

From the Lookout Post June 2010

CADRA AGM

Members of CADRA met in the Baptist Centre for the AGM on 21 April to review action over the year and agree steps to maintain a strong and healthy organisation looking out for common interests in Caversham. Increasingly, this is best achieved through a strong informal network between the various groups and organisations north of the river and close links with Councillors and Council Officers. As usual, the brief formal business was followed by a presentation and this time, the invitation had been to the Council's Street Care team and to the re3 partnership. Mr Pete Thompson, RBC Street Care Technical Support Manager and Oliver Burt, Project Manager, re3 recycling partnership, addressed the meeting on the topic – **'Our Rubbish, Our Streets.'**

56,000 tonnes of rubbish is collected and processed in Reading every year. Oliver Burt outlined the long term Private Finance Initiative within re3, to manage and dispose of waste for Reading, Bracknell Forest and Wokingham. This has enabled investment in facilities to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill including a complex recycling scheme and also a combined heat and power facility. Several approaches were specified in the contract so that as technological developments and market forces change within the life of the contract, different options can be employed. It also allows them to try to dispose of different materials without long distance transport. Mr Burt showed photographs of the different facilities including the sorting of recycling materials from the red bin collection. This led to questions about the waste which can be mechanically separated. For example, only plastic bottles can be processed as other plastic packaging cannot be separated out. Similarly, shredded paper should not be put loose into the red bin as it clogs the equipment, though it can be sealed inside a cardboard box.

Mr Thompson explained the role of the Street Care services for Reading which includes the collection of rubbish as well as street cleansing, public toilets and enforcing aspects of Environmental law. This can include dealing with abandoned vehicles, graffiti on public property, fly posting, litter, and detritus on the streets/pavements. Problems are often tackled by the team working jointly with other Council services. There is also an important link with the work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups which includes the programme of Environmental Visual Audits – a planned structured 'walkabout'. For more information, you may like to link in with your local NAG. See uknags.org.uk.

In addition to collections, there are bottle banks across town. The bank in Caversham centre is particularly well used and there is consideration of a more frequent collection. The new Smallmead waste facility has receptacles for a wide range of recycled items, including batteries, shoes, books, textiles and oil. More recently, there are a number of more local collection points for batteries and cartons. The number to ring for information on Street Care issues, including the removal of bulky waste items is 0800 834035.

Caversham Parks

It is a pleasure to see people in Caversham Court, admiring the spring flowers which have given a tremendous showing. Indeed, they look as if they have been there for years. The tea kiosk, operated by supporters of various

local charities, is also enjoying good custom. The outcome of the large Caversham Court rejuvenation project, and the nurturing by Head Gardener, Emily, is a great asset to us in Caversham.

You may also have seen the lines of daffodils along the path through Christchurch Meadow and the wonderful wave of yellow and white around the Westfield Road Park. They were an uplifting sight; do not miss them next year! However, if you are in Christchurch Playing Fields, the four refurbished tennis courts are a facility that we should be using. Dust off that old tennis racquet and get down there!

Reading Station

During May, a series of public exhibitions are due to be held by Network Rail about the planned changes to the station. See www.networkrail.co.uk/reading. Over the next few years, we will see a number of road and railway closures to allow work to take place. If you have plans to travel over the Christmas and New Year period 2010/11, then check well ahead.

Triangular Plot at corner of Bridge St and Church Road

This prominent site, between the dental surgery and the bank, has been an eyesore with the block wall broken, various materials dumped and a large red waste bin, from a local restaurant, permanently located there. Thanks to the efforts of Tracey Ward, the Street Care officer responsible for Caversham, the area has been tidied up. CADRA is now continuing to work, with other supportive local organizations and businessmen, to try to make it not just tolerable, but an attractive feature. This objective is complicated, due to then ownership and tenancy of the plot. All help welcome!

Volunteer Community Responders

The flyer in Caversham Library asking individuals to volunteer to help with this scheme has been made very relevant by a couple of incidents witnessed in the past weeks. Volunteer Community Responders are individuals trained to quickly and effectively deal with specific types of medical emergencies whilst the ambulance is in route. On one occasion, in the couple of minutes I was inside ringing for the ambulance, the Community Responder had already arrived on the scene, capably offering first aid, and gathering information to pass on to the ambulance crew. I share this information so that everyone is aware that the fluorescent bibbed community responder, complete with large first aid kit, is likely to arrive, on the scene, within just a couple of minutes. This quick response time is dependent on having local volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, more information can be obtained from Mr Hugh Whitaker, tel. 0800 587 0207, email cfr@scas.nhs.uk or web site www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk

Reading Minster Organ Fund

Four Thursday evening recitals, each followed by sung Compline are being held as part of the initial round of concerts in aid of the organ restoration. Do look out for more details on page..... It looks an excellent programme.