

# CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

*The Voice of Caversham since 1967*



## William Marshal

The 800th anniversary this year of the death of William Marshal in Caversham prompts an obvious choice of speaker for our AGM: we are delighted to welcome Tom Asbridge, a well-known expert on the period and author of *The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power behind five English Thrones*.

In 1219, seriously ill, William chose to come home to the Manor of Caversham where he managed the affairs of state from his sick bed and put his affairs in order. After his death on 14 May, his body was taken to Reading Abbey for a solemn mass and then on to London for burial in the Temple Church.

Born as the second son of a minor noble in 1146 or 1147, William rose to a prominent position. In 1189 he was awarded the hand of Isabel de Clare, about 25 years his junior and heiress to lands in Normandy, Ireland, Wales and England, including the Manor of Caversham.

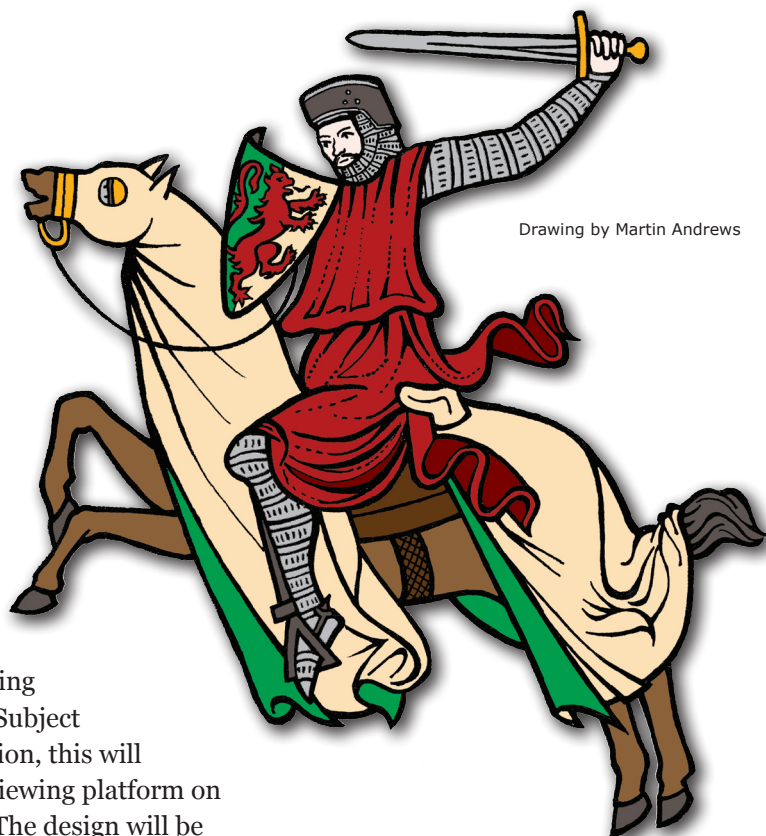
After the death of King John in 1216, William – aged 70 and faced with civil

war and a French invasion – led England to victory at the Battle of Lincoln and reissued Magna Carta under his own seal.

To mark his place in Caversham, we are working to create a richly illustrated panel telling the story of his life. Subject to planning permission, this will be installed on the viewing platform on Caversham Bridge. The design will be on show at the AGM.

We are hoping to raise the final £1000 towards the cost of the panel so donations would be gratefully received. Donation forms are available from Caversham Library or Waltons, or can be downloaded at [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk). Cash donations or cheques would be very welcome on 11 June.

At the AGM we will also bid farewell to our Treasurer of 25 years, Stewart



Drawing by Martin Andrews

Bolton. His is an extraordinary period of service for which we are truly grateful. Stewart's careful and efficient management and his wise counsel will be much missed.

Sadly, committee member Liz Killick lost her battle with cancer last November. Her work on planning applications and planning strategy was very important, and she was one of the three main authors of the report on St Peters Conservation Area. We are delighted that the formal appraisal, adopted by the Council just before her death, carries a dedication to Liz.

*Helen Lambert*

### AGM & Open Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 11 June 2019  
Thameside School, Harley Road

Following the brief formal business:

### William Marshal, the Greatest Knight

Tom Asbridge, Queen Mary University of London  
Author, TV presenter, Specialist in Medieval History

### Can you help?

Representing your interests on *planning matters* is one of CADRA's main roles. The loss of Liz Killick means that we are short of volunteers to help with this. 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](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk).

# Caversham flood alleviation scheme

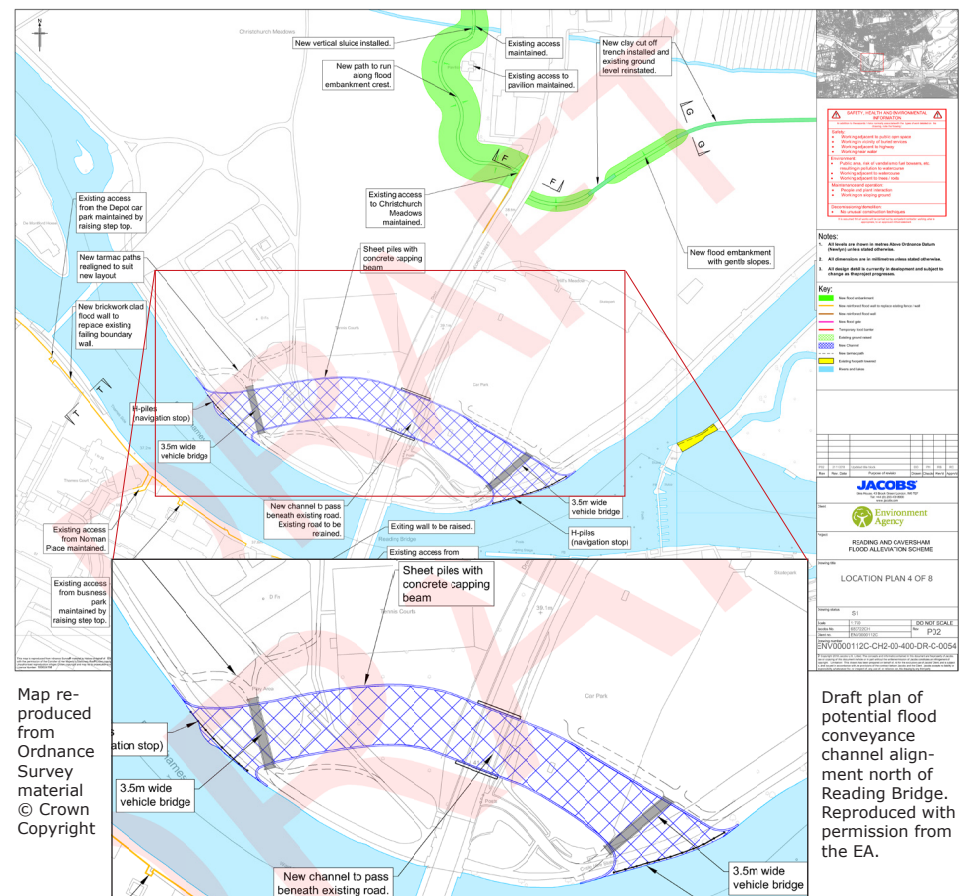
The Environment Agency's (EA) is in the early stages of designing major works on both sides of the river from Caversham Bridge to Amersham Road. Their indicative scheme will have an enormous impact on the appearance and ecology of important waterside areas such as Christchurch Meadows, as well as on adjacent housing.

The proposals include big embankments, walls and a new, permanently-watered channel through parts of the current 'Sandy Park' playground and under the approach to Reading Bridge.

We feel strongly that three questions need to be answered:

1. What assumptions justify such 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 quickly to seek answers for local people. They are in dialogue with the EA, who have made presentations to them and to the Council. We agree with CABFAS

that local people don't know enough about these proposals, and we urge CADRA members to visit [http://bit.ly/EA\\_flood](http://bit.ly/EA_flood) and [www.cabfas.org](http://www.cabfas.org) to get more information.

## Safer Caversham

At [www.cadra.org.uk/en/Safer-Caversham](http://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Safer-Caversham) you will find several easy links, including the local police team, the programme of 'Have your Say' meetings and the leaflet 'Reporting Crime & Nuisance' for North Reading which sets out who to contact for different concerns. CADRA members without email have received a paper copy. You will also find a link to a leaflet regarding 'Illegal Encampment', which is on the notice boards at St Martins Precinct and Emmer Green.

The North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (NRSNF), on which CADRA is represented, monitors local issues and promotes action. Residents in Hemdean Rise and Hemdean Hill were given cold calling stickers following a spate of calls from people seeking to provide unwanted services. Drug activity in Christchurch Meadows has been a concern and residents have assisted police in providing intelligence. Police activity has improved the situation; particular thanks are due to PC Mike Havers. Antisocial behaviour has been a concern across Reading; local hotspots are Mapledurham Playing Fields and the play area near Amersham Road. The police took action on speeding on both Upper Woodcote Road and Henley Road. Cars were stopped and several tickets issued. Local concerns about speeding or other issues can be reported to the Neighbourhood Team who value local intelligence. Email addresses are shown on the CADRA website.

CADRA and NRSNF are following license applications for large open-air events.

## Caversham sign

The Caversham sign was designed and commissioned by CADRA to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Carved and painted by Stuart King, it is now in need of some attention. The post has started to lean, and the paint is faded and starting to peel so we have secured a plan of action. Stuart has agreed to repaint the sign in his workshop at Great Missenden and this cost will be covered by Hermes, the owner of St Martins. The Council will remove the post and refix it securely when the sign is ready.





# Planning

## South Oxfordshire

The planning application by housing developers Gladman for 245 houses was refused by South Oxfordshire District Council. The developers appealed and a Public Inquiry was held last May. A vigorous local campaign was conducted by local opponents CAGE, which CADRA supported. An impressive collaboration between organisations and individuals and the financial contributions towards the cost of a barrister were important factors in the rejection of the appeal.

Gladman sought leave for a Judicial Review of that decision to test, in the High Court, the process by which it was reached. The judge ruled that Gladman's claim 'had no prospect of success' and leave was refused. A brief oral hearing confirmed the decision to refuse a full court hearing, bringing the story to an end for this particular application.

The consultation on the S. Oxon Local Plan has now closed. Three sites near to Reading were considered for housing but were not included. One of these was the South Oxfordshire section of Reading Golf Club. The housing requirement was increased substantially as a result of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and a commitment to help Oxford City meet its contribution. More details can be found at [http://bit.ly/South\\_Oxon](http://bit.ly/South_Oxon).

## Reading

### SSE SITE

Berkeley Homes are preparing proposals for residential development on most of the SSE site between Vastern Road and the Thames, on the south side of the river. CADRA were invited to two meetings with the developers, and a public exhibition was held 25th February.

Significant changes have been made as a result of these discussions and a study of over shadowing. CADRA attended a further meeting to understand what is now proposed. The Thameside buildings will be yellow brick and set further back from the river with more planting. The high level link has been removed, views from the bridge are more open and an open area with a café is planned.

The Vastern Road side will be in red brick with detailing to resemble a wharf building and varied heights including one 11-storey section. A further public exhibition is expected on 10 May and a planning application later in June.

### ROYAL MAIL SITE

Following a public exhibition some months back, an outline planning application has been submitted (reference no. 182252). We have yet to take a view on the plans. They include a series of montages demonstrating the view from different directions (pages 2 and 3), development plot and height (page 3), non-technical summaries and indicative phasing (page 5), a landscape masterplan (page 6) and illustrative schemes (pages 7 and 8).

## Local applications

### ST MARTINS PRECINCT

A revised application for part of the St Martins scheme was registered in November 2018. This involved moving the proposed cinema and an increased number of flats on the Church Street frontage. CADRA commented in some detail ([www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning#block21](http://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning#block21)). There is no firm news yet on a decision or a Planning Committee meeting date for the proposals.

### READING GOLF CLUB

The development partner for Reading Golf Club has started pre-application discussions for possible development of the club site as they move towards a merger with Caversham Heath Golf Club. CADRA met with them as part of a series of meetings. The section of land identified for housing within the Reading Local Plan was discussed at the hearing last September and some preliminary comments have now been received from the Planning Inspector. The club are seeking development beyond that outlined in the draft Local Plan, to allow investment in up-to-date leisure facilities. Development of the remaining section of the Reading part of the site and also the land within South Oxfordshire would be a major step, contrary to both draft Local Plans. CADRA will watch closely as clearer ideas develop.

## Conservation Areas

The new St Peters Conservation Area appraisal was formally adopted on 21 November 2018, the principal change being the extension of the area to the east, where several buildings are the subject of proposals for change. The former Lloyds Bank building has been restored and brought back into use as a café with sympathetic changes to ground floor windows.

CADRA members involved with the Conservation Area Advisory Committee have been contributing to the draft Appraisal for the Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation area in central Reading. We will shortly be starting work on elements of the Action Plan in the St Peters Appraisal, many of which will have a Reading-wide application.

## Caversham buses

Members of the CADRA Committee met recently with Robert Williams who took up the post of CEO Reading Buses last autumn. It was useful to understand the issues which Reading Buses face and to discuss opportunities for future communication.

# About CADRA

Our 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!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the *Caversham Bridge* local newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. The Facebook page (shown on the CADRA homepage) gives up-to-the-minute local news. You do *not* need to register with Facebook.

## Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at [info@cadra.org.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk). Please let us know if you change your email address.

## Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. New leaflets are available from Caversham Library or Waltons in Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984. You can join and pay online at [www.cadra.org.uk/application\\_form.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/application_form.php).

## The Committee

**Chairman:** Helen Lambert, 5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE, Tel: 947 3165

**Treasurer:** Colin Hall (co-opted), 2 Hornbeam Close, RG4 7DF, Tel: 946 3460

**Secretary:** Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ, Tel: 947 8744

**Membership:** Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Woodcote Road, RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

**Website:** Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

**Planning:** John Nicholls (co-opted), Sandcroft Road; Kim Pearce, The Mount; Malcolm Pemble, Shepherds Lane

**Safer Caversham:** Alan Wright, Upper Warren Avenue

### COMMITTEE SUPPORT

**Transport:** Paul Matthews, Albert Road; John Lee, Hemdean Road

**Project Support:** Les Killick Upper Woodcote Road

**Informal Links:** Jo Munday, South View Avenue; Mo Prins, Haldane Road

**General support:** John Boucher, Highmoor Road; Les James, Wincroft Road; John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

**Newsletter Editor:** Helen Lambert

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# The Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11 June 2019, 7.30pm  
Thameside Primary School, Harley Road

**Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM. One household subscription carries one vote.**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2018 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

### COMMITTEE: RETIRING AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the rules of the Constitution, Helen Lambert, Jacque Tomson and Linda Watsham will retire at the AGM and are willing to stand for re-election. There are two further vacancies. John Nicholls and Colin Hall, currently co-opted members, are willing to stand for election. New co-opted members and support to the committee are always welcome.

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members. Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

**NOMINEE:** I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.

**Name** .....

**Signature & Date** .....

**Proposed by** .....

**Seconded by** .....