



Round Up May 2024

CADRA has many members across Caversham and Emmer Green but there will be many more who care about our area. Please think of two or three other people who might be interested and forward your monthly bulletin to them each month.

AGM and Open Meeting Monday 20 May

Everyone is welcome at the CADRA meeting - 7.30pm, Prospect Street Baptist Church. The brief AGM will focus mainly on a round up of the year before we introduce our speakers.

We look forward to welcoming Tracey Rawling Church and Tricia Marcouse to their talk entitled Our Response to Climate Change. They bring a wealth of different experience on the subject. Full details are covered in the [Spring Newsletter](#), which also includes the AGM agenda.

Planning

Following our update last month about Aviva's scheme for TGI Fridays to The Range, the Council will mount a [Legal Challenge](#) to the Secretary of State's decision to permit the scheme. There are important issues for the local democratic planning process. We await a decision by the High Court. The development on the **SSE site** is due to start later this year with demolition expected imminently. Historic England remains [opposed](#) to the plans at **Caversham Park** despite the latest modifications, and the potential overspill parking on Peppard Road continues to cause concern.

In **Caversham centre** the application for a tattoo parlour on the first floor between Church House and Waitrose has been approved, as has the development underway at **3 Prospect Street**. The former **Barclays Bank** ([240068](#)) has an application for two retail premises with residential above. Following comments from CADRA, some welcome changes have been made. On **Bridge Street** ([240417](#)), there is an application to create a 7 bed HMO. Construction access for this and the former Bank would have to be very carefully managed. We have pressed for news on the planning application for the **Spice Oven** ([231257](#))

which is showing increasing signs of decay. In addition to the application at **Archway House** for change of use to provide 4 apartments on the upper floor, there is a further application to provide 3 apartments on the ground floor ([240402](#)).

The **telecom mast on the Woodcote Road** by Woodcote Way which was erected without a planning application has now been deemed not to be a Permitted Development and we await further news. An application for 9 new houses at **Brindles** ([240403](#)), Kidmore End Road accessed through Lyefield Court is causing a lot of concern for the safety of older residents at Lyefield Court. Permission to demolish the large house at **92 Albert Road** was refused and there is now an application ([200496](#)) to convert the property, including an extension to add a further apartment.

Emmer Green Community Noticeboard

The [Reading Men's Shed](#) have completed the restoration and the board will be back in place before the end of the week. Some minor adjustments will be made in situ before the end of the month. We can gather to thank everyone involved for making this possible.

Knife Crime

With [Knife Crime Awareness Week](#) and [Mental Health Awareness Week](#), we draw your attention to work to support young people as knife crime is still a major problem. [No5](#) supports over 1,700 young people and their families every year. Until 28 May, any donations toward their work will be doubled through: [Vital mental health support for young people in distress](#). Supporting parents of young people, the Ben Kinsella Trust is hosting free [Parents & Carers workshops](#) on knife crime awareness.

Hemdean House School

After 165 years, Hemdean House School is to close at the end of term. The Knighton family, who ran Caversham House Academy for boys in the centre of Caversham and built Hemdean House for girls, is an important part of local history. Five years after the school was founded in 1859, the Schools Enquiry Commission reported that there were just 12 girls schools in England and Wales.

Local History Walk

On 7 June at 2pm Megan Aldrich, local architectural historian, and Helen Lambert, CADRA Chair, will lead a walk in Caversham, run by the Berkshire Family History

Society. More details and how to book at [Historic Caversham Walk - Berkshire Family History Society \(berksfhs.org\)](https://berksfhs.org).

Crossing St Peters Hill

Crossing St Peter's Hill to Caversham Court and St Peter's Church is always a concern. The Church and the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens have together launched a petition appealing for a 20mph limit. With enough local support, this can be presented to the Traffic Management Sub Committee.

And Finally

If you are not able to attend the CADRA meeting this Monday 20 May, you may like to know about the programme of events in the [Reading Climate Change Festival 8 to 21 June](#).

On Saturday 13 July at the **Caversham Church Fete** in Caversham Court Gardens you can come and talk to us at our stand.

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](#).