



# CADRA celebrates 50 years

The 1960s was a period of great change and concerns grew across the country that insensitive development may destroy historic areas. Against that background and with the prospect of considerable change in Caversham village, a residents group was formed in 1967 which was subsequently formalised as an association.

As CADRA prepared to mark 50 years since its inception, the aim was to shine a light on what it is that makes Caversham special. Earlier in 2017, Megan Aldrich looked at the history of architecture in Caversham and the abiding influence of the Mediaeval period. For the October meeting, Dr John Evans was going to talk about trees in Caversham.

## Tree planting

At noon on Tuesday 17 October, CADRA made a small contribution to our local legacy by planting a copper beech by the Caversham war memorial – with a little help from the Mayor of Reading.



## Talk on trees in Caversham

In the evening, Dr John Evans traced the planting and care of trees as Caversham grew and examined how we can protect our local treescape and add to it.

Following Dr Evans' talk, thoughts turned to celebration. Ian Brown, CADRA Chair in the 1990s helped to cut a celebration cake, supported by past and present members of the CADRA Committee.



Top: The evergreen Holm Oak that CADRA fought to safeguard and the fourth Tulip Tree that CADRA negotiated for  
 Bottom: Some favourite trees in Caversham Court Gardens



# CADRA celebrates 50 years

Looking back, the 1960s brought a new style of buildings, new materials and new ideas on road layouts. 'Victoriana' was out of fashion. New roads need space and Caversham Court was considered as a site for new road as long ago as the 1930s. In the 1970s a new road was to go through Forbury Gardens and part of the Town Hall. Across the country, people came together to resist insensitive development and protect local heritage.

Sadly, none of the original CADRA team survive but Hester Casey, daughter of Molly Casey who was a founder member, long-time Secretary and finally President, reminisced about growing up with CADRA campaigning with some delightful anecdotes. Helen Lambert, Chair since 2005, was presented with flowers.

Over the years, a considerable number of people have given their time and energies to support Caversham and so the first toast was to 'THE TEAM — PAST AND PRESENT'.



Life changes, Caversham will change and there will be new and different challenges that require new approaches, new people, new skills. CADRA cannot and should not stand still. So, a second toast was drunk to 'THE NEXT 50 YEARS'.



Over a glass of fizz and a slice of cake, there was time to enjoy the exhibitions from the Caversham 100 Years On project, to catch up on local news including the recent consultation on Caversham bus routes and to help strengthen that ever-important local network.



[www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/cavershamresidents](https://www.facebook.com/cavershamresidents)

No need to register with Facebook to see the latest news