



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association
The Voice of Caversham since 1967



CADRA Monthly Round-up: March 2019

As usual, may we ask you to forward this round-up to anyone else who you think might be interested? Thank you.

CADRA Treasurer

Our Treasurer for the last 25 years, Stewart Bolton, has retired from the post. We are deeply grateful to him for steering our financial affairs so effectively for such a long period and for combining efficiency with great good humour. Stewart has fully briefed his successor, Colin Hall, and the machinery continues to run smoothly.

CADRA and Planning

Representing your interests on planning matters is one of CADRA's main roles. The sad loss of Liz Killick means that we are short of volunteers to help with this, so if you, or someone you know, are interested in this area of work, we would like to hear from you, especially if you have a relevant background or expertise. Please email us at info@cadra.org.uk

William Marshal and Caversham

May sees the 800th anniversary of the death, at his home in Caversham, of this towering figure of medieval England. A talk by Tom Asbridge, a leading expert will be the centrepiece of our AGM on 11th June.

We are working with the team who designed the Caversham Heritage Map to develop a richly illustrated panel, telling his story. Subject to planning permission, the panel will be installed on the viewing platform of Caversham Bridge, looking downstream towards Deans Farm, where his home is thought to have been and Reading Abbey, where his body was taken for a mass, before burial at Temple Church, London.

We have secured about half of the cost but need to raise a further £2000. Donations toward the balance would be immensely helpful and can be made using our [DONATIONS FORM](#).

The [Reading Civic Society](#) (a registered charity) has kindly agreed to receive donations and apply for Gift Aid for the project.

Flood Prevention

Last month we mentioned the Environment Agency's (EA) [proposals](#) for major works on both sides of the river from Caversham Bridge to well downstream of Reading Bridge. As proposed, these will have an enormous impact on the appearance and ecology of important waterside areas such as Christchurch Meadows, as well as on adjacent housing. They include big embankments, walls and a large, new, permanently-watered channel across the land by the playground and a huge culvert beneath George St, where it approaches Reading Bridge.

We feel strongly that three questions need to be answered:

1. What assumptions justify major flood protection works for Caversham?
2. If they are justified, are there other ways of protecting the area which would not have such a drastic impact?
3. If not, what can be done to minimise their impact through careful and sensitive design, involving the local community?

We are engaging with the EA and working closely with CABFAS (Campaign for A Better Flood Alleviation Scheme), the residents' group which has mobilised very quickly to seek answers for local people. We agree with them that local people don't know enough about these proposals, and that early site investigations by the EA's contractors are doing unnecessary damage to vegetation in the area. We urge CADRA members to visit their website <https://www.cabfas.org> to get full information.

Crime and Nuisance

There has been a spate of cold calling around Hemdean Rise and Hemdean Hill and cold calling stickers are being made available to residents in that area.

Noise nuisance from parked cars around Mapledurham Playing Fields has resulted in Antisocial Behaviour warning notices being placed and increased policing.

On a positive note, drug activity around Christchurch Meadows has diminished as a result of increased policing, and Caversham has a lower crime rate than the rest of Reading, which has experienced an 8% increase.

License application for Thames Promenade

We were pleased to hear that the license application for a festival at the end of June has just been withdrawn.

Health Services Questionnaire

The excellent Healthwatch Reading group is seeking views on how to improve our local NHS and how additional funding should be spent. We urge all members to respond:

<https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do>