



# CADRA news

Caversham and District Residents' Association

*The voice of Caversham for 45 years*



Volume 13 Issue 2, September 2012

[www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk)

## School Places

2012 has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of applications for children starting school. As a result, nine extra classes have been created at schools across the borough. This includes an extra class at both Caversham Primary and Emmer Green Primary School.

It is suggested that the increased demand results partly from a high level of inward migration into the town for work, combined with the poor economic climate leading to more families remaining in smaller starter homes.

Reading Borough Council is predicting the increased demand seen this year, will continue for at least the next four years. Planning for additional school places in the borough is already underway, starting with Head Teachers.

Understandably, this pressure is causing anxiety for parents and the increasing demand for



Library picture

secondary places at Highdown School is also an issue. The CADRA committee therefore decided to invite the Head of Education Services to come and speak in Caversham. As in 2009, the topic will be, 'More School Places', covering both primary

and secondary schools in Reading.

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

By 2015, we should see a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Thames. Design has started and a consultation is promised. A £20.6 million grant for sustainable transport will fund the bridge with other changes to increase journeys made on foot, by cycle or on buses. Details will be available via the CADRA website.

### Open Meeting

**7.45pm, Monday 22nd October 2012**

**at Thameside School, Harley Road**

### “Planning More School Places”

by

**Myles Milner and Kevin McDaniel  
Education Services RBC**

Some parking by the school. 5 minutes walk from Waitrose parking.

**Please note the change from the date previously advertised.**

*Helen Lambert*

## Local Policing

Inspector Phaedra J. Binns now heads up the Neighbourhood teams for Tilehurst, Caversham, Southcote and Norcot. In Caversham, she is supported by a Sergeant, three Police Constables and five PCSOs as listed on page 4. We congratulate Sgt Aziz on his promotion and look forward to hearing news of his successor.

After 18 years with the police service, Inspector Binns returns to Reading at her own request and is pleased to be

back in the area. Her request to local people is to call in any people or activity you believe to be suspicious. Contact details for the team are shown on page 4. Among other issues reported over the past months were incidents related to doorstep selling, one of which resulted in a burglary.

Over the summer, the Caversham Community Alcohol Partnership implemented a new

scheme designed to crack down on alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking. Working with schools, parents and retailers, this combined a programme of education, enforcement and work to change perceptions.

The two Neighbourhood Action groups continue to address local issues with burglary, speeding and parking.

## Bus Services

From 2 July 2012, Route 22 buses reverted to their earlier route to Caversham Heights via Priest Hill rather than Hemdean Road and Oakley Road. The timetable remains the same at every 30 minutes throughout the day—a reduction from the 20 minute service up to September 2011. This has resulted in all bus stops in Caversham Heights being served again and a reduced journey. Unfortunately the service frequency in Hemdean Road is reduced. Maps and timetables for all bus routes can be viewed on Reading Buses web site:

[www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk)

Reading Bus passes allow free travel on all local buses in the Reading urban area and free travel on local buses anywhere in England between 9.30am and 11pm Monday

to Friday and at any time on weekends and bank holidays. You are eligible for a bus pass if your sixtieth birthday is on or before 5 April 2010. If your sixtieth birthday is after this date you can check when you become eligible at:

<http://pensions-service.direct.gov.uk/en/state-pension-age-calculator/home.asp>

Bus passes are also issued for certain medical reasons or disabilities. These may also be used on Readibus if you meet their eligibility criteria. If you receive certain benefits or are accompanying someone with an eligible disability, you may qualify for free bus travel within the Reading urban area. For more information and an application form visit the reception at Reading Civic Centre.

## Reading Station

The Station upgrade is very visible and is, according to Network Rail, a year ahead of schedule and due for completion at the end of 2015 instead of 2016.

Work started in July in Vastern Road to create a new traffic signalled junction for the northern interchange transport interchange for pedestrians, cyclists, taxi's and buses and a public square to compliment the new Northern Station entrance building.

A new north-south pedestrian link via the subway beneath Reading Station is also being built to give better pedestrian access to the town centre from Caversham.

The Vastern Road works include improvements to the footway and cycleway network, pedestrian crossing facilities and bus priority measures. The number of lanes for general traffic will remain. The Vastern Road and Interchange works

are programmed for completion in late spring 2013. It is anticipated that the public square will be completed in spring 2014.

We are pleased to note that the Council is now working with Network Rail to implement footpaths on both sides of the road through Cow Lane bridges.

## Traffic and Parking

The Annual Waiting Restrictions Review includes consideration of a number of problem areas in Caversham including junctions where parking restricts drivers' visibility and controls on pavement parking by Caversham Court. If you have issues near you, it is not too late to raise these through your Ward Councillor.

A camera enforcement vehicle will assist enforcement in problem areas, including outside schools. For residents' parking schemes, there is consideration of a "virtual" system, replacing paper permits and application forms.

The Council is currently developing a local policy for 20mph speed limit areas.

# Mapledurham Pavilion

We would like to record our thanks to Fred Pugh who retired this year from local politics and as Chair of the Management Committee after many years of dedicated service. Councillor Isobel Ballsdon has succeeded him as Chair of the Management Committee and we wish her every success in this roll.

Council officers, supported by the user groups, local Councillors and the Management Committee, continue to progress the grant applications to the Football Foundation, Inspired Facilities Fund and Queen Elizabeth 11 Challenge Fields in Trust to raise funds for the refurbishment / rebuilding of the pavilion, including the hall.

We congratulate the Fundraising Group on a very successful programme of events. This included a Dinner Dance, a very popular Jubilee Fete and metal recycling including a team of volunteers sorting metal from the debris left at the end of Reading Festival. Car boot sales and bagging groceries at Waitrose have added to the total.



You can contact the team to offer support at <http://www.wadra.org.uk/>

## Roads and Gardens

The Council has a programme of visual audits (EVA) of local areas. Local people are welcome to join these and add their local knowledge to the record of items needing attention. Details can be found at: [www.cadra.org.uk/safercaversham.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/safercaversham.php)

Sometimes these audits identify shrubs or hedges overhanging the

highway which may result in a notice from the Council. If the plants endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, or obstruct or interfere with the view of drivers, the notice may require that the work is carried out within 14 days. There could be other implications if someone is injured by overhanging branches or has to step into the road to avoid them. This is an incentive to

us all to carry out some timely autumn pruning.

For anyone planning to pave their front garden, very specific rules apply. Details are available at [www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php)

## Planning

Caversham centre has seen a number of new applications. Work has started at 11 Gosbrook Road for seven flats. Next door, the Arthur Legge centre site has an application for eight flats. The proposal to demolish the Old Bakehouse on the corner of Rectory Road and Hemdean Road was refused by the Council and is now the subject of an appeal. These are all prominent sites with difficult access.

A summary of progress on the significant applications north of the river is available on the CADRA website:

[www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php)

There have been a number of applications for large,

prominent or illuminated signs. We have taken the view this could create a competition for which signs can be most prominent and have commented accordingly. We would be interested to hear views from members.

The central theme of new national policies is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Local Councils are being required to reflect this in their local policies. Against this background, local planning policies have yet greater importance. CADRA has continued to follow the process for determining local policy

## Local Heritage

The local Heritage Walks run by CADRA jointly with the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens as part of the Heritage Weekend proved very popular.

If you are looking for Christmas presents, the book of Caversham Heritage Exhibitions is being reprinted

and copies can be ordered from WordPlay in Prospect Street. Call 948 2800 or email [info@wordplayshop.co.uk](mailto:info@wordplayshop.co.uk).

The new Heritage Guide to Caversham Court Gardens should also be available before Christmas

from the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens or from WordPlay.

Subject to formal permissions, the Heritage Map for the library railings on Hemdean Road will soon go to manufacture and an accompanying leaflet is planned.



# The New Website

The new site, <http://www.cadra.org.uk/> went live in August. It aims to provide a useful source for local news and events and an easy way to access information on issues including Planning, Transport and local Policing.

The monthly summary of planning applications in Caversham continues to give direct links to detailed plans. Under 'News' you will find all the CADRA newsletters.

The new 'Caversham' tab gives current and historical information about Caversham. There is an on-line application form for new members as well as details of the committee and how to contact them.

We are very grateful to Ann Goodridge who is now maintaining the website.

## About CADRA

### The Committee

**Chairman:** Helen Lambert,  
5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE Tel: 947 3165

**Treasurer:** Stewart Bolton  
11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG Tel: 948 2687

**Secretary:** Linda Watsham  
159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ Tel: 947 8744

**Membership:** Jacque Tomson,  
121 Upper Woodcote Rd, RG4 7LB Tel: 9476984

**Vice Chairman, Licensing & NAGs:** Mike Gilbert, 4  
Notley Place, RG4 8PW Tel: 947 4437

**Website:** Ann Goodridge, Henley Road

**Transport:** Paul Matthews, Albert Road

**Planning:** Mo Prins, Haldane Road and  
Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road (co-opted)

**Safer Caversham:** John Roach, St. Peter's Ave

**Voluntary Liaison:** James Frost, Gurney Drive  
(Honorary member)

### Committee Support

**Transport and footpaths:** John Lee, Hemdean Road

**Informal Links:** Jo Munday, South View Avenue

**IT support:** David Ferguson, Patrick Road

**Continuity:** Les James Wincroft Road

### Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at:  
[info@cadra.org.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk)

### Our aim is to:

*"preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District"*

or in other words that Caversham should always be

### a great place to live!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

### Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the Caversham Bridge local newspaper and maintain a website with a wide range of information on local issues and quick links to relevant detail on large official websites.

### Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year for the household. Leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in Prospect Street or from the Membership Secretary, tel. 947 6984.

## Useful Information

### Ward Councillors

Contact via: 0118 939 0287

#### Mapledurham

Isobel Ballsdon

#### Caversham

Andrew Cumpsty  
Richard Davies  
Tom Stanway

#### Peppard

Mark Ralph  
Jane Stanford-Beale  
Richard Willis

#### Thames

Ed Hopper  
Jeanette Skeats  
David Stevens

### Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Inspector P J Binns (Caversham, Tilehurst, Norcot and Southcote)

Sergeant Zahid Aziz

PCs: Aaron Gibbs

Michael Campbell Montgomery

Tristan Khezzzadeh

PCSOs: Rebecca Blackburn, Ian Chaston, John Hendy, Karen Vaughan and Dave Wren

To report crime, suspicious incidents or contact the local team, call 101.

Except for urgent issues or to report a crime, you can also email the team at:

[CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

**In an emergency or if a crime is being committed call 999**

### Reading Borough Council

Switchboard

0118 939 0900

Or use the free numbers for:-

Refuse Collection, Graffiti Removal, 0800 834 035

Planning, Licensing, Road Safety, 0800 626 540  
Noise Nuisance, Environmental  
Health.

[www.reading.gov.uk](http://www.reading.gov.uk)

Links to specific parts of the Council web-site can be found on the CADRA website: [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk)