

## Caversham Bridge May edition

### I care about where I live!

Civic Day on 17th June 2017 is a national celebration of civic pride. It is a day, each year, to say "I care about where I live". [www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)

This year, Civic Day will act as a focus to celebrate 50 years of conservation areas. These were first created, in 1967, as a result of widespread public concern over the pace of redevelopment in historic towns and cities. Today there are over 10,000 conservation areas in the UK. Civic Voice is asking communities across the country to come together to say "My Conservation Area Matters" so that this can be a year of celebrations highlighting the measures designed to protect areas recognised for their special character or history.

Reading has 15 Conservation Areas including two north of the river – St Peter's and Surley Row. The newly created community body, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which includes several members from Caversham, is working with the Borough Council for Conservation Areas across Reading.

1967 was also the year that the Caversham and District Residents Association was founded, so 2017 is a year of golden anniversaries. CADRA's declared aim is to "preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District" or in other words that Caversham should always be: - 'a great place to live'. So, in 2017 CADRA will try and shine a light on what it is that makes Caversham special and what we all care about.

On 20 June, following a brief formal AGM, local architectural historian, Dr Megan Aldrich FSA will present a personal view on: '**A history of architecture in Caversham**'. From its early medieval origins through to the rapid development of the late nineteenth century, we are fortunate to have many interesting historic buildings and features as well as the vistas and perspectives created by the Victorian and Edwardian architects.

Megan has worked as a Director of Sotheby's, with museums at home and abroad and is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, one of the British government's official designated bodies for providing advice regarding heritage and planning policy. She will just have returned from a two-

day conference at the University of Liverpool in May on the gothic revival architect and writer, Thomas Rickman, for which she is co-organiser.

The meeting takes place on **Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 7.30pm at Thameside School hall, Harley Road**. Everyone is welcome.

Later in the year, we will be looking at the importance of trees in the urban landscape. Our predecessors bequeathed us a wealth of trees which still shape our environment and local views. CADRA is finalising plans for the planting of a new tree as we consider the environment which we will pass on to future generations.

Dr John Evans, a Caversham resident and crop scientist with an interest in trees is developing a presentation on '**Trees in Caversham**'. This will take place on Tuesday 17 October **at 7.30pm at Thameside School hall, Harley Road**. We hope that you will also join us then to celebrate fifty years of work for the place we live and to toast the future of the Caversham and the association.

There will be a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary extended issue of the CADRA autumn newsletter for CADRA members. You can join CADRA on line at [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk) or pick up one of the new leaflets from the library or Waltons Jewellers.