



# CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

*The Voice of Caversham since 1967*



## What makes Caversham special?

This year marks 50 years since CADRA was first established, so during this golden anniversary year we want to shine a light on what it is that makes Caversham special.

Following a brief AGM on 20 June, local architectural historian, Dr Megan Aldrich FSA, will present a personal view on the architecture of Caversham. From its early medieval origins through to the rapid development of the late 19th century, Caversham is fortunate to have many interesting historic buildings and features as well as the vistas and perspectives created by Victorian and Edwardian architects.

Megan has worked as a Director of Sotheby's and at museums at home and abroad. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, one of the British government's official designated bodies providing advice on heritage and planning policy. She is also co-organiser of a two-day conference in May at the University of Liverpool on the gothic revival architect and writer Thomas Rickman.

The meeting follows soon after Civic Day on 17 June 2017, a national celebration of civic pride to say, 'I care about where I live' ([www.civievoice.org.uk](http://www.civievoice.org.uk)).



[org.uk](http://www.civievoice.org.uk)). This year, Civic Day will focus on celebrating 50 years of Conservation Areas, which were also created in 1967, as a result of widespread concern over the pace of redevelopment in historic towns and cities.

Later in the year, we will be looking at the importance of trees in the

urban landscape and planting a tree in Caversham. Dr John Evans, a Caversham resident and crop scientist with an interest in trees, will be our speaker on Tuesday 17 October.

**'...celebrate CADRA's golden anniversary, cut a cake and toast the future'**

On this occasion we will celebrate CADRA's golden anniversary, cut a cake and toast the future of Caversham and the Association. A 50th anniversary extended issue of the CADRA autumn newsletter will be delivered to all CADRA members.

*Helen Lambert*

### AGM & Open Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 20 June 2017  
Thameside School, Harley Road

### A history of architecture in Caversham

Dr Megan Aldrich FSA, Architectural Historian

**Details of a public consultation on St Peters Conservation Area will be announced at the CADRA AGM on 20 June**

## Transport

### Caversham Car Club Car Bay

Reading Car Club enables people to make door-to-door journeys whether or not they own a car. The proposed Caversham Car Club Car Bay and the Co-Wheels car will be run by Reading Borough Council (RBC) in collaboration with Co-Wheels, ReadyBike, Reading Buses and BetterPoints.

The project, known as easyGo, will use a smartcard to unlock the shared car, access ReadyBike and use Reading Buses. easyGo will link to the BetterPoints smartphone app to encourage sustainable door-to-door journeys using more than one transport mode. The Caversham Car Club Car Bay and car should be installed immediately after the launch of the easyGo scheme in late spring or early summer 2017.

### Highmoor Road/Albert Road

Last summer a series of discussions were held between CADRA, the Highmoor/Albert Road Campaign (HARC) and RBC, following a fatality and other serious accidents at the junction of Highmoor Road with Albert Road. As a result of the meetings, RBC has introduced additional yellow lines and other road markings in an effort to alleviate the persistent accident problems at the junction.

For over six years CADRA has campaigned for the removal of the unhelpful and unnecessary centre-of-carriageway markings in Albert Road. Unfortunately RBC has not carried out this important request and actually renewed them. It is hoped that the other agreed changes will reduce the numbers of accidents that have occurred, mostly during the summer months, for many years.

### Caversham 20mph Zone

RBC is considering implementing a 20mph zone in Caversham. The proposed meeting between RBC, Ward Councillors and CADRA to discuss the limits of the zone has yet to take place. RBC will review the Eastern Area 20mph zone before proceeding with the Caversham scheme.

When funds become available, RBC will consider improvements for pedestrians, including the footway level pedestrian crossings suggested by CADRA and Caversham Traders in *Sharing Our Streets – Achieving the Vision*.

### Third Thames Bridge

Work to update the transport study into the Third Thames Bridge, led by Wokingham Borough Council, continues. The transport model will estimate the impact on the road network and produce a business case for the bridge and linking roads. Initial results were published in Spring 2016. A third Reading bridge has the potential to reduce the numbers of vehicles travelling through Caversham Centre, Sonning and Henley. There are concerns that, without mitigation measures, traffic might divert to unsuitable routes in South Oxfordshire.

### Cow Lane bridges: highway works

Improvement to the road through the Cow Lane bridges has been delayed yet again. Network Rail, the lead organisation for the work, announced that work is finally due to start after Reading Festival in August 2017.

The appalling delays at Cow Lane Bridges were caused by the failure of Network Rail and RBC to complete the Compulsory Purchase of land during the planning stages of the Reading Station upgrade. Pedestrians and cyclists using the bridges have been exposed to hazards for far too long but, in the end, there will be a footway on both sides of the road, and a cycle way.

## Safer Caversham

Budget cuts affecting Thames Valley Police have necessitated a more flexible approach, with our local policing team now comprising PC Emily Morris and three PC Support Officers (PCSOs) overseen by Acting Sergeant Steve Marr. Any common, recurring issues in our area will be referred to a new central investigating team, leaving the PCSOs more time 'on the beat'. In turn, a Working Group representing the various Neighbourhood Action Groups has met to help shape their future role.

The local Environmental Visual Audits have ceased; instead community groups, neighbours and organisations, e.g. schools and scout groups, are invited to participate in the new Reading Adopt Your Street (RAYS) programme – contact [rays@reading.gov.uk](mailto:rays@reading.gov.uk).

There has been a rise in burglaries. The policing team have been conducting patrols of hotspots and taking details from any suspicious persons. A number of stop searches of vehicles were carried out, and a recent mobile phone usage operation resulted in the issue of four tickets. Check [FB cavershamresidents](#) for Thames Valley Police Alert updates.

There is anti-social behaviour on the river with travellers leaving behind rubbish on the banks, and there are occurrences in Christchurch Meadows of roaming dogs, and incidents of drinking and noise. This has the continuing attention of the police and local community.

Over one weekend, 15 volunteers took part in clearing up litter in areas of Caversham and Emmer Green, collecting 54 sacks of rubbish and other debris.

Fly tipping is an important concern. Residents are encouraged to report such incidents to the Police on 101 or to the Council on 0118 937 3787. The Council treats the problem seriously and will always prosecute if there is sufficient evidence.

# Review of St Peters Conservation Area

Several CADRA committee members serve on the new Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC), a group of volunteers drawn from similar groups across Reading who provide expertise to supplement the limited resources RBC can deploy for its conservation role. A major long-term task is to review and update the appraisals that justify all 15 Conservation Areas, two of which – St Peters and Surley Row – lie north of the river. The review of St Peters, covering much of Caversham centre, is one of the first. Last July, 28 volunteers attended a briefing followed by a walking tour to identify features of importance and also detractors from the area. These have been incorporated in the emerging draft, a key recommendation of which is to extend

the Conservation Area to include the Church Street/Church Road/Bridge Street junction, Bridge Street, and Caversham Bridge. The review is very much community-led, and engagement of residents and building owners is key to its credibility and acceptance by RBC. The summary ‘Statement of Special Interest’ will be posted on the CADRA website shortly, followed by the full document. In the summer, a full consultation event will be held; all views will be welcomed and taken into account before the draft appraisal is submitted to RBC. Updates and details will be made available via the newsletter and [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk), and at the CADRA AGM on 20 June. RBC will need to undertake its own formal consultation to give the document full legal force.

## Planning

### St Martin’s precinct

Work has commenced on Phase 1 of the upgrade of the precinct. The horse chestnuts have been felled. CADRA’s successful intervention in respect of phasing any cutback to the Holm Oak means that this tree will only be severely cut back when and if Phase 3 goes ahead. Hopefully the new trees planned for the precinct will be planted in the autumn.

### Former Cooper Reading BMW site

We commented on this application, and whilst welcoming rented accommodation of this type, we questioned the basic approach. Although not in Caversham, it impacts profoundly on one of the two routes into central Reading and on views from the river corridor, notably from Caversham Bridge. The application made its own interpretation of the RBC policy on high buildings to justify 350 flats on a relatively small site. The resulting height and density of development is overwhelming and impacts adversely on its immediate surroundings and further afield. We are monitoring for any changes to the design.

### Arthur Clarke Extra Care housing

Construction work is now underway, which has considerably opened up the Albert Road frontage. Following representations made by CADRA, RBC planning officers have received assurances from the developer that a new hornbeam hedge will be planted along this boundary on completion of works.

### Gladman proposal, Peppard Rd, Emmer Green

A planning application has been made to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for a residential development of up to 245 dwellings just north of the Reading boundary, with access from Peppard Road and Kiln Road. CADRA objected in January 2017 and has been working with the Campaign Against Gladman in Eye & Dunsden (CAGE) to oppose the

development. CAGE includes South Oxfordshire parish councils, Emmer Green Residents Association, Caversham Park Village Residents Association, Globe and others. RBC has also objected and has an understanding with SODC that development will be restricted on the northern outskirts of Reading.

CADRA objected because the cumulative effects of piecemeal developments in South Oxfordshire have contributed to worsening traffic congestion, pollution and quality of life in Caversham. The development would also put additional pressure on public transport, school places and healthcare provision in Caversham and Emmer Green. A report is likely to go to the SODC Planning Committee on 17 or 24 May. See CADRA’s letter of objection at [tinyurl.com/kzfhqgf](http://tinyurl.com/kzfhqgf), and [www.cagedunsden.org](http://www.cagedunsden.org) for information about the development and how to object.

### Reading Local Plan

RBC is about to publish the draft new Local Plan for the development of Reading up to 2036. A six-week public consultation period from around the end of April will allow interested parties and the public to comment. This important long-term document will guide how planning applications are dealt with; it also includes a proposed new policy on identifying and protecting certain heritage views, including several relating to Caversham.

### Rivermead extensions

We welcomed these extensions to house a temporary pool and commented on the proposed tree screening from the river. Two further trees were added to the proposals.

### Bodrum Grill, Prospect Street

Signage was erected without planning permission and a subsequent retrospective planning application was refused. We continue to monitor for enforcement action.

# 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:** Stewart Bolton, 11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG, Tel: 948 2687

**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:** Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road; John Nicholls (co-opted), Sandcroft Road; Kim Pearce, The Mount

### COMMITTEE SUPPORT

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

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

**Planning support:** Ray Emmett, Westdene Crescent; Malcolm Pemble, Shepherds Lane

**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 opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

# The Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 June 2017, 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

- Minutes of 2016 AGM
- Chairman's Annual Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Committee
- Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

### COMMITTEE:

#### RETIRING AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the rules of the Constitution,

Stewart Bolton will retire at the AGM and is willing to stand for re-election. Paul Matthews and Mo Prins have decided to stand back from the committee. John Nicholls, currently co-opted member, and Malcolm Pemble, Committee Support, 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** .....

**Secoded by** .....