

From the Lookout Post – October 2012

A warm welcome to our new Police Inspector

Inspector Phaedra J. Binns now heads up the Neighbourhood Police teams for Tilehurst, Caversham, Southcote and Norcot. In Caversham, she is supported by a Sergeant, three Police Constables and five PCSOs. In response to our invitation to introduce herself to the Caversham community, Inspector Binns replied as follows:

I have spent 18 years service in the police. This included time as a uniformed Constable at Newbury, Roads Policing at Reading, Uniform Sergeant at Reading and work on a Police Community Action Team. I then worked on our Tactical Support Department on static (diplomatic) protection duties, and as Acting Inspector for Specialist Support Services which covered Dog Section, the Specialist Search and Recovery Team (police divers) and at that time the Counter-Terrorist Wing. I was then promoted substantively to the role of Neighbourhood Inspector for Wokingham West where I worked for three and a half years including six months as a Response / Patrol Inspector before transfer to Reading on 9th July 2012.

I applied to return to Reading for the challenges that a busy area brings and am very pleased to have the North and West as this was where much of my time was spent on the Community Action Team. My aims for the team are to work with other agencies to prevent and detect crime, and to tackle issues that matter to the community through visible policing and engagement.

I am married with two children under five, a dog and a cat. My hobbies include cross-country running, motor-cycling and socialising!

I look forward to meeting members of the community in due course. My message for the Caversham residents is: "Please don't hesitate to call in any activity or people that you believe to be suspicious as so many of our criminals are caught thanks to the vigilance of the community."

We wish Inspector Binns and her team every success. Sergeant Aziz who has worked hard for Caversham, recently passed his exams for promotion to the rank of Inspector. We send him thanks and congratulations and look forward to hearing news of his successor in Caversham. With the wider responsibilities of the local Inspector, the post of local Sergeant is ever more important.

You can contact the local police team by calling 101 or emailing:

CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Planning More School Places

2012 has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of applications for children starting school. To meet the immediate needs, 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 city for work, combined with the poor economic climate

leading to more families remaining in smaller starter homes and fewer moving out to the suburbs and villages.

Reading Borough Council is predicting that 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 consultation through Head Teachers. Understandably, this pressure is causing considerable anxiety for parents and the increasing demand for 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. The meeting will take place at 7.45pm on Monday 22 October in Thameside School, Harley Street. There is some parking at the school or it is five minutes walk from Waitrose Car Park.

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 process renewals.

New CADRA Website

www.cadra.org.uk has now been completely revised with a range of local photographs. On the site you will find summary information on a range of issues including links to the specific pages of official websites. There is a News and an Events page and other information specific to Caversham. If you would like to join the Caversham and District Residents' Association, you will be most welcome. Joining details are available on the website or you can pick up a leaflet from the Library, WordPlay or 'Delicious'.

Caversham 100 Years On - Heritage Exhibition Book

In view of the continuing demand for the book, a second reprint is in hand. You can order a copy from WordPlay on 948 2800 or email info@wordplayshop.co.uk

Reading Festival

As in previous years, local associations including WADRA and CADRA met the organisers during the run up to the 2012 festival. A leaflet for residents was distributed to those living closest and this was also available on the CADRA website. Distribution of the letter seems to have been patchier this year and there problems with smoke on the first two nights. However, the event seems generally to have proceeded well and we congratulate the organisers on their careful planning of an event including just short of 90,000 people.

Caversham Court Gardens

We would like to add our thanks to Graham Spiller who has very ably tended the gardens over the past months and is now working elsewhere in the Parks Department. We extend a warm welcome back to Emily Darby who returned as Head Gardener in September following her period of maternity leave.
