

Sharing our Streets – Achieving the Vision



The project has been moving forward since the joint meeting in November 2013 held by CADRA and the Caversham Traders Association. The Vision for Caversham

‘To enhance Caversham centre as a high quality place for shopping, working, living and leisure and to promote an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable village centre for the 21st Century’

has received wide support and we should now look to achieving that Vision. A follow up meeting will be held **Wednesday 19 November at 7.45pm in the Caversham Baptist Church**. The traditional traffic management techniques, developed in the 1960s have moved on and other centres have successfully made their through roads more ‘friendly’ to non-motorised users. What is now needed is an agreed plan which is supported by local people, local traders and by the Council so that, together, we are ready to seize opportunities to secure funding. This will not be achieved overnight but we can change our village for the better. All are welcome at the meeting as we move forward to a more detailed proposal. With the development of St Martin’s Centre, this work is timely and ever more important.

St Martins Centre

The planning application submitted has raised a number of concerns – many of them as to whether the design of the Church Street frontage is appropriate to the character of a historic local centre. There are also many practical aspects to be examined, including planting and traffic issues. We understand informally that, following discussion with Planning Officers, revised plans are to be

submitted. The application will not therefore reach the Planning Applications Committee until later in the year. Comments can still be submitted until formal consideration at the Planning Committee.

It is not yet clear whether the revised plans will necessitate a further formal consultation and what will transpire before this paper appears in a month from now. Updates will be posted on the CADRA website, www.cadra.org.uk with links to view the plans and send comments on line.

Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club Relaunch on 7th September 2014

A £70,000 capital investment programme at The Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC) was officially opened at a fun day, including a BBQ on 7 September 2014. There were numerous participants including existing and perspective members with a number of local officials present. The improvements included resurfacing of two courts including new posts and nets, fencing of all four courts and installation of a veranda overlooking the courts. The funding for the refurbishment came from a £39,000 award from the Olympic Legacy Funding Programme, administered by Sport England and £28,000 from club reserves. Club Chairman, Chris Wright paid tribute to the efforts of club member David Maynerd, who not only successfully navigated the grant application procedure but also project managed all of the works. Coupled to the new facilities there will be more opportunities for coaching, particularly for children. David will be delighted to hear from interested parties on 07831 884474. 2014 subscriptions are from £80 per year and £13 per year for juniors (6-16). The refreshed tennis facility, including paved parking for the disabled, landscaping and an improved club ambiance is encouraging ever more interest to improve the Mapledurham Pavilion.

Floral displays in Reading and Caversham

Once again the Borough Council and everyone involved should be congratulated on the high standard of hanging baskets which featured in many parts of the town including Broad Street and St Mary Butts. These colourful show pieces could also be observed on both Reading and Caversham bridges. It would be wonderful if, in 2015, the hanging baskets could be extended into the centre of Caversham.

Cutbacks in Council spending led to a decision three years ago to stop maintaining the wooden planters in Caversham. Since then, volunteers from Caversham GLOBE have been looking after all the planting, watering and weeding of all 20 planters. Donations from some of the traders helped buy some shrubs two years ago a grant was received from the Waitrose Community Matters (green tokens) scheme. It is hoped to repeat this so don't forget to drop in your green tokens to help buy more plants to brighten up central Caversham. The Council has recently provided three new planter boxes outside the BT exchange to replace ones which were displaced by the new cycle hire scheme; these are due to be stocked with new shrubs provided by RBC later in the year. As well as the planting and watering, GLOBE supporters sanded and re-stained all the planters. A lot of effort is involved with regular watering, weeding and planting sessions, and GLOBE would welcome any help with this. Contact details at www.cavershamglobe.org.uk or Tel Dave Kenny 0790 663 0367

Caversham in WWI

Trooper Potts who was awarded the Victoria Cross for rescuing a wounded colleague is well known in Reading through the excellent work of the Trooper Potts VC Memorial

Trust www.pottsvctrust.org. Perhaps less well known is his fellow townsman in the Berkshire Yeomanry, Trooper Arthur Andrews who worked for the Great Western Railway. Fred Potts was wounded in the leg by a machine gun bullet when attacking a Turkish position on Scimitar Hill. As he crawled back to the British Lines he came across Arthur Andrews, severely wounded and unable to walk.

Fred remained with Arthur for some 48 hours under the Turkish trenches. Eventually, finding a shovel, he strapped Arthur to it, and using it as a sledge, dragged him back over 600 yards to the British Trenches.

Arthur Andrews spent two years in hospital and was discharged from the Army as medically unfit. This photograph shows him recuperating at Cliff House, The Warren, Caversham.



[Trooper Andrews is in the back row, fifth from the left](#)

The auxiliary hospital at Cliff House in The Warren, Caversham was opened 10 May 1915 with 22 beds and later expanded to 50. It was lent to the Red Cross by Mrs Cotton and closed 11th November 1916 when the hospital transferred to Devonshire Lodge. It was operated by the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and 904 patients were treated on the two sites.

Cliff House Hospital re-opened 30th May 1917 as a country annexe to the Freemason's Hospital in London with 25 beds. It provided massage and electrical treatment and another 450 patients were treated.

Trooper Andrews' grandson Chris reports that Arthur Andrews' hip bones were shattered by enemy bullets and he remembers his grandfather wore a big boot and walked with the aid of a stick. After Arthur's wife died in 1977, he moved out of Caversham and down to Devon to live with his son. He died in Teignmouth in September 1980 aged 89.

Our thanks go to Captain Andrew French of the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum for sending this photograph and prompting further research. The Exhibition, Caversham in WWI, which was shown in

Caversham Library throughout August, can be seen at www.cadra.org.uk and is available to borrow on request. Email Helen.Lambert@btinternet.com.