

## From the Lookout Post Dec 07

### Caversham: Past, Present and Future

Very many thanks to all those who helped to make the evening of 17 October such a success. The idea can originally be credited to Molly Casey, a founder member of the association, who when talking about the CADRA ruby anniversary said that, “we should have a party”. Following Molly’s death in November last year, her family kindly made available many of the papers and pictures which Molly had collected over the years. John Mullaney nobly volunteered to use these as a basis for an account of CADRA’s principle campaigns over forty years. Mary Kift, author of ‘Life in Old Caversham’, kindly loaned papers and photographs and already the plans had begun to grow.

Reflecting on the purpose which CADRA fulfils, we became increasingly convinced that the evening should not dwell solely on the past. Why not build on CADRA’s informal links and invite other organisations and services to join us? Perhaps the planners would



agree to join us and so we could genuinely reflect the past, the present and the future of life in Caversham? Almost everyone we approached agreed readily to take part and the event took wings and flew. We would like to thank the many Council officers who gave up their evening and the numerous voluntary organisations – not least Caversham

Bridge and Churches Together in Caversham – for putting together some wonderful displays for all to see and enjoy. Reading’s Mayor, Councillor Chris Maskell had a kind word for everyone and was very impressed by the sense of community in Caversham. We are particularly grateful to Waitrose Caversham for sponsoring the event, serving drinks and canapés and fulfilling Molly’s wish that we “should have a party”.

### More Planning Appeals

The Council refused four planning applications which are now the subject of planning appeals.

- 182 Kidmore Road - 8 flats to rear with new access road, ref: APP/E0345/A/07/2057607/NWF, comments by 10 December 07.
- 50 -52 All Hallows Road - 4 houses to rear with new access road close to entrance to the cemetery, ref: APP/E0345/A/07/2056319/NWF, comments by 7 December 07.

- 205-219 Henley Road - 60 bed care home and 60 dwellings.
- The Convent, South View Avenue - change of use to multiple occupancy, appeal against enforcement notice.

For the first two, there is still just time to write to the Planning Inspector at 3/20 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN to arrive by the date shown. Quote the reference and send three copies of your letter.

### **Caversham Lock Area**

The Borough Council which owns the Kings Meadow swimming pool and the Environment Agency which owns the Lock Island have been working together to market this area for developments which would comply with the Development Principles Report. The report was the subject of consultation in 2005 and is intended to - *guide any future proposals in a way that benefits and enhances the area's role as an important focus for land and waterborne visitors, leisure and wildlife*. The pool is Grade II listed and English Heritage has advised on prioritisation of bids. Further constraints are imposed by the location within the floodplain and the requirement for no overall loss of open space within the proposals.

Both the pool and the island are looking very sad and neglected so improvements are much needed. We hope that the Borough Council will be true to their word and will carefully control the implementation of the principles set out, now and for future generations. To see the Development Principles Report on [www.reading.gov.uk](http://www.reading.gov.uk), search for 'Caversham Lock Area'.

### **Policing Matters**

The West and North Caversham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is responsible for identifying policing priorities and guiding police and other resources to address residents concerns. The group recently visited the Albert Road Park to gain a better picture of the anti-social behavior being experienced by the local residents. During the visit, three of the residents gave very useful insights into the problems they encountered and a few simple suggestions on how to reduce the anti-social activity. This demonstrated the wealth of information the residents have which could be used to help focus police resources more effectively. If local residents can record information – type of problem, location, time and date, numbers involved, license numbers, etc. please do call 0845 8505 505 and notify the police so that a fuller picture emerges. The police confirm that, if residents feel an immediate threat of damage to property and/or their quality of life is being undermined by loud noise into the night, they should call 999.

The NAG suspects that the rowdy behavior was fueled by alcohol consumption, including those under age. A programme of "test purchases", confirmed that some businesses, in the area, were not diligently carrying out their lawful responsibility of checking proof of age. Appropriate action is in hand.