

CAVERSHAM NEWS

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Stink to stop

A REDUNDANT sewerage pipe in St Anne's Road, Caversham, is to be removed.

The Victorian stink pipe used to release gases from underground.

After complaints from nearby residents, Thames Water has said it will remove the pipe.

Water work

TREE wardens from Reading Borough Council have been inspecting and watering trees in the Caversham area that have been identified as at risk by the extreme hot weather conditions.

Muddy award

THE Live Well in Caversham has been named the best lifestyle store in the Berkshire category of the Muddy Stiletto awards.

The home and lifestyle shop in Prospect Street opened in November and is owned by Susie Jackson.

Rock festival

THE 10th Caversham Rock 'n' Ale Festival will take place on September 10 from 6.30pm.

Three bands, which are to be announced, will perform in the fields of St Anne's School in Washington Road.

The festival is being held in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Dog show

A DOG show is being staged at Caversham Court Gardens on Sunday.

All dogs are welcome at the show, which begins at 10am. Refreshments and cake will be available from the tea kiosk.

Holiday club

A CHILDREN'S holiday club run by volunteers from Caversham churches will be held from July 25 to 29.

Wonderzone welcomes primary school-age children for a week of crafts, music, sports and circus skills.

The club will be held at St Anne's Primary School in Washington Road from 10am to 3pm each day.

It has a Christian ethos but welcomes children of all faiths and none. Place cost from £25 but some funded places are available.

For more information, email holidayclub.caversham@yahoo.co.uk



Heads up: RG4 FC coach Sean O'Reilly training with 10-year-old Adam Bingham, who wants to play striker like his idol Cristiano Ronaldo, inset

Youngsters given chance to follow Ronaldo dream

A FOOTBALL team is being set up for disadvantaged young people in Caversham.

RG4 FC is for children living in the Amersham Road area, which has one of the highest rates of child poverty in Reading.

Many of the youngsters on the estate don't have a chance to play for a football team due to a lack of public transport in the area.

The team is part of the RG4 academy run by the Weller Centre, which already has a youth club and runs a football training school over the summer.

The community centre is a lifeline for some residents, offering free clothes and services such as therapy and advice, and it gave out food parcels during the coronavirus pandemic.

Manager Simone Prendiville said: "It's quite an isolated estate and there are a lot of children living here. There is a shuttlebus that takes you into town but there's still many people who don't leave the area."

"The children are even more isolated. They have the bus that takes

By ALBERT TAIT

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them to school but apart from that people are a bit wary about letting their children out.

"To have something such as this academy at this end of Caversham will be incredible."

The team, which will be open to boys and girls, will comprise 13 players and play nine-a-side matches at King's Meadow in Reading against other teams from the wider area, including Bracknell and Newbury.

The RG4 FC official kit has been sponsored by Speedy Hire in Reading.

Sean O'Reilly, who will coach the team, said: "The aim is if a parent has

got a child of five or six, they can bring them along to the football academy for the 12-week programme.

"Eventually the children at the academy will be able to go straight into a football team. We want to make football accessible and to create a team mentality."

"We've already had people come in to ask if they can help."

The academy is run through donations and funding from the Earley Charity, which provides grants to worthy causes.

Barclays gave a grant which Mr O'Reilly has used to buy footballs and a rebounder for children to practise ball control.

Construction has started on three new training pitches on the Amersham Road recreation ground.

Mr O'Reilly, who grew up in Southcote, said: "I played football a lot as a kid. It started with a local youth club and we had the opportunity to play other youth clubs. We even went to the national youth club championships. It was amazing."

"I feel it gave me life skills. Football brings everyone together and that's what I'm looking to do here."

Adam Bingham, 10, who lives in the area, hopes to play striker for the team like his idol Cristiano Ronaldo does at Manchester United. He said: "I'm really excited about the academy because I love football. It helps your body with exercise and you can learn new things."

"I play football at school but this is my first time playing for a team. I haven't really played a lot but I'm pretty good at it."

"My favourite player is Ronaldo. I do his celebration when I score — I run and slide on to my knees."

"I've been waiting for something like this to happen. As soon as I found out I was really excited."

Neighbours lose fight over house

A NEW house in Caversham has been approved despite objections by nearby residents.

Chopra Property Group has been granted planning permission by Reading Borough Council for the detached, two-storey property in Prospect Street at the corner of Oxford Street.

Eleven objections were made during public consultation in September, including that the house would overlook neighbouring properties and affect street parking.

The developer amended the plan, including having one parking space for the property instead of two.

Joshua Langley, of Oxford Street, said: "While the revised plans now include a single space this does nothing to accommodate the remaining five to six cars which utilise the land currently."

"This will therefore force the residents to park on Oxford Street or one of the other small residential roads."

Mr Langley also objected to the removal of an "attractive" wall on the corner of Oxford Street to accommodate the house.

Darragh Buckley, also of Oxford Street, said: "I find it alarming that the planning committee is even entertaining the plans."

He said it was "madness" to build in an "already very densely populated area".

Chopra said the house would be "a positive addition" to the area and would "integrate seamlessly into the street scene".

It also said the property would contribute towards the council's housing target.

Litter pick

A GROUP of volunteers carried out a litter pick near Caversham on Saturday.

They collected about 10 bags of rubbish as well as fly-tipped household waste from along Alston Walk, Charles Evans Way, Rothwell Walk and Dingley Dell.

The clean-up crew are members of the Keep Caversham Tidy charity which works with Reading Borough Council and other organisations and individuals to eliminate litter.

Reports on latest meetings and activities of local clubs and community groups

HENLEY RESIDENTS GROUP

HENLEY Residents Group held its annual meeting at King's Arms Barn, the first in person since 2019.

More than 40 members attended.

Leader Gill Dodds welcomed everyone.

She said: "HRG continues to be the party that residents trust. We have secured the election of 10 HRG town councillors, three district councillors and the HRG county councillor."

"HRG was formed around my kitchen table more than 30 years ago. What we residents have achieved for Henley over those years has been transformative and helped make it the delightful town it is."

Chairman Glen Lambert provided a list of highlights from the last 12 months.

He said: "It is because of HRG that Henley enjoys genuine, independent representation of the people, by the people and for the

people. We have had a very successful few years at town, district and county levels but there is no room for complacency and we need to look forward and plan for the elections in May 2023."

Outgoing treasurer David Feary reported a healthy financial situation and was thanked by the meeting for his years of service.

The meeting voted in town councillor Ian Reissmann as the new treasurer.

Councillor Michelle Thomas, who is the current Mayor of Henley, has appointed three main causes to raise money for during her year in office:

- A covid catch-up fund for schools in Henley.
- To establish a climate and nature hub in Henley.
- To start and nurture the Henley Volunteer Network for individual volunteers and organisations.

She led a wide-ranging discussion on the issues facing Henley, which covered parking and transport as well as a number of challenges in the age of climate change and threats to



Top team: the Henley Residents Group executive, from left, Cllr Ian Reissmann (treasurer), Mayor Michelle Thomas, Gill Dodds (leader) and Cllr Glen Lambert (chairman)

the environment. The meeting was reminded that HRG was formed in 1989 in response to the closure of the old Regal Cinema and the failure of the then Conservative-led town council to represent and lead the interests of Henley and its residents by electing ordin-

ary residents on to the council. After winning control of the council in 1991, HRG has continued to run it for most of the years since then.

In that time the independent nature of the group as an authentic voice of residents

also built the skate park for young people (and older ones too).

More recently, the town bus was saved in response to Oxfordshire County Council cutting its funding.

The meeting looked to the future and considered HRG commitments, including making sure all further housing developments in the town include 40 per cent affordable properties, leading the project to design the new sports clubhouse at Jubilee Park and continuing to press for a heavy goods vehicle weight limit.

HRG councillors lead the activities to support Henley's Britain in Bloom goals in order to add to the multiple gold awards received over the years.

Every year the HRG-led council supports local charities with more than £80,000 in the form of grants for those many volunteers who give up their time to help residents and Henley.

The meeting ended with members thanking councillors and the HRG executive for its work.

PANGBOURNE ROTARY CLUB

PANGBOURNE Rotary Club has elected Saerah Hopley as its president for 2022/23.

Saerah was presented with her chain of office by the outgoing president, Rev Derek Spears, at a celebratory dinner on June 29.

Saerah's wishes for the club for the upcoming year were to grow, be creative and have fun doing what we are good at — raising funds for a variety of causes, locally, nationally and internationally.

If you would like to join Saerah and the other 35 members of our club on this exciting journey, please email membership@pangbournerotary.org.uk

● The Bull in Theale, where we meet on Monday, nominated the club to receive the proceeds from its parties held over the jubilee bank holiday weekend and we in turn donated this to Theale Primary School.

Brian Davies