (or earlier if advised by Group Leaders), and the parade will march off at 10.25am

The salute will be taken on the library steps on the way to the War Memorial, where the service will take place with two minutes silence at 11am. The Salvation Army Band will be in attendance.

Dismissal of the parade will occur immediately after the conclusion of service, when personal tributes may be laid on the memorial.

Last year there was a really moving end to the Service when a very large number of the children went up to the memorial, quite spontaneously, and left their poppies, orders of service or other personal messages. As this is a very important year to remember it is hoped that even more will make this gesture as they think about the sacrifices made by their ancestors.

Last year a long held tradition, where the parade processed to and from the War Memorial, had to be broken. While a very sad change, it was found to be necessary. The numbers in the parade have escalated over the years from a few dozen to well over 1000, and whilst Caversham is very lucky to have a police escort, many of the parents and the young organisations leaders, such as the Guides and Brownies, thought that the control at the end of the parade, because of the slowness of the youngsters marching back to Westfield Road, was a potential danger.

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Bible Friends

Praying as Jesus did

Jesus' friends wanted to pray just like Jesus did! But they were never sure what to say to God. So one day they asked, "Jesus, how should we pray?"

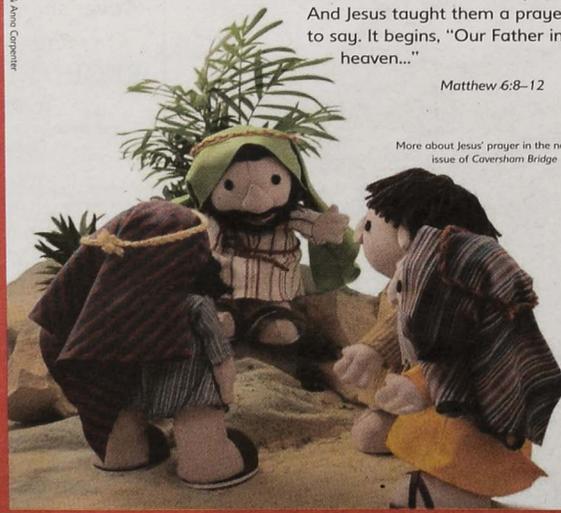
"I'll help you," Jesus told them. So Jesus' friends sat down with him and listened.

"When you pray," Jesus said, "talk to God in just the same way as you'd talk to someone who loves you and cares for you - a mother or father or someone else who looks after you. You wouldn't worry about talking to your dad or your mum. Just say how you feel. Ask for things you need. Tell God you love him. Thank him for what he's given you. You can say you're sorry too for anything you've done that was wrong. Your Father in heaven loves you and knows just what you need."

And Jesus taught them a prayer to say. It begins, "Our Father in heaven..."

Matthew 6:8-12

More about Jesus' prayer in the next issue of Caversham Bridge



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Do you want cake with that?

'Do you want cake with that' is an anthology of short stories and is the first published work by Ros Hatt, Kay Macarthur, Margaret Nutt, Norman Lindsey and Irene Lindsay, collectively known as 'Off Course Writers'.

We met for the first time when we each enrolled on a creative writing course run by the WEA. That course, in the autumn of 2011, provided ideas, practice, and necessary discipline for people who knew they liked writing but had never really got started.

By the end of the course a few of us had begun chatting. We were all in a similar position. We wanted to continue to write but could not see how to progress. Ros suggested meeting in the New Year to see if we could move forward together. Of those approached, we five agreed to meet and 'see what happens'.

The pattern was quickly established of meeting in each other's homes, setting writing challenges as homework, sharing written pieces, offering constructive criticism – and eating cake!

As acquaintance grew to friendship, we produced quite a lot of writing but began to feel we needed new challenges. At this point someone commented 'Wouldn't it be nice to produce a proper book with our names on it?' This suggestion was greeted with the enthusiasm of those who do not really know what is involved, and was soon agreed upon. We sought advice from others who had already been published and even their input did not put us off.

Breakthrough Breast Cancer, the charity we chose, as we all knew families who had been affected by this trauma, will benefit from the proceeds of our book.

If you would like to know more about our book, or would simply like to donate to our chosen charity, contact us on www.offcoursewriters.co.uk or ring 0118 3480485.

Free tree for Christmas

A large Christmas tree is available free of charge to anyone willing to cut it down and remove it. The tree is suitable for a church, a hall or even an outdoor space. It is about 12 feet high, the same width and the trunk is six inches thick. It is easily accessible in a front garden.

Anyone interested should contact Peter Williams on 9471 165.



Ah yes, I remember it well!

lan Lowry, an occasional contributor to the Caversham Bridge, has compiled a list of significant events which occurred between 1965 and 2014. The list will be continued in subsequent issues of the Bridge as space permits.

1965. The year Mary Quant begins to sell mini-skirts in Chelsea.

May. Liverpool F.C. wins the F.A. Cup for the first time.

July. Edward Heath becomes leader of the Conservative Party.

October. The Murder Act suspends capital punishment for five years, in the first instance.

1966. The year of the Aberfan Disaster.

March. Ronnie Kray shoots George Cornell dead in The Blind Beggar pub in Whitechapel.

June. Barclays Bank introduces the Barclaycard, the first British credit card.

1967. The year Dr. Cicely Saunders begins the modern hospice movement.

March. Jimi Hendrix sets fire to his guitar on stage at London Astoria.

May. Sir Francis Chichester arrives in Plymouth in Gipsy Moth IV, having sailed single-handed around the world.

October. The Abortion Act is passed.

1968. The year Arthur C. Clarke's novel A Space Odyssey is first published in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

April. Enoch Powell, M.P. makes his controversial Rivers of Blood speech.

September. Theatre Act ends censorship of the theatre, followed the next night by the opening of the U.S. musical, Hair in London.

1969. The year Mortgage Interest Relief at Source (MIRAS) is introduced to encourage home ownership.

March. The first B&Q DIY superstore opens in Southampton.

July. Charles, Prince of Wales is invested with his title by Her Majesty the Queen at Caernarfon.

October. Monthly Python's Flying Circus first aired on the BBC.

1970. The year the complete New English Bible is published.

January. The first jumbo jet (Boeing 747) lands at Heathrow Airport.

July. The last issue of grog served in the Royal Navy. It was first issued in August 1740.

November. The first Page Three Girl appears in The Sun newspaper.

1971. The year the first stage of Spaghetti Junction is opened.

January. The Divorce Reform Act (1969) comes into effect.

February. Decimal currency is introduced to the United Kingdom.

June. The first Reading Festival takes place.

1972. The year Ugandan Asian families are expelled by Idi Amin.

June. BAE Flight 548 crashes near Staines. There were no survivors.

August. Jesus Christ, Superstar makes its West End debut.

September. The BBC quiz programme, Mastermind, is first broadcast.

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A COUPLE OF KITES

One day, on Watlington Hill, I saw two red kites. "Nothing very remarkable in that," you will say. Yes, but one of them was a bird in full flight, and the other was a little boy's toy! They soared in the sky, quite close to each other, and many photographs were taken by people on the hill.

As a child, I owned a toy kite – unfortunately a blue one – and occasionally, it was taken to the local park. Amidst much twisted string, and running to get it airborne, I enjoyed flying it.

Of course, until I was grown up I had never seen the other red kite. Red kites were abundant, and scavenged the streets of London in the Middle Ages. Later, persecution by man led to their extinction in England and Scotland by 1880. When red kites were protected in the U.K. at the beginning of the 1900s, only a few pairs survived in the remotest parts of Wales.

In 1989, after careful consideration, an experimental project to restore red kites to England and Scotland by bringing young birds from Sweden and Spain began. Initially, they were placed in aviaries to learn to feed themselves, and to continue their growth. When ready to fly, coloured wing-tags and small radio transmitters were fitted, to enable them to be tracked after release.

Once in the wild, they explored the countryside and quickly learnt to find food. Kites can take flying insects, small mammals, small birds, and earthworms. Mainly they feed on carrion, and

help keep the roads clear of dead animals. In 1992 and 1993 the project gained a major success when red kite pairs, formed from released birds, nested successfully in trees.

From there the number of birds has gone from strength to strength, and they are no longer individually monitored. The area they cover has increased enormously. Every day they are seen in Caversham, often several at a time. I have seen them through my window while still lying in bed!

A lightly built bird, the red kite has long wings and a deeply forked red tail. It often hangs on rising air currents and circles and weaves in slow, effortless flight on bowed wings, with its tail twisting as a rudder. The soft "he-he-hea" of its voice belies such a large, graceful raptor.

Please allow a personal recollection to finish with. In the early 1990s, I was up on Watlington Hill with some naturalist friends. There was a black dot in the sky. It was too far away even for binoculars, and to me, quite unidentifiable, but more experienced party members thought "red kite"! The bird came lower and nearer – and a RED KITE it was! My very first sighting! The excitement was immense, and, for me, a memory for the rest of my life! I'm glad red kites have been re-introduced with success.

Peg Leg

CLUBS

Caversham Royal British Legion

To date, this year has been especially busy.

Most of the significant dates relating to past conflicts have been marked by the laying of wreaths or services, but the branch has tried to provide as many varied events as possible for its members.

There have been numerous coach trips including ones to Cardiff, Bristol, the Cotswolds, the Eastbourne Airshow – this brought back many memories for members as they watched the Memorial Flight with its Spitfire, Hurricane and the last two remaining Lancaster Bombers flying together for the first time in 50 years – and in September a ride aboard a 50 year old vintage Routemaster Bus to Abingdon and Millets Farm.

The monthly socials held at the Caversham Working Men's Club (by kind permission of its Committee) continue to be very popular - quiz, raffle, bingo and supper for £1.

For more information about Caversham Royal British Legion, phone Ron on 9481147.

Reading Gardeners

Our Autumn programme begins on October 1st. with a talk by Steve Moll on 'The Incredible World of the Honey Bee'.

On October 15th. Derry Watkins will talk on 'Gravel Gardening, low maintenance, drought tolerant plants'.

We meet in Caversham Primary School Hall, Hemdean Road at 7.30pm.

Please consult our website for further information: readinggardenersclub.org.uk

Caversham Heights Society

There will be two meetings of the society in October. On October 1st, Graham Kirby will talk on 'appreciating our numismatic history', and on the 15th, Hugh Granger's subject will be 'the art of deception in World War 2'. The meetings take place at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, starting at 8pm. The first meeting will be preceded by a short AGM, which will begin at 7.30pm. Contact Jill Hodges on 959 5307 for further information, or visit the society's website www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk

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CLUBS

Caversham Horticultural Society

Caversham Horticultural Society welcomes all gardeners to two events this month. On Saturday 4th October we are holding our popular autumn plant sale at the Oakley Road allotments Caversham (next to the veterinary surgery). There will be plants for sale at very reasonable prices. The sale starts at 10am and runs until 11.30am.

Our second event is a talk by Val Bourne (Daily Telegraph gardening correspondent and writer of the book 'The Natural Gardener'), who will be talking about gardening at Spring Cottage, which is located on an exposed wind-swept hill in the Cotswolds. The talk will be at our usual venue, Caversham Primary School, on Wednesday 22nd October starting at 7.45pm. Entrance fee for non members is £3.00. Light refreshments will be available after the talk.

Probus

At the August meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club, Dr Colin Summerhayes gave a talk entitled 'Energy efficiency or global warming - two sides of the same coin'.

He discussed the causes of our increased use of energy, including population growth, increased affluence and the effects this had on pollution and global warming. He showed where the trends would lead by 2050 unless steps were taken to mitigate the effects. He also showed, by the use of some graphs, that unless we reduced our energy usage, there would be a shortage of energy in the coming years. We have already passed our peak of global oil exploration, and need to find alternative energy sources. These could come from wind, solar, nuclear etc, which would be less polluting than the use of fossil fuels. Colin mentioned that he knew of a firm that had developed a solar panel which had the appearance of a roof tile: such tiles would overcome one of the objections to domestic solar panels, i.e. their appearance. Strangely, the solution to both energy shortage and global warming lies in increased energy efficiency and better control of pollution. This was a fascinating insight into the energy problems that lie ahead for mankind.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men, with lunch followed by a talk, which may be on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath golf course. If you are interested in joining, then contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The club will present a floral demonstration by Kate Thomas entitled '50 Shades of Autumn' on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Entrance fee is £5.00 for visitors. We offer a warm welcome to new members. For more details contact Shirley Sexton on 941 2329

Caversham Allotment Association

The next meeting of the Caversham Allotment Association will be on Tuesday 14th October at Church House, Caversham. The speaker will be Duncan Costain who will be opening our eyes into the world of bees and explaining the myths behind these fascinating creatures. This promises to be an exciting evening, so please come along. Talk starts at 7.30pm and there are refreshments and a raffle. Entrance is free. Contact Carol Wheeler on 0118 9475802 for further details.

Caversham Afternoon
Townswomen's Guild

The Guild has had a busy six months learning new information, experiencing new skills and enjoying eating both English and foreign foods. Among our speakers have been Christopher Walton who explained the mysteries of jewellery, John Brierley who held us with his enthusiasm for the Civil War in Reading, and Derek Richings who showed us how to paint a picture, which was then raffled. We have held competitions, mostly with flowers. Raffles and sales tables have kept our finances going. We have an active handicrafts group who learn new skills and make items for sale. There is a very serious side to Guild membership when we attend national conferences. This year's conference was held in Cardiff, where lowering the voting age to 16 and the abolition of female genital mutilation were discussed; the former not carried but the latter was carried overwhelmingly.

The half year ended with a garden party where we welcomed guests from our neighbouring guilds and our twin guild in Daventry. The guild meets on the third Thursday at 2pm in Caversham Baptist Church. Everybody is extremely welcome. Further information is available from our secretary Mrs Marianne Cross on 9474814.

Rivermead Bowls Club

The club is holding an open day this year for anyone to come and try the sport on Saturday 4th October from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Just turn up in flat shoes or trainers and give it a try. Bowls is the nearest game to curling south of the border.

The coaching team hold two 6-week courses during the season on a Wednesday evening for two hours for £18.00 for the six sessions; the first course is for beginners only. A specially designed wheelchair is also available to aid anyone with a disability. Rivermead Indoor Bowls Club is one of the four clubs in Berkshire. It was founded in 1988, and is now beginning its 26th season. It is a friendly club with good facilities and an excellent six rink green gauge carpet. There is currently a membership of 350. Beginners are well catered for with five qualified coaches affiliated to the English Bowls scheme. There are regular leagues run from 10.30am through to 8.30pm giving everyone, including those who work, a chance to join in. There are regular matches with other clubs in Berkshire and adjoining counties.

The club takes part in national and county competitions, both for individuals and teams and organises a range of club competitions.

Parking at the club, located in Richfield Avenue, is free for members, with plenty of spaces.

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