



## A Welcome from CADRA in 2005

Volume 5, Issue 1, March 2005



# CADRA news

## Caversham And District Residents' Association

Clouds gather over Caversham. There is no doubt that the Thames Valley is an area of very strong economic growth and it is clear that Reading is set to continue as a centre for major expansion. Inevitably, this will create an ever-increasing demand for housing and the formulation of a regional development plan rests initially with the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA). Any development in this region has to go where facilities, such as transport, health and education etc. can meet the demands arising from this development. In Berkshire, there are constraints that limit housing development in the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead areas; while west of Reading there is a large Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Consequently, most new housing will be concentrated in a strip running from Bracknell to Wokingham and Reading. CADRA understands that an initial target of

5000 new homes is being considered by the planners and we are reminded that although 20% of the population of Reading live in Caversham, only 13% of planning applications relate to Caversham. We are told that SEERA intends to preserve a balance between development on greenfield and brownfield sites together with an increased housing density in urban areas. SEERA has consulted resi-

*.....we are concerned  
about the possible  
change in character of  
Caversham.*

dents by means of a leaflet entitled 'Your Shout' (which has to be returned before April 15<sup>th</sup>.) delivered to every home in Caversham. The SEERA plan (modified if necessary in the light of the feedback from the consultation leaflets) will be submitted to the Secretary of

State this summer, but the authority to accept or reject the proposals lies with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. In common with other Residents' Associations north of the Thames, we are very concerned not only about the inevitable change in the character of Caversham following these developments, but the strains imposed on the infrastructure following their implementation. In particular, there will be problems due to increased traffic flows, more pollution, maintaining adequate water pressure and sewage treatment capacity in addition to providing satisfactory medical, educational and recreational facilities.

As reported in the 'Caversham Bridge' clouds are also gathering to the north as SEERA is planning for a further 5000 houses in South Oxfordshire and this development, if approved, could take place in an arc stretching from Tokers Green to Sonning Eye. If this does

occur, the problems outlined above will be further magnified. At a time when such large projects are on the horizon we look to the local authorities to establish effective ways of meeting both their obligation to face the demands produced by the growth of Reading and their responsibilities towards the well being of the resident population. We feel that there is a real need for organisations like CADRA to present the views of residents to the authorities and we would further encourage every resident to take part in the consultations, for once the opportunity to influence the broad debate is lost, it does not return.

*Tom Chadwick*

### 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

At the BAPTIST FREE CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT ST. at 7-45pm

Please try to attend this meeting in order to vote for members of the Committee

followed by the presentation

**'An Introduction to Anti-Social Behaviour Work'**

by Ms. Rebecca Horn (Anti-Social Behaviour Case Officer, RBC)

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**Reporting Crime.** It is a common perception that no purpose is served by reporting crime, as often no police officer visits the scene unless certain conditions are met. This is not the case. Reports of crime are fed into a database and analysed by the police to look for patterns and further information on the perpetrators. Hence, the police welcome reports of relatively minor criminal activity, such as damage to wing mirrors that could be considered to be antisocial. The intelligence gathered can often spotlight a pattern which may be the type of crime, the area or the time when it takes place. It is a fact that very often, crimes of a similar pattern are committed by a limited number of individuals and concentrating on these individuals can have a dramatic effect on reducing criminal activity.

Please make the effort to report crime for the benefit of yourself and the wider Caversham community. The number to ring is 08458 505 505

**Neighbourhood Watch.** Neighbourhood Watch schemes can reduce crime, limit the opportunities for crime, reassure those who fear crime, encourage neighbourliness and provide a method of communication to keep neighbours and the police aware of suspicious incidents. These groups can monitor their local environment and get things done to reduce vandalism and graffiti, such as improving lighting and fostering local amenities. The 'Ringmaster' communication system delivers information to Neighbourhood Watch groups by telephone, faxes and e-mails.

If you wish to set up a Neighbourhood Watch group, or join an existing one please contact the Reading co-ordinator, Liz Herbert, on 0118 953 16250 or e-mail: [liz.herbert@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:liz.herbert@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Caversham Bus Services

The designation of 'Premier Routes' is gradually being introduced by Reading Buses. The first of these is the No. 17 service (Tilehurst to Wokingham Road) which has now been in operation for some months while routes 4 and 5 (Basingstoke Road and Northumberland Avenue) are due to be upgraded this month. Next in line is the No. 9 service that operates between Caversham Heights and Shinfield Park. Eight new single decker buses should be ready for service in July and in addition 74 stops along the route are to be improved together with new bus shelters where necessary. At a number of stops, signs giving *real time information* about bus times will be installed. In everyday language, this means that the time a bus should arrive at a given

stop will be displayed. However, this information requires explanation. For example, if the time shown is, say 11-32am, this would be the time as given by the printed timetable. If the display shows that the bus will arrive in, say 8 minutes, this information comes directly from the bus and the 8 mins should count down as the bus nears the stop.

Also, a Readibus service now runs to the Farmer's Market in Great Knolly's St. on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Pick-up times are 8-30 and 9-15am. returning from the Market at 11-00 and 11-30am. The cost of this service is £2 each way and reservations can be made up to a week in advance by phoning 931 00 00.

## Bugs Bottom Action Group

The proposals for improving Balmore Walk and the footpaths along Bugs Bottom came closer to being realised following a survey by representatives from CADRA, Bugs Bottom Action Group and Reading Borough Council. The entrance from Shipnell's Cottages to the Bugs Bottom walk will be improved and new signs are to be installed at either end of the walk as a first priority. The path itself will be upgraded where necessary and it is hoped that some seats can be positioned at vantage points along the walk. A rubbish removal drive, organised through 'Rescue' is scheduled

for Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> covering the area between Badgers Rise and Gravel Hill. This will rely mainly on voluntary helpers and any assistance in this task would be more than welcome.

The improvements to Balmore Walk include cutting back and pruning overgrown areas, improving pathways and repairing seats, according to the availability of funds. A design for an orientation table has been drawn up, but its construction depends on the financial situation.



## Letter

Although the Council have put in a lot of brick paving in the town centre, the footpaths in other areas seem to have been neglected. Where the footpaths have been dug up to allow underground work to be done, the re-instatement of the path is often not very satisfactory. They are left in a rough condition and could be the cause of a fall, especially for those not so good on their pins! Also, there are a number of damaged kerbs that also present a hazard. Can I suggest that members of CADRA report these instances to the Council; tel. 0800 626 540

GM (Lower Caversham)

## CADRA Profile – Marian Fallowfield

In this issue, our Membership Secretary is the subject of the CADRA profile. Marian hails from Steyning, a country market town nestling at the foot of the South Downs. With her sister, she spent many childhood hours exploring the countryside and this led to her lasting love of downland country. Her enthusiasm for swimming was curtailed when wartime fears of invasion led to the beaches being covered with barbed wire and blocks of concrete. She attended Worthing High School for Girls and, complete with a satchel full of books and gas mask housed in its square cardboard box, she made the journey from Steyning to

Worthing by steam train. During air raids, lessons were held with the class sitting on the floor in the corridors but later, the school was evacuated to Newark on Trent where facilities were shared with the local girls grammar school.

After two happy years at Homerton Teacher Training College in Cambridge, she taught firstly in Middlesex and then back in Worthing. Marriage took her to Kent and later to Caversham.

Marian has been a member of the CADRA Committee for many years and in common with many other members, she took part in the long

but, sadly, unsuccessful campaign to save Bugs Bottom. She also helped her husband in his work for the Reading Civic Society including the successful campaign to rescue the Prospect Park Mansion House from possible demolition due to deterioration.

Recently, Marian has worked as a part time volunteer at Reading Museum while pursuing her keen interests in landscape archaeology and gardening. She has always found the CADRA Committee meetings of great interest and she feels that their scrutiny of important matters such as planning is of great value to Caversham.

## Reading Voluntary Action

James Frost

Two Professors have been appointed to lead an integrated service of high quality care for elderly people in the Reading Area. They are Christine Victor, Professor of Gerontology and Health Service Research and Margot Gosney, Professor of Elderly Care Medicine. The University of Reading and the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust have jointly appointed Professor Gosney. Reading University is to carry out research with a view to improving the health care for the elderly while a group of researchers have set up *AGEnet* by which means it is hoped to improve the care given to, and increase the awareness of the needs of elderly people in present day society.

Casualty staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital treat approximately one thousand cases of accidental falls annually. Falls are a common occurrence among the elderly, often caused by wearing worn out slippers. With this in mind, Age Concern Berkshire (a registered charity and a member of the Reading Voluntary Forum) organised a 'slipper swop' day when over fifty people exchanged, without charge, their ancient slippers for a new well fitting pair. This scheme was co-ordinated by the Reading, Newbury and Wokingham Primary Care Trusts and Foster Wheeler met the cost.

(We must apologise for an error in the last edition of our Newsletter when we referred to the Reading Voluntary Association. This should have read Reading Voluntary Action.)

## Briefly

Many thanks to all our members who assist with the delivery of Newsletters to almost 500 households and thanks also to the CADRA Committee who have given the Chairman invaluable help during his short term of office.

## About CADRA

It is almost 40 years since CADRA was established and has, in that time, become a widely respected voice for the residents of Caversham. It is a strictly non-party political Association which seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding district. In essence, this means trying to keep the good parts, improve the undesirable parts and prevent detrimental change. A brief review of what we have done over the past few years to meet our aims include:

- Planning. This takes up a large proportion of our time as we receive, on average, between one and two planning application notices each week. Most of these require a response, sometimes a site visit and attendance at the Planning Meetings.
- We are represented on the Safer Caversham Forum which (as reported in the Nov. 2004 Newsletter) is concerned with crime, vandalism, graffiti etc. and we helped with the house to house delivery of 'anti-crime' packs last summer.
- We were involved in the search for a new organising team for the Caversham Festival 2005.
- We aim to hold two Open Meetings each year. One of these took the form of a 'Question Time' when Council Officials and Police answered points raised by the capacity audience. Another dealing with aspects of the planning process also attracted a full house.
- CADRA is co-operating with the Bugs Bottom Action Group (as mentioned in this issue) in seeking ways of enhancing the Hemdean Valley and Balmore Walk.
- We campaign on issues such as the lack of bus shelters, the proliferation of advertising and street signs, bad positioning of traffic lights, poorly maintained and dangerous footpaths and general litter and untidiness.

CADRA has representatives on various bodies including the Transport Users Forum, Caversham Globe, Reading Civic Society and Reading Voluntary Action. We work with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local Residents' Associations, the Police, companies and individuals.

To be effective, we have to be able to hear our members' opinions and represent their views. These Newsletters are an indication of our commitment to this process, but our effectiveness is greatly increased by an expansion of our membership. Obviously the more members we have, the stronger is our voice. We would urge members to encourage their friends and neighbours to swell our ranks so that we can better achieve our aims. At just £2 per year per household, membership of the Association represents very good value.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who might like to become a member of CADRA. Application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, tel. 0118 954 6899

### Contacting CADRA

We prefer you to contact us in writing, so that we can give proper attention to your comments and make a considered response.

Please write to the Secretary (Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7NJ) or better still, e-mail us at CADRARG4@yahoo.co.uk.

**The Annual General Meeting**  
on **Tuesday April 12th 7:45 pm.**  
at the Baptist Free Church Centre  
South Street, Caversham.

*Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM*

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2004 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 Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, the following people will retire at the AGM; those underlined have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Stewart Bolton (Treasurer), Tom Chadwick and Sylvia Warman.

### 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 to act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.*

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

**Proposed by** ..... **Seconded by** .....