

Caversham and District Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 15 May 2012 — Chairman's report 2011/2012

Caversham 100 Years On

The involvement of so many different groups and individuals in this project has been a delight and the wealth of Caversham's local history never ceases to amaze. 2011 was a busy time for CADRA including the Grand Caversham Garden Party, the production of the exhibitions and their inclusion in a booklet. Sales of the booklet through WordPlay have been brisk and stock is coming to an end. The design of the Heritage Map is well underway and the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens are busy with production of a Heritage Guide. We hope soon to confirm details of a joint project with Historypin and Highdown School.

The project has been important in continuing to strengthen the local network and sense of community. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens and the Ways and Means Charity with regular support from Reading Borough Council Parks Department.

Planning

The committee continues to monitor local applications and to post a monthly summary on the website. We are grateful to Mo Prins for undertaking this painstaking research every month.

With the implementation of national planning policy including a presumption in favour of sustainable development, the emerging Local Development Frameworks for Reading and South Oxfordshire will be highly significant in determining decisions on individual applications. CADRA has followed each stage of the lengthy process commenting where appropriate. Liz Killick has been very helpful in analysing the lengthy documents for their relevance to Caversham.

If there were sufficient interest and volunteers, the Localism Bill provides for a Neighbourhood Forum to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

An application to extend gravel working along the east of Henley Road towards Shiplake has yet to be decided.

Bus services

The changes in bus services including the 22 route produced strong local reactions. We currently expect that following some car parking restrictions, the previous route will be re-established later this year.

Transport

CADRA is regularly represented at the Transport Users Forum. This has covered many aspects relating to the Reading Station project. Following many complaints about crossing Forbury Road to catch the bus back to Caversham, a traffic island has been installed. Paul Matthews, a Transport Consultant, was co-opted to the committee and his involvement has been invaluable.

Local Policing

The two Neighbourhood Action Groups continue to meet regularly. Les James, a member of the CADRA Committee chaired the Upper Caversham group until his recent posting overseas. Both groups would appreciate more support. They are currently examining parking issues. We urge everyone to review their security following a spate of burglaries. Mike Gilbert and John Roach have provided a regular link to the Police team and support to the work of the NAGs, identifying particular issues for us to share with the wider community.

Licensing

There are few new applications in Caversham. CADRA attended the hearing for a new application from the Island Bar when a reasonable compromise was decided. As in previous years, we have attended meetings with the Reading Festival organisers.

Mapledurham Pavilion

Grant applications are being pursued for various components of the planned replacement of the different facilities. The estimate for the hall is in the order of £250 thousand. We congratulate our friends at WADRA for a very successful start to a fundraising programme. Thanks are due to our Treasurer, Stewart Bolton who continues to attend the Management Committee.

Caversham Centre

The Caversham Traders Association goes from strength to strength and their website: www.chooseCaversham.co.uk also supports many local groups and charities. Independent local traders have continued to win awards thanks to their loyal customer base.

Local events

The Caversham Festival on Christchurch Meadows managed by Readipop is set to become an annual event. This year's festival on 8 July works with 'Churches Together in Caversham' following an Olympic theme. There are many other local events this summer, some with an Olympic or Diamond Jubilee theme, which are shown on the events page of the website.

Caversham Bridge Newspaper

Members of the committee write the column 'From the Lookout Post' which appears on alternate months. We would like to thank John Mullaney, who following his retirement from the Caversham Bookshop, joined the CADRA Committee and wrote the column 'Ex Libris'. John has recently laid down his pen. We are delighted that the Caversham Traders and many other groups are submitting regular material for the newspaper which is a valuable source of local information. Copies are on sale in WordPlay or you can subscribe for just £3.00 from 947 1370 or email: cemoloney@yahoo.co.uk

CADRA website

We were delighted to welcome Ann Goodridge as a co-opted member. Ann has done a thorough overhaul of the site and we will soon be developing a new modified website with support from Edge Impact.

We express our thanks to David Ferguson who provided invaluable IT support including with newsletter layout and the website. David's work has taken him away from Reading and he has reluctantly resigned from the committee.

Membership

CADRA depends on having a substantial membership to remain a strong organisation. New members can sign up via the website or by using a membership form which is available from the library, WordPlay or Delicious. Payment can be made by bank transfer, standing order or by cheque. We hope that as many people as possible will set up a regular payment to reduce the administrative burden on members and on our hardworking Membership Secretary Jacque Tomson. We are very grateful to Jacque for looking after membership arrangements as well as sending and receiving emails on behalf of CADRA.

We are able to communicate with a growing proportion of members by email. Please let us know if you change your email address. We hope you find the occasional emails helpful. Our aim is to pass on useful information without overloading you. Please do let us know whether we get the balance right.

CADRA committee

I am extremely grateful to all members of the committee and the committee support team for all their support through the year. Every organisation needs new blood and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who could offer support in some way so that Caversham can always be *a Great Place to Live!*