

CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CADRA) 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 year has been incredibly busy for your CADRA Committee. We hope that you are finding the new extended roundups useful. We try to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information within our monthly newsletter, be that matters of planning, safer neighbourhood forum information, or details of events in and around North Reading.

In July we attended the St Peters Church /Caversham Court Gardens fete. We hosted a quiz on the churches in North Reading and had a colouring competition to promote water safety. The colouring competition highlights how closely we now work with the North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum.

In September we put on a Heritage Open Day Event, including a talk from our President on the two bridges at Caversham. You will hear more at the AGM leading up to our publication of a booklet marking the centenary of Caversham Bridge, to accompany the 2023 booklet on Reading Bridge. We are hoping that the first run of the books will be available at the AGM.

In November at our open meeting we were delighted to have Amanda Stephens presenting her new charity Olly's Work - The Olly Stephens Trust. We look forward to continuing to work with the trust as it seeks to promote hope and happiness and prevent hate and harm in our community.

In December SODC rejected a planning appeal for 70 houses to be built on the land of the old golf course in Emmer Green. CADRA objected to the SODC application and the linked RBC ones, and spoke at both of the RBC's planning application meetings. We were very pleased that SODC rejected the application.

In February the developer at the golf course lodged an appeal to the decision that SODC made. Given the level of residents objections to both the original 223 houses proposal in Reading and this new proposal CADRA felt that it had no option other than to become a Rule 6 participant at the appeal. The committee did not take this decision lightly. It is a colossal amount of work requiring committee members and committee support members to provide two months of preparatory work followed by two solid weeks attending the appeal. CADRA did not have the luxury of being able to afford a barrister and so that work fell upon the committee and committee support team. CADRA worked closely with the other Rule 6 party, Kidmore End Parish Council whose volunteers also did a huge amount of work and we thank them for that work.

I am immensely proud of the work that the committee and committee support team has done throughout the year. While I have listed the key items that members will be aware of, these teams keep the CADRA machine working. Those teams have to deal with membership, respond to planning applications and local plans, complete secretarial functions, do our book keeping, do our social media, maintain our website, produce flyers and books, produce merchandise for use or sale, attend RBC forums, liaise with other similar minded groups, organise open meetings and closed meetings, help promote the North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum, speak at various events, liaise with the bus companies etc etc. I am, therefore, incredibly grateful to the committee and to our committee support team for all the work that they have put in over the past year.

Our long term membership secretary steps back from the role and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Adrian for all the work that he has done for CADRA.

Thank you.

Nick Haskins
Chair CADRA