

HELP

THE ROTARY CLUB of Caversham organised a meeting in November for discussion on a proposal by the Link Group to establish a centre where the services of various voluntary agencies, active in Caversham, could be co-ordinated.

Mr Ken Bennett, President of Caversham Rotary Club, chaired the meeting at St Andrew's Hall. The evening followed a closely structured timetable. In the first half representatives from five local agencies outlined their organisations' activities and problems. After refreshments, during which the hundred or so people present could meet informally, there followed an open forum.

Link Group

Lynda Bates of the Link Group was the first speaker. She described how the Group had been active for ten years. Its aim was to help anyone in need in a very personal way. The Group meets every fourth Monday and among

its various needs, that for more volunteer drivers was stressed.

Age Concern

Ray Courtier spoke next on behalf of Age Concern. He pointed out that this has no connection with Help the Aged, but is a group particu-

lar to Reading. It has two shops, a permanent office and officials. Age Concern keeps close contacts with all the other voluntary and statutory social service groups in Reading. Mr Courtier talked about the work of Age Concern in helping pensioners and of a pilot scheme to help those currently looking after the elderly. The scheme consists of employing a tutor to train twelve people to do just this. The need for volunteers was expressed.

Katesgrove Family Aid

The third speaker was Vera Box, on behalf of Katesgrove Family Aid. Vera Box explained how Katesgrove House was funded by Reading Adult finances. There they help people referred to them by doctors, the social services and probation officers. They see all types of people from shop lifters to prisoners' wives. Once again there was an appeal for volunteer drivers to get people to Kates-

grove House and for outings.

Mencap

Audrey Roach spoke next for MENCAP. This is affiliated to the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, but is totally independent in its activities. It keeps in touch with statutory bodies and agitates for improvements. The area covered extends well beyond Reading's boundaries. Mencap employs two secretaries, two drivers and other workers. Among many other activities, it runs mother and baby groups and organises summer play schemes. Its needs are determined by the people being helped. A one to one basis is essential and although Parent Counsellors are paid for by the Social Services, there is a need for volunteers, car drivers, day and evening, and money to cover a variety of expenses and specialised equipment.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Finally Esther Youens spoke for

the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme. This was started twenty years ago. It has no income save that received from donations given by the Churches and private individuals. The area covered is all of Caversham, Caversham Park Village and Mapledurham. It aims to help anyone in need. Very often this is a domestic emergency but the group will also arrange visits to the sick or those who live alone, it will collect prescriptions, in fact anything where a good neighbour could be of help. Miss Youens talked of the need for drivers and other volunteers.

Co-ordination

Mrs Doreen Bennett, the Link Group's Chairman, then put their proposal. She said that at the moment all these groups together with many others are only scratching the surface of Caversham's problems. It is necessary to find out who needs help and comfort. It is also necessary to advertise the work of the agencies so that those who need

them know how to get in touch. Connected with this problem is the necessity for the various groups to co-ordinate their activities.

Co-ordination, therefore, was the keyword of the evening. Apart from the five organisations who had speakers, there are in Caversham a multitude of other voluntary aid groups, some large and national and others consisting of a few kind people working from their own homes.

Very often the workers and organisers of one group have no idea of what another is planning or can offer. Worse still, different groups can even conflict in their activities. There was for instance, the occasion when two groups organised an outing for children from a hospital. Unfortunately, the two outings were arranged for the same day. In short the help offered by the various groups is a hit and miss operation.

The Way Ahead

The meeting was offered the suggestion that what was required was a central record system for listing the aid

organisations, their workers and what they could offer. This central office would best be placed in a public position so that anyone could drop in and find out about it. Many people might feel their needs were not important enough to receive help or advice, others might be too shy to call out help. The answer to this, in part, is to have a place where people will be made welcome to drop in and have a coffee and, if they feel like it, talk over some problem. Then if their needs require it, they could be put in touch with the appropriate group.

So the search is on for such a place to act as a centre. Already there appears to be the possibility of room in Church House. This is in a central position and would be noticed by anyone coming into Caversham centre. Any such venture costs money. To start it off Caversham Rotary Club said it would be ready to help pay for setting up such an office.

The meeting closed with the Link Group prayer and questionnaires were handed out to people as they left.

The Editorial Board welcomes the decision taken in the above article and wishes to support the views expressed. It would like to give its wholehearted backing to the proposals.

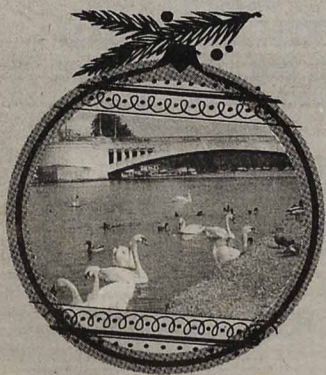
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

on Thursday 24th January 1985 at 7.45pm

at Church House, Church Street,
Caversham

Guest speaker — Mr Richard Gash,
Probation Officer, H.M. Prison,
Reading

**A Happy
New Year
to all our
readers**



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

THE NATIONAL Council of Women is a voluntary organisation open to any woman. They are socially aware and concern themselves with informed discussion in the belief that well-informed pressure is the most effective way of bringing about reform.

Kennet Branch is a group of NCW who meet in the evenings to learn about and discuss many social issues. They meet in members' homes, mainly in the Caversham area. This season, since September they have heard from a social worker interested in family welfare, an education

officer with the National Union of Students speaking about education for girls in science and technology and Oxfordshire's organiser for Age Concern describing her work in giving advice to the elderly and their careers.

They also had a discussion on the provision of Well-Woman clinics locally. This is a provision of service which has been supported by NCW nationally for nearly ten years and as part of their action they are supporting women who hope to see a clinic in Reading soon. Members of the branch are assisting Reading Branch

NCW to bring up to date a "Help" booklet which lists useful information for the disabled in the Reading area.

In the new year, the branch are inviting a Christian woman, unaligned to any political party or pressure group to lead a discussion on the current role of women in the peace movement. This will be at 5 Ridge Hall Close, Caversham on Wednesday, January 9th at 8pm. They would like to welcome visitors.

For more information on future meetings please contact Mrs M. Dimmick, 8 Harlech Avenue, phone 470258.

TALKING POINT

by the Rev. Brian Skinner, Minister, Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

THE EMPTY WITNESS

A FEW years ago, when I was visiting in a hospital where I was one of the chaplains, I came across a lady who was waiting for treatment to help a condition which was the result of an accident that she had had at work. It was the second time that she had had an accident, and the second time that she had received a long course of treatment.

In both cases the accident was due to the conditions under which she had to work. She worked in a factory where the conditions were bad, where the wages were shockingly low, and where the workers had no Trade Union to take up and plead their case.

In neither accident had the woman received any compensation, and she was not likely to receive any unless she went to law, and then every effort would be made to fight the case against her. She went on to tell me how the owner of that factory had the reputation of being a very religious man. Indeed he had the reputation of being an exceptionally able and brilliant preacher of the gospel.

Whole Time Job

The woman said to me: "My husband and I went to hear him preach one night. He's terrific; he's a spell-binder, but I don't believe he means a word of it for I know how he treats his workers". Here was one man whose daily life was cancelling out his preaching. He may quite possibly make Christians among those who didn't know him; he assuredly never would among those who did. He may bring some people into the fellowship of the Church; he assuredly would keep just as many away.

It is essential in these days that we should ask ourselves what Christian witness is. There is a great deal more to Christian witness than rising in a meeting and telling other people that we are saved, and in professing our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. I would be the last to say that that is easy; and I would be the last to find fault with a call for decisions for Christ. But that is not Christian witness. There is no such thing as a Christian witness which is over in a few minutes — Christian witness is a whole time job. I think that if I wanted to know if a man was really saved, I would ask his wife; and if I wanted to know if a woman was really saved, I would ask her husband. And if I wanted to know if a lad or girl was saved, I would ask his or her father or mother. And if I wanted to know if an employer was saved I would ask his workman; and if I wanted to know if a man was saved I would ask his boss.

No one knows better than I do how far I fall short of that standard myself. But we see young people caught up in some evangelistic movement and enthusiastic for Bible study circles and prayer groups and the like, yet never doing a hand's turn to make things easier for an overworked mother in the house.

Daily Life

Bible study is never an end in itself; not even prayer is an end in itself. When Jesus prayed, He prayed in order that He might come back from the solitary place better equipped with the peace and power of God for the battle of daily life and living. Our Christianity should make a difference in the way we order a meal from a waitress or treat the shop assistant behind the counter. It should make a difference in the way a man dictates a letter to his typist, and even in the consideration for other people with which he drives and parks his car. Christianity should make a difference in the conscientiousness of our work, and in the courtesy with which we serve the public, and in the consideration with which we live within our own homes.

In Britain there are countless thousands who are members of various Christian Churches. What a staggering difference it would make to life if even half of them were to go to work tomorrow morning determined to work like Christians and to treat others like Christians.

We need our moments of decision; we need all our Bible study and all our prayer, and still more of it. But we also need to remember that Christian witness is not one moment's profession of our faith, however brave that moment may be. Christian witness is a whole-time job every day.

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mappledurham for the local community.

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All contributions for the March issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, January 30. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, January 25.

'SWEET HARMONY'

THE St Andrew's missionary committee has arranged for the 'Sweet Harmony' Wind Sextet to give a light musical entertainment in the Church on Saturday, February 16 at 7.30pm. This sextet, consisting of pairs

and clarinets, horns and bassoons, with a narrator, specialises in light music of the 18th century, particularly that of Haydn and Mozart and their less well known contemporaries. Recent performances include concerts at

Arundel Castle, Hartland Abbey and locally at Fawley Court.

The proceeds of the concert will be devoted to Third World relief projects undertaken by the missionary committee, particularly a

polio hospital for children in Tanzania and a school for blind children in India. Other projects for which funds are being raised include the sponsoring of a boy and girl in India through Save the Children Fund.

ABBNEYFIELD AGM

DESPITE the terrible weather, the AGM of the Abbeyfield (Reading) Society held on November 23, was very well attended. The meeting was addressed by Mr Morris, the Society's chairman, who gave a brief history of Caversham's association with Abbeyfield and of the opening of the house in 62 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham.

Mr Bennett, President of the Caversham Rotary Club, handed over a cheque for £500 on behalf of the club, to help pay for repairs to the driveway at the Caversham house.

Mr Morris also spoke of the work of Mr Moore and Mr Pilgrim and said how

much of what had been achieved here was due to their efforts. There is an enthusiastic house committee; the house in Caversham is a very happy one; Mrs Patenall, the very competent lady in charge said she found it the best Abbeyfield house she had worked in.

The Society hopes eventually to have a third house in Reading; in the meanwhile, more help is needed at 6 Maitland Road and volunteers are welcome.

The Mayor, Cllr Jewitt, expressed his complete support for all the Society is doing here.

An excellent tea was prepared by Mrs Pilgrim for all those who attended.

BAND RAISES A FEW NOTES FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

ON SATURDAY 17th November, the South Berks Concert Band presented a superb concert to help raise money for Save the Children, at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham. The Band set aside their normal fee and agreed to charge only expenses; however, with great generosity, just before the start of the concert, their conductor, Mr Vic Sandoe, donated the £10 back into the fund.

Vic, a professional musician who studied music at the Royal Military School of Music and served with the Band of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for twenty years, then led the band in a most entertaining evening of music for every possible taste. The audience were delighted.

At the end of the concert, Vic Sandoe

then surprised Norman Kent, the Branch P.R.O. by presenting him with a cheque for £20. So instead of S.C.F. paying the band, the Band actually paid S.C.F. for the privilege of giving all those present so much pleasure and helping children in need to the tune of £230.

CONCERT

By the
READING PHOENIX CHOIR

at
ST PETER'S CHURCH

on
SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1985
at 7.30pm

Fuller details next month

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday - Thursday 9.30 - 12.30. Tel: 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.

The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham. Tel: 472070.

BAPTIST

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

METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 Allhallows Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530

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.

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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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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

Filling the gaps

WAITROSE opened its doors at the end of November and will doubtless become as popular and well used as most of that firm's shops. It has already improved the appearance of the gap left when the vandalised former Regal cinema was demolished. Whether it will attract more trade in the shape of car-borne customers than the area can accommodate is another matter.

A large car park is provided, linked with St Martin's, although access problems to the latter have still not been resolved, at least to St Martin's satisfaction. The car park will remain free as long as it is not abused, which means no dumping of old cars (Caversham Bridge readers not guilty) and no parking of commuter cars (hands up guilty ones). It is about time this problem was ironed out, both in this car park and in Chester Street, where for years now shoppers have been lucky if they can find a vacant space after 9.00am.

As commuters and those who work locally would have to pay to park if they went a little further into the centre of Reading, there seems no reason why a reasonable charge should not be made for long term parking in these car parks. It

would probably make no difference to the number of cars using the car park but at least would bring in some revenue to the local authority, in the case of Chester Street, which might then be used to provide a regular patrol to see that parking regulations in Caversham are not ignored in the blatant ways they are at present.

Open spaces

Another dismal gap, that left by Balmore Hall, is now being filled with the new surgery. This, when completed, will also become a useful asset to Caversham life and it is hoped, will wipe out the somewhat bitter feelings generated by the demolition of the much missed Balmore Hall. There will be ample parking for patients behind the surgery, a great improvement on the Priory Avenue house, though there will be some unscrupulous people prepared to abuse even this.

Gap filling, however, is not always welcome and particularly unwelcome is any assault on Hemdean Valley. The plan to build five hundred houses there provoked massive protests, with 257 letters from individuals.

A petition, objections from numerous organisations, and adverse comments from the County Council and their statutory bodies. It came as no surprise when the Borough Council overwhelmingly rejected the plans. So far there is no news of an appeal but the battalions are ready lined up with a plan of campaign should one be lodged.

The smaller site in the valley, immediately at the end of Hemdean Road, has gone to appeal. This one already has outline permission and should not be confused with the larger site.

Richfield Avenue may not be exactly beautiful, thanks to past planners who saw it as an ideal site for a particularly uninspired industrial estate, but on its north side the flood meadow gives straight to the river and affords interesting views of the north bank. If this land is to be built on it should be for the benefit of the community and allow for plenty of space. For a long time now the idea had been to have a leisure centre and new hotel there, paid for by let-

ting part of the site off for industrial purposes.

Whether or not the tender that has now been accepted is all that could be desired or the best obtainable has been the cause of considerable disquiet, as all the negotiations were carried on behind closed doors with even Councillors being kept in the dark. There is a feeling that we may be paying highly for our new leisure centre by repeating on this side of the road the faults of the other side and on a much larger space than originally intended, so that open space and riverside views become a thing of the past.

Smaller gaps

With building plots fetching small fortunes it is not surprising that smaller gaps are disappearing fast. The large gardens and odd bits of land between houses, that used to characterise Caversham, are also a thing of the past and it would be difficult now to find any left that are not the subject of a planning application. The National Trust is now ready to build on the site of the late Mr Wilcock's garden in Chazey

Road. Amongst conditions laid down is the making up of Chazey Road, which some might regard as a mixed blessing.

Other gaps occur in pavements throughout Caversham. Pot holes, broken and uneven paving squares, and damaged kerb stones abound, the causes

varying from pavement parking, statutory undertakers, (the people with a right to dig up the road, not hearses) the weather and plain wear and tear. Do not expect any improvements in the near future. The Director of Technical Services, responding to a petition from some irate residents of Tilehurst about

their pavements, said there were far worse about, some of them needed breaking up completely. All he could say was that the regular maintenance programme would continue, but no special treatment could be given. So these dark days, be careful how you go. As a pedestrian you are a pretty low priority.



■ Bugs Bottom as it is today

NEW SUPERMARKET FOR CAVERSHAM

THERE WAS no fanfare of trumpets (though the Mayor and Mayoress paid an official call in the afternoon). Waitrose just opened its doors at 9am and business was under way. At last the inside, viewed so tantalisingly from the outside for the past few weeks, was ready for inspection by Caversham shoppers. On the first day open it would have been unlikely not to have met many friends.

Facts

The store covers an area of 12,500 square feet. There are 140 staff, 90% of whom are local and are a good mixture including housewives and school-leavers, this number includes 50 weekenders. The car park at the rear, shared with the Shopping Centre, has spaces for 250 cars. The lighting and heating (not to mention cooling) is controlled by computer. There are special trolleys which can be used by wheelchair customers, enabling them to have their hands free. There is a hygiene unit which makes spot checks on stores' levels of cleanliness. Squash courts, under sepa-

rate management, will be opening later.

Merchandise

A good variety is on display. It is welcome to see a wet fish counter again, needed to boost the fish van deliveries. The continental meat cuts look interesting and appear to be growing in popularity. Traditional cuts are still available, some already stuffed. Fresh pasta and a really wide selection of prepared and frozen meals are available. The delicatessen counter also offers a good choice of pates, salads, cold meats and cheeses, as well as Indian samosas and bhajis. In line with current eating habits, low fat, high fibre and sugar reduced goods appear throughout. The bread and cake counter is 18 months old in Waitrose stores and includes continental cakes as well as home made chocolates.

A relatively small corner, though with enormous stock, is given to the wine department, which has its own entrance and cash desk and its own separate manager. Waitrose was named "Wine Merchant of the



— E. S. Archer

■ The new store, opened on 27th November

Year" in the Sunday Telegraph Good Wine Guide, the first supermarket to win this award. Wines come from all over the world and a New Zealand label was a surprise. Prices are competitive.

Many Caversham people trundle over to Henley and Tilehurst, and these stores will surely lose some of their customers. But clearly new ones will use the Caversham store, no doubt to the detriment of some local traders. But others will enjoy the added influx of people and there seems no reason why the old estab-

lished food shops should suffer too much after the initial honeymoon period. One criticism of Waitrose is that there is no entrance from the car park side; that could be all to the good of Caversham traders, for it would give customers an opportunity of taking a longer look at Caversham from the front.

It seems a pity that JLP credit cards cannot be used but apparently Waitrose has a separate accounting system. In fact one cannot readily buy food using a credit card.

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Council meetings held regularly are open to the public and notes are put in the local press

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John Stevens (Secretary), 10 Gun Street, Reading
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SOON THE holidays will be advertised on TV once more; the glossy brochures will extol the virtues of beaches near and far, of sights we simply must not miss, of places we ignore at our loss. It will soon be decision time.

Some people avoid such a decision by going to the same place each year. If you really get attached to somewhere — why not? Personally I have looked on holidays as a chance to journey with my family to somewhere different each year, either at home or abroad, so that we could see and experience as much of the world, albeit the nearer world, as possible. So for the last 20 years we have rung the changes, and enjoyed many types of holiday in different places.

There is one place however for which we have suspended our "norm" and been to five times. We first went there in 1969 when our children were four and two; this year we went again, and — almost to our surprise — they came with us. But then this is a very special place. It's a Christian community called Scargill House, and as it may be of interest to Christians in Caversham and Mapledurham, I have begged space to say a word about it.

Scargill — which means "break in the rocks" — lies in Yorkshire's Wharfedale, close to the village of Kettlewell some 15 miles north of Skipton. The house is situated in front of two rocks which jut out of a steep hillside. The whole area is one of incredible beauty.

The house was formerly owned by a Bradford mill owner and was converted into a Christian community in 1959. The

Scargill House — a holiday for body, mind and spirit

By John Madeley

idea was to start a Lee Abbey of the North — Lee Abbey being the community in Devon that was founded in 1945. The house was extended and a striking modern chapel was built; in June this year Scargill celebrated its silver jubilee. During the past 25 years many thousands of Christians — and non-Christians — have been to the house and found there a movement of the Holy Spirit and a most remarkable peace.

Scargill is a community of about 40 people, some of whom stay for several years, others for just a few months. During the

summer months the house lays on holiday weeks; in the winter there are parish retreats at the weekends, and an array of activities such as industrial training courses, youth seminars and clergy retreats in the week. Scargill is basically Anglican, but the community usually has members of other denominations; this year for example one Community member was a Roman Catholic — from Reading!

At each holiday week there is room for about a hundred

guests. A programme is laid on and guests can join in or not just as they please. "Refreshment and Renewal" was the theme for our week this year. Led by the Rev. Chris Edmondson of Halifax, the theme was explored in morning sessions, which will long stay in my memory but which I could never begin to describe. Suffice to say that I believe there was a most generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

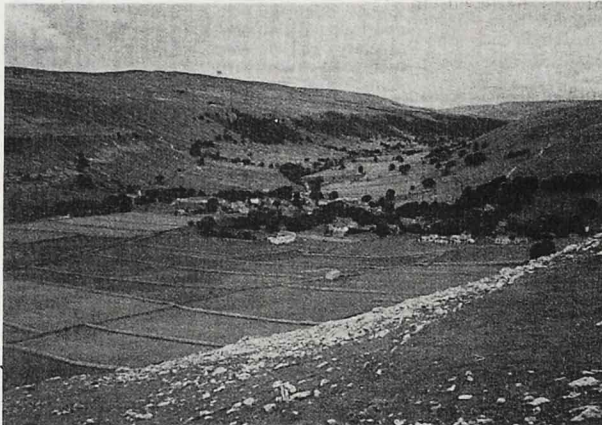
In the afternoons most people go for walks or visit a beauty spot — and that doesn't need much travelling! Evenings usually see some fun

activity; on the Sunday and final Friday evening, Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel. At these people are really free to join in as they please. There is no pressure to do so. Ages of guests range from a few months to 80 plus! And there were guests from several denominations.

To me Scargill House is a complete holiday — a holiday for body, mind and spirit. A holiday that enables you to sit back and pause for refreshment for the whole person, to look at where you're going, to look at where God wants you to be going. At the end of the week I for one felt both refreshed and renewed.

This year about three-quarters of us were from the South — some 20 people from one parish in Surrey! It gave me an idea — are any readers interested in a holiday at Scargill in the summer of 1985? The holiday weeks coincide with the school holidays; the cost for an adult is about £100, all-in, with good reductions for children. If you are interested in going, would you give me a ring at Reading 476063 or write to me at 19, Woodford Close, Caversham. If there is enough interest then we could have a meeting to discuss it further.

For myself I'd be happy to make it a sixth visit!



■ The view of Wharfedale from above Scargill House

'An Inspector Calls'

(The Caversham Players)

"WELL, really!" snapped Sybil Birling patting the chaise-longue peevishly, "We are learning something tonight!"

I must have been alone in the packed hall in never having come across J. B. Priestley's drama, set in 1912's northern muck and brass. I learned. I was enthralled by "The Puffins" as they unravelled the dramatic strands of middle-class morality and posturing. This production delighted at every level. Another triumph for producer Reg Stannard, the cast and all involved in this fine presentation!

□ □
□ □

In a sense the star was the set. Authentic in every detail — superb fireplace, exquisitely patterned wallpaper, mouth-watering furniture, evocative pictures and port glasses one longed to handle oneself. And the costumes — what an

achievement by Susan Hobbs! So the cast had everything going for them. They settled into their roles with no sign of nerves and every indication of having identified themselves with their parts.

Sheila Hodson as Sheila Birling gave a superb performance worthy of half a dozen individual curtain calls. Her every movement was a sensitive interpretation of the subtle nuances as the plot moved from trauma to trauma. As her mother Sybil, Bernice Milling was the perfect foil — clear, uncomplicated respectability which brooked no argument, until the cracks in the veneer began to appear. Bernice, one felt, enjoyed her role and shared it up, with us. Charles Croft as Arthur Birling scored a spectacularly successful "First" with The Puffins in serious drama. Here we had inspired casting. Charles, stiff in his tails, gave a mar-

vellously consistent portrayal of the blunt businessman caught, like a Yorkshireman in London's tube train system, in something he couldn't fathom but, dammit, wouldn't let beat him!

□ □
□ □

The cad (or was he?) Gerald was handled nicely by Derek Spears. He, too, resisted the temptation to "send up" his role. Like the other five principals, Derek concentrated on and contributed greatly to the total interaction of the players and the plot. Gerald one couldn't help liking, even at his smartiest! Ray Hammond as Eric Birling, the supposedly ne'er do well son and heir, was a special pleasure. He has an economy of movement and soft vocal command which makes him, as has been said before, an unusually compelling actor. Alongside Sheila Hodson, Ray

was outstanding in this brother and sister rebuttal of parental hypocrisy.

And the "Inspector"? Ken Etherington sent a shiver down the spine from his first entry. Never overdoing the moralising yet relentlessly keeping the pressure on his victims, Ken's "Inspector" had a haunting quality as he alone took us to the heart of J. B. Priestley's classic drama. And a special mention for Lynne Barnes as Edna the maid. Only a few appearances, but by gum — she captured the tenseness and paranoia of living with the beastly but oh so human Birlings.

"We can't go on acting like this!" exclaimed Birling senior at one point, Dear Puffins, on this showing and hoping for further forays into serious drama (what about Shaw next?) — please DO go on acting like this! As Arthur Birling would never have been heard to say, it were a real grand do! Thank you all! Backstaller

PORTER AND ALE BUT NO CANE

IT LOOKS as if some rule regarding the use of the cane in schools will soon be on the statute book, though whether there will be a total abolition or a somewhat peculiar compromise of being caned voluntarily remains to be seen. The sadistic beating that disgraced many a school is now a thing of the past except for isolated cases, as is caning a boy for the good of his immortal soul. The chief reason for which it is retained is that no satisfactory alternative has yet been found.

However, over a hundred and thirty years ago, in a period when caning, or even beating, birching or flogging was considered a normal part of a boy's education, a school master here in Caversham had already abolished it in his school. This remarkable fact came to light during Hemdean House's celebrations this year of its hundred and twenty fifth anniversary.

A past pupil of Caversham House Academy gave the school a copy of an old prospectus which they had never seen

before. Readers will recall that this academy was run by Francis Knighton who founded Hemdean House for his daughters to run, and Mr R. Harding, who now lives in Shropshire, attended what he referred to as "its remnants" before it finally closed in 1921.

This prospectus, like others issued by Mr Knighton, was undated but a little detective work places it around 1850. After extolling the merits of his school, he goes on to make what must have been a surprising announcement to a public firmly wedded, as we have always believed, to the idea of "spare the rod and spoil the child". There was, he said, no corporal punishment in his school. Instead a register of each pupil's conduct was kept and sent every month to his parents, and then, in case little Johnny tried to bluff his way out of it by claiming that he was no worse than the rest, a copy of the whole class list was sent home every month so that parents could compare Johnny's behaviour with the rest.

So here from the middle of the

nineteenth century comes the answer to a problem that concerns pedagogues of today. Mr Knighton was ahead of his time.

He also broke from tradition in seeing that his boys were personally supervised, not agreeing with the philosophy that a bit of bullying never hurt anyone and made a man of him! They were well fed too, he said, and had a plentiful supply of Pure Milk (the capitals suggest the rarity of this commodity) from the farm attached to the school. However, an extra five shillings a term was required from those who preferred tea or coffee. Then, what comes to present day eyes as a real surprise in what comes over as a high minded school, he goes on to say that porter, ale and wine are available to pupils at cost price. Not even our most progressive schools would offer this as an attraction. It must, however, be remembered that until a pure water supply became a legal requirement in towns, ale was much safer to drink than water.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that some of the pupils

came from Paris and the continent, a sign of real distinction in those days, and then goes on with the heartfelt plea, still heard in schools today, that all clothing be marked with the full name and not just initials. The clothing list is quite generous but mysteriously omits all mention of underwear whilst requesting that the list be not exceeded.

Mr Harding also produced an obituary of Mr Knighton which provided a formerly missing piece of information. Whilst it was known that he had an established school in 1826, when he was twenty three, it was not known when he actually opened it. The answer is when he was seventeen. This comes as less of a surprise if it is considered that if he was educated to the age of sixteen he would have been vastly better educated than the majority of his fellow countrymen, and when he espied an opening that lay between the classical education of the old grammar schools and the three R's of the early church schools, he exploited it to the full.

Log Book from a Village School

IF THERE is a chance to look at old Victorian School log books, many have never survived, they often provide entertaining reading and a glimpse into the way in which schooldays were conducted a century ago. A few entries which appealed to me most in the Mapledurham Church of England school log book I copied down before giving up my happy years of teaching there. They were all entered by the renowned Miss Butler, who was headmistress there from 1870 until 1914. On her retirement she received a purse containing forty four gold sovereigns, one for each year of service to the local community. Any comments I make are in brackets.

1885. June 12: Minnie May taken unwell in school this

morning and had to be sent home. Received a certificate from Dr Bateman saying she was suffering from general weakness and unable to attend school.

June 15: Thomas and Henry Roberts punished for playing truant.

1887. Sept. 16: Received a bottle of ink for school use.

1889 June: The stable has been newly thatched. (This building survived until two years ago with its original rough timber walls. A corrugated iron roof had replaced the thatch and it was used as a cloakroom at one period with a tin hand basin in one corner and only a dirt floor. The clothes pegs were still on the

walls. Subsequently it became a storage shed. Miss Butler was the owner of a donkey and trap).

1890. Jan: Began an evening school for the men and lads from the village with the help of Miss Thackeray (the Vicar's daughter).

1890. Nov. 25: The Cocoa Scheme began. The children pay half a penny a week.

1891. June: Father Haskeew, the Roman Catholic priest, visited the school.

1896. Jan: The New Year gifts were given away after school this afternoon — dresses, cloaks and shirts. 69 children at school this term with teachers and monitors.



■ Sunday School outing, Church Road, Caversham, 1911. The make of engine is a Marshall and the works number 30379. It was new in 1898 and belonged to Bishop's Land farm, near Emmer Green. A little more advanced than going by wagon to Reading Museum.

1897. Dec. 6: I showed the children a magic lantern show this afternoon which they very much enjoyed. It was about the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

1898. July 5: Mothers' Union meeting held in the playground.

1899. July 24: The children were taken to Reading Museum. The conveyance (a wagon) was kindly lent by Mr Hill of Lilley Farm.

1899. Sept: Gramophone recital given in the school by Mrs Rose (of Hardwick House).

1899. Oct: Concert in aid of school lamps.

1900. Sept: Mrs King kindly invited the teachers with 30 of the school children to spend the afternoon and take tea on the houseboat Iris.

1901. Feb. 5: Deep snow. No children came.

1901. July 22: Report on the Military Drill. "The children have made a good start in their new Military Drill and are working on the right lines. Good progress has been made and three months' hence they should be quite smart."

Signed A. Babbage, Sergeant The Royal Berkshire Regiment"

1904. March 15: The cuckoo heard this morning.

1904. April 20: George Haskell found a five-leaved clover in Mr Hill's field today.

1904. Dec. 4: The children made boiled and baked Christmas puddings and took a slice of each home.

With Christmas not far away it seems appropriate to end on this note.

M. K.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL

The Castle of Adventure

IMAGINE over one hundred children marching round singing:

"The Castle of Adventure's where we're heading,

The Castle of Adventure on the Hill

We're marching along, singing a song,

Jesus is our leader so we can't go wrong,

The Castle of Adventure's here!"

For five mornings during half-term these children were "Storming the castle", playing games, making models and, above all, hearing the good news of Jesus. Entry to the Castle was by the Secret Passage (part of which was the old baptistry!).

Each morning the pastor gave lively illustrated talks. On Monday the children were told how at first man had enjoyed a close relationship with God, just as God had intended things to be. On Tuesday they learned how sin came in and caused the separation, and Wednesday found them looking at the ways in which man has tried and failed to get back to God by his own efforts. On Thursday he explained that Jesus is the only way back to God, that there is no other way and we must trust in Him, and on Friday the children were told how it is the responsibility of

Jesus' followers to show and tell others the way back to God.

The climax of the week was Sunday morning worship when all the parents were invited to see and even experience some of the things their offspring had been doing during the week. The pastor says that in all his previous work (he used to be a children's evangelist) he has never seen such a response by the parents to a children's mission.

Nearly a month after all this the purposes of the mission are being realised. Firstly, some children have heard about Jesus for the first time. Secondly the Sunday School groups are enlarged by a number of new children coming regularly, and thirdly, there is now contact with many more parents in Caversham. Some of them too have started to worship regularly.

From Russia with Love!

Tuesday evening, November 20th, saw the new worship hall filled almost to capacity for the visit of Gerhard Hamm of Open Doors. For over an hour the audience listened, sometimes thrilled, sometimes saddened as he recounted the sufferings and victories of God's people behind the Iron Curtain.

"Imagine", he sug-

gested, "that in the middle of a meeting like this one, the door suddenly bursts open and in rush twenty policemen with dogs. They come in with shouting and they are wielding sticks. The interior of the building is broken up and young women are dragged out by their hair". This account and others like it, some first hand, others second hand, brought home anew just what it means to stand up for Jesus in the Soviet Union.

One young man was imprisoned for his faith in Russia. He was taken to a cell crammed with thirty common criminals. The guards lied that he had murdered a child, adding gory details, with the intended results that he was severely beaten by his fellow-prisoners. Eventually one prisoner asked him about his "crime". The young man explained, and the outcome was that twenty-nine out of thirty atheists believed in God!

The last time he was arrested in Moscow, Mr Hamm related, the policeman was complaining that "For every Christian we remove, two more appear. And when two Christians are put in prison, four come out!"

Mr Hamm based his talk around the events of Acts chapter 14, verses 19 to 22 when Paul was stoned

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

The Bells Ring Out Again

SOON AFTER the Reverend Eric Wood left Mapledurham some eighteen years ago the bells ceased to ring at St Margaret's. Until then they had regularly called folk to worship and there was a keen band of bellringers under his enthusiastic leadership. Since then only on special occasions were they able to be rung when bellringers from Caversham kindly came to help out. However things have been happening in the past ten months and a keen group of people young, and older, have banded together to form a new group of ringers. Ever since last winter they have been learning the art of campanology and so many have become interested that there are more than enough to make up a team. At last came the great day, November 4, when once again St Margaret's own bellringers sent the

bells pealing out for Sunday worship. Let us hope that they will long continue to ring.

A Success Story

There is no doubt about it, meeting Gillian Rose last September has spurred all on to give her that little bit extra help in her work at her hospital in Bangladesh. At the jumble sale on November 10 over one hundred pounds was raised to send to her, the best result yet. Grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a success, old and young alike, for the children from Workshop made a lot of the cakes and biscuits which were sold along with welcome cups of tea. It was, as it always had been, a very happy village event. Can one hundred and twenty five pounds be reached on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 next year? Let's try.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

and his enemies thought they had killed him. This, and his own experiences as a Christian in Russia serve to confirm that Jesus is building His Church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Despite the strenuous efforts of the governments, the Church is not being destroyed in the East. He warned, however, that the Church in the West is in many areas being destroyed by riches.

He had some other warnings too: Reminding that one can never know when persecution might suddenly descend, he pointed out that "nominal" and "fleshly" Christians will not stand in the day of persecution. People must be clear and forthright in following Jesus. Just going to Church is not enough. Although the Christians must repent of their reluctance to share their good news with others. Only when people of God repent in this way will they see the world starting to repent and turn to God.

These words from the Church in the USSR following hot on the heels of recent challenging words from the USA in this publication suggest strongly that God has a message for His people in Caversham. They must take these words to heart and act upon them.

WITH THE Ethiopian famine looming so large in everyone's awareness, the Parish newsletter pointed out at the beginning of the month that although we have no special fund for Ethiopia at St Anne's, we have raised nearly £1,500 for the missions this year. The means of doing this have been varied: Mission boxes, a special collection for African missions in January, for foreign missions generally in September, and two family fast days.

An adult study group for Advent and Lent has been started this month, though somewhat hesitantly. We'll keep trying...

The Christmas Bazaar, on the other hand was an unqualified success, having first absorbed a great deal of energy and initiative from a great many parishioners during weeks of preparation. The total sum realised by the Bazaar and Draw was £1,475.

After which tremendous achievement parish enterprise subsided somewhat for the rest of the month. More activities in December.

ST JOHN'S NOTES

ST JOHN'S Autumn Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 10th, and the profit was £432. The Bazaar is St John's fund raising event to support the work of the church overseas. For several years now the money has been divided equally between the work of the Community of St Mary the Virgin (the Springfield nuns) in Pune in India, and the hospital at Mantsonyane in Lesotho. Mantsonyane means "the place of compassion" and it must indeed be that for the Basuto people who live in the mountains, a twelve hour truck ride from any other medical help — if the roads are passable. Think what it must mean to someone with a broken thigh, appendicitis or facing a difficult childbirth to know that the hospital is there, and the staff will come, riding horseback to your village to help you.

The work of the CSMV sisters in Pune is to care for all the 0-7-year-olds who are brought to them, and girls from seven until they are old enough to earn their own living, or, being India, to marry. Somehow the nuns stretch their funds to provide for several old ladies who had no home but the street pavement. If you have been to

Springfield St Luke's, you will know the love and care found at St John's Hostel in Pune.

It is to support this work that stall holders, with relations, friends and neighbours, contrive and work all the year through, to stock the stalls. (They never stop! On November 10th, dolls brought for the White Elephant stall were intercepted to be dressed for next year's bazaar).

It was heartening to see a crowd of customers, and as the afternoon went on, to realise people were being as kind and generous as ever in their buying — and to hear them say they were satisfied customers.

Perhaps the most satisfied customer was a three-year-old who was brought to buy a doll for her birthday present. In the way of children, all she wanted, a 7p puppet from the Children's Stall. Her delight in her present was so lovely to see that buying and selling actually stopped while the crowd watched her.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a happy and successful bazaar.

THE LINK GROUP

A MEETING was held at the home of Mrs Vera Scott on November 26th. Arrangements were discussed for the Christmas party for the elderly and housebound. Carol singing at the Old People's Homes and the distribution of toys from the toy services at St Peter's

and the Baptist Church.

The chairman then thanked all who had helped in anyway in the arrangements for the meeting at St Andrew's Hall on November 21st (there is a full report of this meeting on front page).

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

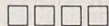
CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS Methodist Church was host, on Christian Citizenship Sunday, November 18th, to a Consultation on the subject of "The Christian Approach to Industrial Strife". The leader of the Consultation, which was attended by members of ten churches in the Reading and Silchester Circuit, was former miner and now Industrial Chaplain to the Birmingham Churches' Industrial Group, the Reverend Raymond Smith.

Christians must accept, the Consultation agreed, that strife was an inescapable ingredient of life, and that industrial strife must be seen as a challenge to the Church's ministry of reconciliation. Reconciliation must not be bought, however, at the price of justice — uppermost in every Christian's mind must be the dominant concern of Christ for the needy and disadvantaged, and justice for them must be the priority in any settlement.

The Christian soldier, Raymond Smith pointed out, can do little marching onwards if he confines himself to barracks! He must get outside the walls of his church, seeking means of reconciliation whilst pressing for justice. In particular Christians must oppose by their words and actions those present policies that increase the division of our land into two nations — the advantaged and the disadvantaged.

As long as mining communities are dying in South Wales and industrial towns falling into decay in the Midlands, bringing despair, distress and poverty to ever increasing numbers, there can be no justification for tax cuts for the advantaged from a Christian standpoint.



A large audience supported the concert by The Reading Bach Choir in the church on the evening of the bazaar — Saturday 17th November. The interesting range of works covered the period pre and post Bach, including items by Schutz (16th century) through to Distler (early 20th century) sung in German, English and Latin. The programme also included solos for soprano by Eileen Pinkarshefsky and a Mendelssohn organ sonata played by Nicholas Houghton.

The programme opened with the "joyful noise" of psalm 100 in an arrangement by Heinrich Schutz for two choirs — a veritable stereo effect, beautifully balanced with every phrase clear and distinct.

The two solos chosen by Eileen Pinkarshefsky were by Bach and Schutz. Her pure tone was admirably complemented by the excellent acoustics of the church's barrel roof, particularly in the quiet tender passages of the Bach

lamentation in contrast to the robust singing required in "Ich will den Herren loben alles Zeit" by Schutz. "Wacht auf" by the German composer Distler (1908-42) was an example of the early modern school of choral writing — somewhat angular and Teutonic in sound.

Nicholas Houghton gave a beautifully restrained reading of the Mendelssohn 5th organ sonata — from the majestic chorale opening to the rush of notes at the end, saving virtually full organ to the last couple of bars. His pedal work was particularly agile in the staccato pedal motif in the andante.

The major work of the evening was the "Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo" by Haydn. The five movements for choir received the necessary bright clean delivery and the delicate Benedictus was an excellent balance of soprano and organ, more of a duet than a solo.

Conductor Julian Williamson showed a firm but sympathetic mastery of his choir and they responded to his direction, sure of his every gesture. Nicholas Houghton accompanied on the organ where required, using the excellent church instrument as an integral part of the choir rather than an accompaniment of a different genre.

The end of the concert left the audience wishing for more — a sure sign of a successful evening for all concerned.

ANOTHER CAVERSHAM

By Yvonne Hill

"LION RIVER 4 — Caversham 6" read the signpost. So we just had to go there. We were in South Africa on the road from Pietermaritzburg to Ladysmith, when we saw the sign and decided to leave the main road to find out what sort of place this other Caversham was.



Well, there wasn't much, no village as such, just a few scattered farmhouses, but we did find the little church, and Caversham Mill, now a thriving pottery. The church has obviously been unused for some time, but the churchyard still has several old gravestones, and one in particular of James Jeffries Hodson and his wife Jane, pioneers of 1850, who, we were told, originally came from Caversham, Berkshire.



Other names on the old gravestones were Teasdale, Willson, Holliday, Thomson, Franklin and Bowen. So if any families with these names can trace their residence in Caversham back to the middle of the last century, they may well be related to those early settlers who emigrated to Natal, South Africa in the 1850's.



■ Gravestone in Caversham (Natal) churchyard, of James Jeffries Hodson, pioneer of 1850, said to have come from Caversham, Berkshire.



■ The Church, Caversham, Natal, South Africa.

BAPTIST NEWS

A GAY DAY

OR MORE correctly a gay two days which left not a few down on their "uppers". The occasion was the long awaited and much heralded "Autumn Fayre" which gave a welcome boost to the Baptist Church's Building Fund, the demise of which is eagerly awaited and which will twang chords of rejoicing rather than remorse in the hearts of many. All organisations of the Church pitched-in to what was a time-honoured bazaar — a rose by any other name — and this brought forth many latent talents amongst the supporters not least the great display of "dynamic selling"

on the part of the more entrepreneurial characters. Loss lines and bonus offers abounded — all goods had to be cleared and they very nearly were with the result that £1,200 was raised.

The momentum of the marathon event was sustained by the kitchen staff who provided gallons of coffee and other refreshments throughout including a Ploughman's Lunch with which the effort concluded. Mention should also be made of the young people, especially the Brownies who turned-up trumps as usual with a delightful hour's entertainment which provided a welcome rest for the stall-holders.



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VICTIM'S SUPPORT SCHEME

VICTIMS of crime in the Reading area are to receive more help. For the town's five-year-old victims' support scheme is to widen its operations and contact every victim of burglary and other serious offences with an offer of help and support.

The group's chairman, Mrs Hilary Wadlow said: "Most people do not realise what a shattering effect crime can have on its victims — until it happens to them. Victims tend to be forgotten people of the system — and victim support groups offer help when it is needed most — right after the event".

Reading Victim Support is affiliated to the National Association of Victim Support Schemes and is backed by Thames Valley Police and the

Berkshire probation service.

The secretary is Mr Ray Little, a senior probation officer at Reading's Crown Court in Tilehurst Road, and Reading's police community liaison officer, Inspector Stuart Ayres sits on the managing committee.

Inspector Ayres will give the support group information every day about victims in need of help so the group can send a trained visitor to see what needs to be done.

"Obviously all information both from the police and victim is treated in the strictest confidence by the scheme", said Mrs Wadlow.

"A break-in, especially where property of sentimental value is taken can be a great blow and leave victims at a loss to know what to do. It can leave them feeling distressed and angry — or even guilty. Often these victims need somebody to talk to. Other people need practical help, like help with filling in an insurance claim or finding somebody to change a lock. This is the help the voluntary visitors in the support group are able to give."

The group will be operating mainly in the area covered by Reading police station and will collect information every day from the police about victims of crime who may need help. They hope to send a visitor the same day.

Said Mrs Wadlow: "It is not a job everybody can do. It is very challenging because when the visitor calls they have no idea what to expect. They may find somebody coping, or with lots of family support; on the other hand they may find somebody heartbroken and feeling they are no longer safe in their own home."

The group is recruiting about 20

more volunteers who after selection will be asked to take part in a short training scheme which will include information about local crime, and how people behave after a loss.

Volunteers should contact the groups secretary, senior probation officer Mr Ray Little at Reading Crown Court, Artillery House, Tilehurst Road, or on 586141.

Reading's Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant John Sugg said: "I've seen countless families absolutely devastated, particularly by burglary. Anything that can be done to help them is well worth supporting".

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



"QUALITY AND QUANTITY"

WITH ONLY three months to go to the 1985 Digital Reading Half Marathon the entries coming in from all over the country indicate a higher standard than on previous occasions with a number of top class athletes already entered and many others indicating that they will be using the Reading Run as a "warm-up" for the London Marathon.

The best runner to enter to date is 27-

year-old Martin McCarthy of Newbury who runs for Oxford City A.C. He is a Great Britain International at both the Half Marathon and also the full Marathon. He has run twelve full Marathons since October 1982 and has a best time of 2 hrs 11 mins 54 secs when he finished seventh in the London Marathon of 1983. In the same year he won the Athens Marathon and in 1984 finished tenth in the Houston (Texas) Marathon and sixth in the Columbus (Ohio). His fastest time for the Half Marathon, 64 mins 21 secs, was in Oslo in 1984, but on the fast Reading course he is probably capable of running at least a minute faster than this.

Martin will be using the race as his "sharpener" for either the Boston or London races. He will certainly provide interesting opposition for last year's winner, Mike Hurd, now 39 years old but still adding success to his long list of achievements over both the Half Marathon and full Marathon courses. He has run thirty-nine full Marathons including Toronto, Montreal, Chicago, Berlin, Stockholm, Seoul (Korea) and Fukuoka (Japan) and has a best time for this distance of 2 hrs 13 mins. He has run

forty-one Half Marathons with a best time of 64 mins 14 secs in Oslo in 1982 which he got very close to when he won the Reading Race last year. With both Martin and Mike in the race we are guaranteed a very fast time.



Further back in the field there will be no shortage of runners striving for personal achievements and many of them will be running in a race for the first time. One very noticeable feature in this year's entry is the increase in the number of men competing in the older age groups. This includes an increase in the 40/49 year olds but much more dramatically a very large increase in the 50/59 category, also the over 60s with two runners aged 72 among the earlier entries.

The Ladies are showing no dramatic increase over last year so if you are thinking about "having a go" enter now and start training at once. There isn't much time left but if you start now you could just get yourself fit enough to cover the 13.1 miles and receive your medal on the 24th March along with the other 6,000 runners.



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Sunday, March 24, 1985

"A COME BACK"

The fire on Halloween that severely damaged The Travellers' Rest on Henley Road must have been a severe blow to International Boxing Referee Roland Dakin and his wife Joy. In boxing terms it may have been a "knock down" — but not a "knock out" — as they were open again for business within a week of the fire which totally destroyed their living quarters and posses-

sions, also badly damaging the rest of the building.

Many of Rowland's mementoes of his life in boxing, which included photographs of many of the world-class fighters he had refereed, including Mohammed Ali, were damaged or lost in the blaze.

The pub is now being re-built and I am sure will soon be back to its former attractive self.

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CALLING ALL CHURCH PEOPLE

By Margaret Bensley

HAVE YOU never thought of spending a week in beautiful Düsseldorf, there to be wined and dined — in fact truly given the VIP treatment? This would be very different from a normal private holiday or one booked through a travel bureau. You would be given warm hospitality by a German Christian family, and, with other friendly church people in your own party, would be shown the sights of Düsseldorf and the surrounding area, and would gain a valuable insight into how German Christians live.

Bridges

Some of you will know Düsseldorf, but here is a little information for those who don't. Düsseldorf, a city of some 600,000 inhabitants, has many modern buildings of outstanding architecture, including the recently-renewed Tonhalle (Concert Hall), and a wealth of beautiful churches. Shop window displays are particularly artistically presented and the shops in the famous Königsallee are, I'm told on good authority, superior to those of Paris! There is the famous 235 metre Rheinturm (the equivalent of our Post Office Tower) with its revolving restaurant which commands superb views of the Rhine and the city, revolving as it does once an hour.

Seen to advantage are the graceful bridges spanning the Rhine, one of which was actually assembled some distance from its site and in the early 1970's moved en bloc to its permanent position. So dubious were the insurance companies that none would give cover, expecting the bridge to collapse. It stands to this day to mock such lack of faith in engineering prowess. There is an Opera House and several museums and art galleries. One's predominant impression of Düsseldorf is of wide streets, tree-lined, and of parks and gardens. As if this is not enough Düsseldorf has an old section, where picturesque buildings, many of which were destroyed during the war, have been rebuilt in the original style, and the quaint, cobblestoned streets have also been retained. The Rathaus (Town Hall) where we were received by the Bürgermeister is also a mixture of old and new, and displayed among its treasures are silver dishes, plates and other precious gifts from visiting Heads of State etc, with a prominent place for a salver presented by the Mayor of Reading.

The link with Düsseldorf was first

established when Phoebe Cusden was Mayor of Reading in 1947. The plight of the hungry children of Düsseldorf so moved her heart that, in cooperation with the generous people of Reading, arrangements were made to send gifts of food, and German children were invited by Reading families for holidays. In 1971 the Friedenskirche Choir visited Reading and in 1973 Reading and District Council of Churches sent a delegation of four to the Kirchentag (National Churches' Assembly). In 1977 Reading was officially recognised as linked with Düsseldorf and Reading and District Council of Churches has organised several visits by Church people of all denominations to Düsseldorf and has received parties from Düsseldorf the following year. After a break of one year the cycle has been repeated. Six members of the Caversham Heights Methodist Church attended this year's visit and so great was our pleasure that we would like the churches of all denominations in Caversham — and indeed in Reading — to share it. All travel arrangements and communication with organisers in Düsseldorf are efficiently undertaken by the Reverend Gerald Restall, ably supported by Mrs Restall, and he would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to host German visitors from 15-22 June 1985 and/or visit Düsseldorf in 1986. You would find the former very undemanding because so many visits and outings are planned, and the latter would prove an inexpensive and care-free holiday. Do give Mr Restall a ring at St Mary's Centre (51057).

visits by other groups and their German counterparts — such as the Reading Bach Choir, the Reading Youth Orchestra and the Reading Swimming Club and its chairman, Mr Martyn Allies (Tel. 472007) would be pleased to receive your suggestions for further links.

Soest

Perhaps I might tell you a little about our Düsseldorf visit this year. On our arrival on Saturday, 27th October, we were taken to a concert given jointly by the Friedenskirche Choir and the Reading Bach Choir, which was followed by a meal and light entertainment. Sunday was spent with our hosts in many different ways. On Monday we went by coach to Kaiserwerth where we toured the Diakonie, the ancient Deaconesses' Institute, brought into being in order that unmarried women might undertake a profession such as nursing. Indeed Florence Nightingale travelled there to study nursing in the year 1850, and today the modern 600-bed hospital is named after this heroine of the nursing profession. The deaconesses, few in number nowadays, work alongside lay and professional people in valuable work for orphans, OAPs and in the psychiatric unit, and of course the hospital. We were able to see some of the deaconesses weaving and embroidering the most beautiful altar vestments. The retired deaconesses live in homes in the grounds and we were privileged to meet one eighty-year-old deaconess, who leapt from her bicycle to talk to us. We learnt she is writing a biography of Florence Nightingale. Also in the grounds, and open to the general public, is a beautiful church.

Visits

The Reading and District Council of Churches operates, in the matter of these exchanges, under the auspices of the Reading/Düsseldorf Association. This body encourages

and visited the ancient city of Soest dating from the Stone Age, with its quaint market place (where the market was in progress), its picturesque houses and shops, and its many interesting churches. We were given lunch and tea in charming old-world restaurants, and walked on the wide tree-lined city walls. Thursday was spent with our hosts, who had many activities planned for us, and finally, on Friday, we were taken to the Adenauerhaus near Bonn. Dr Adenauer's children have made his last home into a museum which is well worth a visit, and commands breathtaking views of the town beneath and of the Rhine. Lunch was taken at a restaurant near the summit of Drachenfels, one of the seven mountains in the area, which we reached by funicular railway. That evening a party was held for about sixty people in our honour at the home of a most delightful lady, Frau Himmelbach, and all too soon we were waving sad farewells to our hosts at Düsseldorf airport early on Saturday morning.

Friendship

My few words are so inadequate to convey our deep enjoyment, and more than that, the bond of Christian friendship which surmounts barriers of language and race. Opportunities to get to know people overseas in their homes is surely one of the ways in which we can foster friendship and peaceful relationships, so necessary in this violent and war-sticken world of ours.

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In this third article in a series about Caversham Christians responding to the Lord's call, Bill Anderson tells of his call to work with young unemployed.

BILL ANDERSON has been called to run a centre for young unemployed in Reading. The DAYBREAK CENTRE was opened in June 1983, situated in the Memorial Hall, Sackville Street, behind Greyfriars Church. Bill has been a member of Caversham Hill Chapel for some four years now. Previously he had been serving the Lord through "Active Service", a Christian counselling service for missionaries and ministers at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. After a while, Bill began to consider such a work in Reading but was to find that the Lord had other plans for him. Some time earlier, Ian Plumley of "Youth for Christ" had, with others, shared in a vision for a kind of halfway house in Reading, a place which might begin to build bridges between churches and young folk. An opportunity for premises arose when Greyfriars old church hall became available and a team of volunteers prepared it. Yet someone was needed to run it and lead it. It was a week before it was due to open when Bill was still thinking of counselling work similar to that in Gerrards Cross, that a Christian friend challenged him with the thought "You could be just the man needed for DAYBREAK". Bill confessed that his first reaction was — "It couldn't possibly be

me... I'm too old for that sort of work with young people". In under a week the Lord showed him that he was the person He had chosen and the centre opened next week with Bill running it.

The centre is for young unemployed — most are between 18-22 and all varieties of people visit the centre, Punks, Skins, Straights, Mod Rockers and even a Hell's Angel. At first just the odd ones and twos dropped in, then one Saturday 15 came in and since then Bill says things have taken off. In the winter there were around 20-22 a day although it varies without any apparent reason. The most they've had in one day was 35 and in the first 15 months of operation over 400 people have been in and called back again. The centre has two staff workers, Bill and a part-time assistant, Mabel. They are assisted by a variety of volunteers.

Bill shared about the essential prayer support which the centre has — prayer chains in 12 churches, about 120 people committed to pray for the centre and its work. The prayer chains can be set in motion at any time for specific people and situations and Bill knows that without the petition and intercession provided, the work could not be done. Bill and his team are daily confronted with problems arising from alcohol, drug abuse, glue sniffing, occult practices and Satanism. Bill has been guided to find individuals, sometimes punks or skins in Reading who could be anywhere and he says that without the prayer support and the guidance from the Lord, he and his team would not have any idea of how to go about things.

Many of the folk who come to DAYBREAK see the church as an interfering institution which looks down on them, and they resent this attitude. Bill explained that the centre's aim is to come from underneath, as servants, that it is the love of God shed abroad by the Holy Spirit who will teach people. It

requires great patience and self control to allow this to be — the "do gooder" syndrome has to be got rid of. Visitors to the DAYBREAK Centre are accepted as they are and where they are. Bill's team see their job as being a friend, winning confidences: Many have been greatly hurt and rejected and winning confidence takes time, requires utter honesty and is dangerous since one is often spurned and hurt. Yet Bill says: "We are still here, we still care". The centre tries to meet requests which its visitors make; they are looking into computers as it was asked for. Bill stresses that it is vital that folk aren't hassled — motivation is often low in the visitors but they are to be accepted where they are and not pounced upon.

Some have enquired about faith in Christ and they have been offered council and guidance. Bill has shared how the team clearly spell out the real cost of commitment — he says we put it down clearly when asked: We don't offer a soft Gospel. Some commitments to Christ have been made, yet we need to be careful here too, Bill warned — some seem to progress quickly while others appear to have changed very little. The temptation at any stage to point fingers, to interfere or push has to be resisted as in Scripture with the woman taken in adultery, we need to heed Jesus' reply to the Pharisees: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone".

During the first 15 months of DAYBREAK's operation, evidence of the Grace of God abounds — in the atmosphere Bill says, you can see visible change in hard people, lost people are found, and the Lord's authority and protection are to be felt in the place. The men even stop each other blaspheming and in little things God is evidently at work, one chap came in "Bill, I've a friend 'inside' (i.e. prison), he wants to see you about..."

DAYBREAK is overseen by a management committee and it has a pastoral support group by Peter Downham, Giles Williams, Alistair Hornell, Eric Bird and Chris Justice. The pastoral

group are responsible to the churches, and organise financial support. Initially DAYBREAK was funded mainly by personal gifts from Christian friends and supporters, and increasingly by the churches directly. The centre also has contacts and positive working relationships with Social Services

and the Probation Service. Bill shared about his calling to this work from Isaiah 51:16: "I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand." (NIV). In these first fifteen months of DAYBREAK's work, God has demonstrated his faithfulness to His Word.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

CHAZEY W.I.
IN NOVEMBER, after the business was concluded, members took over the running of the evening. The speaker was Mr Milton from the Recreation Department of Reading Borough Council who talked about easy gardening, and answered a few questions.

During the social time members joined in a competition to guess the names of flowers and plants pictured round the room. The exchange of plant cuttings also took place.

On 11th November a coach party of members and families went to the London Palladium to see "Singing in the Rain". At the end of the month the first round of the W.I. Scrabble competition took place between Calleva, Chazey, Birch Copse and Purley W.I.s. Mrs Stringer from Chazey and Mrs Cox from Birch Copse go through to the next round in the New Year.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
THE Annual General Meeting was held of

the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

The Chairman thanked all the committee members, particularly the secretary, for their help.

The Social Studies section had had many interesting talks and outings on Conservation the Arts and Crafts group were involved in a variety of activities, including the making of a patchwork quilt, which was sold for £145, the money being donated to the Dacca Child Nutritional Unit and Mencap.

A happy and successful year proved that the Guild members had enjoyed their activities. New members would be very welcome. The thirty-second birthday luncheon party brought the year to a satisfactory conclusion.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

THE guest speaker at the November meeting was Mrs C. Matthews, who gave an illustrated talk on the Flying Doctor Ser-

vices in East Africa. This was inaugurated by Dr Michael Wood in 1957 with just one plane, and was at first more of a rescue service. There are now eight aircraft, and eighty mission hospitals, the headquarters being in Nairobi, where training takes place. There is much want and need in the bush, and water shortage everywhere, so life is very hard. Measles is the most dreaded disease, and infant mortality is high. Mrs Matthews first visited the area eleven years ago to do voluntary work, acting as an extra pair of hands, and will shortly be making her seventh visit. Mrs St Alphonse gave the vote of thanks.

Mrs Belfield-Smith reported on the Autumn Council meeting held at Pangbourne College in October. Mrs P. Piper was awarded first place in the Victoria Sandwich competition.

Parcels were donated by members for distribution at the Caversham Old People's Luncheon Club's party in December.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Partners in Trade

AT the October meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, Mr Wellsted, who worked for 50 years in the John Lewis Partnership, told how John and Daniel Heelas' business began in 1854 at 22 Minster Street which was then the main shopping street in Reading. In those days the assistants worked under strict rules. By 1904 takings were large and by 1940 they were part of the Selfridge group, then later were taken over by Sir Charles Clore and later still by the John Lewis Partnership which is run by a board and councils of employees. The original idea for partnership came from J. S. Lewis, son of the founder, who tried out his "odd" ideas in Peter Jones, bought for him by his father.

After the present reorganisation and extension Heelas will be the biggest department store outside London. The Dispensary Trust was bought by the partnership, but planning permission was only granted on condition that the building in Chain Street was demolished brick by

brick to be re-erected.

At Social Studies at the end of the month more was heard about Reading Dispensary which has nothing to do with animals, but is a trust helping sick and disabled people. The speaker, Mr W. Dear, was clerk to the trustees until last year and formerly in the civil service. Members heard about the harsh legal punishments, even for children, and strange remedies for illness that existed before the much-needed dispensary was started in 1802. Those who wish to benefit from the dispensary must live within a seven-mile limit beyond the borough boundary. Money is available from service benevolent funds and expenses are sometimes shared. There was an interesting glimpse for members at the old benefactions book, early medical instruments and beautiful porcelain pots which used to hold ointments.

TOWNSWOMEN REVIEW YEAR

At their annual general meeting, Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild highlighted the past year's activities after some new committee members and officers were introduced.

Review

A review of the year showed that members had enjoyed a wide and varied range of subjects, from the efforts by HM Customs and Excise to control drugs to the adventures in the Indian sub-continent of Mr Malcolm Stansfield and his flying cattle. Each month there was something new and again next year further lectures are planned to take members into new and fascinating realms.

Away from base, productions have been seen at the Hexagon and further afield the workings of a farm. Again next year more expeditions are planned. There will be entertainment by the Caversham Players at the Christmas party and a coffee evening in aid of the monitoring unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital rounds off the year. Various efforts have been made for a number of charities, which with due modesty can be described as successful.

Members did not only sit and listen, but found time to produce craft items for the bazaar, which sale raised £200 for

"Operation Dhaka".

Partners in the social studies group also had a full year of talks. In a lighter vein there was an outing to Pusey Gardens, coffee evenings and a barbecue, thanks to the hospitality of members. Social studies meetings are held in Highmoor Hall on the last Monday of the month at 7.45pm and guild meetings on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Hall, Caversham.

Mrs A. Denning, the Chairman, expressed thanks for the excellent efforts made during the past year and welcomed the new committee members and officers. She looked forward to everyone's continued support and involvement in 1985.

ROSEHILL W.I.

THE November meeting commenced at 12.30 instead of 2.15pm so that members could partake of a Harvest Lunch. This was really enjoyed by everyone, with good, wholesome, home-made fare. Afterwards the normal meeting started with one minute's silence in memory of Mrs Webb, who died in late October. She was one of the founder members over twenty years ago and will be greatly missed. Mrs Gillings and Mrs Bannan then gave a most interesting talk on crafts, with hints and suggestions for Christmas decorations, etc. The competition, for anything knitted or crocheted, was won by Mrs Barge.

Continued on page twelve →

CAVERSHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

THE month of October commenced with a demonstration on an afternoon given by Mrs Burden on the piano which was very much enjoyed, and after that the Club had an afternoon of Bingo which all look forward to. A hair-dresser came to give a demonstration on looking after the hair and dressed some members' hair. The following week members all enjoyed a visit from June and her "girls", always very welcome.

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11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong (20th at St Barnabas)

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 (20th at St Barnabas)

St Barnabas

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (except 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday)
11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
4.00pm Evensong (8th January)
6.30pm Evensong (20th January)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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11.00am Morning Service
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ROUND THE CLUBS

← Continued from page eleven

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The November meetings opened with a talk by Mr R. J. Goodman, the secretary of Caversham Wine Circle, on Winemaking. Mr Goodman spoke of the early days in the history of making wine and later gave useful information on the making of home-made wines. The members were offered various samples of wine to taste and were given the opportunity to ask questions to complete an interesting evening.

A whistdrive was held on the 12th November, as usual this was a friendly game, the winners were Anne Wright, Anne Seymour, Vera Lunn, Arthur Painter and May Payne. Frank Masterman received the consolation prize. Members of the club took part in the

Remembrance Day procession to the Caversham War Memorial at Thames Side Promenade. At the service Margaret Cameron, the club's Chairman, placed a wreath, on behalf of the members, on the memorial.

On the 19th November Cyril Kirby, President of the Kennet Camera Club, always a welcome speaker, visited the club. Mr Kirby commenced by showing a series of slides aimed at helping the amateur photographers in the audience to improve their film taking. Questions were invited resulting in helpful tips for the members. Some beautiful slide films of Britain completed this section. Later Mr Kirby gave an informative talk and slide film show of his visit with his fellow ex-prisoners of war to their old camp in Sulmona, Italy, and of the meeting and welcome from Italian friends who had helped them at that time.

The November meetings ended with a visit to the Mayor's Parlour by those members who were unable to go on the previous occasion in September. The rest of the members met for a games evening at the clubroom.

The stalls looked very attractive, and the members had contributed handsomely. Selling was brisk.

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BLAGRAVE W.I.

THE guest speaker at the November meeting was Mrs M. Body who gave an interesting and informative talk on "Victorian Women", mentioning, amongst others, such notable persons as Florence Nightingale, who was not only a nurse but designed barracks for the Army, Josephine Butler, a great reformer who caused two acts of Parliament to be repealed, George Elliott and the Bronte sisters whose power-

ful books made a great impact in their day, also Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, responsible for the founding of Women's Colleges and Schools. Mrs Moodie reported on the Annual Council Meeting held at Pangbourne College in October.

Great interest was shown in the Competition of member's Victorian Items, which was won by Mrs Housden.

CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

THE November meeting at the Baptist Church Centre was the Autumn Fayre. After the usual business part of the meeting the Fayre was declared open by the Chairman, Mrs May Harwood.

The stalls looked very attractive, and the members had contributed handsomely. Selling was brisk.



Cyril H. Lovegrove

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