

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIVE YEARS ON

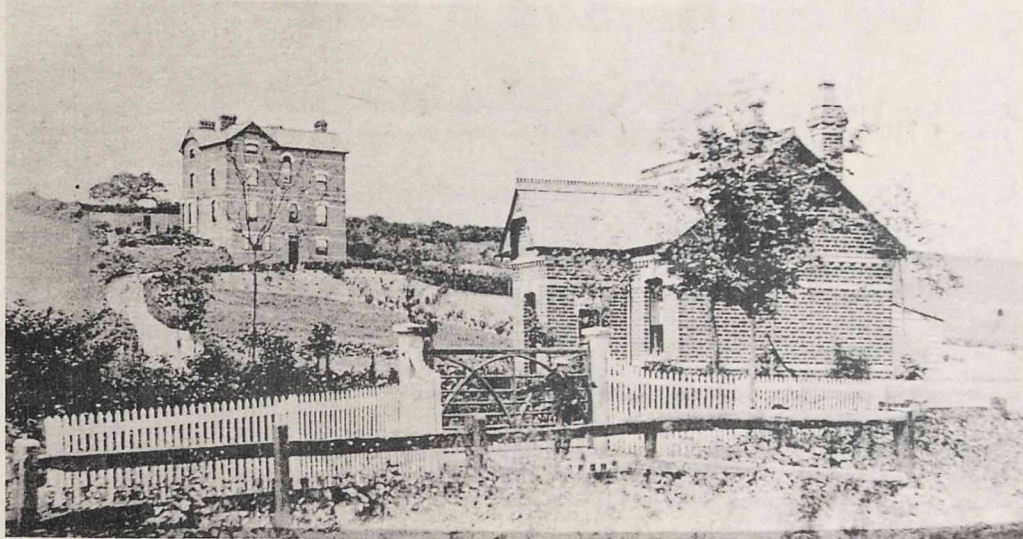
FOR HEMDEAN HOUSE SCHOOL 1984 is an important year, for it commemorates its hundred and twenty fifth anniversary. This places it among the oldest girls' schools in the country, and in Reading it is only surpassed by Reading School and Bluecoat, now in Sonning, and both of them boys' schools.

It was in 1859 that Mr Francis Knighton, a respected schoolmaster in Caversham, opened a girls' school in Verona Lodge in Church Street. He had moved to Caversham in 1849 from Reading, where he had owned a school since the 1820's. This had occupied various premises in its time, but in search of healthier surroundings than a mid-nineteenth century town offered, he had purchased Caversham House on the Reading to Hatfield Turnpike Road (now Church Street) in the quiet South Oxfordshire village of Caversham. This house, which stood where St Martin's shopping precinct, now stands, became Caversham House Academy, and soon, with a hundred and sixty pupils, was the biggest boys' school in Reading, for Reading School's numbers had dropped to such an extent that it was later closed for two or three years.

His wife helped him in the running of the school and so did his three sons and four daughters as they grew up. It was for two of these, Rosa and Matilda, that he opened a new girls' school. Such was their father's reputation that the school was an immediate success and by 1862 it had moved to new specially built premises on rising land off Hemdean Lane. This gave it an advantage over most of the other private girls' schools which operated in ordinary

large (and sometimes not so large) houses.

Miss Rosa later married, leaving Miss Matilda as the sole principal and she ran her school, together with a number of dedicated teachers, until her retirement, at the age of eighty seven in 1926. She died a year later. Her father's academy, run later by her eldest brother, had closed down a few years previously, but Miss Knighton was able to entrust her school to a young teacher on her staff who had joined it as



■ Hemdean House School, newly opened in 1862.

a five-year-old pupil in 1902.

So it was that Miss Alice Olivey became principal, a post she occupied until she retired in 1972, and brought to an end a record seventy years unbroken connection with the school. Hundreds of past pupils remember her with affection, respect and gratitude and mourned her death in 1982.

The school premises were still owned by the last remaining member of the Knighton family, and for a while the school's future seemed uncertain, but by 1974, with her support, the school was once more firmly established under an educational trust with Mrs Monica Ralph as its headmistress.

For a hundred and twenty five years the school has been closely connected with Caversham life and there are many who will join in wishing it "Many happy returns" as commemorative celebrations take place in the course of the summer. It still strives to maintain the standards set by Miss Knighton and Miss Olivey whilst adapting and looking forward to a future so different from the time when in 1859 a new girls' school was opened in Caversham.



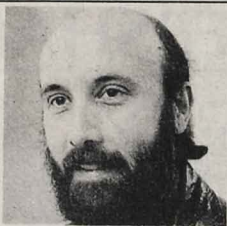
■ The Hay Tea, in approximately 1920. The hayfield was in what is now Hemdean Rise. Miss Knighton is seated at the table and Miss Olivey seated far left



■ The Orchard, where Knighton Close now is, in 1911, with Miss Knighton standing by the table.

TALKING POINT

REVD PETER SEAR
ST BARNABAS' CHURCH, EMMER GREEN



'MAN BITES DOG'

SOME YEARS ago a new newspaper appeared in California (where else!) It lasted just two years before it came to an abrupt end. Called "The Good Newspaper" its aim was to publish only good news.

Sadly too few people believed in it sufficiently to advertise and so keep it going. Bad news, it seems, is good news; but good news isn't. And then there's the old axiom in newspaper circles "man bites dog" which is good news, or rather, the sort of news that sells newspapers; whereas "dog bites man" isn't.

We are obsessed by the news — "all the news every hour on the hour!" — though whether we really pay attention to what is going on and try to understand it is another matter. We all know how difficult it is to present news objectively — the way we tell it and the words we use show our approval or disapproval — and at the same time to make it interesting. Both BBC and ITV have, in recent months, been accused of biased reporting. And the news has to be made interesting unless people are going to switch off (either literally, or in their minds). Either newspapers present the news in a way that people want it (often in a way which will sensationalise, trivialise, and pander to prejudices) or else in the cut and thrust of the newspaper world, they go broke.

And how far do TV (especially) and newspapers simply report news, and how far do they create the news (Zola Budd and the Daily Mail)? As I write this the picketing in the miners' strike is hardening and the conflict between pickets and police seems to be worsening. But how far is this an accurate reflection of what is happening (after all, most picket duty is boring, hanging around, but we rarely see this on TV), and how far does the presence of TV cameras act as an incitement? Is it just coincidence, or good luck, that TV cameras turn up at places where the violence is worse, or is it the presence of TV cameras, guaranteeing an audience of millions, that

incites violence?

But back to the good news. The good news that is Good News. Once upon a time there was a man who was a carpenter. People came to realise (eventually) that he was more than just a man, more than just a carpenter, he was God. Now the Good News is that he shares our lives, and the Good News is also that in his life and, in an inexplicable way, through his death, we can find forgiveness and we can find purpose in life.

Yet it would be misleading to think that the Good News is only about good news. Sometimes there's a lot of heart-break, sometimes a lot of misery. Sometimes it can be a hard and stony path to tread trying to do what you believe is right. Nobody would want to pretend that the Good News is just about being loud and cheerful, hail fellow, well-met. Being a Christian is not about being like those terrible comedians sent to cheer up the sparse audience on a wet Friday evening at the end-of-the-pier show, who are always telling us what a jolly life it really is. Often, it is not.

No, there's bad news as well, bad news about what we are like, what we actually are. The kind of thing that ought to help us face up to the truth about ourselves. And sometimes that truth isn't very palatable. We become adept at trying to suppress the bad news about ourselves.

We are to live in the shadow of the cross. That is the Good News, and it can be hard news — not just something sentimental. It can mean, and it does mean, for many Christians that they will have a hard way to walk.

Lord, whatever the news may bring, good or bad, help us to stay with the Good News that gives a meaning to life.



Postbag

AMERSHAM HALL

Dear Sirs,

I was interested in reading the History of Amersham Hall in "Caversham Bridge". It is unfortunate that the writer M.K., having obviously done a great deal of research, was not able to get all the facts correctly. The Rev Ebenezer West was the Minister of the Baptist Chapel at Chenies and having a low stipend he augmented it in 1821 by receiving into his family five young gentlemen under twelve years of age to educate with his two sons. "To meet the wishes of his friends he made such an alteration in his establishment to enable him to receive double that number" in 1825. In 1829 as stated correctly, the school was transferred to Amersham, Bucks. He died in 1836. His son, also called Ebenezer who had joined his father in about 1832 carried on as headmaster after his father's death. Later "in compliance with the often and strongly expressed wish of his friends that the school should be made easy of access" he found a suitable site at Caversham Hill to build a school. The original letter dated January 1, 1861 states that the new school would be called Amersham Hall and that he would be removing there in midsummer next. A copy was sent

to old scholars and parents of present pupils. In 1870 his son Alfred Slater West, M.A. Cambridge and London, Trin. Coll. Camb., and Fellow and Gold Medallist of Univ. Coll. Lond., formerly Examiner in the Moral Sciences Tripos in the University of Cambridge, joined his father as a partner.

Alfred with his wife and family lived in Camden Villa next to the school. Ebenezer retired from the school in 1876 and moved to Camden Villa. Alfred and family moved to the Hall. It is incorrect to state in the article in "Caversham Bridge" that the number of boys attending the school was limited to eighty as there were over one hundred boys, the numbers varying in the lists given. It is also a mistake to state that he took over the running of the school when his father died in 1895 as he had already retired himself in July 1892, sold the school and was living in Bedford Park and later in Ealing until his death. In 1894 a provisional prospectus of Queen Anne's School for Girls was published, opening date May 16.

Alfred had exceptional aptitude for music, playing the piano extremely well, chiefly by ear, but composing, improvising, transposing and writing the lyrics to the songs he composed. He played the harmonium for school chapel, the concertina and also the violin, which is no doubt the reason for the success of the concerts given by the boys. Even after retirement when he spent most of his time writing, publishing books on grammar, translations of essays, etc., and one novel as well as examining in Cambridge locals, higher locals and Joint Board Eton, many weekends were spent with old boys visiting him and musical evenings in the large music room at his house.

The Amersham and Amersham Hall Old Boys held annual dinners in London of which there are still many menus and lists of those present which include many very well-known names. A complimentary dinner to the Right Hon. Sir Andrew R. Scoble, KCSI, the Right Hon. Lord Justice Sir Herbert Cozens-Hardy and the Right Hon. Augustine Birrell KCMP (all old boys) was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on July 6, 1906 and the seating plan is for about one hundred and forty-five, including Alfred S. West and his sons.

(Mrs) M. B. GILLESPIE (nee West)
Grand-daughter of the late Alfred S. West
Chazey Road
Caversham

APOLOGY

The Editors regret that the article on Mission in the May issue was wrongly credited to the Rev T. Meagher.

At the recent annual general meeting of the Caversham Christian News Ltd the directors allocated the sum of fifty pounds to each of the following charitable causes from the company's trading surplus for 1983:

**The Abbeyfield (Reading) Society
Peppard House Trust
Reading Emergency Aid Project**

Features of these organisations have appeared in recent issues of the "Caversham Bridge".

Nicholas 1882

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All contributions for the August issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, July 4. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, June 29.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

HEMDEAN HOUSE started its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations on October 7 last year when a group of girls went to Francis Knighton's grave in St Peter's churchyard on the centenary of his death, scrubbed the headstone and surround and planted a shrub and bluebells in the somewhat inhospitable soil beneath the yew tree.

In March the school drama club performed the musical play *The Matchgirls* by Bill Owen and Tony Russell. Featuring the Bryant and May's strike of 1883, it was certainly guaranteed to dispel any nostalgic yearnings for Victorian times. It showed the hard-

ness of life in the match factory and in London's East End where girls and women bore the burdens of poverty, overwork and unwanted pregnancies with a mixture of resignation, perky cheerfulness and dogged determination. It was not perhaps quite what their

audience had expected of school-girls but the rapt attention and the laughter with which it was received, for in spite of its theme it was funny too, was a measure of its success and a tribute to the brilliant direction of Margery Jackson who brought the best out of her young cast.

Still to come is a Victorian school-day, when pupils and teachers will wear Victorian dress and try to recapture something of what school was like in the last century. Victorian discipline will be imposed (there are rumours of a dunce's cap and even a cane is being sought, though for appearance's sake rather than use) and lessons will be along Victorian lines. Tables will be chanted, *casa-bianca* will be recited, dates of the Kings and Queens of England and capes and bays round the coasts of Britain will be learnt by rote, whilst in needlework, long seams will be sewn in white calico. The day will conclude with the cutting of a birthday cake made and iced by the girls to a design chosen as the result of a competition.

This will be followed by an open day using modern methods and equipment to which

parents are invited. Parents also are organising a Victorian fete in the school grounds, at which again Victorian dress will be encouraged.

On Saturday July 14 a service will be held at St Peter's Church at 2.30 in the afternoon. It will be conducted by the Rector, the address will be given by the Rev B. Shaylor, a former pupil of the school in the prep department when Miss Olivey was Head Girl, and Canon J. Grimwade will be returning to dedicate a memorial stone to Miss Olivey, a faithful member of St Peter's, as were all the Knightons, and to whom Hemdean House owes so much.

After the service there will be a Victorian tea, where not only will cucumber sandwiches, Dundee cake and Victorian sponge be served, but even such amazing delicacies as sheep's ears en croustade. To facilitate catering, past pupils and members of staff who would like to receive an invitation are asked to contact the school either by letter or telephone.

Accompanying all this there will be an exhibition of old photographs, some going back to the early 1860s. The school has also had restored a portrait of Miss Knighton in 1859, which had been hidden away in an obscure corner, as well as a pair of Mr Knighton and Mrs Knighton.

A book has also been published telling the story of Hemdean House and the Knighton family. This can be obtained from the school, price £1.80 or £2.05 by post. It will be reviewed in next month's issue of this newspaper. Any organisation who would like a talk on the story of the school should also write or telephone.

All that is now required is one of those sunny Victorian summers which they always seemed to enjoy, for in spite of the Match girls, nostalgia still creeps in. Many happy returns, Hemdean House.



■ Mrs Ralph with some of her senior girls



■ Some of the cast at "The Match Girls"

— Peter Sear



■ Hemdean House girls at Francis Knighton's grave.

Courtesy Evening Post

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Sweetening the pill

PERHAPS April is the cruellest month because it is the season of the AGM, an event at which conscience rather than inclination dictates attendance. Secretaries however are wily and have learnt that a little judicious sugaring of the pill in the form of an accompanying talk on some matter of interest is more likely to boost attendance.

Caversham Residents' Association was fully aware that it was Luke Over's illustrated talk on swans and not reports, elections and resolutions that drew their audience. He did not disappoint them. He touched on the symbolism

of swans in ancient history, (Leda and that swan), swans in heraldry, (the Hoby monument in Bisham Church is well worth a visit), the picturesque if somewhat pointless swan-umping, (because it is not followed up these days) and the

modern menace to swans of lead. Fishermen now are much more careful than they used to be, but heavy accumulations from the past are being churned up by powered craft and have become a major source of lead poisoning. Did you know that sick swans are not able to hold their necks upright? There is a Trust based at Windsor which treats them and restores them to health.

All those swans which have recently returned to Caversham Bridge are not breeding swans. They are the equivalent of the local youth hanging about on street corners and of a single and separated persons' club. Once mated, swans are monogamous, and set up their own household away from the local lads, jealously guarding it, even from their own offspring once they are old

enough to fend for themselves.

Luke Over held his audience's attention with a wealth of such fascinating material as well as with his beautiful slides. Some of them could only have been taken as a result of much patience.

Servicing the borough

Meanwhile, Squadron-Leader Watson of Mappedurham Residents' Association attracted his audience with a talk from Clifford Nash, the Director of Technical Services for Reading Borough Council. His department services just about every committee of the Borough, so he is in touch with most of what is going on in the town. One revealing bit of information was that Reading paid for the signs on the Oxford Ring Road, directing heavy lorries to the A34-M4 route into Reading. If we had waited for Oxfordshire to do it

we would have waited for ever. After all, Oxfordshire would have argued, what happens to the lorries they had encouraged to use the A4074, once out of their territory, was none of their business.

Clifford Nash also spoke of different groups' views of roads. For some people they are the means of getting from one place to another, for others places to leave their vehicles whilst carrying out their business, for others places beside which they trade, for more, places along which they live, for children even places where they play, though this is fast disappearing, and yet others look on them as ducts beneath which vital services are laid. How to reconcile these often contradictory claims is one of the headaches of being a local government officer. His department has just been re-instating the line of the trench from the Woodcote Road borough boundary to Priory Avenue which the Post Office excavated last summer. They appear to have done a satisfactory job, but even so what remains is one long patch.

Third Bridge (Contd)

Meanwhile discussion about a possible additional crossing of the Thames continues. The road engineering lobby keeps on about a link-up with the M40 at Stokenchurch, something which is universally

opposed by all local groups in the areas affected. Nicholas Ridley from the Department of Transport tells the Chamber of Commerce that it is up to the County Council to fund their own road building programme (and get rate-capped for doing so) whilst blithely disregarding the fact that Government policy in designating Reading a centre for office building, South Berkshire a place for massive housing development and "silicon valley" a growth area, have exacerbated already existing problems.

Merger and Reshuffle

Those two Annual Meetings, which were held on successive evenings, resulted in a resolution being passed at each for M.A.R.A. to merge with C. & D.R.A., a proposal explained in March's Caversham Bridge. C. & D.R.A. will certainly continue to be concerned for the rural and built-up areas of Mappedurham.

C.R.A. have had a cabinet reshuffle. Garth Thorne is now

the Chairman, Pete Wise Vice-Chairman, Isobel Dovey Hon. Treasurer, and Sydney Freeman has special responsibility for Planning.

Bricks, dropped and used

I now address my remarks to Caversham Free Church. No, of course I had not overlooked your splendid examples of brickwork, but my comments were particularly concerned with the Borough Council's guidelines for the conservation of terraced housing, particularly its brickwork. For this reason I also omitted any reference to terra-cotta work, of which there are some particularly fine examples to be found in west Caversham, in ridge tiles, hung tiles and finials. Ecclesiastically the Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road has some particularly exuberant brickwork. Pevsner liked it, calling it "quite ambitious" but he dropped a brick as he included it in his Oxfordshire volume.

GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE 1984

CHRISTIANS from all round "stations" or "stages" of Reading, including several from Caversham, took part in an ecumenical act of worship with a difference.

Starting at St Giles at 9am the group followed the Cross, carried by two of their number, round Reading. They stopped at 14 different places of Christian worship to join in a short act of prayer at each, thereby commemorating the Common.

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BROWNIES' MAGICAL TEAPARTY

ON WEDNESDAY April 25 the 2nd Emmer Green Brownie Pack held a Magical Teaparty attended by the Mayor of Reading. She was met at the gates of St Barnabas' Church Hall by two magical teapots held by Louise Emin and Karen Grant and escorted up between a guard of honour of fancy dress teapots to a hall decorated with fancy cardboard teapots, cakes and tea packets from around the world, all made and collected by the Brownies.

The fancy dress teapot competition was judged by the Mayor who presented prizes to Hazel Bloomfield and Helen Langford.

After that there was a promise ceremony followed by the big teapots becoming magical and pouring hot tea from their spouts, watched by a clockwork teapot puffing steam.

A cake in the shape of a Brownie badge was cut by the Mayor during the party, and a vote of thanks to the Mayor was given by Amanda Bartlett. Then the Mayor left, returning to her car through the guard of honour, having had a very enjoyable time.



Postbag

Dear Editor,

This year, with Easter almost as late as it can be and with school holidays only just over before the first of the May Bank holidays occurs, will surely make people think that some more consistent way of fixing the date of Easter could be found.

The Historical background is that "Easter" is said to be derived from the name of the feast of the Teutonic goddess Ostera, celebrated by the Saxons early in the spring, about the time of the vernal equinox. After Christianity had been introduced into this country, a definite way of fixing Easter had to be made so that other festivals of the church could fit around it. There was division of opinion between the Eastern and Western churches.

The Church of Rome decreed that Christ's resurrection took place on the first day of the week after the Passover and ought to be kept on the first Sunday following. In AD 325 the Council of Nicea decreed a new way of timing Easter. Later, calculations were made according to the tables of Victorinus of Aquitaine in AD 457, but it was not until after another two hundred years of controversy that, at the Council of Whitby in AD 664, the calculations to find Easter day became the ones used today.

Easter can now fall on one of 35 days — from March 22, to April 25. In 1928, the House of Commons agreed to a third reading of a bill "that Easter Day shall in the calendar year next but one after the commencement of the Act and in all subsequent years be the first Sunday after the second Sunday in April". Easter thus would be between April 9 and 15. A clause in the bill emphasised that before this new scheme came into operation, it should take note of any opinions provided by Christian churches. There was a conspicuous lack of support for the change and so the idea of a fixed Easter was dropped.

Does it in fact matter that Easter has tried to fit in with the Passover Festival? Christ's resurrection is celebrated certainly every Sunday and on every occasion when the creed is said. Has the time now come for Caversham to give the lead in fixing Easter Day on the second Sunday in April? And how about Christmas Day on the fourth Sunday in December?

MARGARET COLMANS

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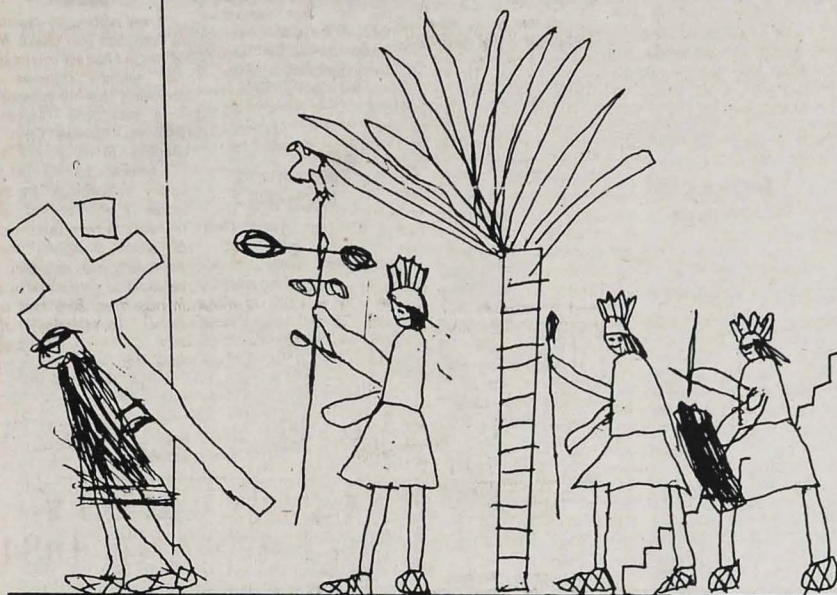
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EASTER ART AT THE HEXAGON



Easter art at the Hexagon

Seven-year-old Keith Whiting's picture of Jesus carrying his cross through Jerusalem.

READING'S Hexagon Theatre was the venue for a colourful Children's Art Exhibition held for two weeks over Easter. Taking the theme of the "Easter Story", children from over a dozen Reading Sunday Schools of various denominations took part.

Well over 200 paintings lined the walls of the Hexagon's long corridor and they portrayed such scenes from the story as the arrest, the crucifixion, Mary in the garden and the empty tomb. Some of the work involved the use of collage and several pictures were jointly produced on large sheets of card or lengths of wallpaper. Parents and their children visited the exhibition and common was the scene of an anxious child pulling her parents around until her very own picture was located, with great pride! One such visit by the junior Church of Caversham Heights Methodist Church combined a visit of 50 children and adults to the theatre's "Brian Cant Show" as well as to the Children's

Art Exhibition.

The aims of the exhibition were to create a common event for Reading's many Sunday School groups to participate in and to be an expression of praise to God over Easter. The organisers, just as big and exciting for Chris and Lynn White children in Reading, as this expressed their grateful thanks to the financial sponsors, Milward Shoes, Gateway Outreach and Caversham Heights Methodist Church who helped to cover the exhibition costs. A similar event is being considered for 1985 which is hoped will be over Easter. The organisers, just as big and exciting for Chris and Lynn White children in Reading, as this expressed their grateful

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STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



LAST LOOK AT THE 1984 HALF MARATHON

WHAT A day March 25 turned out to be! We had the worst rain of the winter that weekend and we had fears that the race would not be able to finish as planned on the grass at the University. However, when Sunday dawned the early morning weather wasn't too bad so everything went ahead as planned. What a great race we had and although the weather took a real turn for the worse by mid-morning, nothing was going to dampen the enthusiasm of the runners or spectators.

From an entry of nearly 7,000 around 6,000 made their way to the Start, plus

around 20 disabled competitors. The wheelchairs left first and then fifteen minutes later the main 6,000 were started on their way by the Mayor. Right from the start Mike Hurd, a very good RAF runner, took the lead closely followed by John Whetton, one of the veteran runners, and about five local athletes.

As the race developed it became a one man race with Hurd pulling further

away from his nearest rivals, although at about eight miles (in Oxford Road) the second runner, Rob Watt, of Reading A.C., was closing the gap. However, Hurd's experience enabled him to keep the lead and continue to increase it until the Finish which he reached in the very fast time of 64mins and 39secs with Watt in second place.

The special feeling towards the disabled competitors was very evident again and perhaps one of the nicest touches was when Mike Hurd reached Prospect Park and passed one of the wheelchair athletes. He slowed noticeably and gave words of encouragement as he passed.

One person who should be very well pleased with his first serious run for two years is the marathon runner and Caversham resident Chris Garforth. He finished in twenty-seventh position with a very fast time of 71mins 27 secs. Chris, who has been one of the country's top marathon runners, has had injury problems for some time and used the Reading Run as a trial to see if he was on his way back to form. He only expected to run the course

in around 85mins but in fact ran over a minute a mile faster.

Once more the crowd was marvellous, particularly north of the river in Caversham. Your support was splendid and all the runners commented on the valued support they received at the critical stage between nine and ten miles. Well done and thank you.

The first wheelchair competitor to finish was Gordon Perry, a 27-year-old ex-footballer who lost a leg after a football injury; so having won the London Marathon last year, he completed a double.

But again the medal for guts and determination has to go to eighteen-year-old Peter Hull from the Hephais-tos School at Farley Hill. With his new racing wheelchair which was presented to him after last year's race he reduced his time by over an hour. Peter has no arms or legs and again refused all assistance.

Of course we have no idea how much money was raised by individual sponsors for the many charities and good causes that people were supporting but from the proceeds of the race itself nearly £5,000 has been distributed between

British Sport for the Disabled, the Sue Ryder Home, St John Ambulance and other charities. At the end

of the day the total money raised will amount to tens of thousands of pounds.

Don't forget, if you got cold and wet watching this year, you can always keep warm next year by running yourself. Start training now, it is never too early!!!

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

Gosbrook Road Review



FLOWERS, Fellowship and Fundraising, have been prominent at Caversham Methodist Church during the past month. There has been fund raising by the Boy's Brigade Band "The Ambassadors". They held a coffee morning which raised £37 towards purchasing new white gloves, and on April 7 they were playing for the pre-match entertainment at Reading Football Club. £109 was collected from the fans during the interval, this was in spite of the problems with some of the crowd on the terraces. Les Cooper ran in the Reading Half-Marathon again, in aid of Band Funds and £185 was raised.



Two of the flower displays at the Methodist Church

CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

Wednesdays at 10.30

June 6 — 27 Galsworthy Drive (Karen Rees)

June 13 — 17 Odiham Avenue (Liz Beckett)

June 20 — 7 Ilchester Mews (Gerry Ashton)

June 27 — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Jane Lynch-Watson)

St Barnabas' News

A new venture between the Methodist Men in Caversham has got off to a good beginning. Two meetings of a Mens' Supper Club have been held, when a fellowship meal has been enjoyed, followed by an after dinner speaker.

The Women's Fellowship enjoyed a half-day outing to Windsor to the Madame Tussauds exhibition. The ladies found the exhibits most interesting and the afternoon came to a successful ending with tea provided by the ladies of Windsor Methodist Church.

The Flower Festival held on April 8 and 9 was a great success. Each department of the Church took part and gave a great deal of thought to their displays. The Brigades exhibits were very colourful, picking out the reds and blues of their badges and uniforms. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group had an unusual display in green and yellow. The Wednesday

Group used the "Kitchen Prayer" as the centre of their exhibition and there were displays by the Women's Fellowship, Choir and Sunday School. At the front of the Church was a six foot high cross decorated with lilies, and there were displays representing communion, baptism and marriage. The Festival was a team effort, and those who took part enjoyed a happy day preparing the Church. Special thanks is due to Mrs Eileen Flint who came along to help and to The Flower Shop, Prospect Street, for the loan of the Wedding bouquet. £105 was raised for the Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Easter brought special services and it was good to share in the Maundy Thursday service with friends from other Churches, when the preacher was Rev Alan Wilson, and on Good Friday at Caversham Heights when Rev Dennis Weller gave the address.

ON GOOD Friday children from St Barnabas Sunday School and their parents joined with children and parents from Caversham Park Church and from Shaw-cum-Donnington Church (just north of Newbury) for a Good Friday Pilgrimage. The Good Friday Pilgrimage has now become an annual event.

The Pilgrimage began at Donnington Castle which the group pretended was Pilate's palace in Jerusalem. The story of Jesus being condemned to death by Pilate was read there amid the castle ruins. Then the Pilgrims took it in turn to carry a large wooden cross on a four mile journey, imagining what it must have been like for Jesus to carry his cross through Jerusalem. On the way they stopped for a picnic lunch at Snelmore Common, being careful not to disturb any adders! Then it was back to Donnington Castle; this time imagining that the steep hill on which the castle stands was the hill of Golgotha; and here they read the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

Then back to Shaw-cum-Donnington Church where there was a final short service remembering how the Easter story ends, and finally hot-cross buns and drinks provided by church members there. Many thanks to them, and for the wonderful

spring weather that day.

And thanks too to the people who helped to decorate St Barnabas Church for our Easter worship, and for the children who again built the Easter garden.

The USPG Lent Appeal for various overseas projects (see March "Caversham Bridge") was well supported by St Barnabas' Church. To date nearly £190 has been given.

On Saturday 14 St Barnabas Church held its annual "Household and Handyman Sale" — everything from a plant or two for your garden to a couple of hundred bricks. This year the sale raised £341 for Dr Guy Daynes' hospital work in The Transkei. Our thanks to all who supported the event in any way, and to David Miles and those who helped him on the various stalls at the Sale.

Just before Easter St Barnabas Church lost a faithful friend in Mrs May Waring who died on April 3. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and relations in Emmer Green and elsewhere. She was a regular worshipper at the two o'clock service on Wednesday mornings. May she rest in peace.

ST BARNABAS' DAY

Monday June 11

PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

AT ST BARNABAS' CHURCH

7.45pm

followed by buffet in the Church Hall

Preacher — The Revd Melvyn Matthews
Chaplain of Bristol University

15009

Easter Monday walk

ON EASTER Monday about thirty-five members of St Peter's congregation met at Goring Heath Scout Hut. After posing for a group photo, before they showed signs of fatigue, they were off! Aled by Barbara Chapman they rambled along footpaths in the glorious sunshine. It was a beautiful countryside, but two high spots were Elvendon Priory nestling in a sheltered valley and a view across fields right down to Goring and the river. After three miles the party split up. Some took the short cut back but the majority were keen to carry on for another

couple of miles. Meanwhile, back at the Scout Hut the Cubs, aided by some of their mothers, were preparing snack lunches. When the party arrived back they were served with ploughman's lunches, hot dogs and drinks. The food was delicious and many people went back for seconds!

After lunch the Easter Bunny got busy and the children had fun searching for chicks and rabbits. It was a most enjoyable day with the walk, the lunch and the fellowship. Many thanks must go to Barbara and the cubs for organising it.

St Peter's Wives

ST PETER'S Wives greatly enjoyed the talk given by Mrs Jackie Kavanagh in April. She spoke about her work as the Archivist to the BBC, and the nature and purpose of that archive. Members viewed photographs of television personalities, "Proms" concert programmes and radio scripts. Also stored by the BBC in Caversham are contracts, correspondence, broadcast notes and all written material relating to every aspect of the Corporation's work. Together they form a unique and invaluable record of interest to historians, biographers, journalists and even little boys wanting to know old football results! Tea was provided after the meeting as part of the Brownies Tea Making Fortnight.

The June meeting will be addressed by Miss R. M. Cooper. Her subject is Beekeeping.

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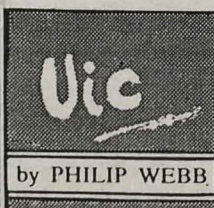
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by PHILIP WEBB

ROUND THE CHURCHES

St John's Notes

PALM SUNDAY is always very specially kept at St John's. There was the usual procession round the outside of the church, holding Palm crosses and singing "Sing Hosanna". The Guides and Brownies, in place of the sermon, sang a modern version of St Francis song "Suffer little children" very movingly, as they mimed the story.

On Maundy Thursday the congregation went to Gosbrook Road Methodist church for the ecumenical Eucharist, then back to St John's to say penitential psalms while the altar was stripped.

There was, as always, a Good Friday Meditation in the morning. Then the chairs were moved, and the five to eleven year olds made an enormous model of Jerusalem with boxes, paper, paint and help! They had a picnic lunch on the grass and then followed the events of Holy Week on the model, while they listened to the Easter story. Immediately afterwards their parents helped to put the church straight, while the flower

arrangers filled vases and began the Easter decorations.

The Youth Group and their friends spent Good Friday making a pilgrimage along the river to Sonning.

By Holy Saturday afternoon, when the flowers were finished and looked as splendid as usual, the Easter Garden was set out, and the festal altar frontals on, the church was ready. It "looked lovely, full of gold, and white and Resurrection" as someone said after the crowded Easter Day Communion. Easter Day finished with a Festival Evensong. The congregation does realise that quite a number of people work very hard in their free time to make all this possible — and they do appreciate it.

For their "unusual" tea party in National Tea Fortnight, the Brownies invited the Mayor to tea. They made her four different sorts of tea, and put on an exhibition of life in the countries where tea grows. In a return of hospitality they were invited to visit the Mayor's Parlour in May.

Caversham Park Church News

JOYCE AND David Newby in Sri Lanka and the exploits of Adnam Maha (aged 7) in SOS Children's Village in Bethlehem are helping to give Caversham Park Church a perspective beyond Berkshire.

Joyce and David Newby (who moved home from Caversham Park to Abingdon in 1982, but still keep close links with the Church on the Village) are working in Sri Lanka under the auspices of the Save The Children Fund. Their base is the Fund's headquarters in Colombo. Joyce's chief responsibility is to service and support infant and children's homes in various parts of the country, and to promote the training of local staff. Joyce works also at the Colombo Detention Centre where there are about 350 women who've been arrested by the police because they are beggars, prostitutes or vagrants. David's work is primarily in boys' homes, assisting them to acquire basic skills in the workshop. As Joyce puts it "we try to help those at the bottom of the heap".

Adnam Maha is a young Muslim girl whom Caversham Park Church help to sponsor in her Village in Bethlehem. In that SOS Village 70 Muslim children living in twelve family houses are cared for by their Muslim SOS Mothers. The children are all raised in their Muslim faith, though the administrators of the Village are three Roman Catholic nuns. Many of the children taken into the Village have been found abandoned on rubbish tips or in doorways, as illegitimate pregnancy is an offence against the family's honour; sometimes the unhappy mother must abandon her child to save herself.



■ Caversham 2nd Boys Brigade Company on their first public parade on Sunday April 8 outside Caversham Heights Methodist Church.



■ Graham Aispitt married Isabel Offord at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on April 21. Courtesy of Hymoor Photographers

Caversham Heights Methodist News

75th Anniversary THIS event took place on the weekend of March 24-25. On the Saturday in an endeavour to bring together all age-groups, celebrations took on a different note this year.

In the afternoon members sampled a traditional English cream tea and in the evening a Barn Dance was held when John Bailey was the Caller. The profit from these events was given

through the Link Group to "Heathcroft", the local home for severely handicapped children.

On the Sunday Rev Paul Priest from Bournemouth conducted both morning and evening worship. The children, after being given a graphic account of John Wesley being a "brand plucked from the burning", shared a large birthday cake which had been made by a member of the church.

Link Group

THE RESULT of the Good as New Sale, which made a net profit of £570 was discussed at the Link Group meeting held on April 16 at Anthea Prescott's house. The Chairman, Mrs Doreen Bennett, thanked all the members, and their many friends, for their hard work, and said that the excellent result, which exceeded all previous efforts, could not have been achieved without the generous support of those who gave so liberally, and those who came to buy. The money would be used, some immediately, and the rest during the year, for the needs of local handicapped people.



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LEST YOU think I've been gallivanting round the world during my absence from these columns, I hasten to assure readers this is far from the case. In fact my horizons seem to be narrowed down to an area roughly bounded by Westfield Road, Prospect Street and Church Street. Even my WI meetings are held in this area.

Which reminds me that at a recent WI meeting I discovered the local library has a book in which anyone

can enter forthcoming events — likewise one can look them up. Am I the only one in Caversham who didn't know this?

However, as I say I don't seem to get far these days and find the local shops perfectly adequate for most of my needs. Our cats thoroughly approve of my choice of pet shop for their daily needs — so do I, for I get more giggles in the Prospect Street Shop than anywhere. It's a close-knit trading community, so I

suppose I should not have been surprised to find young John Robert Mullaney from the bookshop making frequent calls: "Has the cat had her kittens yet?" She has — three by Caesarian — never knew cats had them.

Flower Care

Further down Prospect Street, I must again compliment Pat, the florist. Having been presented with an azalea which, after a couple of days, showed every sign of what we took to be a touch of frost, I remember she'd once told me not to be afraid to take anything back. I did. Touch of frost — nothing! She snatched the plant from me, hauled it from the pot and showed that, despite what we thought was a good soaking, a large chunk of earth in the centre (where a lot of roots were) was absolutely dry. She plunged it into a deep bucket of water where it remained while I did my shopping. Result — we've never enjoyed such a lovely plant for so long. That lass knows her stuff about flowers; on the other hand, she's reluctant to give general hints since she never knows what kind of atmosphere her plants or flowers are going to. But she's happy to advise individually.

Check-Out Success

Yesterday I talked to twenty year old Caroline Bryant, an attractive check-out girl at Liptons, who was recently a finalist in a nationwide competition for speed and accuracy, organised by "Supermarketing

Magazine". She did well to get so far — next time she hopes to be one of the winners. In the meanwhile Carolyn walks away with £150 for being in the finals and another £250 for being the only one wearing a cap — and I must say I like the fresh new uniforms the lasses at this store are wearing. She has only been on this job for just over a year and is planning to use some of the money to take her family out for a slap-up meal. Some of the rest will go on her forthcoming holiday to the Greek islands. Her charm and enthusiasm make a refreshing change from some of the bigger town shops and it was nice talking to her.

News of the Shylors

For the benefit of those who knew them — and there were many, apart from St Peter's congregation — I did manage to spend a few days with Betty and Bindy in Alton. The weather was kind and I had a lovely time being introduced to their thriving and very active local community and exploring the countryside. I know they visit Caversham from time to time, but they obviously can't see everyone, so I thought people would like to know they are very happy, living so close to their sons and families and, as one would expect, still involved in local activities. Bindy is still taking services at nearby churches.

The Wilde Theatre

That's about the furthest I've got lately. Oh yes, we did get to the new Wilde

Theatre in Bracknell to see "The Importance of Being Earnest" — it's not too far for Caversham people and, if this performance is anything to go by, well worth the trip, to say nothing of the pleasure of taking drinks into the gardens during the interval.

The Rest of Caversham

Do let us have news of people in other parts of Caversham — a note left for the editors at Church House is all that is necessary. This is your paper — help us to keep it that way.

News from Caversham Park Village

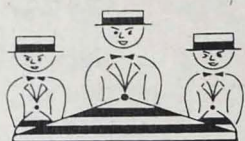
The survival and prosperity of the Farnham Drive shops is something that has been mentioned in these columns before. Since the largest unit, formerly a small supermarket, closed the fortunes of the whole precinct have been less assured. It is good therefore to report one new arrival. "Village Tandoori", an Indian restaurant opened on March 22 and is thoroughly recommended by the writer after two visits. The food is excellent, the prices reasonable and the service and the surroundings of a high order, showing great attention to detail. May their stay in Farnham Drive be long and prosperous! For those of you not familiar with Caversham Park Village here's how you get there. Turn left off the Henley Road into Caversham Park Road and left again into Lowfield Road. Proceed for about a quar-

ter of a mile and you will see the shops on your right. There is plenty of parking space. By the way there is a "take away" service at Village Tandoori as well.

Commuters have been watching with great interest the gradual sprouting of poles at the junction of Henley Road and Caversham Park Road. No doubt traffic lights will have blossomed at the top of them by the time you read this. Let's hope they will have solved the regular rush-hour chaos. In the meantime the main difficulty has been to see up or down the Hen-

ley Road past this new forest! There has been another interesting move associated with these road-works. There have long been those who felt that Reading begins on the far side of the river — this side belongs to Caversham! It looks as though this belief is catching on, since the "READING" sign seems to have moved twenty yards or so, so that visitors from Henley now reach Caversham Park Road before they are warned of Reading's imminence! Maybe Caversham Park Village has started a fashion by declaring U.D.I. Who will be next?

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1711-1789

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NEW RECRUIT FOR ANGLICAN STAFF

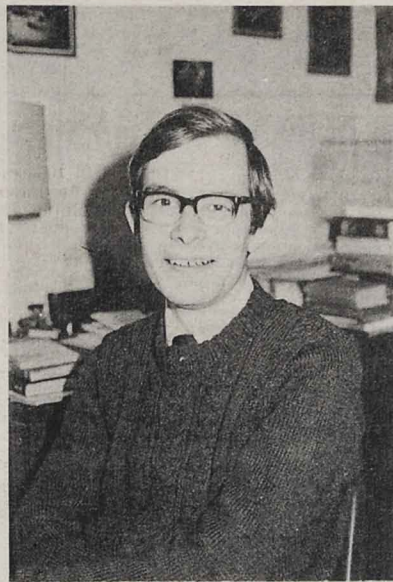
EDGBASTON. If the name means anything to you it is probably cricket — because it is the area of Birmingham where you find the home of the Worcestershire Test and County Cricket Ground. But it is also where you find a unique ecumenical college preparing women and men for ordination. Among students leaving this summer are Methodist ministers going as far away as the Shetland Islands and Johannesburg. And among the Anglican leavers is a student who is coming to be a curate in Caversham.

He is Peter Mullins. Peter is twenty-four and was born in Malawi, although he has been brought up since he was four in Beaconsfield in the Chiltern Hills. When he left school he worked for eight months in a Methodist Mission for down and outs in Whitechapel. He says that it was

this that confirmed for him the feeling that he should be ordained, and converted him to the ecumenical movement.

He then came back to the heart of the diocese to spend three years at Christ Church in Oxford reading for a degree in theology which he enjoyed enormously. He decided that it was best to train in one of our big cities and is now coming to the end of two years at Queen's College in Edgbaston. Here there is a remarkable combination of practical and theoretical studies. At the moment Peter spends two days each week working in Birmingham University and two days working as an Assistant Probation Officer on some of the council estates on the western edge of the city.

Peter will be ordained deacon at



the Diocesan Ordination in St Peter's Caversham on Sunday September 30 and we look forward to his ministry here as curate. He hopes to move to Caversham in early September. It is reliably rumoured that he resembles

Derek Spears in his reliance on two motorised wheels! We prepare to welcome Peter and assure him of our prayers and good wishes for a rewarding and exhausting time with us!

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel: 479130 (Office: 471703)

The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.

The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev Philip Lee-Bapt, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

Texan Visitor

ARRIVING in Caversham on June 14 this year will be the Rev Milton Chesters and his wife Ann from Abilene, Texas. Milton will be assuming pastoral and preaching duties at the Methodist Churches Caversham until approximately July 19. He will also preach on July 8 at Caversham Park Village Church.

Ralph and Elsie Rogerson will be serving at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Abilene until July 22.

Milton's Superintendent in the Northwest Texas Conference (of the Methodist Church) writes: "I know the English congregations will benefit Rev Chesters' ministry. He is a very fine minister — committed, studious, disciplined and has a real pastor's heart."

Milton and Ann are looking forward to coming to England very much — never having been here before. The church from which they come has 1,300 members and 450 families. There is a staff of eleven people although not all are full time. The church is heavily involved in the support of a large number of projects around the world.

Abilene is a city of some 100,000 residents about 180 miles west of Dallas. There are three institutions of Higher Education in the city and also a large military base. The economy receives a great boost from the oil industry, there is some farming and ranching and also a fair amount of tourism.

The Chesters will have an interesting story to tell and a worthwhile ministry to offer. The people of Caversham will welcome them as warmly as they welcomed Herb and Olive Glenn four years ago. (Incidentally the Glens will be paying a short visit to Caversham early in August.)



Rev Milton Chesters who is visiting Caversham Methodist Churches this summer.

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OBITUARY

Miss May Geer

THE JOY of the wonderful Easter celebration at St Margaret's was tinged with sadness as the congregation heard of the death, a few hours earlier, of May Geer. She died suddenly in her sleep on the Eve of Easter. For over twenty-five years she had been a member of St Margaret's congregation, and there were few Sundays when she was not present in church. St Margaret's are truly grateful for her life among them. It was in her little home at Mapledurham that the Chazey Heath

House Communions were held.

She was a member of the Jubilee Club from its very beginning and worked very actively on its behalf. Indeed, May was always ready to help when help was needed, whether it was for the missionary project, or to raise funds for the Parish Hall. She was also one of the few people trying to keep a glimmer of light at the little chapel in Rokeby Lane.

She will be greatly missed and we send our deepest sympathy to her family.

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Reading 862329**ROUND THE CLUBS****The Loch Ness Monster**

MEMBERS were told at the April meeting of the Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild that a new committee had been formed and the chairman re-elected at the Federation of Townswomen's Guilds. There was news of a new guild at Earley.

So many good things come out of Scotland! Amongst them is a mystery, a mystery of a monster in the deep waters of a lake 24 miles long, it is said to be six feet wide and 20 to 30 feet long at least, with a swanlike neck that reaches six feet or so above the water at its highest point and which swims at between seven and 10 miles an hour. Mr Tim Dinsdale, engineer, practical scientist and photographer, told how a number of sightings of the Monster were made in 1933 when a new road was being constructed along the north shore of Loch Ness. Mr Dinsdale read all he could about the subject and collected eye-witness reports and obtained fresh evidence on film in April, 1960.

In 1970 he was invited to run the fieldwork for the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau as Surface Photography director.

In August, 1972 The Rines Edgerton "Flipper" picture was taken in which an underwater

camera synchronised with a very bright flashing light was put within an echo sounder or "sonar" beam. The pictures taken were submitted for processing by a computer and a great diamond-spade-shaped limb could be seen. Mr Dinsdale's 1960 film was also studied by a computer and can be seen to contain indications of a second and possibly a third hump or tail. There are perhaps some 4 reports of seeing the Monster climbing out of the water. In 1973 the LNI stopped fieldwork but remained in existence as a committee.

The Great Glen split beneath the silt at the bottom of the loch was discovered to be part of a colossal fault, shaped like a giant V, perhaps 8-9,000 feet from mountain tops to bottom. In 1975 a picture was obtained, soon to become known as the "Pleiosaur Picture".

Mr Dinsdale has devoted 20 years to this subject which shows his enthusiasm. Are other enthusiasts to be found in Reading?

Mrs C. Lott gave an interesting account of her visit to Canada last year at the Social Studies meeting at the end of April.

Caversham Community Association

THE members were pleased to welcome Peggy Pilkington and the ladies of the Firtree Club on April 2 for another "Movement to Music" evening. The various routines devised by Mrs Pilkington are based on remedial exercises with music chosen to blend with the movements. The members were invited to join the visitors in many of the exercises and did their best to emulate the team.

Mrs Joy Freeman visited the club the following week and gave a talk and demonstration on "Flower Arrangement", the theme — "Springtime". Commencing with an attractive design using hellebore, daffodils, violets and ivy, Mrs Freeman went on to

create a varied display of floral art ending with an Easter bonnet arrangement. The members were given many useful tips on flower arranging during this enjoyable evening.

The club's 33rd birthday party was celebrated on April 16. The members arrived to find that the committee and some of the members had set the tables with a salad meal, cakes and trifle etc. Later, birthday cake, decorated by Maida Feast was served. The entertainment was provided by the Reading Barberettes led by their Chorus Director, Mrs Kay Derrig. A lively programme of song, melodiously delivered was applauded by the members. After a few dances

and games it was time for home and the end of a good party.

At the AGM on April 30 Mrs Muriel Waite resigned as Chairman and Mrs Maida Feast also relinquished her post of Secretary. Miss Margaret Cameron, who was elected the new Chairman, presented Mrs Waite and Mrs Feast with glassware, on behalf of the members, in appreciation of their work. Other officers elected were Mrs Beryl Latcham as Secretary and Mrs Ivy Masterman as Treasurer. A vote of thanks was passed for the retiring Treasurer, Mrs Florence Haig for all her work for the club. The retiring Chairman in her report said that the past year had been successful and the programmes varied. The charity, The Heart Foundation, raised £24, kindly collected by Mrs Abell, the charity for the coming year was to be for Parkinson's disease association. The retiring committee were thanked for their services and the meeting was closed. Mrs Gladys Weil, the President of the club and a founder member, attended the meeting.

Chazey WI

THE meeting in March began with the new officials and members of the Committee being introduced by the President, Mrs Marjorie McCombe. The main event was a demonstration by Marie of Nova Spa, the health and beauty spa at the Ramada Hotel. Her model was given a facial cleansing and complete make-up. Members

questions were answered as the demonstration proceeded and advice given on colours and shades to use.

Later in the month a coffee evening was held at the President's home for all those who had joined Chazey WI in the last year. Mrs Biggar VCO, gave a short talk on the founding and history of the WI movement.

**Sue Ryder Support Group
Caversham**

A REAL heartfelt thank-you to all givers, buyers and helpers at the recent Jumble Sale — £120 was raised. The home at Nettlebed recently found its accounts in the black for the first time since it opened in 1979, largely due to this kind of support. More opportunities to help are as follows:

1. Sunday May 27, Shetland Show and Highland Fair at Nettlebed.
2. Sunday June 10, 1pm Family Day Out at Wargrave Piggot School.
3. Sunday July 29, Summer Show at Nettlebed with Dog Show. (Caversham Group have their usual stall).

4. Saturday October 13, All Sorts Fair, 2pm Caversham Hall.

Any inquiries to Mrs Ann Deane 473798.

AT THE April meeting, Phyllis Colley, taking over her duties as new President, introduced David Houlden, Products Sales Manager for

Cliffords Dairies, who gave a very interesting talk about the history of dairying. It began in earnest, he said, when "Turnip" Townsend introduced new methods for improving pasture; originally milk was sold in the streets by cowkeepers and it was not until after 1860 that railways made distribution of milk and dairy produce possible on a national basis. "Express Dairies" were so named because milk was transported by express trains. In 1934 the Milk Marketing Board was set up, bringing further changes. Mr Houlden went on to talk about what had taken place in the last two decades. The main competition, he thought, came not from imported milk but from cheaper sales at supermarkets and he expressed the opinion that there was every possibility of doorstep distribution coming to an end within the next few years if things went on as they were. His talk and answers to many questions gave members much to think about.

Appropriately the competition for the month was for a milk pudding recipe. It was won by Lily Hensley, with Barbara Werrell and Betty Atherton coming second and third.

Blagrove WI

man College on the Bursary. Mr Harry Lovelock read from his poems and was thanked on behalf of members by Mrs J. Messent.

The competition for an Easter Bonnet was won by Mrs Housden and it will be modelled at the coming Group Meeting.

Caversham WI

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**Caversham
Ladies Club**

THE April Meeting was the usual Easter Party and members arrived to find the tables laid and decorated with flowers. The competition was a decorated egg in an egg cup which was judged by Mrs Haines. The winners were first, Mrs Nelams, second Mrs McKenzie, third Mrs Lock. Tea was served by the committee and was enjoyed by everybody, especially the Easter cake, made by Mrs Bray. Many hands helped to clear up, and on leaving each member received the traditional new laid egg.

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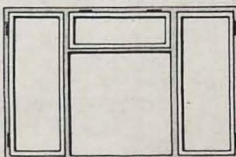
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IN THE absence of the new president, Miss Nancy Vincent because of flu, Mrs Allwright presided over the meeting. The Speaker was the MP Mr Tony Durant; "A Day in the Life of a Politician" was most interesting and informative. The new Committee's jobs were explained.

A minute's silence was called in memory of Mrs Elsie Bluring who died recently, and had been an active member for many years.

The competition for a painted egg was won by Mrs But.

APOLOGY

THE Editors apologise for including in error the report of the AGM of the Caversham Women's Institute under the heading of the Caversham Community Association.

"LIFE at a Kenya Girls' School" was the title of a talk by Mr Robin Le Mare at the April meeting of Maplewood WI. Mr Le Mare recounted some of the highlights of the seven years he spent teaching in African girls' boarding schools. Last year members contributed towards the musical training of "Pauline", a pupil at Tigoi school, near Lake Victoria, who showed great promise as a singer, and were therefore particularly interested to hear of her progress.

A report was given by Mrs Phyllis Duckworth on the Spring Council Meeting held in the Hexagon on April 3 where the guest speaker was Mrs Mary Whitehouse who talked of "Children at Risk".

This month's competition — an Easter card — was won by Mrs Rose Painter.

THE February meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green. Mrs B. Jepson gave a report on the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of the Guilds. A new guild will be formed in Earley. There will be a Festival of Song in Harrogate in July. The chairman of the Arts and Crafts section mentioned that a patchwork quilt was being made. The group met for a talk and demonstration on the history of Ukrainian eggs, intricately painted with natural dyes and beeswax.

Sixteen members of the Ramblers section spent five days at Buxton, on a variety of walks, among spectacular scenery.

The Chairman stated that the Guild would support the fundraising expertise of the Townswomen's Guild Movement, in launching a

three-quarter million pound target, set to build and maintain a Child Nutrition Unit in Dhaka, in Bangladesh.

Mrs I. Hooper spoke on Soya and its many uses. The Soya bean plant crops twice a year, is very versatile and is a rich source of protein. It was produced during the war and is seven times cheaper than beef and is a cost effective rapidly expanding business. The oil is extracted from the bean and the resultant

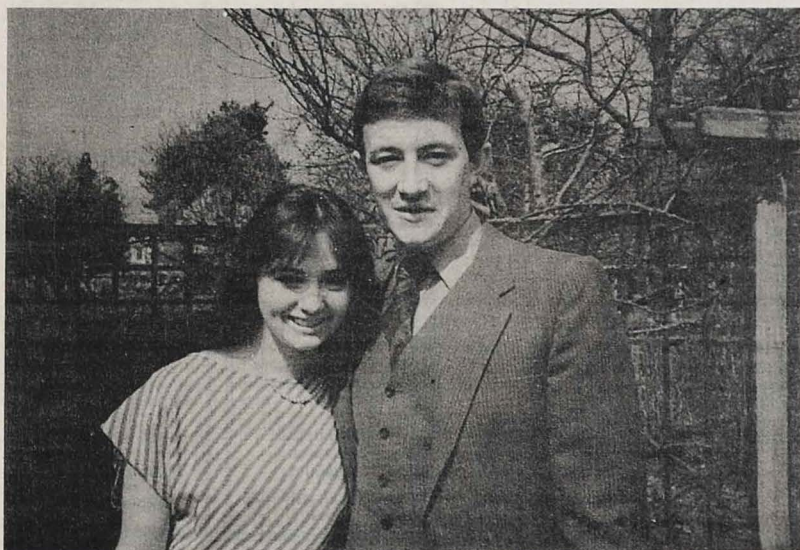
powder is made into a variety of products, such as mince, flavoured with beef, sausage and bacon, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, soups and dog and cattle food. The oil is commonly used in slimming aids, as there is less fat in it. It also makes alcohol and powers cars in Brazil, very cheaply. Soya flavour is used in making sweets and bread and Soya milk is used for children, who cannot tolerate cow's milk.

Caversham gets another councillor

AMONG the newly-elected Reading Borough Councillors is Caversham Park resident Robert Dimmick, who won Redlands Ward for Labour from the Conservatives by a majority of 90 votes. Robert is a regular worshipper at

Caversham Park Church, where he serves on the church committee, and his wife Margaret teaches in the children's Sunday Circle there. They have two children, Juliet (8) and Michael (6).

Robert Dimmick says: "I'm sure I'll have plenty to do in Redlands ward, which has many problems, but I am willing to listen to anyone who wants to express views on Council matters. I expect this to be an interesting and challenging opportunity for service, and I shall be very grateful for the prayers of my friends as I take up this work."



■ Congratulations to Louise Smith from St Andrew's and Simon Osbourn from St Peter's on their engagement. They plan to be married at St Andrew's in the summer of 1985

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6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Service for Parents and Children (last Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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6.30pm Evening Service

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BAPTISED

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February 5 — Elizabeth Hodder
February 19 — Steven Smart
February 26 — Suzanne Talbot
March 18 — Sarah Doggett
March 25 — Giles Medd
April 1 — Thomas Loveridge
April 10 — Elizabeth Pannell, Reagan Pannell, Catherine Pannell
April 28 — Emma Lewendon, Clair Lewendon, Daniel Tozer

St John's
March 11 — Katryna Turner, Symon Turner
April 8 — Matthew Durbridge

St Barnabas
April 29 — Karen Langham, Sarah Higgs

Thanksgiving for Birth of a Child — St John's
April 15 — Thomas Ellis

WEDDINGS

St Peter's
February 11 — David Turner and Jessica Perkins
February 25 — Christopher Feast and Ann Kearney
March 17 — Peter Stratton and Elisabeth Bodle
April 14 — Nigel Hollings and Dawn Clifford
April 22 — Peter Blackburn and Anne Davies
April 28 — Stephen Rumbelow and Janet Cockshott

St John's
March 10 — William Heys and Pauline Clarke
April 14 — Jonathan Leeming and Sandra Parr

Blessing of Marriage — St Peter's
April 28 — Ronald Kercher and Susan Gillett

Silver Wedding Anniversary — St John's
March — Barry and Anne Smith

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St John's
April 24 — Florence Thompson

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April 10 — May Waring

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ST JOHN'S Nursery Church (for children up to 8 years) in church during the Sunday eucharist at 9.15am. Family Service 1st Sunday in the month at 11am (mainly for children over 4 years).

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