



Caversham GLOBE - Annual Report 2012

Caversham GLOBE aims to improve and protect green spaces for the benefit of local residents and wildlife by taking practical action on the ground, as well as influencing policy and planning decisions. Our activities in 2012 have involved maintenance and improvement projects, where local people have been planting and caring for trees, clearing litter and removing graffiti. We have also done a lot of other important work, such as liaising with RBC officers and councillors over parks and open spaces issues, having formal and site meetings with RBC Councillors and Officers, researching and responding on planning applications. The following report provides a summary of our work during 2012. Further information is available on request.

(This report covers our activities in the calendar year up to 31 December 2012)

Central Caversham Planters After lengthy discussions with RBC Highways Dept. and help from local councillors we were eventually given permission to plant up with new shrubs and bedding plants, four RBC-owned wooden planters outside the BT telephone exchange on Church Street. RBC had left these planters empty for the past two years. Following this success we have been approached by Caversham Traders Association with a view to refurbishing and planting up the other planters along Church Street.

Tree/Hedge Planting:

Charles Evans Way in May 2012 five ornamentals (whitebeam, hawthorn, rowan) were planted on the grass verge along Charles Evans Way with the support of RBC Housing.

RBC Tree Strategy / Tree Wardens - Globe supports and participates in the Reading Tree Wardens group. Site meetings held with RBC natural environment staff regarding tree planting plans in Buckingham Drive/Peppard Rd. Globe members helped with tree planting in the areas of Burnham Rise, Buckingham Drive, Evesham Road, Peppard Road and Reading Bridge.

RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean-up) Two events were held during 2012:

In March 2012 - 58 sacks of rubbish and many fly tipped debris were collected in 5 areas.

In October 2012 - 62 sacks and fly tipped items were collected in two areas.

During the year Ad Hoc clean-ups were carried out in many locations, including Abbottsmead Place & School Lane, Central Caversham Footpaths, Balmore Walk, Beech Wood, Bugs Bottom, Christchurch Meadows, Hemdean Road, Hill's Meadow, View Island.

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Globe supporters regularly report any abandoned shopping trolleys to Waitrose and/or RBC streetcare & Parks, as appropriate. During 2012, with the support of Thames Rescue, we retrieved 14 trolleys from the River Thames between Reading and Caversham Bridge (13 belonged to Waitrose). Our efforts resulted in press coverage in the Reading Post.

RBC Ward Councillors Local ward councillors attended some of our meetings and took up a wide variety of issues which were raised.

RBC Housing Globe planted trees on Housing land at Charles Evans Way.

RBC Streetcare GLOBE participates in the council's monthly **Environment Visual Audits** and reports any fly tipping or other issues direct to Streetcare.

RBC Parks Department Globe liaised with RBC Parks staff over landscaping and other issues concerning: Balmore Walk, Beech Wood, Caversham Centre planters; Clayfield Copse, Christchurch Meadows, Hill's Meadow, Picton Way, Thames Promenade, View Island, The Withies. [Globe made representations and had site visits with RBC in connection with the landscape plans for Hill's Meadow.

RBC Legal Department Representations were made over the proposed lease of part of Beech Wood to the Scouts. Following a number of site meetings and discussions the lease was amended to take account of our concerns: The fence line was altered to protect the ancient hedgerow and barriers are to be installed to protect native bluebells on the site. [Note:Globe supporters planted a hedgerow around the new fence in March 2013]. We also commented on proposals for a Park & Ride at Clayfield Copse.

Liaison with other local community organisations:

Caversham & District Residents Association (CADRA), Caversham Park Village Association.
Emmer Green Residents' Association (EGRA), Caversham Traders Association
Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (FCCG) Kings Meadow Campaign
Eye & Dunsden parish (issues in the Caversham lakes area).

GLOBE members regularly attend meetings of **Econet**, the **Reading Globe Alliance (Trega)**, and local **Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG)**. Caversham GLOBE is a member of **Reading Cultural Partnership** with particular interest in the partnership's 'sustainability' We are also part of **GREN**, the 'Greater Reading Environmental Network' and have joined the new **Reading Neighbourhood Network**

Planning Applications GLOBE monitor planning applications, including applications for work on protected trees. Comments are submitted as time permits, particularly with regard to environmental issues. During 2012 representations were made about the

Former Arthur Legge Centre (Wolsey Road) ; **Shell garage** (George Street)

Trees in St Martin's Precinct - ongoing **Trees on the perimeter of Caversham Court** (Church land)

South Oxon We continue to monitor applications from developers for building in rural areas adjacent to the Caversham boundary. A complaint was raised with South Oxon council regarding litter along the verges on the approaches to Caversham along the A4074 and A4155. We also raised concerns about Caversham Lakes where trees & shrubs were felled by Lafarge in October to block off a long-established informal footpath over the causeway between the two Deans Farm lakes.

GLOBE members tackle graffiti around the Caversham area on an ad hoc basis. This may involve direct action in cleaning or painting over graffiti. We also report issues to RBC officers as appropriate.

Battery Recycling scheme GLOBE continues to collect batteries from four shops around Caversham and Emmer Green as well as Caversham Library. These are taken monthly to central RBC collection points to be sent for recycling. A new collection box was installed in the **True Food Co-op** shop in Grove Rd. but the box in Woodcote Way post office was not wanted by new owners who took over.

Caversham 100 years on During 2011/12 Caversham GLOBE took part in events to mark the 100th anniversary of Caversham's incorporation into Reading in 1911. The project culminated with the installation of a new display panel outside Caversham Library. At the suggestion of Globe a new grille was installed to protect the adjacent tree.

Finances We received a Community Grant of £375 from **Reading Borough Council** and a £298 donation from **Waitrose** (from their Community Matters collection). **RBC** made a further grant of £179 to cover the additional insurance that we were required to take out before we could work on the planters in Church Street.

Publicity During 2012 a report highlighting our participation in the RESCUE event was published in the Caversham Bridge local newspaper; there was also publicity for Globe in Round & About and in the Reading Post.

Our **web site** is regularly updated with news and events - www.cavershamglobe.org.uk.