COMMUNITY NEWS

Central Reading: Southcote, Coley, Battle and Katesgrove

IN an exhibition first, The River & Rowing Museum will explore one of William Morris’ most important and little-known influences: the River Thames. ‘An Earthly Paradise: William Morris & The Thames’ will feature original printed textiles and sketches by the 19th century’s most celebrated designer, and cast new light on Morris’ lifelong passion for the river. The exhibition has launched and will run until the middle of July at The River & Rowing Museum.

A NEW comedy show will open its doors at Bluegrass BBQ. Mates Rates Comedy opens its doors on Sunday March 3 from 4pm. Headlined by Chelsea Birkby, the show will also feature home-grown Reading comedy talent. Mates Rates Comedy will offer an entertaining hour of comedy in Bluegrass’ Whiskey Store on the first Sunday of every month for £3.00 in advance and £5.00 on the door. Mates will also be able to buy food and drink at the venue. Tickets available online from http://www.eventbrite.com/c/mates-rates-comedy-tickets-55601716171#tickets Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/546403923763839/.

AN art exhibition from Reading International has opened at Broad Street Mall. The exhibition showcases a solo project by artist Patricia L. Boyd in a previously vacant unit. The exhibition fills the whole store, with a video screen surrounded by posters. Visitors can view the installation until March 15, Wednesday to Saturday from 12-4pm.

AN AUTHOR from Slough will be signing copies of his debut novel In The End, a post-apocalyptic thriller, at WHSmith, Broad Street, Reading. GJ Stevens writes fast paced fiction and actively blogs about his publishing journey, including the trials and tribulations of the industry. When humanity faces an undead nightmare, one man’s party turns into a race to survive. If you like nightmarish settings, reluctant heroes, and action-packed adventures, you’ll love GJ Stevens’ spine-chilling novel.

A DOLL’S HOUSE, Henrik Ibsen’s timeless play, arrives at Progress Theatre March 11-16. March. Nora Helmer has it all: two beautiful children, a loving husband, and a lovely home decked out for Christmas. However, her idyllic life begins to unravel when Nora’s old associate, Krogstad, reminds her of her affair with her husband. Nora finds herself on a journey of self-discovery and enlightenment in a story which still resonates in today’s modern world. A Doll’s House is one of the world’s most performed plays. Why?

Come and see. Includes a Saturday matinee show. Visit http://www.progresstheatre.co.uk/.

WORLD Book Day is on Thursday, March 7. Catering for all age groups, from toddler to teen, the expanded list of 13 new £1 titles for World Book Day 2019 has been created to appeal to the widest possible range of children and young people, tastes and abilities. The main objective is to have fun and enjoy reading and sharing books together. The £1 Book Token redemption period is Thursday February 28 – Sunday March 31. Find out more at: https://www.worldbookday.com/. Waterstones in Reading are inviting children from local schools to visit the store throughout the week commencing March 4, to exchange their tokens for a WBD book and listen to storytime, or take part in a quiz. The store is also hosting a storytime session on World Book Day at 4.30pm - everyone welcome - and staff are hoping that people will come along dressed up as their favourite book character. Find out more: https://www.waterstones.com/events/world-book-day-storytime/reading-broad-street.

THE world’s only live human body dissection will be coming to Reading. The event delivers in-depth content aimed at those studying anatomy, physiology or pathology at undergraduate level and for those who are already practicing healthcare professionals. The event, on Saturday, March 2, is also a great experience for anyone who is interested in the human body, disease or medicine on the whole. The wider public are also encouraged to attend. Tickets can be purchased online via the Anatomy Lab LIVE website www.anatomylablive.co.uk www.anatomylablive.eu.

Caversham:
Emmer Green, Mapledurham and Sonning Common

FREE rhymetime sessions are held at The Weller Centre on the first Friday of every month. Enjoy songs and play instruments from 10.30am to 11am. The activity is restricted to Under 5’s and their parents/guardians.

THE Abbey Junior School is
hosting a Secret Garden free activity morning on March 16. From 9.30 - 12, a fun-packed morning of action and adventure will take place, open to children aged 5+. Activities will be both inside and outside in the event of rain there will still be lots to do. Book your free place at theabbe.co.uk/events. Call 0118 987 3256 or email admissions@theabbe.co.uk.

■ A MEETING for residents to discuss local issues with police and Reading Borough Council representatives will take place on February 28. The meeting will be held at the Weller Centre, Amersham Road from 7pm - 8.30pm.

■ THE Caversham Artisan and Farmers market is a local market selling wonderful local produce, hot food with seating, homewares, cosmetics and lots more. All the stalls are operated by the product makers themselves. It is being held in Waitrose carpark, Caversham on the first and third Sunday of every month.

■ READING and District Beekeepers are holding their annual beekeeping day on March 16 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. the event will feature displays and demonstrations by prominent beekeepers. Subjects of demonstrations and talks include: Queen Rearing for the Small Beekeeper, Making Beeswax Wraps, Safe Movement of Beehives and Oil Seed Rape: a Blessing or a curse? Free entry for all local beekeepers and people who are interested in taking up the craft. Entry is free. Homemade cakes and refreshments will be available. It will take place from 10.30am - 4.30pm.

■ KEEN gardeners are invited to meet at Meavy Gardens every Sunday. Come along and make new friends, do gentle exercise and get fresh fruit and vegetables to take home. The allotment is open every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. Adults with additional needs can attend a session on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm. These sessions are free and everyone is welcome. All equipment is provided, as well as light refreshments. You just need to arrive in sturdy shoes and clothes you do not mind getting dirty. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come along on Sunday afternoon to find out more or contact Sharon Finton on 01189 866929 or by email at sharon@risc.org.uk.

■ TILEhurst Globe are organising a project about planting vegetables in Reading for Poliares. They want to find out whether they can incorporate low flowering plants within roadside verges, let the council continue with its current mowing regime leaving the short mowing in situ, keep residents happy and still improve the habitat for pollinators. If successful, this is something that could be rolled out across urban areas without a maintenance cost for councils and the Reading Climate Change Partnership, funding the project, will work to encourage companies in the area to sponsor further planting. For more information send an email or phone call to tricks@marcouse. com/01189 268341.

■ THE WORLD day of prayer is an international inter-church movement and services will be held all around the world on Friday, March 1. This year’s service has been prepared by Christian women in Slovenia and entitled “Come – Everything is Ready”. There will be six services in and around Reading at various times of the day and the Tilehurst service will take place at St. Catherine’s Church, Wittenham Avenue at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

■ THE Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen will be running a series of discussions on the subject of turning to Christ. It is primarily intended for people who are not Christians but wish to find out more. Also, anybody who would like a refresher course will be most welcome. There will be six sessions on consecutive Thursdays from March 7 to April 11. They will be from 7.45pm for 8.00pm to 9.30pm in St Mary Magdalen’s Church. For more information: Revd Peter...
Grosse, telephone: 0118 959 4573.

- A "TILEHURST" opticians will focus on cracking good roads and raising awareness of Alzheimer’s disease when it stages a charity book sale on Friday, March 8. Staff at Scrivens Opticians and Hearing Care on School Road have donated books from home and collectors and libraries to the sale in aid of Alzheimer's Society and to mark World Book Day on March 7. To add to the fun, the team will dress as book characters. There is also a colouring competition for children which will run until April 26, with the £1 entry fee going to the charity.

- THE WEST Reading Safe

Neighbourhood Forum meeting will be held on March 5 at Tilehurst British Legion, Downing Road from 7.15pm. Residents are welcome to attend to discuss any community or crime related issues or concerns they may have.

- East Reading: Whiteknights, Woodley, Earley and Lower Earley

- THE Hardy Plant Society is hoping to recruit new members in 2019. The Berkshire group is one of more than 40 across the country and this year is the 30th anniversary. Meetings typically include a raffle, refreshments and the sale of plants. Visit: berkshirehps.org.uk or call 0118 885 8195 for more.

- ADULT art classes are available in Earley at Radstock Community Centre on Mondays from 2-4pm. These classes will offer residents the chance to get creative and learn a new craft. Artspiration art Schools were founded by Shahin Nayar. Classes now run throughout the home counties with students going on to gain art scholarships and bursaries, but more importantly a love of art and confidence in their creative ability. To celebrate the new classes, they are giving a two for one offer. Email: artspirationinfo@gmail.com or call: 07530065617 for more information.

- KEEN photographers are invited to attend weekly classes at The Oakwood Centre. Woodley Photographic Club meets on Monday evenings at 7.45pm and discuss ways in which to make the most out of your pictures. Visit: woodleyphoto.co.uk for more.

- MINDFUL movement classes are held at The Oakwood Centre every Tuesday at 11am. Sessions are led by a fully qualified physiotherapist of 20 years and classes can have a number of physical and mental benefits. Entry is £10 per session. Email: info@effectofease.co.uk or call 07885 337576 for more information.

- WOODLEY Central WI meet on the third Thursday or every month at Chapel Hall, Loddon Bridge Road at 7.45pm. See the group’s Facebook page for more information.

- THE Townswomen’s Guild hold monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm at Chapel Hall. This group has more than 40 members and offers a wide range of activities, including talks, social events and craft making. Call: 0118 969 8846 if you are interested in joining.

- WOODLEY and Earley Arts Group is inviting new members to come down to The Oakwood Centre on the last Thursday of every month at 7pm. Sessions offer the chance to watch art demonstrations by professionals from across the country, with refreshments available. Call: 0118 894 020 for more information.

- RESIDENTS of a certain age may appreciate the chance to attend Woodley Over 50s Forum. These sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month in Coronation Hall from 2-4pm. This lively group has regular events and guest speakers, with tickets priced at £1.50. Call Kay on: 0118 616 673 for more.

- FOR an afternoon of captivating musical performances by talented young instrumentalists and singers, come to St Joseph’s College in Reading at 1pm on Sunday March 3. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments during the interval. This is a Rotary local competition to select winners, who will enter a series of regional contests from which the triumphant musicians will compete in a national final. If you are interested in experiencing a magical afternoon of music, contact us at info@readingmaidenerleigh.org.

- THE THAMES Valley Ancient Egypt Society will be giving a lecture on March 9 at Coronation Hall, Headley Road, Woodley. Dr Nicky Nielsen will be giving the talk, called ‘Tell Nabasha: Investigating the City of the Snake Goddess’.

- LOCAL charity No5 Young People will be holding its second Annual Young People’s Performing Arts Concert at The Bumbershoot School, Woodley. The event will be from 6.30pm - 8.30pm on Saturday, March 16, with doors opening at 5.30pm. Adult tickets cost £6 or £7 on the night, under 16 tickets cost £2 or £4 and children under five go free.

- West Berks: Calcot, Theale, Newbury, Thatcham, Pangbourne and Purley

- THE Corn Exchange Newbury has launched a new season of classes, courses and workshops
offering everyone the chance to get creative or learn a new skill. Alongside exhibitions, the Base, which will open its doors in February 2019, will present a programme of workshops to develop skills and boost creativity. Visit cornexchangeneuw.com for more information.

- COMEDY enthusiasts are being invited to make the most of a new multi-buy offer from the Corn Exchange Comedy Club. For people who particularly enjoy the event, there is a multi-buy offer. If all Spring comedy club dates are booked at the same time, tickets will cost only £13 each. Comedians are presented by Avalon, which looks after the likes of Lee Nelson, Russell Howard and Greg Davies, so you might see the next big star in Newbury first. The Corn Exchange Comedy Club is the perfect way to start the weekend. Tickets cost £15 with a 10 per cent discount for groups of 10 or more. Call the box office on 0845 5218 218.

- THE exclusive sound of Powerhouse Gospel Choir will bring an inspiring evening of gospel favourites to the Corn Exchange Newbury on Thursday March 7 at 7:45pm with their show Soul Spirit. Directed by the inimitable T-Jae Cole, one of the UK’s most respected gospel choir directors, audiences can expect much-loved classics including Oh Happy Day, Amazing Grace, Joyful Joyful and many others. Tickets cost £20. To book tickets visit the website, www.cornexchangeneuw.com or call on 0845 5218 218.

- DOGS Trust Newbury is looking forward to welcoming two and four-legged friends to their Spring Fair on March 24. The Hamstead Marshall-based rehoming centre will have something for everyone and their furry friends, including a raffle, tombola, an Easter egg hunt and crafts for children. There will be fun and games for dogs and owners alike, Easter-themed refreshments and Dogs Trust merchandise for sale.

- LOCAL musician Paul James is bringing his new band – Paul James and the Drowned Lovers – to ACE Space in Newbury for their first-ever gig on Saturday March 23 at 8pm. Tickets cost £12 or £10 early bird, (includes a free copy of the album which you can pick up on the night) from: Hogan Music (cash only), WeGotTickets.com 078911 76940 or events@acepace.org.uk.

- Eastern villages: Sonning, Twyford, Wargrave, Ruscombe, Charvil and Here Hatch

- ST Mary’s Church in Twyford is hosting a concert to raise funds for a very worthy cause on March 30. The concert, which will feature local choir Thames Valley Chorus, is being held to fundraise for Daisy’s Dream. Also on the bill will be Avenue Acapella and STs Brass Quintet. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased online. Visit: tvchorus.co.uk or email: tickets@tvchorus.co.uk.

- READING & District Cigarette Card & Postcard Club meets fortnightly at Charvil Village Hall, RG10 9TR at 7.30pm on the second Thursday and the fourth Tuesday of each month. The Club began more than 60 years ago as a Cigarette Card Club for local cartophilists. Visit: readingpostcards.com