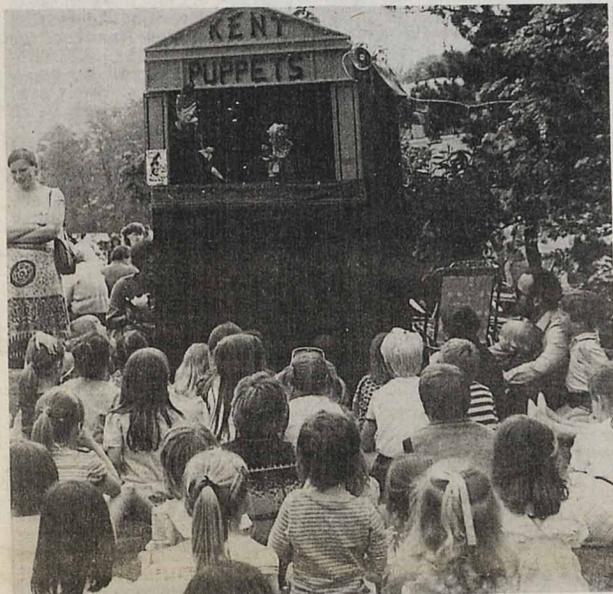


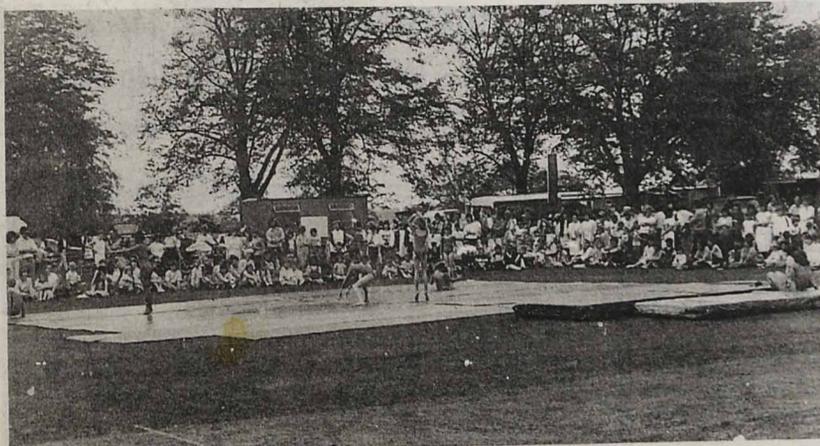
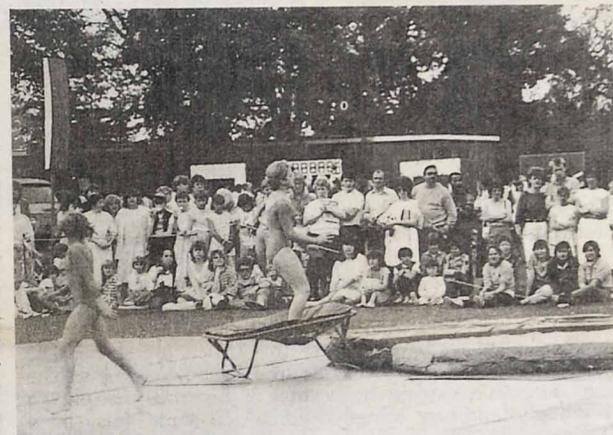
HIGHDOWN SCHOOL SHOW



□□□□

THE THIRD HIGH-DOWN ANNUAL SHOW was a great success and enjoyed by between four and five thousand visitors. A major transformation had been made to the site to incorporate a street market, archery display, gym display, refreshment facilities, amusements, exhibitions, and an auction to name just a few of the attractions. An enormous effort was made by the team of parents, staff and pupils to mount such an event. The net result will be in excess of £4,000.

Photographs by N. Wright



TALKING POINT

by The Revd Graham Lynch-Watson,
Caversham Park Village



ON BEING A LEARNER

AN INSTITUTION which continues to instil a fair degree of anxiety in the British public, celebrated a special anniversary on June 1, 1985. The driving test became fifty years old.

"You'll need at least one hour's tuition for every year of your age," I was counselled. Nine pounds a throw, multiplied by my age. In my case, precious little change out of £500!

Yet, despite everything, I have decided to take the plunge and to begin taking lessons. A neighbour at Caversham Park amused me when he remarked "Graham, you've put the fear of God into more people since you started driving..." Mind you, car or not, I shan't abandon my dear old Raleigh. For my bike (that "sign of social failure" as a sociologist once described it) is a trusted companion, who'll be with me until it collapses or I collapse, whichever is the earlier.

□□□□

Concentration. That's what I find hard during my lessons. Thinking ahead, not allowing oneself to be distracted, since distractions abound. For weeks this year the Henley Road was bedecked with bold yellow notices proclaiming "New Islands Ahead". Visions of unexpected territory. A tropical paradise, golden beaches, swaying palms, sparkling blue seas. Not at all conducive to keeping one's mind on the job in hand.

The "L" plates have already proved their usefulness. The other day I took them with me to a School Assembly. The intention was to explain the meaning of the word "disciple" to a group of primary school children. "Disciple" may be a common enough word in the vocabulary of the New Testament, but not in the day-to-day speech of a nine year old.

I tried to explain that a disciple was a person who, in a sense, wore "L" plates. Someone under instruction, learning his craft. Someone in the process of growing in understanding and awareness.

The learner driver looks forward to the happy day when he's passed his test and can throw the "L" plates into the bin. His "L" plates are now superfluous, over and done with.

Not so, I tried to explain, with the Christian disciple, the Christian learner. He'll wear his "L" plates for keeps, throughout his entire journey here on this earth. He'll never cease being a learner.

□□□□

At that point the bell went and my time was up. Had I been speaking to an adult audience I would have wished to add that "L" plates on a Christian are a sign, not of immaturity but of maturity. For in wearing them he is acknowledging the truth of his condition. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

The Apostle's sentiments find splendid expression in this prayer:

We beseech Thee, O God, the God of truth that what we know not of things we ought to know Thou wilt teach us; that what we know of truth Thou wilt keep us therein; that what we are mistaken in, as men must be, Thou wilt correct; that at whatsoever truths we stumble Thou wilt yet establish us, and from all things that are false and from all knowledge that would be hurtful, do thou evermore deliver us. Amen.

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

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All contributions for the September issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, August 7. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, August 2.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

WHATEVER YOUR AGE — SPORT CAN BE FUN

Padding his own Canoe

WHILE many people were training a few months ago for the Reading Half Marathon, one man from Caversham was training with a purpose in mind. Forty-nine-year-old Tony Roberts from The Ridgeway, Caversham had a very hard winter training for the Run and also the Devizes/Westminster Canoe Race over Easter. After all his hard efforts at running (he did lose over a stone in weight) his ankle let him down — so no Half Marathon. However, he did complete the second part of his "marathon" double when he covered the 130 miles in a total time of 20 hours 43 minutes 34 seconds to finish 19th in the single canoe race. The fifty entrants included eight Finns, a Belgian Para Commando, a West German Policeman and many British Police and Servicemen. Tony's running training came in handy as quite a few miles have to be covered on foot pulling the canoe on a trolley. He found himself beating quite a few of his rivals on land as well as in the water.

Keep on Running
The canoe race was obviously a great challenge and must have given Tony Roberts a great deal of satisfaction whilst in addition the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed benefited from his achievement.

There must be some incentive to men as they get close to fifty. Two weeks after Tony's great effort another man of the same age ran his first London Marathon in 3 hours 44 minutes — not as fast as he used to be but for the first time for twenty-five years he actually ran every inch of the full Marathon distance without having to stop or walk. I actually enjoyed the experience so I suppose I can't hang up my running shoes yet... I have to do London again... and perhaps New York.

Another new running event comes to

Reading on Sunday, August 11, 1985 when the first Nabisco Family Fun Run will take place in Prospect Park. The idea of this event is to encourage people of all ages to take up jogging as an exercise for fitness and health and to this end no one would be asked to run an excessive distance but merely a two-mile course around the Park. There will be twenty-four different age categories and these will be divided into sixteen separate runs starting at 10.30 in the morning and continuing every twenty minutes until the finale at 4pm when everyone will be invited to take part in a mass jog around the same course. It really will be a family fun day with a band and balloons as well as the Reading Recreation Action Van and the Fun Bus. Refreshments will be available in the Park. Entry fees will be £1 for over 15s and 50p for under 15s and local charities will benefit from the event. So, if you are not away on holiday on August 11, please come along and join in the fun.

My spies tell me that another ageing sportsman, ex-schoolmaster Robin Sharp, is putting one of his retirement plans into action — he is actually playing bowls.

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Caversham Bridge Newspaper

At the Annual General Meeting on May 30, 1985, the Directors unanimously agreed to donate £100 to the Caversham Care Centre, and £50 to the Baptist Church to buy two chairs for the church.

13040

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

By Watchdog

HEMDEAN VALLEY INQUIRY

AS SOON as the date of the Hemdean Valley Inquiry was known, Caversham Residents' Association, together with the Emmer Green Residents' Association, sprang into action and plans were soon under way to get the best case possible presented. The inquiry is to start on Tuesday, October 15, and will last for several days. The more people who drop in, even if only for a short time, the better, as it will show that this is a burning issue about which people care. Meanwhile, look out in coming issues of this paper for details of a briefing meeting in September for those intending to speak at the P.I. or to send written representations: there cannot be too many of these latter. Look out, too, for ways of helping, such as collecting signatures to a mass petition.

Assaults on this valley have been fought off in the past. This one also must be fought off, at a time when pressure from Central Government to develop in Berkshire is being relentlessly applied. The Borough Council is one hundred per cent behind us, and support comes from the County and many organisations. Our



— E. S. Archer

task is to convince the Inspector who in his turn has to convince the Secretary of State, where the final decision will be made.

BRIDGE

Another matter of major importance to Caversham people is the third Thames bridge. In June the

six-month public consultation period came to an end. There has been ample opportunity to find out about the issues involved and the explanatory folders with a reply form made it easy to comment. Even before the consultation period was over, a clear majority had come out in favour of a third bridge to the east.

Caversham and District Residents' Association sent in a statement summarising their members' views. These were not unanimous, not perhaps surprising with such a wide membership but again a clear majority in favour of an eastern bridge emerges, and the minority views are valuable as they emphasise the need for examining closely all the implications of the plans and for other measures which should go hand in hand with them. The statement will appear in a later issue.

PEDAL POWER

Reading's cyclists can well feel pleased with the result of their persistent and energetically carried out campaign to get the rights of cyclists acknowledged. It was not so long ago that cyc-

lists were dismissed with a derisory smile as being cranks at the best, if not positive nuisances. Now they are a force to be reckoned with. A real achievement has been the opening of the east Reading cycle way which provides a safe and attractive route from the Kennet's mouth to Duke Street. Caversham has a considerable body of cyclists and several of these were to be seen pedalling along the Kennet's side to mark its opening. They themselves have a somewhat perilous journey into the town centre and it is hoped that it will not be long before a safer route is devised for them.

HIS WORSHIP

Another species of which Caversham has a considerable supply is Mayors. Ron Jewitt, one of the many Caversham has supplied, is now succeeded by Brian Fowles. As Chairman of the Borough Planning Committee, a position he must relinquish for his year of office, Brian Fowles not only worked hard, something a Chairman of Planning in a place like Reading can scarcely avoid, but brought to the posi-

tion an awareness of the need for much higher standards in Reading's development. We hope his successor continues along these lines, for in spite of the relentless pressure from developers, there has been an improvement in what goes up in Reading. The fact that too much goes up is another matter.

WOODLAND WAYS

We are lucky to have woods still within the urban area of Reading and it is pleasing to see that the Leisure Committee has set aside a sum to make woodland paths in the borough safe for public use. Amongst these are Clayfield Copse, Hemdean Woods and the Warren escarpment. No one would want these turned into public parks, admirable as these are in their place, but there are impassable stretches that need some attention, so this is a welcome move.

It was also pleasing to see that one section of the flint and brick walls in St Peter's Hill and The Mount has been repaired. This was the part damaged by a lorry. The real problem is the insidious wear and tear and vandalism.

RATE REBATE WITHDRAWN

Whether the protests that have been raised by the withdrawal of the rates rebate will meet with anything but bland indifference remains to be seen. To give them credit, the Borough Treasurer in his reply to Caversham Residents' Association's letter on the subject, did say that the Council will

review the matter in the light of the cash flow over the coming year. Most ratepayers will see the advantage of hanging on to their money to the last minute and having its use or interest rather than handing over on the dot. Those few pounds were an incentive to pay up promptly, if not cheerfully.

The Water Authorities never have given a rebate and they are far less approachable than the Borough Council. They know what is best for us, so have little need to consult us. Now however, instead of asking us to pay our dues twice a year, they say they would like to have it all in

one go. They don't insist and you can pay it twice a year, or in eight instalments, but once would be nice. Considering what a substantial sum it has now become, they might get more response if they gave a small rebate. There seems otherwise little reason, apart from altruism, which is a bit thin on the ground when it comes to paying rates, to accede to their request.

GOOD NEWS

Another campaign that has paid off. The right of Chiltern Edge children to use the school bus service has been restored. A triumph for common sense, persistence and humanity.

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MAKING OF A MAYOR

—by Zoilus—

CAVERSHAM seems to be a ripe forcing ground for Mayors having in the last four years produced three holders of the town's highest office, and at the end of May an array of the great and the good flocked to the Hexagon to see Ron Jewitt of Chiltern Road hand over the mace to Brian Fowles of Chazey Road. And amongst the audience there were many who shared a little bit of reflected glory that our first citizen should be a prominent member of Caversham's church community and a regular communicant at St Margaret's.

Mayor making is one of the few occasions when the Borough Council can recapture some of the dignity and pageantry of its honourable past. Some may feel the loss of the Victorian Gothic grandeur of the old Town Hall, but perhaps the Hexagon is a proper setting for a ceremony that is always good theatre.

As the procession filed out after the time-honoured ceremony had ended — the Mayor and Deputy resplendent in silk and sables, followed by the town's Freemen in fur trimmed robes, and members of the Council, mostly in robes of fustian black (but some in

sternly utilitarian plain clothes) — then I know how proud the Mayor felt to be the head of a body that is rooted in an honourable past yet so relevant to our twentieth century present.

And this Mayor had another good reason to feel proud and happy as he left the auditorium to stand in the foyer and receive the hundreds of guests who would join him in the traditional party that follows mayor-making. There are not many members of the Council who can claim the title "Reading born and bred". Brian can — he was born in Grange Avenue, educated at Alfred Sutton School and the Technical College when it was part of Reading University, and spent the first twenty-two years of his working life at Reading Gas Company. Later he was with Berks County Council, but it was in 1969 that his career really took off when he joined the giant International Publishing Corporation as the Building Surveyor. He is now the Executive Property Director as Reed International.

But I suspect that the position that gave him as much satisfaction as any was as Chairman of the



Brian and Gladys Fowles Photo — E. S. Archer

Reading Borough Council Planning Committee. He has stepped down now on becoming mayor, after six years in the job, and having worked with him for most of that time, I know that the town owes him a considerable debt for his leadership in improving the quality of the townscape. In the fifties and sixties the architecture of Reading was becoming a functionalist jungle full of glass and concrete boxes, but in the last ten years the planners were persuaded to return to the traditional Reading red brick style and the influence of Lutyns replaced that of De Mies. Brian continued this trend and during his chairmanship we have acquired many fine new buildings that are a credit to the architects and developers of the town.

Having lived in Chazey Road for

nearly thirty years, it was Mapledurham Parish Council that started the new Mayor on his civic career in 1965. He progressed to become a member of Henley RDC and Oxfordshire County Council before Mapledurham was brought into Reading, and he has been a governor of several local schools. Having carried the Brian Fowles story back to Mapledurham and his domestic roots, it's time to bring in the lady who has been such a help to him throughout his life.

Gladys Fowles is known to many of us as the Chairman of the Mapledurham Jubilee Club and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors at Micklands School. She has been actively involved with the St Andrew's Play Group and the St Andrew's Young Wives Association, and until recently, has worked

as a voluntary Education Officer for the Berkshire County Council. Her interest in education started as a pupil at Kendrick School. From there she went to training college and then became a full-time teacher at Battle Junior School and thence to St Mary's and Oxford Road Schools. There was a gap in her outside activities when domestic responsibilities increased with the arrival of four children, and now she and Brian have four grandchildren to make up the happy family group we saw on mayor making day.

It was a happy day for Brian Fowles when he became Mayor of Reading. The good wishes and support of all his friends and neighbours in the parish of Caversham will go with him and Gladys as they start what must be a memorable year.

Katy in Caversham

THERE are times when I yearn for the peace and quiet of outer Caversham; mostly I'm only too glad to be near the shops. These days it seems car parks are becoming packed even before 9am. I don't know what the answer is but somebody should

really tackle the problem of allowing commuters to bag the amenities really intended for shoppers. With the car parks full and many local streets allowing residents parking only parking, what shoppers supposed to do?

good service. Do pop round and have a look when you've got time.

Some time ago I welcomed the new decorating shop on St Martin's precinct; I said if it was half as good as FADS, which left us some years ago, it would be a real boon. Now I've discovered that Tom Meredith, the owner of AZDEC, was indeed the gentleman who used to be so helpful in FADS. It seems he first bought FADS at Woodley and has now been able to achieve his ambition have a shop in Caversham; so we shall be sure of good service, especially as his assistant, Rachel Bilsby, who was also at FADS, is also here again.

We do like news of old friends who have moved away. We now hear that Winnie Bailey, the widow of our friendly butcher, Bruce, has left South View Avenue to start a hotel in Newquay, Cornwall, with her two sons and

daughter-in-law. We wish them every success and I've no doubt some of their old friends will be visiting them in Cornwall before long.

Please do pass on news of old friends for us to print.

Welcome

For those who don't normally come into Prospect Street, I'm delighted to report a new shop selling a wide range of cooking and other kitchen ware. Shirley and Dennis Allnut, who live in Toker's Green, have taken over what used to be a greengrocer's and have very wisely decided to provide something Caversham needs, rather than try to compete with existing shops. There are articles to suit every purse, ranging from heavy cast iron pans to inexpensive plastic bowls, and an enormous selection of the smaller items, tin openers and the like. They even have numbered moulds for birthday cakes for sale or for hire — and that's a good idea because it's unlikely that anyone will want a large mould in the shape of a "3" for instance, to keep. Dennis comes from an old Caversham family, so he's anxious to give us

Home Decorating

Among other things, AZDEC is selling a range of co-ordinating fabrics which can be ordered not more than 48 hours ahead. Furthermore they have well over 100 books of wallpaper patterns they are willing to lend out, though Rachel says she hopes nobody will want them all at once. If you're thinking of doing any decorating in the near future do wander in and browse — you'll be very welcome.

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STRIP THE WILLOW: LOCAL BASKET-MAKING

YEARS ago the Thames Valley was one of the main areas for the cultivation of willows for basket-making. Osier or withy beds, as they are called, were much in evidence between Mapledurham and Sonning. Several islands were given over solely to the growing of willow canes. These river islands are correctly known as eyots or aits. Many osier farms could be seen along the Oxfordshire bank as you left Caversham and proceeded towards Sonning. Mary Russell Mitford, a local writer in the early part of the nineteenth century, wrote in her Recollections of a Literary Life "I left the waterside at Caversham Bridge and travelled along the high road that passes Lower Caversham by farmhouses, cornfields and pastures and one of the osier

farms." She was on her way to Henley in her pony and trap.

The art of basket-making goes back to very early civilisation and like all ancient trades it has its own special words for various stages in the making of basket work. For instance there were names for all the different patterns of willow weaving — randing, waling, pairing, stewing and

fitchpairing. You not only decorated your handicrafts with various patterns made by weaving — you could add even local women. This was reasonably using canes of varying colour. Willow rods were cut every October. Some were boiled or "buffed" to give them the colour indicated. Others were dried until they became brown. Then there were white rods which were left standing

which was just large enough to take the cane. She then leant slightly back, drawing the length of osier towards her. As each rod came through it was peeled of its outer skin, leaving it clean and white.

As in many ancient crafts the basket-maker's chief tools were his hands. With nothing but a sharp knife he could usually manage to fashion a reasonable article, though he did have a few simple tools for his trade; these were often handed down from generation to generation in the family. Farmers, farm workers, gipsies and fishermen were all able to achieve a fair, and in some cases high, standard of workmanship, often from sheer necessity.

Henry Knight was a basket-maker in Caversham and his cottage at the weir was beside large osier beds. The

Knights are recorded in Caversham as early as 1708. Another family called Hedges also had a similar business in Victorian times. Until recently the Knights advertised their trade on the side wall of a home near Marsack Street, Caversham. The last member of this family to practise this ancient craft was still making baskets in the nineteen twenties. Among items made by basket-makers were winnowing fans, carpet bea-

ters, chair seats and backs, cradles, butchers' trays and crinoline hoops, not to mention all sizes and shapes of basket for every conceivable use. Square baskets were strongest of all and stacked more easily. The largest square objects made were huge family hampers or trunks, often lined with linen and with an iron padlock and hinge. Sadly our own trunk went up in smoke on a bonfire many years ago. M.K.



■ A basket made around 1925 by the last member of the Knight family to follow this trade. Made of osiers that had been browned it has a pattern of white willow to add interest.

THE members of the Kidmore Group (Mike and Sue Spring, standing; Lesley Hammond and Dagmar Coward, seated), looking every inch like an advertisement for Maecck recorders, first met each other back in 1981. They were only a trio then and some Bridge readers may remember their first tentative public appearance in Bal-

more Hall. The group has developed a lot since its beginning, both in terms of the music they play and in the sensitivity needed for ensemble playing; not to mention the addition of Mike

MUSIC FOR PLEASURE

Spring and his bass recorder! They meet most Monday evenings at the home of Mike and Sue to enjoy taking a challenging piece of

the group would welcome one or two new members of suitable standard and also the services of a "tame" cellist who would be willing to play bass continuo during those evenings when they play with the piano. Anyone interested in either listening to or joining the group should contact Lesley Hammond on Reading 476877.

L.J.H.



— Lesley Hammond

Monteverdi to music and working Mozart and also on it in detail over a occasionally at the number of weeks. But the Holborne the accompaniment Quintets and Byrd's of her husband Fantasia à 6 are less Tony's fine piano rewarding when there's only four of

One of its members not in the photo is Derek Spears. Whilst wanting to retain the luxury of (remember him?) one player per line,

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

HEALING MINISTRY MEETING AT ST ANDREW'S

A SPECIAL service was held at St Andrew's on Friday May 10. Miss Penelope Turing, the London based Organising Secretary of the Guild of St Raphael — part of the Healing Ministry in the Anglican church — came here to meet local members. In the event, St Andrew's had the pleasure not only of greeting Miss Turing, but also members from Tilehurst, Maidenhead and Egham. Visitors who are not Guild members, including one or two from the Methodist church, were present, which all assisted in making it a most happy occasion.

A sung Eucharist, with bible readings, prayers and hymns concentrating on the theme of healing, was followed by refreshments. Miss Turing then addressed the meeting, giving a summary of the aims and methods of the Guild. She put particular emphasis on the fact that working in close co-operation with the medical profession is of primary importance. The Guild is not to be compared with some healing com-

munities who are inclined to believe that prayer alone is enough, and that doctors are not really necessary. In this respect, Miss Turing put forward the suggestion that Guild members could pray medical students right through their studies and training, in the same way that church members pray ordination candidates right through theirs. This idea could certainly be followed up.

Miss Turing also stressed that the Guild must not consist of isolated groups throughout the country, but that its members should consider themselves as part of a family and endeavour to keep in touch wherever and whenever possible.

Finally she mentioned the great need for healing prayer for the nations of the world.

At the end of the meeting, David Milling thanked Miss Turing for coming to visit St Andrew's and also for her interesting talk. Thanks are also due to David for all his efforts in helping to make the evening such a success.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH SCHOOL OUTING TO FOLLEY COURT

IN FEBRUARY this year a group of children and teachers from Church School visited Folley Court in Wokingham to learn about the training programme for Guide Dogs. The visit was organised by Charles Ingham and gave us a flying start to our Lent theme, "Blindness".



Following an introductory talk we were taken outside to see the dog kennels and sleeping quarters. As we walked round the grounds we were shown the reception depot for all the silver foil and milk bottle tops which are donated in great quantities by supporters of the Guide Dog Centre. The foil is compressed into manageable blocks and sent to the Alcan Foil Factory. The Association gets 13p for every pound of silver foil and the lady explained that they usually raise £10,000 annually.



Next we saw the dogs and bitches in their exercise area and learned that labradors, retrievers and German Shepherds (Alsatis to you and me) are used, with the labrador/retriever cross being most favoured. The dogs have a heated enclosure to sleep in at

night and fresh water is available on demand from dropper bottles. No bedding is used to keep cleaning down to a minimum.

We continued on to the puppy block which was built with funds from a 1974 Blue Peter appeal. Here new dogs stay for a three week assessment period before the selected dogs are accepted for training. Only about 20 per cent of dogs are rejected. Most potential Guide dogs are whelped at Tolgate House in Warwickshire and at six weeks are taken into ordinary family homes for puppy walking. This early training concentrates on the acceptance of noise, children, obstacles and discipline.



When they are between 10-15 months old they come to the Centre for completion of their training. They start advanced training and traffic work after about sixteen weeks. There is usually a year's waiting list for prospective blind people and every attempt is made to match owner and dog temperamentally and socially. The blind person completes a six-page questionnaire to help ensure compatibility. When the dog is ready, the blind person stays at Folley Court for one month's training with their new dog. Twelve people can be accommodated night and day at any one time. The blind person is asked to pay 50 pence for his or her dog. The idea behind this being that no person should be excluded from the opportunity to have a guide dog by cost.



Later we looked at the obstacle course, where a dog is trained to think not only for safety but also the size of his master. He has to think 3 feet wide and 6 feet tall as there are many places where a dog could get through but not the blind person.

At the end of the visit we saw an excellent short film and the children were given leaflets and balloons and were able to buy items from the little shop.

J. Marsh

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW



Retiring Church Stewards David Herbert (left) and Brian Bosier (right) with Mary Prior, senior Steward

FRIENDS at Caversham Methodist Church celebrated a joyous occasion on April 13 when two of their young members married. Miss Gisela Schmucker and Mr Neville Keating shared their wedding celebrations with many friends and relatives. Neville is a member of the Boy's Brigade and Gisela a member of the Girl's Brigade. They are both teachers in the Sunday School. All friends join in congratulating them and wishing them every blessing in their new life together.

The Friends of The Ambassadors organised a Spring Fair when £105 was raised for band funds. The Band is now in the swing of its Summer programme, taking part in displays and competitions at Elm Park, Clarefield Court, Walthamstow, Child Beale Trust for The Goring and Streatley Rotary Club,

Woodley Carnival and Nottingham. We wish the Band every success for their Summer season. Youngsters wishing to join (boys and girls) between the ages of 11-18 should ring 474974 or 481635. The practise times are 7-9pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Reading and Silchester Circuit held their Annual Women's Day at Gosbrook Road on May 15. This proved a very popular and spiritually uplifting day for the many ladies who took part. The Day was lead by Rev Patricia Herriot-Ing.

The Gift Day Committee held a coffee morning for Church Funds at the end of May, when £32 was raised and a pleasant time of fellowship enjoyed.

The Home Missions weekend was celebrated with special services led by Rev Alan Elgar and Rev Brian Skinner. During the evening service

Miss Lorna McArdle and Mr David Barker were received into the membership of The Methodist Church. At a lunch on the Saturday Rev Brian Skinner spoke about his time at Cliff College.

Gosbrook Road was chosen as the venue for the Special Circuit Consultation organised by Rev John Stephens, Superintendent Minister of The Reading and Silchester Circuit. This was very well attended when Methodists from all over the area came to discuss the future of the Circuit and District. The consultation proved to be a time for fruitful discussions and good fellowship.

On May 1 Mr David Herbert and Mr Brian Bosier retired as Church Stewards. David was presented with a book on antiques and Brian with some cassette tapes. Miss Mary Prior now holds the office of senior Steward.

LINK GROUP

A MEETING was held on May 20 at the home of Mrs Lynda Bates. The Chairman reported on the work of the Care Centre since the opening. Some interest had been shown, but as expected there had been a slow start. It was agreed that more publicity was needed and members were urged to make the Centre known whenever possible, by distributing more leaflets and seeing that posters were displayed widely. A meeting of all helpers at the Centre would be held during June when further publicity, among other things, could be discussed.

It was hoped that, when all money had been received, about £400 would have been raised by the Annual Sale. There had been other fund raising events for different charities during May and the idea of a Diary of events in Caversham to be kept in the office at the Care Centre would help to avoid clashing of dates in the future. Members agreed that money from the sale should be sent to the Reading Emergency Accom-

modation Project towards a large gas cooker, to the Reading Cyrenians to help provide a second house for the homeless, to Katesgrove House for the summer outing for families in need and to the NSPCC. Goods left over from the sale were

divided between Katesgrove House, Oxfam, the Priest Hill house for single parents and to St John's Church Jubilee Sale.

The Chairman thanked all Link Group members and those from outside for their help at the sale.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE HILL CHAPEL

HOW did you spend your Whitsun holiday weekend? Despite the temptations of Mediterranean beaches, soft beds and long hours of sleep, a group of twenty adults took forty-one children from Caversham Hill Chapel camping in the depths of the Hampshire countryside.

The setting was beautiful. We camped at the edge of a wood carpeted with bluebells, and watched the gliders from the airfield across the valley, circle above us.

□ □
□ □

With six or seven children in each tent, no one slept for long, and those who managed to nod off were woken early by thunderstorms, cows mooing and songbirds in the wood.

The camp was organised for the children and various games and activities kept them happy and busy. One visitor to camp, who had previously kept his dramatic talent a secret, became PC Plod Lady Lovely, Mr Bath and MudBath to explain to the children that Jesus asks us to share the Gospel with our friends, and equips us to do the job.

It rained, of course, but we discovered that rain may dampen children's bodies, but not their enthusiasm, energy or appetite! Marvel-

lous meals appeared regularly from the team in the kitchen, and children learned to wash up! Take note mums — they can all do it!

There are so many different things that will be remembered by each child. Each memory is important but the most special will be for two of the older children who asked Jesus to be their Saviour and Lord of their lives.

Thanks from all the adults to the children who gave us such a good time, and our thanks to God for being there with us.

Put out the flags **THERE** was great jubilation in the Baptist Church on the occasion of the Minister's Seventh Anniversary which was celebrated in conjunction with a Gift Day. At the Sunday Evening Service, which was led jointly by the Minister, the Revd Dennis Weller and the Revd Gordon Thomas, Secretary of the Berks Baptist Association, Mr Weller was presented with a crystal glass bowl and his wife, Rhoda, received a most beautiful flower arrangement specially created to repose in the bowl. The presentations were made by the Church Secretary, Mr Bernard Miller

ST ANNE'S NEWS

ST ANNE'S celebrated the special dedication of this month to Our Lady by holding a May procession in the parish. It had a good attendance this year, and it looks as if this festive occasion may become established as a parish tradition now.

Another joyful event was the children's first Communion on May 18: A happy and important step in their life in the church, and the climax of a good deal of preparation.

Parish relaxation took the form of a Joint Parish Dance on May 24 at Bulmershe School Hall in Woodley. There was a raffle sponsored by the Hearts of Oak Insurance

Group, and music was provided by the Hopkins brothers. Thanks to these, to the many helpers, and to the guests, it was a successful and enjoyable evening.

We invite you to St Andrew's Church on Saturday evening, July 13 at 7.30pm.

After the success of last year's venture, the Ascension Singers and St Andrew's Choir will be presenting another evening of good listening. Two major works, Vivaldi's "Gloria", and Parry's "I was glad..." will be in an attractive programme which includes solo organ music.

Tickets will be on sale at £2 and £1 for students and senior citizens, and will include light refreshments.

The proceeds will be used for the Missionary Projects in which the church is currently involved.

BAPTIST NEWS

and Mrs Peggy Ide was marked with pennies from heaven and lots of them in that a total of £9,210 was contributed to the Building Fund thereby liquidating all outstanding liabilities and enabling the Church, with a supplement from its General Fund, to present a cheque for £1,500 to the Berks Baptist Association's Four Churches Appeal as a thank offering for the help given by the Association when the Church was immersed both in brick dust and debt.

Pennies from Heaven

The Gift Day on the preceding Saturday

PARISH CONFIRMATION

ST BARNABAS' Church was filled to overflowing for the Confirmation service on the evening of June 4. Bishop Eric Wild baptised six young people and confirmed them together with about thirty-five others from the churches of Caversham and Mapledurham. The Baptism and Confirmation were set in the Eucharist, and later in the service the newly-confirmed made their first Communion.

Bishop Eric Wild

built his sermon round thoughts he had had on being lent a hymn book at St Peter's Church recently. Inside the cover was stamped:

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CAVERSHAM
NOT TO BE TAKEN
AWAY

The Bishop meditated on whether we could manage if someone took away the church building. "The church is you, and you, and you," he proclaimed, pointing to the newly-con-

firmed. "You have been marked with the sign of Christ, named with his name, you have received the seal of his spirit and received his Body and Blood, and they cannot be taken away. What the Lord has done remains for all eternity. You are for ever marked as a child of God and it cannot be taken away."

After the service refreshments were served in the hall and there was an opportunity for meeting and talking.

THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN

ST ANDREW'S Sunday School meets in St Andrew's Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Sheila Ivens (477180) or Mr Peter Watsham (478744).

ST BARNABAS Sunday School meets in the Hall 9.30am. (Not 2nd Sunday in the month). Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). The children join in the 9.30am Family Service on 2nd Sunday in the month.

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).

ST PETER'S Sunday School meets in the Rectory at 9.15am (except 2nd Sunday which is Parade Service). "Cherubim" Club for babies and pre-school children in church every Thursday at 2.30pm.

ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM) Sunday School meets at Trench Green Hall 10.45 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.

CAVERSHAM PARK At Caversham Park School 11am. Contact Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close (478430).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST Junior Church — Sundays 11am. Youth Squash — Sundays 8pm.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH Bee-Gees — Sundays 10.15am. Sunday School — Sundays 11am Young Peoples Club — Sundays 7.30pm.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH 10.30am Creche — up to three years. Beginners, juniors and seniors three to 14 years. Fourteen Plus Group. Secretary: Mrs V. Stott, 6A Hazel Road, Purley, Reading. Tel: 419186.

CHAPEL ON THE HILL: Children's Activities. Sunday 9.30-11am Boy and Girl Jucos (10-12 years); Boy and Girl Covenanters (12-15 years). 10.25-11.15am Nursery (3 and 4 years); Primary (5 and 6 years); Adventurers (7-9 years). During the second part of the morning worship there is a baby creche available 8.30pm 16+ group meets. For more information please contact the Pastor: Chris Justice. Tel. 474529.

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ANY priest taking a post in the Anglican Parish of Caversham has to be prepared to minister to a broad social range of people and to function within wide varieties of churchmanship and patterns of worship. The man appointed as priest-in-charge in Caversham Park has to be prepared for that and more. His is an ecumenical church without a building, a "peculiar" congregation with "peculiar" ways as it appears to others) and a community which regards itself not as living on an estate within Caversham but as a self-contained village.

Ecumenical Ministry

When Graham Lynch-Watson arrived in Caversham in 1977 the church there was only a few years old. It had been through its birth-pangs and then had had a period of establishing and consolidating its unique identity. It could have been a time of

danger for the church with the temptation to relax in comfort and complacency. But that did not happen.

It is the measure of a good minister that he recognise and encourage other people's spiritual gifts and ministries and be willing to share tasks and roles within an overall partnership of service to God and man. Graham, in his quiet way, has not sought to force the pace, but through the growth of priest and people sharing ministry in its broadest sense, has enabled the church in Caversham Park to build on what had gone before and to develop in new directions as the needs and opportunities have arisen.

Graham is totally committed to ecumenism and the church is all the stronger for the har-

ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOD SPEED, JANE & GRAHAM

mony and close relationships built up between Graham and the ministers of the Methodist and Baptist churches in Caversham during his time here.

But it is not only within the congregation of Caversham Park church that Graham's presence among us has been appreciated and will be remembered. He has played a full part in the life of the Caversham Park community being readily available to all who had need of him. His wish to meet people and his willingness to be of service to others have been particularly fulfilled by serving on the Village Association, taking a regular

turn as duty officer at the Community Centre and in his various connections with the County primary school in the village.

Further afield, Graham has exercised his ministry throughout the whole Parish of Caversham and it is a tribute to his physical stamina that his usual mode of transport over this large and undulating area has been his trusty steed—a bicycle!

Graham has a quiet warmth and love which is acknowledged in the expressions of appreciation of him and of his faithful ministry one hears in all the corners of Caversham. Not for him the flamboyant,

dashing style but the gentle, caring way. Many people will long testify to the support they have received from him when they have been most in need of some sign that there really is a God who is Love.

The Family

Any married man, if he is honest, will willingly admit that he is not able to be what he is without the support and encouragement of his family and Graham is thrice blessed in that respect in Jane, Frances and Sam. Loving, warm and unassuming as individuals; loving, warm and unassuming as a family. They have endeared themselves to all whose good fortune it has

been to come into contact with them. The only regret is that, because their studies took them away from home, we have not been able to enjoy Sam's and Frances' company as much as we would have wished.

And how can Jane best be described because she will be remembered for different things by different people? She is a lively conversationalist, she has an independent mind, a puckish sense of humour, is untiring in giving support to others when needed, she is interested in art and handicrafts.

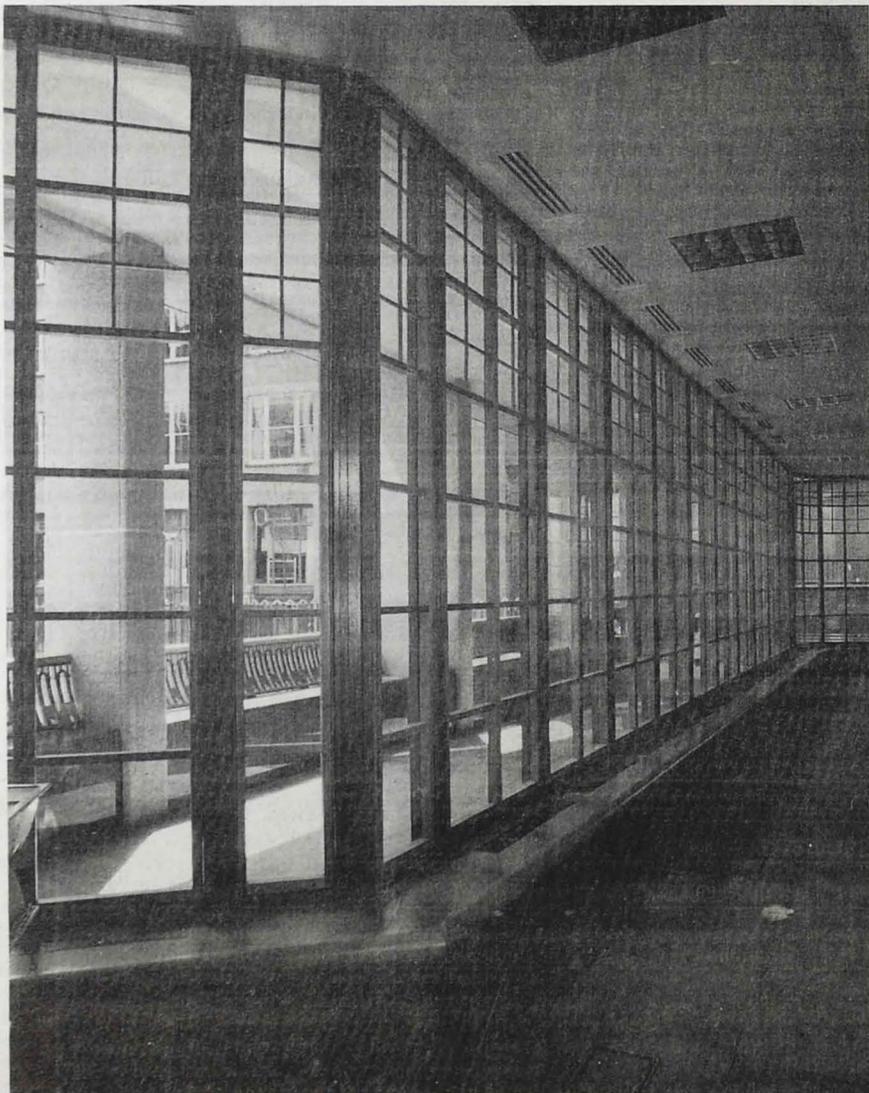
But such a listing cannot present the real Jane nor can a single writer know it all, for one of her characteristics is that she is unobtrusive, approaching and all her relationships and tasks quietly and sincerely. As a "for instance", how

many people know, after all these years, that her real name is not Jane but Janet (now it can be told!) and that she has written books under that name?

The editor set an impossible task by announcing that a FULL appreciation of Jane and Graham Lynch-Watson would appear in this month's issue. The true appreciation of them and what they have done while in Caversham lies in many individual hearts. They have both given so much to the people of Caversham in general and to the community of Caversham Park Village in particular.

To Graham and Jane we can only say, go with our fondest love and heartfelt thanks for what you have been and for what you have given us. May God bless you in your new home and in the tasks which lie before you in Warwick.

PMH



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ROUND THE CLUBS

Rosehill WI

THE May-day meeting in St Barnabas Hall, Emmer Green, was chaired by Miss Vincent, who welcomed one visitor and one new member. The crafts section are now knitting squares for blankets for the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed. Scrabble and Playreading are finished for the summer, but rambling continues twice each month.

Mrs Barge gave an interesting report on the Spring Council Meeting at Slough. Mrs Biggar, VCO, then explained the resolutions for the AGM in June, and voting took place.

An exhibition of embroidery and lace on guest towels was shown.

Blagrove WI

AT THE May meeting Mrs Joan Ford, Vice-President, welcomed Mrs C. Ingram VCO, who guided the members in their choice of voting on five resolutions to be moved at the Albert Hall in June. Mrs Popplewell will be the delegate.

Plans for various outings through the Summer were discus-

sed. A report was given on the Spring Council Meeting in Slough in April.

The competition for a table decoration in Wicolours was won by Mrs Messent, 2 Mrs Housden, 3 Mrs Deane. The raffle was won by Mrs Smith, a new member.

Chazey WI

CHAZEY WI celebrated its third birthday at the May meeting. Before the celebrations, Mrs Durie, VCO, introduced the five resolutions to be presented at the AGM at the Albert Hall in June. The resolutions were 1, Help for Drug Addicts, 2, Acid Rain, 3, World Food, 4, The Death Grant and 5, The 30-year rule. These were discussed and a vote taken on each one. Mrs M. Lewis, of the Caversham branch, the local delegate for the AGM, recorded the results.

Business over, the festivities began with a pizza supper. This was followed by birthday cake which had been made and beautifully decorated by member Mrs Gayle Russell. A very happy finale.

Maplewood WI

Maplewood WI met on May 21. Mrs Joy Le Mare, President welcomed Mrs J. Clayton VCO, who led the discussion on the five resolutions to be presented at the AGM in the Albert Hall in June. The delegate was instructed to vote according to the views expressed.

In lighter vein Mrs Diane Appleton organised a game of Musical Consequences, the joint winners being Mrs June Jelliffe and Mrs Eileen Fenning.

Members were asked to support the Annual Hospital Fete on June 8 with gifts of cakes and produce.

A mystery coach tour has been arranged for May 28.

Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild

EARLIER in May members joined others at a cabaret and supper at Fleet, hosted by the guilds there. One outstanding piece of entertainment was "Men of Harlech", sung by three women in Welsh costumes and red capes, and "miners" came singing also, from the back of the darkened hall, with lamps lit and lights on their helmets. Money raised was shared between the Federation's appeal for Dhaka and the evening guild's Christmas charity fund.

At the May meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall voting was taken on several resolutions put forward by the Federation. There was also a make-up demonstration with products brought by Miss Nikki Romaine of Boots. The No. 7 collection of cosmetics is one of the purest available and has to satisfy the high standards of a chemist's shop.

Mrs D. Gardiner's talk at Social Studies in Highmoor Hall about how she came to be working in a nursing agency was listened to keenly and confirmed the thought that the profession well merits the respect that it receives. To hold the balance between a home life and career is no mean feat and the success of Mrs Gardiner in this field was apparent.

One of the most interesting journeys for many long months was the visit to the

Johnson Matthey Research Centre. This is not far away, at Sonning Common, and something like 200 people are employed there. The research carried out is into the uses of platinum as a catalyst and other research into a number of scientific areas. There was considerable appreciation of our reception and some amazement at the depth of the work being carried out for the advancement of knowledge.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THIS has been a busy month. Miss P. Taylor was the speaker. Members were enthralled by her very witty and interesting description of her day trip to New York. Out on the QEII then with the help of a friendly taxi driver a quick whizz to see all the main attractions of the "Big Apple" and home by Concorde — wonderful. The Guild outing on the 22nd was to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre at Wokingham. Members were full of admiration for the dedicated work carried out by the staff of the centre. The charity coffee morning was held at the home of Mrs Betty House and raised £26. A worthy effort Betty.

Caversham Ladies Club

THE speaker at the May meeting was Mr Charles Moss, who showed slides of old Reading. He said the number of inhabitants of Reading in 1840 was 19,000. The first Caversham Bridge was built in 1231. It had two sections. Half was made of iron and belonged to Oxfordshire, and the other half of wood which belonged to Berkshire. The second bridge was built in 1869, and the railway station in 1840. He gave us many more facts and figures, illustrated by slides, and he was warmly thanked for an interesting afternoon.

A coachload visited the Queen Victoria Waxwork Exhibition at Windsor Station. In spite of a very wet afternoon members found it most fascinating. It was unfortunate that it was the one really wet afternoon of the week, entirely different from the forecast — scattered showers.

St Peter's Wives Group

THE two events planned by the Wives to celebrate their Twenty-first Anniversary were both happy and successful.

On May 5, Church members of the Group welcomed non-Church members to the 9.15 Communion Service. Group members were actively involved in the Service and to mark the occasion had provided and fixed reference ribbons in the Service Books. At their May meeting on the 21st, the Group held an informal party when members were joined by former members. Jean Pugh, the Group's Chairman, welcomed the sixty people who were present and Barbara Vowles, the Group's first Chairman, expressed her personal pleasure to be visiting the Group and wished the Wives continued success.

Before enjoying the mouth-watering spread, each member having provided a plate of food, Peter Mullins, representing Richard Kingsbury, said grace. The evening was helped along by glasses of punch made and dispensed by June Brown.

On display was a beautiful cake baked and decorated by Mary Duncan and this was cut by Barbara Vowles, assisted by about six other early members.

Yvonne Jackson had travelled from Clifton in Bedfordshire and Susan Head from Gerrards Cross to join in the celebrations. Messages and cards were received from Ros Medd, Barbara Lightowler, Toodie Scott-

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

ROUND THE CLUBS

Dempster and Joy Saunders.

A popular talking point was the display of programmes from 1964 to the present day and these reflected very clearly the social changes.

Members had very generously contributed an array of raffle prizes and after the winning tickets were drawn, the hall gradually emptied and the level of chatter dropped until the last chairs were stacked and lights extinguished.

There are two meetings in July. On the 3rd, members meet at 7.15pm at Hills Meadow Car Park for an evening ramble, returning to the same point. On July 16 Mr Leslie Cropp will be conducting a tour of St Peter's Church.

Caversham Community Association

ON MAY 13 a party was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of VE Day when peace came to Europe after so many years of war. Everyone brought a contribution to the refreshment table which resulted in a splendid selection of

sandwiches and cakes etc. The members were asked to bring their souvenirs of 1945 and some interesting photographs and family treasures were exhibited. The members enjoyed the entertainment organised by May Plant. Singers from the club gave songs of the period and invited the audience to join in the choruses. Nancy Nelhams was at the piano to accompany the singers.

A Bring and Buy evening was held the following week. The members brought a good selection of Water was the venue for the May Outing. Although the day was rather overcast and cool the countryside in its Spring green was a pleasure to see. The afternoon ended with an excellent meal at the Hare & Hounds at Watlington.

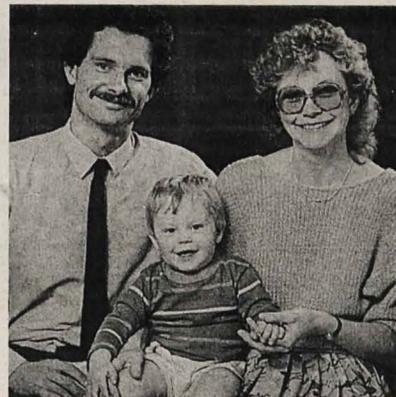
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Photo: Ray Mantell Studio, Scarborough

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A popular talking point was the display of programmes from 1964 to the present day and these reflected very clearly the social changes.

Members had very generously contributed an array of raffle prizes and after the winning tickets were drawn, the hall gradually emptied and the level of chatter dropped until the last chairs were stacked and lights extinguished.

There are two meetings in July. On the 3rd, members meet at 7.15pm at Hills Meadow Car Park for an evening ramble, returning to the same point. On July 16 Mr Leslie Cropp will be conducting a tour of St Peter's Church.

**Caversham
Community
Association**

ON MAY 13 a party was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of VE Day when peace came to Europe after so many years of war. Everyone brought a contribution to the refreshment table which resulted in a splendid selection of

sandwiches and cakes etc. The members were asked to bring their souvenirs of 1945 and some interesting photographs and family treasures were exhibited. The members enjoyed the entertainment organised by May Plant. Singers from the club gave songs of the period and invited the audience to join in the choruses. Nancy Nelhams was at the piano to accompany the singers.

A Bring and Buy evening was held the following week. The members brought a good selection of goods which was sold during the evening. A total of £19.50 was raised to help with club funds.

A whistdrive took place on June 3 with Doreen Crawley ready to give advice if required. Anne Wright had the highest score and won first prize. Other prizewinners were Joan Annett, Maida Feast, Doris Kay, Florence Abell, Evelyn Wallis and Freda Haines. Joan Tarrant received the consolation prize. (an old friend) who Vicki Scheel arranged the Nearly New stall for the bargain hunters. Margaret Cameron was presented with a glass dish in recognition of her services

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Photo: Courtesy Fotosparks

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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
 9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
 9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
 11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
 6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)
St Margaret's, Mapledurham
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
 11.00am PARISH COMMUNION
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Free estimates
116 WOODCOTE ROAD
CAVERSHAM, READING

J. STRONG & SONS
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