



CADRA News

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



**We wish a happy, relaxed and above all safe Christmas
to all our members, and a less eventful 2021**



Our website continues to provide a vast array of [useful Covid-19 information](#) during this difficult time.

Many of us now rely on services like Zoom to keep in touch with friends, relatives and colleagues. If you need **any help setting up** this sort of facility, or anything to do with the internet, [Reading Neighbourhood Network](#) provides a free service to call: 0118 937 2273 (Mon-Fri 9-5).

Happy Caversham Christmas

The six [Caversham Yuletide Images](#) by local artists Janina Maher and Liz Read are still available to download, colour in and display.

Planning

South Oxfordshire's Local Plan is entering its final stages. Following the public inquiry, the Inspector's modifications have been published and are being considered by the Council. The news is broadly good in that no major development is proposed close to the Caversham boundary, and we shall of course continue to monitor the position.

The application for up to 260 new homes on the **Reading Golf Club** site has been withdrawn. A re-submission seems likely, and if you commented on the previous application please bear in mind that your comments will not be carried forward automatically: if you want your views to be heard, you will need to comment again quoting the new reference number. We will let you know when a new application is submitted.

An outline application has been submitted for a huge town centre site at **Station Hill**, proposing a mix of retail, leisure and residential uses. CADRA will be taking a look and commenting if appropriate.

Chazey Wood

This is a lovely woodland near Caversham and is much enjoyed by local people, especially at bluebell time. Postings on social media suggest that the operator of the adjacent paintball centre plans to extend that use throughout the wood, using 'BB guns', and that public access would be excluded. The operator apparently confirms this intention on Facebook. If this is so, it raises big issues of rights of way, impact on the environment, and planning permission. We are attempting to find out the position and will comment appropriately.

Crime

Continuing the woodland theme, the Police are keen to hear of the abuse of local woodlands by off-road motor bikes. You may recall that the daughter of one of our committee members was seriously injured when her horse was spooked in this way. If you spot such an incident, report it to Thames Valley Police using their [Report a Crime](#) form.

They have also suggested emailing barbara.taylor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

There has been a worrying number of other incidents around Caversham, but it is encouraging that arrests have been made. The police rely heavily on reports from the community and urge you to report any incidents on 101 or online. In an emergency or if a crime is being committed, call 999. Your reports are important for the deployment of resources to tackle crime. The police particularly request that we do not give money to beggars.

Surveys

We have been asked to pass on some worthwhile survey requests to you.

Reading Healthwatch is consulting on priorities for the area's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. You will be asked to rank 11 competing priorities and there is an incentive of £100 in shopping vouchers for a random participant. [Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Have Your Say](#)

New Ways of Being in Touch with Your GP Surgery

There is a questionnaire targeting mainly people over 50, about new ways of communicating with their GP or other staff at their local surgery. It seeks to understand how patients feel about these new methods.

The survey covers all of Reading and is being carried out by the South Reading Patient Voice Group, an organisation of local people and patients interested in health and health services. Anonymised results will be reported to the local NHS, Reading Borough Council and other public organisations for the purpose of improving GP services for older people. [New Ways of Being in Touch](#)

Personal contact details are taken solely for the purpose of awarding a number of cash prizes (drawn randomly) and will not be retained.

Bin Collections

As usual, collection days will be different over Christmas. You can check these at <https://www.reading.gov.uk/bin-calendar/>. Garden waste collections due on Friday 25th December will take place on Tuesday 29th December. The Garden Waste Service will then be suspended until week commencing 11th January when collections will take place one day later than your normal collection day. Look out for mail next week with your new calendar showing changed bin days and the new food collection from 1 February 2021.

Robin Bentham, WADRA Chair 1999 - 2019

We were very sad to hear that Robin Bentham died on 10 December, not long after the sad loss of his wife Eve. Robin worked tirelessly for the local community over a remarkable time and the two associations worked together on many issues. He will be much missed.
