

From the Lookout Post – June 2012

Bus Route 22

In March, Reading Buses confirmed a decision that Route 22 will be diverted back to the route it took prior to 26th September 2011, i.e. via Priest Hill in both directions. By reverting to the previous line of route they hope to improve general timekeeping.

There is no date for this change, as it is dependent on some changes being made to car parking in Priest Hill itself. It is likely that the Community Link buses 18 & 28 will then be withdrawn from Caversham Heights and redeployed elsewhere in Caversham to meet other needs.

Caversham 100 years on

Sales of the booklet of heritage exhibitions have been very successful. Stocks are down to the last box and there are no plans for a further reprint. If you would like a copy, please contact WordPlay on 948 2800, or email: info@wordplayshop.co.uk

Caversham Festival

This is the second year that Readipop will be running the festival. Its purpose will be to have a vibrant and inclusive community event to celebrate Caversham and its residents. In the Olympic year, Readipop have joined with Churches Together in Caversham and their Olympics Steering Group. A generous donation from Festival Republic, organisers of the Reading Festival for each of the next five years will allow the festival to go from strength to strength.

The free-to-attend event community festival will again be held at Christchurch Meadows on the riverside. It will include three music stages, a wide variety of food concessions, children's workshops, fairground rides, boat rides, arts and craft stalls, dance demonstrations, performance art, theatre and much more.

Local businesses will be selling their wares on stalls. There will be dance demonstrations from local classes, local music artists, an acoustic stage, an area for children's workshops, the Scouts, local churches, Police, Council services and local charities information stands. The festival is also a platform for much of the creative work that Readipop generates as an arts charity working in the community. Most of the content of the festival is made up from local bands, groups and clubs and showcases much of the work that Readipop helps to create throughout the year. It will provide opportunities for the bands, musicians and artists which Readipop support to perform at this event to their local community. Other volunteers will learn and develop skills through getting involved in the technical and management aspects of the festival.

A state of the art mobile phone 'app' will act as a personal guide throughout the festival, with access to the in-built festival guide and the ability to listen to any of the music being played on any of the stages.

Readipop would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to by donating a barrel of ale. This will cost £85 but would make £250 seed funding to enable the festivals success for next year. They are also looking for donations for the primary school workshops - £1500, and the free to attend outdoor cinema screening on Saturday July 7th - £2350.

Email: office@readipop.co.uk

Telephone: 0118 938 7156

www.cavershamfestival.co.uk

Local Plans

Following the examination of the Reading Sites and Detailed Policies Development Plan Document by the Planning Inspector, an addition has been proposed by the Inspector of a presumption in favour of sustainable development for applications which accord with the policies in the Local Plan. CADRA have written to challenge this general presumption in favour of a more balanced approach to ensure that poorly designed proposals in the wrong location do not get built. Failing this, we must hope that the work done on the Local Plan for Reading will to some extent balance that general presumption. If there were sufficient interest and volunteers, the Localism Bill provides for a Neighbourhood Forum to develop a more local Neighbourhood Development Plan.

www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood/

Burglaries

The police have had some success in apprehending a number of suspects for burglaries in Caversham. Most of these occurred where an opportunist had relatively easy access. A common entry point is via the letter box to either open the door or to hook onto keys - often car keys. Police advice continues to be:

- Lock the main door at night with a key from inside
- Take all keys and valuables upstairs
- Leave ground floor windows and doors secured
- Consider fitting internal key operated bolts at the top and bottom of the door.

For too many Caversham residents, their home has become a crime statistic.

Mr Robin Sharp

Sadly Mr Robin Sharp passed away in April. Amongst his legacies to Caversham are the hundreds of children and adults he coached at tennis. Robin conveyed an enthusiasm and sportsmanship to the youngsters he taught and was Caversham Tennis Club coach for many years. In the mid 1970's, when Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club was being formed, his coaching gave a number of player's sufficient confidence to join the Oxfordshire league. Robin made many other contributions to Caversham life, but tennis was to the fore. We extend our sympathy to Robin's family.
