



Round Up June 2024

Thank you

Thank you very much to everyone who completed our [survey](#), which is already providing some interesting responses. We want to ensure the widest response possible across Caversham and Emmer Green, from both members and non-members, so please do think who you could pass the link on to. The [survey](#) will remain open until the end of July.

We were pleased to welcome **16 new members** this month, taking our total membership to around 530 households. Word of mouth and personal recommendation is very important, and we really appreciate your help in reaching out and spreading the word to keep CADRA strong.

The CADRA team will be at [the Church Fete](#) in Caversham Court Gardens on the afternoon of **Saturday 13 July**. This is always a good opportunity to talk so please come and say hello.

Planning

The major application for [Caversham Park](#) is expected to go to Planning Committee on Wednesday 26 June. Despite further revisions, Historic England remains opposed and there are concerns about overspill parking on the old Peppard Road. The officer recommendation will be attached to the [agenda papers](#) from Wednesday 19 June.

News has just broken that **St Martins Precinct**, comprising Waitrose, Iceland, other businesses, the car parks and the apartments is up for sale. Many parts of the major planning application approved some years back were not built, but the permission remains in place. [KLM Sale Details](#)

In Emmer Green, the [Brindles application](#) for seven new houses sharing access with **Lyefield Court** is causing a lot of concern. CADRA has committed to supporting the elderly residents there.

It is now confirmed that the **telecom mast** near Woodcote Way was erected without the necessary planning permission. The planning enforcement team are involved, and we are seeking updates. After the refusal of the retrospective [application](#) by the **Persian Palace**, we wait to hear news of enforcement action to remove the extension over the river.

Unfortunately, a procedural issue has prevented the Council's challenge against the decision by the Secretary of State to grant outline planning permission on the land from **TGI Friday to The Range**. We therefore expect detailed applications in due course. A planning application is expected shortly for **Norman Place**, adjacent to Thames Water's Clearwater Court, and CADRA has been invited to a second meeting with the developers to see what changes have been made.

Emmer Green

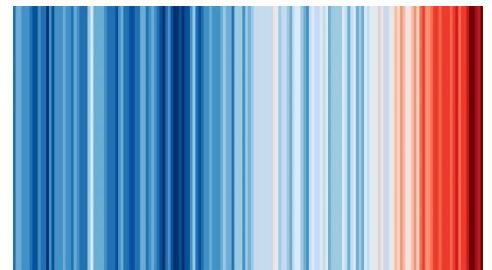
The Community [Noticeboard](#) is back in place and well used. We were very pleased to invite everyone who had contributed to the restoration to come and meet the team of volunteers who look after the board on a regular basis. [Reading Men's Shed](#) have done an excellent job giving new life to the oak frame installed 20 years ago. The next project is to review what can be done for the [Emmer Green sign](#) in front of the pond. We instigated discussions this week on what might be possible for the **pond** and the open space next to it.

After some months of engagement with the Council, we secured confirmation that the Temporary Traffic Restriction Order on **Kidmore End Road** can be lifted. Vistry has been instructed to restore the signs and road lines. We have asked for an update on the timescale.

The **flower beds** near Budgens and the triangle of wildflowers by Grove Road are looking good thanks to the volunteers. If you would like to **help with maintaining** them, please reply to this email.

Climate Change

The [Reading Climate Change Festival](#) is already underway with some excellent events. The final event (Friday 21 Jun, 19:00-20:30), which can be watched online, is a talk by the internationally known Professor Ed Hawkins MBE, climate scientist, IPCC author, and creator of the famous climate warming stripes. He is an excellent speaker - [Book on line](#).



CADRA has been asked to help in shaping Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy 2025 – 2030 ([Reading Climate Change Priorities](#)). We would like to gather a small group of members to contribute to this. We are proposing an online session for a maximum of an hour at 7.30pm on either Monday 24th or Wednesday 26th June. **If you are interested to take part, please reply to this email giving your availability.**

Hemdean House

You may know that Hemdean House School is closing after 165 years of girls' education. The school and its association with the Caversham House Academy form an important part of local history. In 1849 Francis Knighton bought Caversham House, where the St Martins Precinct is, and land across Church Street, to move his boys' academy out of Reading. The house had previously been owned by Sir Rufane Donkin, founder of Port Elizabeth in South Africa. The school playground is now the site of Caversham Library, and the classrooms were where the New Testament Church of God and the Working Men's Club are. They were

connected to the rest of the school by a tunnel under the street. The garden at the front of Caversham House was sold to Reading Corporation to widen Church Street in preparation for the new Caversham Bridge. The school continued until 1921 and the house was demolished in 1965 but one of the Holm Oaks from the gardens remains in St Martins precinct.

In 1859 Francis Knighton established a school for girls to be run by the younger two of his four daughters, initially in Verona Lodge where the extension to the telephone exchange now stands. Hemdean House was purpose built on the bank of the Hemdean Bottom dry chalk valley. It is believed to have been designed by [Sir Horace Jones](#), who designed the steel framed Caversham Park House for William Crawshay following the major fire, also St Anne's Primary School and the Parish School which became the Caversham Centre for Adult Education, now Caversham Health Club.

We are working with local architectural historian Megan Aldrich and former members of the school to submit an application for [Local Listing](#).

And Finally

We make these monthly updates freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does, please encourage others to join, and of course keep your membership going - it's just £3 a year for the household to [Join or Renew Membership](#).