



## Caversham GLOBE - Annual Report 2014

*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 2014 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 Officers, researching and responding on planning applications and consultations. The following report provides a summary of our work during 2014. Further information is available on request.*

***(This report covers our activities in the calendar year up to 31 December 2014)***

**Central Caversham Planters** With the support of Caversham Traders Association and Reading Borough Council we have continued to be responsible for planting and maintaining the 20 RBC-owned wooden planters in Central Caversham. During the year new summer bedding and winter bedding plants and shrubs have been added. The planters were regularly weeded, watered and litter picked. This involves an enormous ongoing effort on the part of GLOBE volunteers and additional support is always welcome. We are particularly grateful to **Caversham Traders Association** for giving us a donation which will help with the costs of purchasing new plants, shrubs and trees for several years.

**BT Frontage & Church Street** We have liaised with BT Property maintenance contractor about the untidy frontage and removal of redundant railings. We worked with RBC officer on the siting of cycle hire scheme and affect on streetscape along Church Street. We have attended meetings with Hermes and CADRA about the redevelopment of St Martins Precinct and raised concerns about landscaping.

### **Tree/Hedge Planting:**

**Baltimore Walk** - a small section of hedging was planted to screen part of the allotment fence.

**Charles Evans Way** - Two new trees were planted on the grass verge by Globe in early 2014 to replace trees which had died. These were watered regularly during the summer.

**Beech Wood Scouts HQ** Globe planted further hedging around the scout hut fence in March 2014.

**Thames Prom** In conjunction with the **Reading Tree Wardens** we planted two large aspens on Thames Prom which had been donated by RBC contractors. These were watered during the summer.

**RESCUE** (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event) We took part in the March 2014 RESCUE event where we cleaned up litter from the far end of The Warren, Beech Wood, Christchurch Meadows, the George Street embankment and selected streets in the Central Caversham area. We were pleased to receive a certificate on the occasion of RESCUE's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for Caversham GLOBE's contribution to the event over many years.

**During the year Ad Hoc cleanups** were carried out in several areas including Abbotsmead Place & School Lane, Baltimore Walk, Central & Lower Caversham footpaths, Church Road/Bridge Street area, Christchurch Meadows, Westfield Rd Rec, Hemdean Rd, Hill's Meadow & the Danall, View Island.

**RBC Streetcare** GLOBE participates in the council's monthly **Environment Visual Audits** and members report issues such as flytipping, graffiti, abandoned shopping trollies, potholes, defective street lights, Japanese knotweed etc either direct to RBC or through the **Love Clean Reading** app. On occasions GLOBE members may take direct action in cleaning or painting over graffiti & clearing litter.

**RBC Parks Department** During 2014 GLOBE liaised with RBC Parks & Highways staff over landscaping and other issues concerning: Baltimore Walk, Bugs Bottom, Caversham Centre planters; Christchurch Meadows, Hill's Meadow, View Island.

**Christchurch Meadows: New cycle / footbridge & Lombardy poplar trees** - During 2014 GLOBE had several meetings with Highways & parks staff from Reading Borough Council and Peter Brett Associates to discuss landscaping at Christchurch Meadow in connection with the new pedestrian/cycle bridge. This included discussions about tree protection and tree replacement, as well as the general landscaping scheme. Of great concern to local residents during the year was the impact on the iconic row of over 75 Lombardy poplars along George Street. Following several meetings it was agreed that all removed trees will be replaced.

In early 2014 we also attended meetings and made representations to RBC in connection with proposed **Leisure Developments (high ropes & adventure golf)** at Christchurch Meadows and residential moorings in the **Mill Stream** on View Island. Following a local campaign and as a result of extensive flooding of the meadows in Winter 2013-14 these proposals were subsequently dropped.

**Thames 21** GLOBE supporters have been assisting Thames 21 in their ongoing projects to keep the Danall (Gosbrook) clean and clear of obstructions through Christchurch and Hill's Meadow. Several practical sessions have been held, usually on a Sunday. Work has also taken place on View Island to open up the pond, clear undergrowth from the footpaths and plant trees.

**Liaison with other local community organisations:**

Caversham & District Residents Association (CADRA),	Caversham Park Village Residents' Assn.
Emmer Green Residents' Association (EGRA),	Caversham Traders Association
Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (FCCG)	Kings Meadow Campaign
Eye & Dunsden parish	Warren & Dist. Residents Assn. (WADRA)
Reading Sustainability Centre	

GLOBE members regularly attend meetings of **Econet** and the **Reading Globe Alliance (Trega)**, the local **Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG)** and **Reading Sustainability Centre**. We are also members of **GREN**-Greater Reading Environmental Network and **Reading Neighbourhood Network**

**Planning Applications** GLOBE monitors planning applications, including applications for work on protected trees. Comments are submitted as time permits, particularly with regard to environmental issues. During 2014 representations were made about

- trees at **St Martin's Precinct**,
- lighting of a pontoon on the Thames by **Caversham Bridge**
- landscaping around new flats planned on the former **Arthur Legge Centre** in Wolsey Rd
- protection of trees at a proposed new garden centre in **Richfield Ave**
- proposals for a Car Wash in **Hills Meadow**.
- landscaping around new houses planned on **Dovedale Close**

**South Oxon** We continue to monitor applications from developers for building in rural areas adjacent to the Caversham boundary.

**Finances** We received a Community Grant of £500 from **Reading Borough Council** to cover our meeting room hire and public liability insurance. A donation was received from **Caversham Traders Association** - this is ring-fenced towards planting in Central Caversham

**Volunteers:** The GLOBE groups rely on the active support, time and expertise of a dedicated group of activists and supporters. New people are always welcome, there is no financial subscription or formality to joining in our activities which are covered by public liability insurance

Caversham GLOBE's **Web site** was revamped during 2014 and we also set up a page on **Facebook**

[www.cavershamglobe.org.uk](http://www.cavershamglobe.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe](https://www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe)