



CADRA Round up - May 2021

Your committee met once again via the web this month. We are sorry to be losing James Tyson, who has been a great help on social media matters but is leaving the area. We are glad to welcome back Mo Prins, a former committee member, who has kindly stepped in to take on that role.

This update summarises what is going on. Please share it with anyone you feel might be interested. There is a lot more information on a wider range of subjects in the [CADRA newsletter](#), which has just been emailed to you.

Planning

The major application for housing on **Reading Golf Club** has, not unexpectedly, proved very controversial and has attracted a very large number of comments, both for and against. It is expected to be determined at the Planning Application Committee on 2 June or 23 June. These meetings can be viewed online, either live or later on the YouTube channel. <https://www.reading.gov.uk/council/democracy/>

An application ([210373](#)) has been submitted to convert the disused restaurant on **Piper's Island** (the island reached from Caversham Bridge on its downstream side) into a three-bedroom house. The island takes its name from Mr Piper, the Ferryman, whose house stood on the island until the construction of the present bridge. No major change in external appearance is proposed, and CADRA has commented that this is something of a missed opportunity: it is not an attractive building and occupies one of the most prominent and sensitive sites anywhere in the Borough, sitting right in the middle of the river and adjoining the historic bridge and Conservation Area.

As always, you can find the all the latest significant planning applications under consideration on [CADRA's Planning List](#). The left-hand column links to the Council page with plans and documents. The right-hand column links to any comments from CADRA.

CADRA AGM

You will be getting an email very soon notifying you of the issues on which a vote is needed. Voting closes on 26th May and we urge all members to take part.

Talk – Reading Abbey and the Gaol

To replace the usual talk at the AGM, we have an on-line one, illustrating the overlapping histories of Reading Abbey and Reading Gaol. We are delighted to welcome John Painter, of

the Friends of Reading Abbey and the co-author of a book, *Reading Abbey and the Abbey Quarter*, to present it on **22 June at 7.30 pm**.

Register for this excellent free event through Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/c4xjusb2> to be sent an access link.

The talk relates to the celebrations of the Abbey's 900th anniversary and you will find more details in the latest [CADRA newsletter](#).

Closure of Nationwide Building Society

Despite the efforts of campaigners, the Caversham branch has now closed. The CADRA website lists local ATMs which you may find helpful: [ATMs in Caversham](#)

One eventual possibility may lie in the concept of 'Bank Hubs', an initiative by [Community Access to Cash Pilots](#).

Safer Neighbourhoods

Community Speedwatch, which involves volunteers operating advisory speed cameras, is to be reintroduced later in the year, once Covid restrictions allow. The Police will be looking for volunteers and we shall pass on details once we have them.

Mayor's Charity

Usually, the Mayor holds a fundraising ball in support of their charities, which clearly is not possible this year. The current Mayor, Cllr Stevens, has set up a charity auction to raise funds for his four chosen charities; No 5 Young People (which provides professional training for counsellors wishing to work with children and young people); the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity; the Royal British Legion and the Friends of Reading Abbey.

There are 95 items to bid for at a wide range of prices: [Mayor's Charity Auction](#)